

ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

August 2023 NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 2023 NEWSLETTER



Ashwini Phadnis Moghe,
PhD, DABT
ASIO President, 2023-2024

Dear ASIO members,

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year! I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather and some downtime with your family and loved ones this summer. The new term for SOT began in May, and I am delighted and honored to serve and lead ASIO as President. The ASIO Executive Committee has also welcomed three new officers this year. It is my privilege to welcome Adhithiya Charli in the role of VP-elect, Aditya Joshi as Jr Councilor and Shama Ahmad as Treasurer. They join me along with Sudin Bhattacharya as VP, Saurabh Vispute as Past President, and Satya Achanta who will be the Sr Councilor. We are fortunate to have our dedicated postdoc and student representatives- Gagandeep Kaur and Manasi Kotulkar, respectively, continue this year as well. I also want to applaud our outgoing officers- Hemant Chavan (Sr Councilor) for his monumental contribution to the Awards Committee for two years and Pankajini Mallick (Treasurer) for her role in handling the webinars. As we begin the new term, I am hopeful that this group will deliver and bring the community together through the activities that we undertake.

The SOT Annual Meeting in Nashville in March was the first 'in-person' SOT meeting for many of us and it was a great feeling to connect with our network and engage in live discussions. I want to thank Saurabh Vispute for his hard work and leadership for the 2022-2023 term and for planning a great reception. We had an amazing turnout at all the ASIO events including the reception where we commemorated Dr. Mehendale's contributions to the toxicology field and heard about his legacy. I want to thank the sponsors -Insphero for their donations this year that helped offset the costs of the ASIO reception. We also celebrated the award winners for the 7 award categories that we give out each year. Please read more about the award winners and their work in this newsletter. I also want to recognize our endowment sponsors (Dr. Laxman Desai, Dr. Dharm Singh, and (late) Dr. Harihara Mehendale) and all the ASIO members for their contributions to the endowments. Lastly, the highlight of the Annual meeting was also the student-led events, Talk with Toxperts and Coffee with an Expert, which were well-regarded by those who attended.

As you all probably know, this is going to be a fiscally challenging year given the tight resources and limited funding available from SOT as discussed in the SOT membership meeting. Therefore, one of my primary goals this year will be focused on streamlining our efforts to deliver the activities that we usually do while improving the visibility of Indian-origin toxicologists at SOT (through award nominations, scientific presentations at the Annual Meeting, posters, etc.) and bolstering the ASIO general budget. The ASIO general budget supports mentoring events and the ASIO reception. It is my humble request and plea to the membership, past Presidents and senior members of ASIO to consider donating to the ASIO general fund. We take great pride in hosting scientific and career-related webinars throughout the year and mentoring events that help students, postdocs and early career scientists at the Annual meeting for which, we need your support. I request each one of you to take a moment to spread the word about SOT and ASIO membership, especially to your lab mates, postdocs, academic collaborators and industry scientists to renew their membership or consider becoming a member to avail the competitive awards. I am hopeful that our membership is engaged throughout the year. If you have ideas for webinar topics, interest in volunteering, or are interested in sponsoring an event for ASIO, please reach out to me and the other EC members directly. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure ASIO has another successful year.

Sincerely,

Ashwini Phadnis Moghe, PhD, DABT

ASIO-SIG President (2023-2024)

ashwini.phadnis@takeda.com

ASIO 2023-24 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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President

Ashwini Phadnis Moghe



Past President

Saurabh Vispute



Vice President

Sudin Bhattacharya



Vice President-Elect

Adhithiya Charli



Treasurer/Secretary

Shama Ahmad



Senior Councilor

Satya Achanta



Junior Councilor

Aditya Joshi



Postdoc Representative

Gagandeep Kaur



Student Representative

Manasi Kotulkar

ASIO ANNUAL RECEPTION

SOT 2023, Nashville

ASIO meeting at Nashville was a great success and a delightful experience. Scholars from all over the country together with international visitors gathered at the meeting for intellectual exchange of knowledge and experience, making connections and celebrating the accomplishments of our ASIO members. The members were apprised with association's financial status, members' activities, and upcoming events. The house appreciated the efforts of outgoing officers and welcomed newly elected officers for the 2023-2024 term.



ASIO 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

SOT 2023, Nashville

CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!!

BEST PAPER AWARD WINNER

Dr. Isha Mhatre-Winters

Paper Title: Effects of DDT on Amyloid Precursor Protein Levels and Amyloid Beta Pathology: Mechanistic Links to Alzheimer's Disease Risk. "Environmental Health Perspectives 130, no. 8 (August): 87005

DR. LAXMAN DESAI GRADUATE STUDENT

BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Punnag Saha**, University of South Carolina

2nd- **Manasi Kotulkar**, University of Kansas Medical Center

3rd- **Subhajit Roy**, University of California Irvine

DR. HARIHARA MEHENDELE GRADUATE STUDENT

BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Piyush Padhi**, University of Georgia - Athens

2nd- **Rizwana Begum**, Southern University, and A&M College

3rd- **Dipro Bose**, University of South Carolina

DR. DHARM SINGH POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Pavani Gonnabathula**, FDA

2nd- **Souvarish Sarkar**, Harvard Medical School

TOXICON, A PRECLINICAL TOXICOLOGY ORGANIZATION; AND

DR. DHARM SINGH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD

1st- **Shivani Shingla**, NIPER, Mohali, India

2nd- **Archana Panghal**, NIPER, Mohali, India

ASIO 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

SOT 2023, Nashville

ASIO SENIOR TOXICOLOGIST AWARD



Udayan Apte, PhD, DABT

Dr. Apte was awarded ASIO 2023 Senior Toxicologist Award for his remarkable contribution to the field of toxicology. He is a Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics at the University of Kansas and the Associate Director of the University of Kansas Liver Center. He leads an NIH-funded research program focused on determining the mechanisms of drug-induced liver injury and liver regeneration, liver cancer and the adverse effect of environmental contaminants on the liver. Dr. Apte teaches toxicology to graduate students and medical students and serves as a course director for two main toxicology courses in his department. He is a board-certified toxicologist and is a member of the US EPA's Scientific Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC). He received his PhD in Toxicology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and completed postdoctoral trainings at Texas A&M University and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

ASIO EARLY CAREER SCIENTIST AWARD



Vijay Kale, PhD, DABT

Dr. Kale was awarded ASIO 2023 Early Career Scientist Award at the annual meeting for his accomplishments in toxicology. He is currently working as a Principal Scientist/Project Toxicologist in the Nonclinical Safety Portfolio Leadership at Bristol-Myers Squibb, New Jersey. Before joining BMS, he worked at Amgen, Battelle and Zydus Cadila. He has over 12 years of pharmaceutical industry experience as a Project Toxicologist, Toxicology Study Director and veterinary clinical pathologist in drug safety evaluation. He has served as an early career representative in FASEB Board of Directors and chaired FASEB's Early Career Representative Engagement Task Force which was responsible for drafting the recommendations for the scientific societies to engage and support their early career members. He has also served as a BTSS-SOT Student Representative, on ACT's Program Committee, and ASIO Executive Council as a Councilor and on the presidential chain since 2016. He has authored/co-authored 18 papers, two book chapters, edited one book, presented several abstracts/posters and delivered oral presentations at scientific meetings. One of his recent papers has been awarded as best publication by CTPVSS-SOT. He is a recipient of Outstanding Young Investigator Award (2021) and Student Achievement Award (2014) by BTSS-SOT, International ToxScholar Outreach Grant Award (2016), Graduate Student Travel Award (2015) and Graduate Student Leadership Travel Award (2014, 2015) by SOT, and College of Medicine Class of 1971 Endowed Scholarship by Penn State College of Medicine (2014, 2015). Dr. Kale has chaired and spoke at workshop and CE course on different topics in SOT and ACT annual meetings.

ASIO'S UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES

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Don't Miss Our Awards Deadline & Get Recognized!

Award	Deadline
Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award	December 8
Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award	December 8
Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award	December 8
Toxikon, A Preclinical Toxicology Organization; and Dr. Dharm Singh Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO) International Travel Award	November 14
ASIO-SOT Best Paper Award	October 15
ASIO-SOT Outstanding Early Career Scientist Award	October 15
ASIO-SOT Senior Toxicologist Award	October 15

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

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

or send your question to satya.achanta@duke.edu

ASIO SPONSORS

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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



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE REACH OUT**

**ASIO
Executive
Committee**