

ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



Saurabh Vispute, Ph.D., DABT

ASIO President, 2022-2023

Dear ASIO Members,

A warm welcome to the Spring 2023 ASIO Newsletter!

At the outset, on behalf of the ASIO executive committee, I would like to thank you for trusting us with this opportunity to serve the ASIO community. A huge shout out to my colleagues and volunteers who led and contributed to several key ASIO activities throughout the year. As the countdown to the 62nd SOT Annual Meeting has begun, we are very excited to see you at the 2023 ASIO Annual Reception in Nashville, held on Monday, March 20th, in the Omni Nashville Hotel (Cumberland 1-2). Please mark your calendars!!!

Throughout the past year, the committee has strived to organize events and initiatives to meet member expectations. I hope you will join us at the reception to celebrate these accomplishments as well as the presentation of the 2023 ASIO awards. In addition to the reception, we are thrilled to relaunch the trainee-led 'Coffee Hour' and 'Talk with Toxperts' events at the 62nd SOT Annual Meeting. These events are a pivotal part of ASIO's mission, I would like to thank our postdoctoral and graduate student representatives, Gagandeep Kaur and Manasi Kotulkar, respectively, for spearheading these events. The past year has been a tough year for the ASIO community due to the sad demise of Dr. Harihara Mehendale in October 2022. Besides being a renowned and visionary toxicologist, Dr. Mehendale was one of the founders and an endowment sponsor of ASIO who shaped the lives of several students and trainees. Hope you all consider joining us as we honor Dr. Mehendale's legacy by celebrating his contributions at the ASIO reception. The highlight of the ASIO annual reception is an opportunity to network and reconnect with friends, welcome newly elected officers, and congratulate the award recipients. I am sure you all are equally excited to meet everyone in Nashville! Additional details about the ASIO events at the SOT Annual Meeting are included in this newsletter.

Lastly, it has been a phenomenal experience to be part of the ASIO leadership that couldn't have been possible without the support of fellow committee members, past and present. If you have ideas about volunteering on an ASIO committee, I would say now is the time! We are looking up to you to take the ASIO community higher and more robust in delivering ASIO's mission.

Once again, I hope to see you all in Nashville!

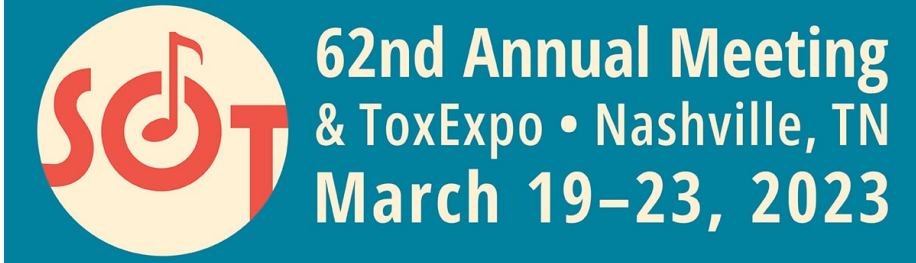
Best wishes,

Saurabh Vispute, Ph.D., DABT

ASIO President, 2022-2023

ASIO ANNUAL RECEPTION

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We cordially invite you to our Annual ASIO Reception

An evening to network and bond with fellow toxicologists/students/postdocs

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

When: Monday, March 20

5:00-6:00 PM: ASIO Talk with Toxperts

6:30-8:30 PM: ASIO Annual Reception

Dr. Mehendale's Memoriam followed by the Annual Reception

Where: Omni Nashville Hotel

Room: Cumberland 1-2

250 Fifth Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

DR. MEHENDALE MEMORIAM

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Dear ASIO Members,

It is with a heavy heart and profound sadness that we regret to inform you, of the passing of Dr. Harihara Mehendale. Dr. Mehendale passed away peacefully on October 13th, 2022 at 10:16 pm, surrounded by his family in Dallas, TX. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Rekha, his children Roopa Mehendale-Foley (Tom) and Neelesh Mehendale (Kim), and four grandchildren.

Dr. Mehendale's contribution to the discipline of toxicology is unmeasurable. His research work, spanning over 40 years, on the toxicokinetic phenomenon of compensatory tissue repair in response to chemical-induced injury, was paradigm-shifting. He was a highly prolific researcher with over 265 papers (last published in 2017), several book chapters and seminal reviews. He was an outstanding mentor and the large group of mentees (more than 75) who have gone on to be leaders in toxicology, is his true legacy. He was a dedicated member of SOT and ACT and served both organizations in numerous capacities. Within SOT, he was one of the founding members of ASIO and among its strongest supporters. An endowment named after him has been providing student awards for decades. This is an immense loss not only for his family and students but also for the community of toxicologists of Indian origin in the US and beyond.

A new fellowship aimed at supporting international graduate students during their early days in the US is being set up with SOT in Dr. Mehendale's honor by his family and students. If you would like to contribute to this new fellowship, please contact Vivek Dadhania at vivekdadхания@gmail.com.

Please join us in extending our condolences to Dr. Mehendale's family and his students.

- ASIO Executive Committee

TALK WITH TOXPERTS

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“Toxicology- vision and future in the post-pandemic world”

Our Toxperts



Ruchir Shah

Ph.D.
CSO & PI
Sciome, LLC



Sabitha Papineni

DVM, Ph.D.
Global Business Lead
Labcorp



Suresh Cuddapah

Ph.D.
Associate Professor,
NYU School of Medicine



March 20, 2023



5:00–6:00 PM



Omni Nashville Hotel
250 Fifth Avenue South,
Nashville, TN 37203
Room: Cumberland 1-2

ASIO COFFEE HOUR

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Coffee with mentors is one of the successful initiatives of ASIO to help the young minds and motivated mentees in the ASIO family



We were successfully able to match 10 mentees from the US and India to the mentors based on their interests

**For last-minute registrations for the coffee hour and additional information, please contact:
Manasi Kotulkar (mkotulkar@kumc.edu)**

SOT AWARD WINNERS

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Anumantha Kanthasamy, Ph.D.

Professor, John H. "Johnny" Isakson
Chair for Parkinson's Research
Georgia Research Alliance Eminent
Scholar

Director of Center for Brain Science and
Neurodegenerative Diseases
University of Georgia



Irfan Rahman, Ph.D.

Endowed Dean's Professor of
Environmental Medicine, Pulmonary
Medicine, and Public Health Sciences
University of Rochester Medical Center

SOT Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award

Dr. Anumantha Kanthasamy has been bestowed the SOT Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award for his substantial and seminal contributions to the understanding of the science of toxicology and his active involvement in toxicological research.

Dr. Kanthasamy is a Professor at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Georgia. He is currently serving as the director of the Center for Brain Science and Neurodegenerative Diseases. Besides, Dr. Kanthasamy is the John H. "Johnny" Isakson Chair for Parkinson's Research and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar. Dr. Kanthasamy received his doctoral degree in Biochemistry at the University of Madras in 1989. He later completed his postdoctoral training in Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Purdue University in 1994. His current research focuses on the cell signaling mechanisms underlying the progression of Parkinson's disease and protein misfolding and neuroinflammatory mechanisms in neurotoxicity. Dr. Kanthasamy was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2021. He is also a fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Science, and an Academy of Toxicological Sciences Permanent Member.

SOT Leading Edge in Basic Science Award

Dr. Irfan Rahman has been bestowed the SOT Leading Edge in Basic Science Award in recognition of his significant contributions to the understanding of the fundamental mechanisms of toxicity. This award is presented to scientists whose research findings have pervasive effects in the field of toxicology.

Dr. Rahman is an endowed Dean's professor of environmental medicine, pulmonary medicine, and public health sciences at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) and a member of the URM Environmental Health Sciences Center (EHSC). His lab focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms of inflammatory responses and redox signaling in chronic lung diseases such as Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Dr. Rahman is well known for his significant contribution to the field of cigarette and electronic cigarette research. Dr. Rahman serves on the editorial board of prestigious academic journals, including Nature Scientific Report, Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and Frontiers in Pharmacology. Dr. Rahman has received several National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants including NIH-R01. The American Thoracic Society (ATS) has designated him as an ATS fellow in recognition of his work in the field of airway diseases.

ASIO WEBINARS

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ASIO hosted two webinars in 2022 that were a huge success and received great participation



Title: Science Communication for Scientists

Speaker: Manasi Apte, Ph.D.

Research Associate

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Date: Monday, May 16, 2022



**Title: Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship:
Opportunity for Returning Scientists**

Speaker: Ashutosh Srivastava, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

IIT Gandhinagar

Date: Monday, November 14, 2022

The recordings of these webinars is available [here](#)

Have suggestions on future webinar topics? Please contact [ASIO officers](#)

ASIO MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

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ASIO Member	Accomplishments
<p>Ashwini Sri Hari Post-doctoral Research NINDS_Anticonvulsant Drug Development (ADD) Program, University of Utah</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the Dravet Syndrome Foundation's Post-Doctoral Fellowship, December 2022
<p>Irfan Rahman Professor, Department of Environmental Medicine, Public Health Sciences, and Medicine, University of Rochester</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the 'SOT Leading Edge Award' 'Career Achievement award' IRSS 'Scientific Achievement award' from the American Thoracic Society
<p>Jolyn Fernandes Assistant Professor, The University of Oklahoma</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published a research article: PMID: 36295835
<p>Mayukh Banerjee Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, University of Louisville</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the Intramural JHFE grant from the University of Louisville's School of Medicine Received the 'Young Investigator Platform presentation award' at the OVSOT Annual Meeting Served as a panel member in Research!Louisville and OVSOT Published research articles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PMID: 36162444 PMID: 35764259
<p>Nikaeta Sadekar Respiratory Toxicologist, Research Institute for Fragrance Materials, Inc. (RIFM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earned DABT certification Serves as a board member for the American Society for Cellular and Computational Toxicology (ASCCT)
<p>Priyanka Baloni Assistant Professor, School of Health Sciences and Purdue Institute for Integrative Neuroscience, Purdue University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joined as a faculty member in the School of Health Sciences and will spearhead the development of 'Computational Toxicology' program at Purdue University Serves as an academic editor for PLoS Global Public Health Serves as Topical advisory member for MDPI Metabolites journal
<p>Rizwana Begum Graduate Student (Environmental Toxicology), Southern University and A&M College</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the 'Outstanding oral presentation award' at the NISBRE 2022 virtual conference

ASIO MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

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ASIO Member	Accomplishments
<p>Shagun Krishna Bioinformatics Scientist at National Toxicology Program, NIEHS, Kelly Services Inc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the 'Lush Prize 2022' in the Young Researcher Prize category. The Lush Prize fund is the largest global prize fund that supports initiatives to end or replace animal testing
<p>Shilpa Thota Graduate Student, Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) Summer grant 2022 Received the 'Best Poster award' at the 77th Joint Annual Meeting of the National Institute of Science & Beta Kappa Chi Honor Society 2022 Published a research article: PMID: 35550411
<p>Shreyas Gaikwad Graduate Student (Pharmaceutical Sciences), Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the 'Syngenta Fellowship Award' in Human Health Applications of New Technologies
<p>Smita Salian-Mehta Senior Project Toxicologist, Gilead Sciences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the IQ Recognition award (Dec 2022) Conducted Symposium at ACT annual meeting on 3R-NHPs and recovery in Denver 2022 Published research articles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PMID: 36543758 PMID: 36226581
<p>Sushant Kamath Senior Manager, Risk Assessment (Toxicology) Global Preclinical and Product Safety, Abbott</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleared the American Board of Toxicology (ABT) exam, Oct 2022
<p>Vivek Lawana Study Director, NAMSA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earned DABT certification
<p>Vrinda Kalra Assistant Research Scientist, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gave a platform presentation at the Internal Society of Exposure Science conference, 2022

ASIO SPONSORS

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ASIO 2023 Annual Reception Sponsor



Endowment Sponsors



Dr. Dharm Singh



Dr. Laxman Desai



**Late Dr. Harihara
Mehendale**

TOXIKON
ADVANCING YOUR INNOVATION

Now known as



Please Consider a Donation to the ASIO Endowment Fund

Your contribution will be primarily used for ASIO activities at the SOT Annual Meeting as well as the career advancement of our members. Moreover, the donation will 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- [ASIO SOT](#) | [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



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE REACH OUT**

**ASIO
Executive
Committee**