



Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

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Editor: Pankajini Mallick

Co-Editor: Navatha Alugubelly

Issue: August, 2018



President's Message

Udayan Apte, PhD, DABT

In Spring of 2000 I attended a small gathering of Indian scientists on the sidelines of that year's Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting, my first ASIO-SOT meeting. It was informal and more like a get together than an official networking event. It was held in an Indian restaurant and the attendees were mostly academic scientists and their students. We have come a long way from that. As one of the prominent Special Interest Groups (SIG), ASIO has close to 250 members from all walks of the toxicological life. Over the years, as the SOT has changed, so has ASIO. The majority of our members are now from industry with a significant number of young trainees and junior scientists. With the change in demographics, the priorities and expectations have changed as well. Each section of our broad membership has different needs that ASIO must fulfill in order to stay relevant. These include networking opportunities to grow business, one-on-one mentoring for students to help them find their path and prepare them for it, immigration related issues, scientific networking that caters to needs of academic folks and finding job opportunities. I am glad to say that ASIO is meeting all these needs, thanks to the hard work and creativity of my predecessors, previous members of ASIO BOD, and the volunteers. I want to thank them as I embark upon the daunting task of leading the organization. The major challenge ahead is to make ASIO more financially self-sufficient. We have one of the strongest endowment bases that supports our outstanding slate of awards. In fact, ASIO gives more awards than any other SIG within SOT. I want to thank the generous contributions of the endowment starters and contributors. However, our general purpose fund, which supports our reception at SOT is less secure and has been dependent mainly on contributions by a single corporate donor. I, along with members of this year's BOD, intend to change this. While we have conducted a thorough review of our spending and have removed many unnecessary items, that is not going to be enough. We would like to broaden our donor base and obtain support from several organizations where ASIO members are playing a prominent roles. We will be calling on our members to reach out to their respective organizations to support ASIO activities. I am confident that with the strong support of our members we will move towards a more secure financial future. I look forward to working with many of you as we make sure that ASIO remains a strong organization which supports the needs of scientists of Indian origin in the field of toxicology.



Past President's Message

Mayur Mitra, PhD, DABT

Dear ASIO members,

Hope that everyone is having a productive summer and got some time to unwind and relax with friends and family!

ASIO's 2018 annual reception in the SOT Annual Meeting in San Antonio was very well attended (about 120 members) and well received. At the reception, we had the opportunity to listen to speeches from Dr. Saryu Goel and Dr. Sudin Bhattacharya, our esteemed members and winners of the 2018 Senior Toxicologist and Young Investigator awards, respectively. This year ASIO received a number of award applications from within the USA, Europe, and India. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the award winners. I would like to thank the judges for taking time of your busy schedule to review the award applications. Our group mentoring event, Talk with Toxperts, was very well organized and executed with over 35 students and post doctorates attending the event. I would like to thank our panelists, Drs. Raja Mangipudy, Irfan Rahman, and Molly Ghosh for bestowing their knowledge and wisdom upon the students. I would also like to thank the mentors and mentees who took advantage of the 1:1 mentor and mentee session, Coffee with an Expert. I am glad that ASIO had a very successful 2018 SOT Annual Meeting!

Throughout the year ASIO organized many events and published 4 outstanding newsletters. These activities involve investing a lot of time and effort from the ASIO Board of Directors (BOD) and volunteers. I feel very fortunate to have led a team of highly motivated and accountable individuals who made my job very easy. A big thank you to the ASIO BOD and volunteers!

I am delighted to hand over the leadership of ASIO to Dr. Udayan Apte and am certain that under his leadership the organization will reach new heights!

Best Regards,

Mayur Mitra

Past President ASIO-SOT

Snapshots of Annual Reception

Issue: August, 2018



2018 SOT Annual Meeting Reception was held in San Antonio on 12th March 2017
This year's ASIO reception was well attended with about 100+ attendees

Recap of Activities at Annual Reception

“Career talk with Toxpert” was held on 14th March provided a more relaxed evening hour to chat with experts in toxicology. Invited expert panels were:

- (1) Raja Mangipudy, PhD, DABT Executive Director, Drug Safety Evaluation, Bristol-Myers Squibb
- (2) Chandramallika (Molly) Ghosh, PhD, DABT Biocompatibility Expert (FDA) and Team Leader
- (3) Irfan Rahman, PhD Professor of Environmental, Pulmonary Medicine, & Public Health Sciences University of Rochester, NY

“Coffee hour” was mentored by 10 enthusiastic mentors.

In this one-on-one, mentors offered guidance for career development pertaining to individual student needs and choice





ASIO 2018 Award Recipients CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Issue: August, 2018

| Award | Winner |
|--|---|
| Senior Toxicologist | Sarayu Goel, PhD Food and Drug Administration, MD |
| Young Investigator | Sudin Bhattacharya, PhD Michigan State University |
| Toxikon and Dr. Dharm Singh International Travel Award (sponsored by Toxikon, A Preclinical Toxicology Organization; and Dr. Dharm Singh Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Award Endowment Fund) | 1. Gurjot Kaur, PhD University of Konstanz, Germany 2. KrishnaPrahlaad Maremada, PhD National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, India |
| Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award (sponsored by Dharm V. Singh Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Student Award Endowment Fund) | 1. Nithya Mariappan, PhD University of Alabama School of Medicine 2. Shanthi Ganesan, PhD Iowa State University 3. Sunitha Meruvu, PhD Texas A&M Health Science Center |
| Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award (sponsored by Harihara Mehendale Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Student Award Endowment Fund) | 1. Nehal Gupta Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center 2. Souvarish Sarkar Iowa State University |
| Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award (sponsored by Laxman S. Desai Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Student Award Endowment Fund) | 1. Sumira Phatak Utah State University 2. Abhishek Venkatratnam University of North Carolina |

Winner's Corner

1) What does it mean to you to receive this award?

I am humbled to receive this award. I am happy that one of my doctoral projects that focused on using gene expression data for chemical risk assessments received this recognition.

2) What are the benefits of ASIO participation, from a student perspective?

I enjoyed the ASIO meetings as it gave me an opportunity to expand my professional network and served as a platform to interact with other trainees and experts from different specialties in toxicology.

3) What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?

Failure is the first step towards success.

4) Most memorable experience of your graduate school training?

My first manuscript from my doctoral work published in *Toxicological Sciences*.



Abhi Venkatratnam
University of North
Carolina

Laxman Desai
Graduate Student
Best Abstract
Award

1) What does this award mean to you?

I was very excited and enthusiastic after receiving ASIO best abstract Student Award. This award offered a tremendous financial support for me to attend the SOT Annual Meeting and boosted my morale to do better work.

2) How does your research contribute to the mission of the SOT?

My research is focused on evaluating the anti-cancer activities of several synthetic compounds. We also explored the toxicity and safety profile of these compounds in animals at their anti-cancer doses.

3) What are some of your favorite things about SOT/ ASIO?

ASIO provides numerous opportunities for graduate students to volunteer and gives an excellent platform to interact with scientists across the globe which helps in networking and career development.

4) Tell us about a mentor who made an impact on you or set you on your present path?

I would like to mention about my PhD mentor Dr. Sanjay K. Srivastava, who has been extremely supportive. One piece of advice for my fellow students which I learned from my mentor is 'Never stop trying.'

Nehal Gupta
Texas Tech
University
Health
Sciences
Center

Dr. Harihara
Mehendale
Graduate
Student
Best
Abstract
Award

Winner's Corner

1) What are the benefits of ASIO participation, from a student perspective?

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting other members of ASIO and networking with leaders in my field. This opportunity made my first SOT meeting a memorable and delightful experience that has opened new doors. As a young scientist in training, I am enthusiastic about making my own mark on the world and am beyond thrilled to have the support of this group.

2) What are some of your favorite things about SOT/ ASIO?

The entire conference was unbelievably well organized. There were so many different sessions and interesting talks to attend that found every single day to be jam packed. There were also a lot of awesome events specifically geared toward students and early career professionals. I initially met several other researchers at the ASIO reception that I got to know better over the course of the week.

3) What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?

Over a decade ago, my then supervisor made a statement that sums up my thoughts perfectly and has stayed with me to this day. He said that every day you should ask yourself “how did I add value today?” I found this to be especially meaningful because it serves as a constant reminder to continuously work towards improving the world around you and making changes that have lasting impact.

4) Most memorable experience of your graduate school training?

Graduate school is notoriously challenging in many ways. I have come to decide that the best way to describe this experience is “one step forward, two steps backward, and then ten steps to the side.” Every day is something different and, if you’re doing it right, you learn something new and all of it is memorable.

5) How would you use being the recipient of this award to influence others and how would it impact your career?

After graduation, I will pursue a postdoctoral appointment that builds upon my current area of interest. Ultimately, I see myself running my own research program answering essential questions about how diet impacts disease states while optimizing dietary intervention strategies, and training the next generation of young scientists. This award will serve as a reminder to always advocate for an inclusive approach to academic research.











Sumira Phatak
Utah State
University


Laxman Desai
Graduate Student
Best Abstract
Award

More Interviews coming soon.....

2018-2019 ASIO Officers

Issue: August, 2018

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|--|---|
| <p>President Udayan Apte, PhD, DABT University of Kansas, Medical Center uapte@kumc.edu</p> |  |
| <p>Vice President Sharmilee Sawant, PhD, DABT RAC Avanos Medical Inc sharmilee.sawant@hyh.com</p> |  |
| <p>Vice President-Elect Vijay P. Kale, PhD, DABT, ERT Battelle Memorial Institute vetvijay@gmail.com, kale@battelle.org</p> |  |
| <p>Past President Mayur Mitra, PhD, DABT Genentech, CA, mitra.mayurranjan@gene.com</p> |  |
| <p>Treasurer/Secretary Jaya Chilakapati, PhD, DABT Merial Inc Jaya.Chilakapati@merial.com</p> |  |
| <p>Sr. Councilor Sindhura Ramasahayam, PhD Toxikon Corporation Sindhura.Ramasahayam@toxikon.com</p> |  |
| <p>Councilor Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe, PhD Covance Laboratories ashwini.phadnis-moghe@covance.com</p> |  |
| <p>Student Representative Navatha Alugubelly Mississippi State University na413@msstate.edu</p> |  |

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| <p>Postdoctoral Representative Nithya Mariappan University of Alabama at Birmingham mariappan@uabmc.edu</p> |  |
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| <p>ASIO Reception Committee Chair: Udayan Apte Co-Chair: Sharmilee Sawant</p> |
| <p>ASIO Newsletter Committee Editor: Pankajini Mallick Co-editor: Navatha Alugubelly</p> |
| <p>ASIO Award Committee Chair: Sindhura Ramasahayam Co-Chair: Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe</p> |
| <p>Webinar Committee Chair: Jaya Chilakapati Co-Chair: Postdoc rep</p> |
| <p>ASIO Sponsorship/Endowment Committee Chair: Udayan Apte Co-Chair: Sharmilee Sawant</p> |
| <p>SOT Outreach Committee (ASIO Website, LinkedIn and Facebook) Chair: Nithya Co-Chair: Navatha</p> |
| <p>SIG-Collaboration Committee Appointed representatives: Udayan Apte & Sharmilee Sawant</p> |
| <p>Past-Presidents' Committee Chair: Mayur Mitra</p> |
| <p>Proposal Review Committee Chair: Udayan Apte</p> |
| <p>ASIO Annual Meeting Student Events (Chat with Toxpert and Coffee hour) Appointed representatives: Navatha Alugubelly, Sharmilee Sawant</p> |

Publications/Accolades of Interest

Issue: August, 2018

Vijayavel Kannappan,
PhD, ERT
Manager, Regulatory
Toxicology & Stewardship
Georgia Pacific LLC.

- **ERT (European Register of Toxicologists)**
Awarded to individuals who excel by high standards of education, skills, experience, and professional standing

Suryanarayana (Sury) V.
Vulimiri, BVSc, MVSc, PhD,
DABT
Biologist US EPA,
ORD/NCEA Washington

- **“Developmental origins of cancer”; Translational Toxicology and Therapeutics: Windows of Developmental Susceptibility in Reproduction and Cancer. John Wiley & Sons Inc., vol. First Edition, pp. 111-145**

This book written by leading research scientists provides information on lifestyle choices that can reduce cancer risk

Moiz Mumtaz, PhD, FATS
Science Advisor
(DTHHS), (CDC), (ATSDR)
Atlanta

- **“In Silico Protocols”. Reg. Tox. Pharmacol. 96 : 1-17.**

This chapter present publication surveys several applications of *in silico* (i.e., computational) toxicology approaches across different industries and institutions.

- **“Component-Based Risk Assessment Approaches with Additivity and Interactions.” In: Rider, C.V. and Simmons, J. E. (Ed): Chemical Mixtures and Combined Chemical and Nonchemical Stressors: Exposure, Toxicity, Analysis and Risk. Springer, p369-420, 2018**

This chapter reviews the history and concepts related to component-based methods for health risk assessment of chemical mixtures, illustrates commonly used methods and some modifications, and discusses strengths, limitations, and likely future development.

Abhi Venkatratnam
Graduate Student
University of North
Carolina

- **Graduate Student Travel Award, Society of Toxicology (SOT), 2018**
- **Graduate Student Research Award, Molecular and Systems Biology Section (second place), SOT, 2018**

Pankajini Mallick, PhD
PBPK/PD modeling
ScitoVation, North
Carolina

- **“Impact of diet on irinotecan toxicity in mice”, Chemico-Biological Interactions 291., DOI: 10.1016/j.cbi.2018.06.018**

Dietary compounds have attracted attention towards improving the therapeutic outcomes of chemotherapeutic agents by reducing toxicities. The findings of this paper indicate beneficial effect of certain diet on controlling the adverse effects of highly effective chemotherapy drug, Irinotecan

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Dr. Dharm Singh Dr. Harihara Mehendale Dr. Laxman Desai

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Toxicology
Creating a Safer and Healthier World by Advancing
the Science and Increasing the Impact of Toxicology

Career Resource and
Development Committee


CALVERT LABS

SOT Training Opportunities



Doctoral students are encouraged to apply for SOT funding to support **participation in a workshop, training course or event** which facilitates the professional or scientific education needed to achieve future career goals. The activity should be outside the scope of their graduate program and graduate research.

For more info:

<http://www.toxicology.org/education/st/step.asp>

**ATTENTION
GRADUATE
STUDENTS!
(or their
mentors)**

**Supplemental
Training for
Education
Program
(STEP)- Next
Deadline: May
1/October 9**

[Apply Now](#)

Connect and Grow

Connect with us on Facebook and LinkedIn to be the first to hear about ASIO activities, members achievements, and to grow your professional network and to connect with fellow Indian scientists.



Find us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and use the share button to spread the word about ASIO to your fellow scientists, friends, and students!

Please also be sure to check the [ASIO ToXchange page](#) for information on events and upcoming deadlines.

Join ASIO.....

Would you like to develop your **leadership and communication skills**?

Would you like to **network effectively and showcase your creativity**?



If so, ASIO is an ideal platform for you!!! Here in ASIO, we have a multitude of volunteering opportunities for students, postdocs and professionals. Join us and get involved with ASIO activities through volunteering in any ASIO committees.

If interested, please contact Vijay Kale at kale@battelle.org