Association of Scientists of Indian Origin—SOT

# OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

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**Editors**

Mrinal Patnaik

Ishita Virmani, PhD

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Dr. Neera Tiwari**
**ASIO President**

Dear ASIO Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

I am honored to serve as President of the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO) for 2026–2027. I sincerely thank immediate Past President Adhithiya Charli, the outgoing Executive Committee, our endowment sponsors, and corporate supporters (Labcorp, SciQra, and Insphero) for their dedication and vital contributions.

I am delighted to work with our new Executive Committee: Smita Salian-Mehta (Vice President), SenthilKumar PK (Vice President-Elect), Shanthi Ganesan (Secretary-Treasurer), Adhithiya Charli (Past President), Swati Rawat (Senior Councilor), Milan Prajapati (Councilor), Ishita Virmani (Postdoctoral Representative), and Mrinal Patnaik (Graduate Student Representative).

Building on the success of the SOT Annual Meeting in San Diego, we look forward to the 2027 meeting in San Antonio. ASIO remains committed to fostering mentorship, professional development, and scientific exchange across career stages. Congratulations to all our award recipients this past year.

I invite everyone to stay actively involved, connect with mentors, and share your ideas with the Executive Committee as we continue to grow our vibrant community.

Warm regards,
Neera Tewari-Singh, PhD
President, ASIO-SOT (2026–2027)

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# ASIO 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Dr. Adhitiya Charli**
**Past President**



**Dr. Neera Tiwari**
**ASIO President**



**Dr. Smita Salian-Mehta**
**Vice President**



**Dr. Senthilkumar PK**
**Vice President Elect**



**Dr. Shanthi Ganesan**
**Secretary-Treasurer**



**Dr. Swati Rawat**
**Senior Councilor**



**Dr. Milan Prajapati**
**Junior Councilor**



**Dr. Ishita Virmani**
**Postdoctoral Representative**



**Dr. Mrinal Patnaik**
**Graduate Student Representative**

# ASIO ANNUAL RECEPTION, SOT 2026, SAN DIEGO

The ASIO Annual Reception in San Diego at the SOT Annual Meeting was a great success and a delightful experience. Scholars from across the nation, along with international visitors, gathered for an enriching exchange of knowledge and experience, fostering connections and celebrating the accomplishments of our ASIO members. Attendees were updated on the association's activities, financial status, members' achievements, and upcoming events. The community expressed its appreciation for the efforts of outgoing officers and warmly welcomed the newly elected officers for the 2026-2027 term.






**Senior Toxicologist Award**
Dr. Jaya Chilakapati
Principal Toxicologist, Boehringer Ingelheim



**Outstanding Early Career Scientist Award**
**Dr. Bharat Bhushan**
Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh



# Association of Scientists of Indian Origin—SOT

## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

### Best Paper Award



**Dr. Fatema Currim, PhD.** Purdue University
"Rotenone induced acute miRNA alterations in extracellular vesicles produce mitochondrial dysfunction and cell death."

### Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Awards



**Dr. Chander Negi,** Texas A&M University
"Comparative Analysis of Species-Specific Hepatocyte Function and Drug Effects in Static Monolayers, Spheroids, and a Perfused Microphysiological System"



**Dr. Shruthi Thada,** University of South Carolina
"Single-cell analysis reveals AhR-dependent myeloid reprogramming and myeloid-derived suppressor cell migration following TCDD Exposure"



**Dr. Siddhi Jain,** University of Pittsburgh
"Pharmacological inhibition of MET impairs hepatocyte regeneration in a murine model of acetaminophen-induced liver injury"

### Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Awards



**Subhajit Roy,** University of California, Irvine
"Integrated Spatial Transcriptomic, Behavioral, and Immunophenotypic Analyses Reveal Heat Wave-Driven Neurocognitive and Neuroinflammatory Vulnerabilities in Aging"



**Ayushi Trivedi**, University of California, Irvine
"Disrupted GABAergic Signaling and Microglial Activation Underlie Behavioral Disinhibition in a Preclinical Model of Gulf War Illness"



**Disha Gupta,** Rutgers University
"Co2 mediated regulation of neutrophil NADPH oxidase and interaction with reactive nitrogen species"

### Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award



**Asha Ashraf,** Baylor University
"HIF-1α Regulates Acrolein-Induced Oxidative Stress and Antioxidant Signaling in Differentiated Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells under Hypoxic Conditions"



**Ayushi Trivedi,** University of California, Irvine
"Disrupted GABAergic Signaling and Microglial Activation Underlie Behavioral Disinhibition in a Preclinical Model of Gulf War Illness"

**Madhura More,** University of California, Irvine
"Metabolic Stress Potentiates Renal Maladaptive Repair Following Vibrio vulnificus Sepsis: Implications for a Warming Climate"



### Dr. Dharm Singh ASIO International Travel Award

**Vanitha Thurairasu**, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

### Toxikon, A Preclinical Toxicology Organization International Travel Award

**Mrinal Patnaik**, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur

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# UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES

**SOT Annual Meeting and Tox Expo, San Antonio 2027**

- Submissions are due November 13 at 11:59 pm (US EST, UTC -5), and there is a fee of $70 per abstract submission. *Submit abstract*

***ASIO Best Paper Award***

- *The ASIO-SOT Best Paper award is given to a peer-reviewed publication published by ASIO-SOT members. Apply*

***ASIO Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award***

- *This award shall be given to postdoctoral fellows of Indian origin for their presentations made at the SOT Annual Meeting. Apply*

***ASIO Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award***

- *This award shall be given to graduate students of Indian origin for their presentations made at the SOT Annual Meeting. Apply*

***ASIO Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award***

- *This award shall be given to graduate students of Indian origin for their presentations made at the SOT Annual Meeting. Apply*

***ASIO Outstanding Early Career Scientist Award***

- *ASIO-SOT Outstanding Early Career Scientist Award will be given each year to an outstanding toxicologist of Indian origin. The award includes a plaque and/or a certificate of recognition. Apply*

***ASIO Senior Toxicologist Award***

- *The Senior Toxicologist award will be given each year to an outstanding toxicologist of Indian origin.*

***ASIO Toxikon Award***

- *This award shall be given each year to undergraduates, graduate students, and/or postdoctoral fellows of Indian origin from outside USA for their presentations made at the SOT Annual Meeting. Apply*

*For more information on each of these awards visit our website.*

*Questions? Contact Swati Rawat (swati.rawat@bd.com)*

# Association of Scientists of Indian Origin—SOT

## WITH GRATITUDE, THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### ENDOWMENT SPONSORS



Dr. Dharm Singh



Late Dr. Harihara Mehendale



Dr. Laxman Desai

SciQra

inS

labcorp

## SUPPORT ASIO

Your contribution will be primarily used for ASIO activities at the SOT Annual Meeting and the career advancement of our members. It will also be used to provide early career toxicologists an opportunity to enhance their training and current members of the toxicology community a path to enrich their ongoing careers as toxicologists and promote diversity within the field of toxicology.

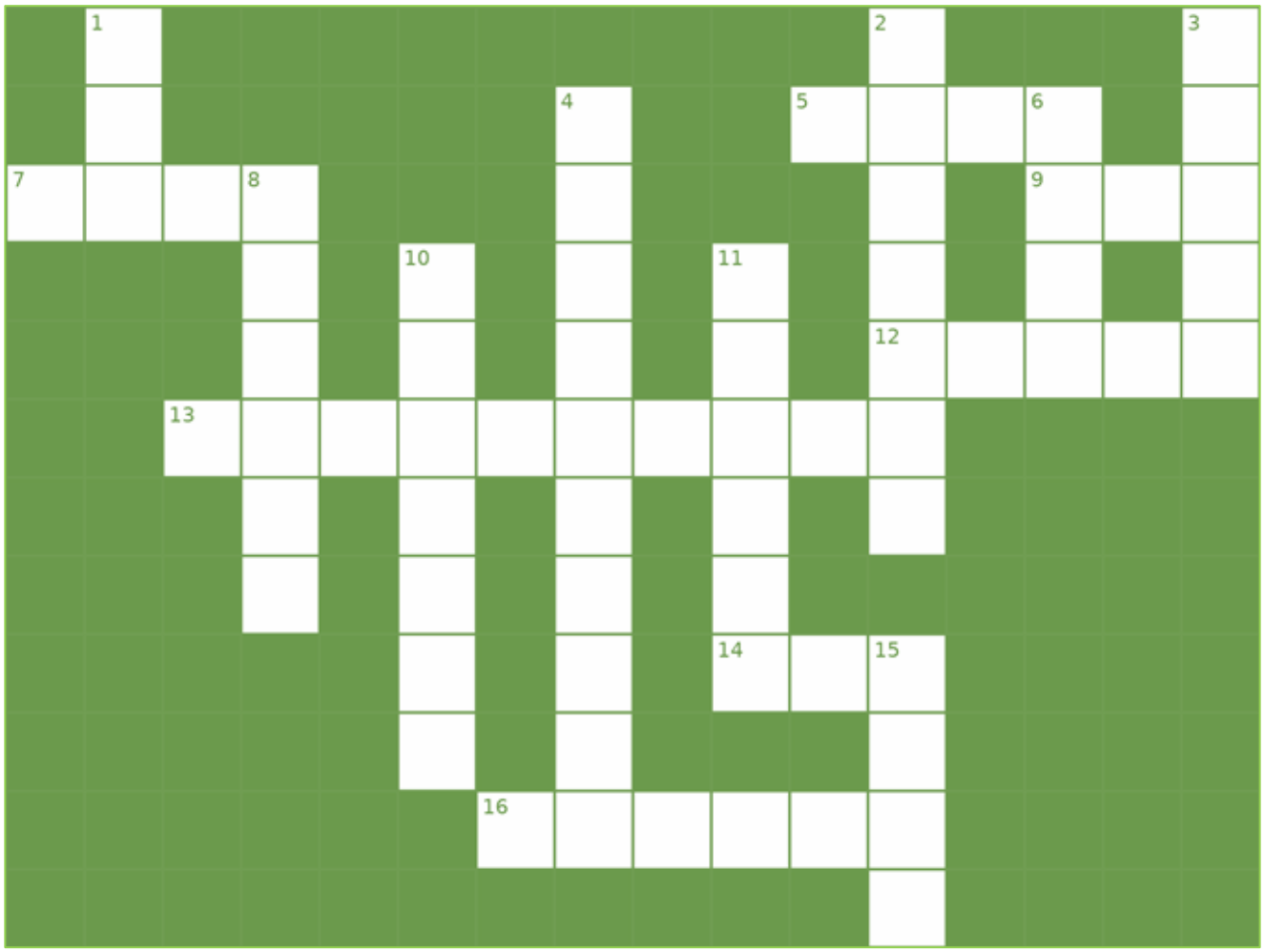
Please consider a donation to ASIO.

Scan this QR code or click here for a donation to ASIO

If your organization matches your donations, it is a great way to multiply the impact of your donations. Once you send your donation, please email ASIO President so that your contribution can be appropriately acknowledged.

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# TOX CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



## ACROSS

5 (4) Amount of a substance received.

7 (4) New approaches in safety assessment, abbreviated.

9 (3) U.S. regulator for medicines and food.

12 (5) Highest tested exposure without adverse effects.

13 (10) Chemical foreign to an organism.

14 (3) EU medicines regulator.

16 (6) Catalyst in chemical metabolism.

## DOWN

1 (3) U.S. environmental regulator.

2 (7) Greater when a smaller dose gives the same effect.

3 (5) Lowest tested exposure with an adverse effect.

4 (10) Agent capable of causing cancer.

6 (4) EU food safety authority.

8 (6) Protection from unacceptable harm.

10 (7) Drug precursor activated in the body.

11 (6) Entry of a substance into an organism.

15 (4) Bacterial reverse mutation test.

Submit your asnwers here.
https://forms.gle/urmUSxL2qZfWFdEY6

***Submit your answers via this google form by November 1st.***

***First 3 winners will be highlighted on our LinkedIn page and at SOT Annual Meeting 2027.***

# ASIO MEMBERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## PUBLICATIONS

**Satya Achanta, Duke University School of Medicine**. *Phosgene inhalation injury in mice: Modeling human pathophysiology, biomarker discovery, and therapeutic target identification.*

**Rashmi Pathak, Louisiana State University.** *Aryl hydrocarbon receptor in club cells drives Th17-mediated lung injury following inhalation exposure to environmentally persistent free radicals.*

**Irfan Rahman and Gagan Kaur**, University of Rochester.

**Khursheed Ul Islam Ganaie, University of Rochester**. *scRNA sequencing revealed HIV-associated inflammation-mediated lung epithelial dysregulation and fibroblast remodeling.*

**Gangadeep Kaur, University of Rochester.** *Deposition of polyethylene micro- and nano-plastics is associated with accumulation of cadmium in lungs of smokers: A pilot study.*

## LEADERSHIP/INVITED SPEAKER

**Vivek Dadhania, SciQra LLC**. Appointed to serve as a member of the Society of Toxicology Finance Committee for the 2026-2029 term.

**Sanket Gadhia, Tesla**. Elected as a member of the US EPA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC).

**Rashmi Pathak, Louisiana State University**. Invited to represent LSU superfund research program at the NIEHS SRP webinar.

**Vanitha Thurairasu, Ministry of Health Malaysia**. Invited Panelist at the 11th World Heart Summit 2026.

**Vanitha Thurairasu, Ministry of Health Malaysia.** Session chair and invited speaker at ASIATOX-XI 2026.

## GRANT/FELLOWSHIP

**Rashmi Pathak, Louisiana State University**. Received 2026 Pennington-Louisiana NORC Pilot & Feasibility Grant.

**Venkat Ramakrishna Ungarala, Penn State College of Medicine**. Awarded $49, 998 from Children's Miracle Network for Research on Prenatal Tobacco Exposure and Neonatal outcomes.

**Irfan Rahman, University of Rochester Medical Centre.** Merit award R35 from the NIEHS and RO1 from NCI.

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# ASIO MEMBERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## AWARD/RECOGNITION/CREDENTIALS

- **Shagun Krishna, PCRM**. Part of winning consortium for Phase 1 of the NIH Common Fund's Complement-ARIE Reduction to practice challenge prize.
- **Vanitha Thurairasu, Ministry of Health Malaysia.** Received the ASIO-Toxikon Dr. Dham Singh International Travel Award for Scientists of Indian Origin.
- **Vanitha Thurairasu, Ministry of Health Malaysia.** Won 1st place best presenter at the 2026 BDRP trainee flash talk event.
- **Vanitha Thurairasu, Ministry of Health Malaysia.** Received the graduate student travel support from SOT to attend the 65th SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo.
- **Sini Macheri, Baylor University**. Received award from the C.Gus Glasscock, Jr. Endowed Fund for Excellence in Environmental Science.
- **Bhaja Krushna Padhi, Health Canada.** Serving as a guest editor for a Genes Special issue on Gene Expression and In Vitro Toxicology
- **Bhaja Krushna Padhi, Health Canada.** Completed three-year grant service on NSERC discovery grants evaluation group.
- **Rashmi Pathak, Louisiana State University.** Invited to be featured in the Mentor-Postdoc Spotlight (MPS) series of the Journal of Life Sciences.
- **Rashmi Pathak, Louisiana State University.** Featured by LSU research. LSU researchers identify cellular trigger behind pollution-driven lung damage.
- **Rashmi Pathak, Louisiana State University.** Awarded the best oral presentation award at the our lady of the Lake-LSU School of Medicine.
- **Rashmi Pathak, Louisiana State University.** Awarded 2026 society for experimental biology and medicine young investigator award in recognition of the scientific. contributions and potential as emerging leader in the field.
- **Ankit P. Ladha, University of Connecticut.** Received Society of Toxicology Pathology/Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section Student Award at 45th STP annual conference.
- **Bhanu Pratap Singh, Calico Life Sciences LLC.** Received STP Mid Career Excellence award.
- **Sushant Kamath, Abbott Healthcare Pvt Ltd.** Acheived ERT certification.

Share your recent professional accomplishments with ASIO. ASIO will consider all accomplishments for highlighting on its official LinkedIn page where consented. Examples include publications, awards, grants, fellowships, conference presentations, appointments, promotions, research milestones, or other professional achievements.

# Association of Scientists of Indian Origin—SOT

## SOT 2027




Get involved with ASIO and attend ASIO reception at SOT 2027 to share and celebrate your accomplishments. If you'd like to share something with the membership reach out to us through the following links or email us.

For accomplishment submission https://forms.gle/GEfo9CcpSa6Cqhh39

For consent to publish through ASIO: https://forms.gle/fUntcNkusr7znVrv5

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering opportunities for students, postdocs, and professional.
If you are interested in volunteering and contributing to the ASIO team or if you have any suggestions, please contact the ASIO President
To explore the possibility of serving on an ASIO committee, please visit ASIO Committees

## MEMBERSHIP

Network with fellow Indian-origin toxicologists around the globe Get involved and participate in ASIO activities.

Here are some of the benefits of ASIO membership:

- ✓ Eligible to apply for various ASIO awards including international travel award
- ✓ Eligible to request endorsement of ASIO for your proposals to be submitted for annual SOT meeting
- ✓ Opportunities to take leadership roles in ASIO and create a positive impact
- ✓ Eligible for taking benefits of ASIO's SOT Award Nomination Committee
- ✓ Participate in the Mentoring Events as a mentor or mentee
- ✓ Access to the ASIO member directory and networking opportunities
- ✓ Opportunities to talk at the ASIO-hosted webinars
- ✓ Receive regular communications from ASIO Executive Committee

For more information regarding SOT or Special Interest Group memberships, please contact SOT Headquarters directly (sothq@toxicology.org).

Note: Postdoctoral and Student SOT members receive one free membership to the Special Interest Group of their choice!

## JOIN US

Click here to join ASIO-SIG of SOT