



# Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

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# President's Message

**Udayan Apte, PhD, DABT**

Let me begin with wishing you all a very happy (and belated) new year! I know December/January seems like a distant memory. Once the year starts, things get busy and before you know it is that time of the year: the SOT Annual Meeting. While ASIO activities are going on year-round, the highlight of the year is undoubtedly the ASIO reception at the SOT Annual Meeting. I would like to invite you all to attend the ASIO Reception on March 11 in Baltimore. The details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

For the ASIO Board of Directors (BOD), the work starts right after SOT when we welcome newly elected officers and then go to work with them. The first order of business is generally a review of proposals for the next SOT meeting. I would like to encourage all of you to get together with your colleagues at SOT and hash out new ideas for symposium and continuing education proposals, which will be due right after SOT. We will be happy to review the proposals, provide suggestions, and sponsor as many proposals as we can put forth by our members. The next task for the BOD is to put together the Summer-Fall newsletter, which highlights the award winners, newly elected officers, and other news.

Fall and winter are the busiest times for the BOD. Fall is generally consumed by the ASIO awards process. ASIO proudly sponsors several student and postdoctoral awards. This is an incredibly elaborate process involving over 40 applications submitted by trainees from all around the world. The awards committee gets the applications and prepares them for judging, identifies the judges, and gets the judging process done efficiently and transparently. By the time we are done with the awards, it is time to start planning for the reception and the Spring newsletter. So, you get it! It is always a busy but exciting time at ASIO BOD and all the officers are glad to do their part.

# President's Message Continued..

**Udayan Apte, PhD, DABT**

This year's committee consisting of Mayur Mitra, Sharmilee Sawant, Jaya Chilakapati, Vijay P. Kale, Ashwini Moghe-Phadnis, Sindhura Ramasahayam, Navatha Alugubelly, Nithya Mariappan, and myself have been working, apart from the usual tasks outlined above, on streamlining the administrative processes and standardizing the SOP for awards process, webinar development, newsletter editing, and general management of our SIG. I want to thank each and every one of the ASIO BOD members and all the volunteers who help in this process for their dedication to ASIO. All the great things that happen at ASIO are because of the hard work of these individuals. Additionally, I want to thank our sponsors for making ASIO financially a bit more stable. As you know, our awards are supported by four extremely strong endowments. However, the reception, our marquee event where members get an opportunity for face-to-face networking, is supported by our general operating budget. This is a relatively small pot of the money and the cost of putting up a good reception has been mounting each year. This year, the BOD worked hard to obtain additional sponsors for our reception and I am glad to report that we not only have a couple of new corporate sponsors but also few generous ASIO members who have stepped forward to sponsor ASIO general funds. I want to thank all of them for what I am sure will be a memorable ASIO reception at SOT 2019.

I look forward to seeing you all at SOT in Baltimore soon!

Udayan Apte  
President, ASIO-SOT  
uapte@kumc.edu



## ASIO COUNCIL 2019-2020

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**Student Representative:**

Open Position

## ASIO Reception at SOT 2019

We cordially invite you to our Annual ASIO-SOT meeting reception 2019, an evening to network and bond with fellow toxicologists/students/postdocs and friends.

Please join us to congratulate the award winners, to acknowledge support of our donors and sponsors, meet the ASIO committee members and volunteers, and enjoy delicious food

**WHEN: Monday, 11 March**  
**7:00-9:30 PM**

**WHERE: Hilton Baltimore Peale**

# ASIO Career Resource and Development Events

## ~~ CAREER TALK WITH TOXPERTS ~~



### Prathap Kumar Mahalingaiah, PhD, DABT, ERT

Senior Scientist, Investigative Toxicology and Pathology section,  
Global Preclinical Safety Division, Abbvie



### Saurabh G. Vispute, PhD

Senior Scientist, Global General Toxicology  
Pfizer



### Vishakha S. Bhave, PhD

Assistant Professor  
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine  
School of Pharmacy

**Venue:** Hilton Baltimore, 401 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD  
21201, Room: Peale A-C

**When:** MONDAY, MARCH 11, 4:45–5:45 PM

No RSVP Required. Come and join us. Please send your questions for mentors in advance to Nithya Mariappan ([nmariappan@uabmc.edu](mailto:nmariappan@uabmc.edu)) by **02/28/2019**. We will make sure that your questions are answered during this session.

## ~~ COFFEE HOUR ~~



ASIO also offers “**Coffee Hour**” to students, a less formal and more convenient way to network with experts in their fields.

**For last minute RSVPs or additional information please contact: Navatha Alugubelly ([na413@msstate.edu](mailto:na413@msstate.edu)).**

# ASIO Member Accomplishments

Congratulations to our ASIO members for their recent recognition

## Grants/ Funding/ Publication

### Tosifa Memon

University of Utah

Published "trans-Anethole of Fennel oil is a selective and non-electrophilic agonist of the TRPA1 ion channel" in Molecular Pharmacology journal.

### Vijay Kannappan, PhD, ERT

Georgia Pacific LLC.

Published "Toxic effect and physiological disruption of sodium phosphate to the quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*)" in Environmental Science and Pollution Research Journal

### Pankajini Mallick, PhD

ScitoVation LLC.

Published "Role of Bacterial Translocation in the Progressive and Delayed Irinotecan-Induced Diarrhea" J Clin Exp Pathol, Vol 8(3): 350

### Rashmi Pathak, MS

Southern University A&M

Recipient of Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) Summer Research Grant

### Yogesh Saini, DVM, MVSc, PhD

Louisiana State University

Awarded a NIEHS R01 grant for the research focused on "Understanding the Role of Myeloid Cells in Ozone-Induced Airway Disease"

## Elected/ Appointed Leadership

### Vijay Kannappan, PhD, ERT

Georgia Pacific LLC.

Elected as a Steering Committee Member of the Ecological Risk Assessment World Interest Group (ERAIG) of Society of Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry

### Saurabh Vispute, PhD

Pfizer Inc.

Appointed as member of ACT Early Career Professional Outreach Committee

## Career Advancement/ Transitions

### Babasaheb Sonawane, PhD

Toxicology and Risk Assessment Consulting Services LLC

Appointed as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, Washington DC

### Sampath Kumar Rompicherla, M.Pharmacy

Colgate-Palmolive, India

Promoted to India Product Safety Team Lead

### Suresh K. Nagumalli, PhD

National Center for Toxicological Research, FDA  
Joined as an ORISE postdoctoral fellow at NCTR

### Saurabh Vispute, PhD

Pfizer Inc.

Joined Pfizer drug safety R&D

### Ankit Shah, PhD

US Food and Drug Administration  
Pharm/ Tox Reviewer at FDA

### Dhanraj Deshmukh, PhD

Ironwood Pharmaceuticals

Promoted to Senior Toxicologist

### Pankajini Mallick, PhD

ScitoVation LLC, North Carolina

Joined as Scientist 3, PBPK modeling

# ASIO Member Accomplishments

## Awards

### Rashmi Pathak, MS

Southern University A&M  
Best graduate student platform presentation award,  
LBRN annual meeting, 2019

### Navatha Alugubelly

Mississippi State University  
Outstanding graduate student poster presentation  
award, South Central Chapter of SOT, 2019

### Brinda Mahadevan, MS, PhD, FATS, ERT

Abbott Laboratories  
Sr. Associate Research Fellow of the Volwiler Society  
award

### Sampath Kumar Rompicherla, M.Pharmacy

Colgate-Palmolive, India  
Awarded Chartered Status (CBiol - Chartered Biologist)  
by Royal Society of Biology, UK

## Professional certification

### Diplomat of American Board of Toxicologist (DABT)

Smita Salian-Mehta, Abbvie  
Sainath Babu, Hampton University  
Anurag Mishra, Avanos Medical  
Ankit Shah, Us-FDA  
Dhanraj Deshmukh, Ironwood Pharmaceuticals  
Shanthi Ganeshan, Iowa Sate University

### European Registered Toxicologist

Brinda Mahadevan, MS, PhD, FATS, ERT

### Diplomate in Safety Pharmacology

Venkatesha Udupa, BVSc, MVSc, MSc, DABT,  
ERT, DSP

### Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (FATS)

Brinda Mahadevan, Abbott Labs

## Workshops/ Symposiums

Please check out these interesting sessions at  
upcoming SOT meeting.

### Mayur Mitra, PhD, DABT

Genentech, Inc  
Considerations for Safety Assessment of Chemically  
Synthesized Peptides: A Drug Development Paradigm in  
Between the Large and Small  
Date: 03/13/19

### Vijaykumar P. Kale, MVSc, PhD, DABT, ERT

Battelle  
Adverse or non-adverse? Thinking Process behind  
Adversity Determination during Nonclinical Drug  
Development  
Date: 03/12/19

## Other

### Babasaheb Sonawane, PhD

Toxicology and Risk Assessment Consulting Services ,  
LLC  
Invited as a Keynote speaker: International Conference  
on " One Health Animal ,Human and Environmental  
Health Recent Applications" organized by Cairo  
University, Cairo, Egypt

### Vijay Kannapan, PhD, ERT

Georgia Pacific LLC.  
Invited Lecture : Environmental Health Risk Assessment  
of Phosphorous- Filling Knowledge Gaps

### Vijaykumar P. Kale, MVSc, PhD, DABT, ERT

Battelle  
Invited speaker: Ethics and misconduct in scientific  
research presented at Bombay Veterinary College,  
Mumbai, India

Next ASIO member accomplishments survey link [ASIO Member Accomplishment Survey](#)  
will be open until June 30, 2019.

# A very Special Thank you to our Sponsors and Donors

## GOLD SPONSORS



Thank you so much for your generous contribution!

## ENDOWMENT SPONSORS



Dr. Dharm Singh



Dr. Harihara Mehendale



Dr. Laxman Desai



**ASIO is deeply grateful to generous donors!**

**Vivek Dadhania, PhD**  
Sr. Toxicologist  
L Brands

**Priyanka Trivedi, PhD**  
Study Director  
Envigo

**Sharmilee P. Sawant, PhD**  
Associate Director  
Avanos Medical