

# ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Inside this issue:

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| President's Message.....      | 2 |
| ASIO Executive Committee..... | 3 |
| ASIO Annual Reception.....    | 4 |
| ASIO Award Winners.....       | 5 |
| Upcoming Deadlines.....       | 7 |
| ASIO Sponsors.....            | 8 |
| Call for Volunteers.....      | 9 |

### Editors

Rahul Kumar  
Sadiya Shaikh

### Volunteer

Hinal Gajjar

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



**Sudin Bhattacharya,**  
**PhD**  
ASIO President, 2024–2025

Dear ASIO members,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and are getting to enjoy some warm fall weather (at least, that's what it feels like where I am in the American Midwest!). It is my honor to take over from Dr. Ashwini Phadnis Moghe as President of ASIO-SOT for 2024–25. Under her leadership, we had a very active year, and we look forward to an exciting few months leading up to the SOT Annual Meeting in Orlando in March 2025. This year, we welcome several new members to the ASIO Executive Committee: Dr. Neera Tewari-Singh from Michigan State University as Vice President-Elect, Dr. Prajakta Shimpi from L'Oréal, USA, as Junior Councilor, Dr. Sadiya Shaikh from the University of Rochester as Postdoctoral Representative, and Mr. Rahul Kumar from North Carolina State University as Graduate Student Representative. A special thanks to the outgoing members of the leadership for their valuable service: Dr. Satya Achanta (Senior Councilor), Dr. Gagandeep Kaur (Postdoctoral Representative), and Dr. Manasi Kotulkar (Graduate Student Representative).

The ASIO Annual Reception at the 2024 SOT Annual Meeting was a resounding success, bringing together toxicologists from around the globe in a celebratory atmosphere. Many thanks to Dr. Moghe for her exemplary leadership last year and for successfully planning our reception, along with the rest of the leadership. Our annual "Talk with Toxperts" mentorship event was once again well-attended and well-received; special thanks to Drs. Mansi Krishan, Souvarish Sarkar, and Sachin Bhusari for their participation as "toxpeers." We were also delighted to present our annual awards in seven categories—please check out pages 5 and 6 for the list of winners! I want to gratefully acknowledge our endowment sponsors (Dr. Laxman Desai, Dr. Dharam Singh, and (late) Dr. Harihara Mehendale), as well as ASIO members who contributed to our endowment funds.

As we move into this new year, I encourage you to consider donating to the ASIO general fund so we can continue delivering our annual slate of exciting events. Additionally, please spread the word about ASIO among your colleagues, students, and postdocs. We are also looking for webinar ideas, volunteers, and event sponsors. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with your suggestions and ideas. And be on the lookout for a revamped ASIO website later this year!

Sincerely,  
Sudin Bhattacharya, PhD  
ASIO-SIG President (2024–2025)

# ASIO 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



**President**

Sudin Bhattacharya



**Past President**

Ashwini Phadnis  
Moghe



**Vice President**

Adhithiya Charli



**Vice President-Elect**

Neera Tiwari-Singh



**Secretary/Treasurer**

Shama Ahmad



**Senior Councilor**

Aditya Joshi



**Junior Councilor**

Prajakta Shimpi



**Postdoc Representative**

Sadiya Bi Shaikh



**Student Representative**

Rahul Kumar

# ASIO ANNUAL RECEPTION

SOT 2024,  
Salt Lake City

The ASIO Annual Reception in Salt Lake City 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 2024-2025 term.



# ASIO 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

SOT 2024,  
Salt Lake City

## CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!!

### BEST PAPER AWARD WINNER

**Srijit Seal**

Paper Title: Integrating Cell Morphology with Gene Expression and Chemical Structure to Aid Mitochondrial Toxicity Detection.  
*Communication Biology* 5, no. 1 (2022): 858.

### DR. LAXMAN DESAI GRADUATE STUDENT

#### BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Manisha Agarwal**, Wayne State University

2nd- **Ayushi Trivedi**, University of California, Irvine

### DR. HARIHARA MEHENDALE GRADUATE STUDENT

#### BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Manas Yogendra Agarwal**, Texas Tech University HSC

2nd- **Dhruthi Mutyala**, Southern University and A&M College

3rd- **Rahanna Khan**, New York University

### DR. DHARM SINGH POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

#### BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Isha Mhatre-Winters**, University of Georgia

1st- **Kruuttika Satbhai**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2nd- **Shilpa Thota**, Louisiana State University

### TOXICON, A PRECLINICAL TOXICOLOGY ORGANIZATION, AND

#### DR. DHARM SINGH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD

1st- **Archana Panghal**, NIPER, Mohali, India

# ASIO 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

SOT 2024,  
Salt Lake City

## ASIO SENIOR TOXICOLOGIST AWARD

---



**Sharmilee Sawant, PhD,  
DABT, Director, Toxicology at  
Becton Dickinson**

Dr. Sawant has been awarded the ASIO 2024 Senior Toxicologist Award for her outstanding contributions to the field of toxicology. She currently serves as the Director of Toxicology at Becton Dickinson in New York City. Previously, she was a team leader and departmental contact for Avanos Medical and Kimberly-Clark Health Care. Dr. Sawant has conducted human health risk assessments to support the global launch of healthcare medical devices. With extensive experience in toxicology, she provides leadership and collaboration within multi-functional teams. She effectively communicates toxicology, biocompatibility, and safety information, including technical position papers and human health risk assessments, to both internal and external technical experts. Dr. Sawant earned her PhD in Toxicology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and completed postdoctoral training at Johnson & Johnson.

## ASIO EARLY CAREER SCIENTIST AWARD

---



**Hemant Chavan, PhD, DABT,  
ERT, Toxicologist,  
Genentech**

Dr. Hemant Chavan has been awarded the ASIO 2024 Early Career Scientist Award for his significant contributions to the field of toxicology. He is currently a Toxicologist at Genentech in Lexington, Massachusetts. Previously, he served as the Director of Toxicology at Sana Biotechnology. Dr. Chavan has extensive experience in drug metabolism and discovery, having worked as a research associate at Ranbaxy. He completed his postdoctoral research at the University of Kansas, focusing on arsenic and acetaminophen toxicology, as well as metabolic diseases (including obesity) and mitochondrial biology. He earned his PhD in Toxicology from the University of Kansas, where his research primarily centered on drug metabolism and cancer drug discovery.

# ASIO'S AWARD DEADLINES

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Don't Miss Our Awards Deadline & Get Recognized!

| Award  | Deadline    |
|--|-------------|
| ASIO Toxikon, A Preclinical Toxicology Organization; and Dr. Dharm Singh Association of Scientists of Indian Origin International Travel Award | October 9   |
| ASIO Best Paper Award  | October 31  |
| Outstanding Early Career Scientist Award   | November 15 |
| ASIO Senior Toxicologist Award   | November 15 |
| ASIO Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award   | December 8  |
| ASIO Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award   | December 8  |
| ASIO Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award   | December 8  |

For more information on each of these awards visit our website:

<https://www.toxicology.org/groups/sig/asio/Awards.asp>

# ASIO SPONSORS

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Endowment sponsors



Dr. Dharm Singh



Dr. Laxman Desai



Late Dr. Harihara  
Mehendale



Now known as



## *Please Consider a Donation to 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.

To donate, please visit ["SOT ASIO | Sponsors"](#)



# Join ASIO and become a volunteer



## Membership

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



## VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteering opportunities for students, postdocs, and professionals
- To explore the possibility of serving on an ASIO committee, please visit [ASIO Committees](#)

## JOIN US

### [ASIO MEMBERSHIP](#)



PLEASE REACH OUT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[ASIO](#)  
[Executive](#)  
[Committee](#)