Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Special Interest Group

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2019-2020**
May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020

**I. Officers/Committees:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Sharmilee Sawant</td>
<td>Vijay P. Kale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Vijay P. Kale</td>
<td>Jaya Chilakapati</td>
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<td>Vice President-Elect</td>
<td>Jaya Chilakapati</td>
<td>Saurabh Vispute</td>
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<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>Vishakha Bhave</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Udayan Apte</td>
<td>Sharmilee Sawant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>Vijayavel Kannappan</td>
<td>Vivek Lawana</td>
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<td>Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe</td>
<td>Adhithiya Charli</td>
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<td>Postdoctoral Representative</td>
<td>Rashmi Pathak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Representative</td>
<td>Tarana Arman</td>
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**Committees:**

- **ASIO Reception Committee**
  Chair: Sharmilee Sawant, Co-Chair: Vijay P. Kale
  Volunteers: Rashmi Pathak, Tarana Arman

- **ASIO Annual Meeting Student Events**
  *Chat with Toxperts*
  Chair: Rashmi Pathak, Co-Chair: Tarana Arman
  *Coffee Hour*
  Chair: Tarana Arman, Co-Chair: Rashmi Pathak

- **AIO Webinar Planning Committee**
  Chair: Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe, Co-Chair: Sharmilee Sawant
  Volunteers: Vishakha Bhave, Agnes Karmaus, Ashley Black

- **ASIO Program Committee**
  Chair: Vijay Kale, Co-Chair: Jaya Chilakapati
  Volunteers: Sharmilee Sawant, Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe, Vijay Kannapan

- **ASIO Awards Committee**
  Chair: Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe Co-Chair: Vijay Kannapan
  Volunteers: Nikita Joshi, Swati Rawat, Sridhar Jaligama, Gayathri Chadalapaka, Tejas Lahoti, Amy Sharma, Prajakta Shimp, Saurabh Vispute, Sudheer Beedanagari, Subbu Karanth, Sharmilee Sawant, Vijay P. Kale and Vishakha Bhave

- **ASIO Newsletter Committee**
  Chair: Tarana Arman, Pankajini Mallick, Co-Chair: Rashmi Pathak, Jaya Chilakapati
Volunteers: Durgesh K. Dwivedi, Sharmilee P. Sawant, K. S. Rao, Nitin Verma, Vishakha Bhave

ASIO Accomplishments Survey
Chair: Vishakha Bhave Volunteers: Durgesh K. Dwivedi

ASIO Outreach Committee (Website/LinkedIn/Facebook)
Chair: Rashmi Pathak, Co-Chair: Tarana Arman
Volunteers: Vijay P. Kale

ASIO Sponsorship/Endowment Committee
Chair: Sharmilee Sawant; Co-Chair: Vijay P. Kale

ASIO Election Committee
Chair: Udayan Apte, Co-Chair: Jaya Chilakapati

SIG-Collaboration Committee Representatives
Chair: Sharmilee Sawant; Co-Chair: Vijay P. Kale

ASIO Membership Committee
Chair: Jaya Chilakapati, Co-Chair: Vijay Kannapan

ASIO Past Presidents’ Committee
Chair: Udayan Apte

II. 2019 Membership total: 203

III. Key Outcomes in 2019-2020:


Endowment Fund Details:

ASIO has total of four endowment funds:
1. Dharm V. Singh Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Student Award Fund
2. Harihara M. Mehendale Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Student Award Fund
3. Laxman S. Desai Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Student Award Fund
4. Toxikon, a Preclinical Toxicology Organization, and Dr. Dharm Singh Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Award Fund

Sponsorship: To increase the ASIO general budget support, ASIO EC developed a new criteria to recognize sponsors and sent email communication to the ASIO members throughout 2019 and 2020. Received one sponsorship in March 2020 as mention below.
Platinum Sponsor: Dr. Laxman S. Desai and Toxikon Corporation for their generous sponsorship of $5000 to ASIO General Budget to support the ASIO Reception Activities.

IV. Activities:

A. 2019 SOT Annual Meeting Activities

ASIO Business Meeting and Reception was planned at Marquis Ballroom Northwest, Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, CA on Monday, March 16, 2020 from 7 to 9.30 pm PST.

The event was cancelled since the SOT meeting was cancelled. The slides for ASIO Business Meeting were published on the ASIO website. The Business Meeting highlights along with the link to the slides were emailed to the ASIO members.

2020 SOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions: Conducted review and endorsed 4 scientific proposals for the 2020 Annual Meeting, three of the proposals were rejected and one was accepted for the Annual Meeting.

Symposium: Single Cell Technologies: A Potentially Transformative Tool for Toxicology (Chairs: Sudin Bhattacharya, Michigan State University; and Justin A. Colacino, University of Michigan) was presented as a webinar on Thursday, May 28, 12 noon - 2.45 pm EST. (ASIO Endorsed Session)

B. ASIO 2020 Awards:

Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Awards

1. Niyati Vaccharajani, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2. Milan Prajapati, Brown University

Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Awards

1. Archit Rastogi, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
2. Dharmin Rokad, Iowa State University
3. Prathyusha Bagam, Southern University A&M College

Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Awards

1. Durgesh Kumar Dwivedi, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)
2. Isha Mhatre, Northeast Ohio Medical University
Toxikon, a Preclinical Toxicology Organization; and Dr. Dharm Singh International Travel Award

1. Snigdha Gupta, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research CSIR
2. Vidya Chandrasekaran, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

ASIO Young Investigator Award

1. Mayur S. Mitra, B. Pharm., Ph.D., DABT, Senior Scientist, Genentech

ASIO Senior Toxicologist Award

1. S. Satheesh Anand, PhD, DABT, Principal Scientist, Boehringer Ingelheim

2020 Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award

Tarana Arman (ASIO Student Representative) was awarded this year’s Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award for her exceptional service and leadership to ASIO and Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC).

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted

Webinars:

Date: March 6th 2020 (ASIO and ECDC)
Topic: Staying Focused On Your Career: Challenges And Solutions For The Early And Mid-career Toxicologist

Presenters:
Dr. Brinda Mahadevan, Director of Global Preclinical Development at Abbott Healthcare, India
Dr. S. Satheesh Anand, Principal Scientist, Drug Safety at Boehringer Ingelheim (Animal Health), GA, USA

Moderators:
Dr. Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe, Study Director and Contributing Scientist, Covance Laboratories
Dr. Agnes Karmaus, Senior Toxicologist at ILS

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency:
   A total of 2 newsletters were published in this year (August 2019 and February 2020)
2. Key Announcements/blogs:

ASIO Activities Survey: ASIO conducted a survey following the 2019 Annual Meeting to get feedback from the members on ASIO activities. The survey was open for feedback for ASIO members. The feedback from the survey was considered while planning the 2020 ASIO activities.

ASIO Member Accomplishments Survey: “ASIO Member Accomplishments” survey was conducted in July 2019 and February 2020. The member accomplishment survey recognizes several accomplishments of ASIO members. Twenty member accomplishments in July 2019 and thirty-eight member accomplishments in February 2020 surveys were included in the August 2019 and February 2020 ASIO newsletters, respectively.

3. Website highlights:
   The ASIO Website was periodically updated throughout 2019 and 2020. The primary updates included: Updating the Awards contact and deadlines; and adding the ASIO Annual Reception pictures on the website.

E. Mentoring Activities:
1. Coffee Hour with an Expert: This planned event during SOT meeting with 12 mentors and 10 mentees was cancelled. The ASIO EC is considering and planning to do a virtual coffee hour.

2. Career Talk with Toxperts: An expert panel comprising of Drs. Virunya Bhat, Ph.D., DABT, Senior Scientist Mechanistic and Computational Biology, ToxStrategies; Sudin Bhattacharya, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biomedical Engineering and Pharmacology & Toxicology, Michigan State University; and Sabitha Papineni, Ph.D., Global Senior Regulatory Toxicologist Corteva AgriScience was planned for Monday March 16th 2020 from 4.45 to 5.45 pm EST for providing input for “Effective Communication”. The session was cancelled and will be considered for 2021 SOT meeting.

V. Feedback and Ideas:
A. How might SOT better support your group’s activities (perhaps something the Society should be doing that we currently do not do, or do not do effectively, that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?):
   Note: If funding is listed, please provide detail on the membership need that the funding would support.

One of the activities of ASIO Executive Committee is to increase and retain ASIO membership. SOT can assist ASIO to reach out to ASIO members to renew their 2020 ASIO membership.
B. What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

*No suggestions at this time.*

C. What changes does your component group anticipate making in the way in which it operates in the coming year?

*ASIO Executive Committee is working since November 2019 on updating the ASIO By-laws. In the coming year, we anticipate approval of the updated By-laws by ASIO members and SOT Council.*