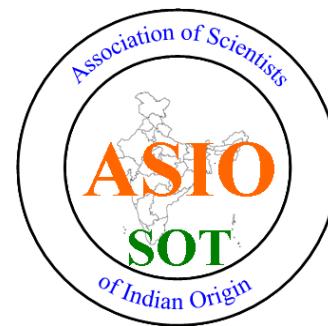


## Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

Editors: Priya Venkatakrisnan, Aditya Joshi, Vivek Dadhanania, Shirisha Chittiboyina, Mamta Behl and Sachin Bhusari



### President's Message:

Greetings all,

Hope that you guys are enjoying summer. I wanted to touch base with everyone and update you on the progress at various fronts on behalf of ASIO Board of Directors (BOD). As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have various committees in place. ASIO BOD has appointed chairs to all committees. You will find the list of all committees along with their chair names in this newsletter.

Please join me to congratulate all the chairs. Welcome to the team! We have very strong response from the volunteers and we are making every effort to involve volunteers in ASIO activities. It goes without saying that if any of you are interested in volunteering for any of the committees or ASIO activities then please contact any of us.

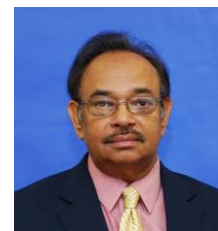
Proposal review committee comprised of **Drs. Mamta Behl and Sudheer Beedanagari** reviewed and supported SOT 2015 scientific proposals that were submitted to ASIO for endorsement/sponsorship. Based on the valuable inputs from the members of Society of Toxicology, ASIO webinar committee chaired by **Dr. Sainath Babu** is planning to host a webinar in September.

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### Featuring...

2014 SOT Arnold J. Lehman Award Winner Dr. Bhaskar Gollapudi's Words of Wisdom.....Pg. 6



Introducing CROSSTOX Crossword puzzle..... Pg. 6

ASIO-SOT's 2<sup>ND</sup> TOX Webinar ....Pg 7

## President's Message Contd.

We are delighted to have **Dr. Udayan Apte** from the University of Kansas Medical Center as a speaker for this webinar.

One of the ASIO's current goals is to create a new endowment fund that will be used for permanently establishing an annual international award. The fund will be used to support educational efforts of emerging toxicologists (undergraduates, graduate students, and post-doctoral trainees) of Indian origin. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 by 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2015 and thereby benefit from SOT's matching funds. This would bring the fund's total assets to \$50,000 at which point it would be considered a permanently established endowment fund and will be continued into perpetuity. **Dr. Mayur Mitra** is spearheading these efforts. Progress report detailing these efforts is included in this newsletter.

Our BOD and various committee members are very excited on their project assignments. I am very fortunate to have this team. Please feel free to let us know if you have any suggestions or new ideas to enhance the collaboration among us.

*Together, Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)*

Sachin Devi.



### Introducing our new Volunteers / soon-to-be ASIO Newsletter Committee Members!

We are excited to have three new volunteers/soon-to-be members.

Smita (Post doc, University of Colorado), Saurabh (Grad. Student, St. John's University) and Vijay (Grad. Student, Penn State University), we welcome you to the ASIO-SOT Newsletter Committee!

Vijay Kale



Saurabh Vispute



Smita Salian-Mehta

# ASIO-SOT Committees 2014-2015

## 1. ASIO Reception Committee:

Chair : Sachin Devi (President)  
Co-chair : Sudheer Beednagari (Vice President)  
Member : Mamta Behl (Vice President-Elect)  
All BOD officers as required

## 2. ASIO Sponsorship Committee:

Chair : Sudheer Beednagari (Vice President)  
Co-chair : Mamta Behl (Vice President-Elect)  
Members: Priya Venkat (Treasurer), Mayuranjan Mitra (Councilor)

## 3. ASIO Endowment Committee:

Chair : Mayuranjan Mitra (Councilor)  
Co-chair : Sudheer Beednagari (Vice President)  
Member : Satheesh Anand (Past-President)  
Volunteers as needed

## 4. ASIO Awards Committee:

Chair : Mamta Behl (Vice President-Elect)  
Co-Chair : Udayan Apte (Volunteer)  
Member : Vik Arora (Volunteer)

## 5. ASIO Membership Committee:

Chair : Prasad (Volunteer)  
Co-chair : Sachin Bhusari (Councilor)  
Members: Vijay M. Kale, Durga Tripathi, Shubhra, Prathap Kumar, Senthil, Prasad, Udayan Apte (Volunteers)

## 6. SOT Proposal Review Committee:

Chair : Sudheer Beednagari (Vice President)  
Co-chair : Mamta Behl (Vice President-Elect)

## 7. ASIO Website Committee:

Chair : Pratap Kumar (Student Rep)

## 8. ASIO Newsletter Committee:

Chair : Aditya Joshi  
Co-chair : Vivek Dadhania  
Members: Priya Venkatakrishnan, Smita Salian-Mehta, Pranav Shah, Saurabh Vispute, Vijay P. Kale, Sachin Bhusari

## 9. ASIO LNL/ Coffee Hour Committee:

Chair : Pratap Kumar (Student Rep)  
Member : Mallikarjuna Basavarajappa (Post-doc Rep), Roshni, Shirisha, Sainath

## 10. ASIO Webinars Committee:

Chair : Sainath (Volunteer)  
Co-chair : Mallikarjuna Basavarajappa (Post-doc Rep)  
Members: Satheesh Anand, Sudheer Beednagari, Vic Arora, Vijay P. Kale

## 11. Outreach – K12:

Sunny UppuSainath  
Priya Krishna  
Sainath  
Priya Venkat

## 12. Outreach -SOT/AoT:

Chair : Sudheer Beednagari (ASIO liaison)  
Members: Mamta Behl, Mayuranjan Mitra

## 13. SIG-Collaboration Committee:

ASIO Representatives: Sudheer Beednagari, Sachin Devi, Mamta Behl

## Join us TODAY as ASIO Member and LEAD ASIO Initiatives!

- ❖ Please encourage fellow toxicologists of Indian origin to join ASIO and participate in the ASIO activities.
- ❖ ASIO members get an opportunity to involve in our creative and enthusiastic initiatives throughout the year. *SOT Student and Postdoctoral members receive their first Special Interest Group membership for free!*
- ❖ Be an ASIO member today and enjoy numerous member benefits. Just log on to our website: <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/membership.asp>
- ❖ For current members, you can renew your ASIO annual membership online when you pay your annual SOT membership dues, simply by checking ASIO membership listed under SOT-SIG membership section.
- ❖ To renew your membership, please visit: <http://www.toxicology.org/ms/renew.asp>

# International Student Travel Award Winner 2014

Sapna Kushwaha from CDRI, Lucknow, India

*Interviewed by Smita Salian-Mehta*

Sapna Kushwaha, a promising toxicologist from India was the recipient of the International Student Travel Award sponsored by ASIO. Here is what she says:

## **A few words about me ....**

Currently, I am a senior project fellow elucidating the role of bone mass increasing (osteoanabolic) agents in metabolic disorders under the guidance of Dr. Sabyasachi Sanyal in Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow (India).

Prior to joining CDRI, I completed my Masters (Pharma) in regulatory toxicology and continued to pursue PhD in Toxicology under Dr. G. B. Jena at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER), Mohali, India.

## **Work for which I received the ASIO international travel award....**

Diabetes associated with hypertension can lead to reproductive toxicity including gonadal damage. My PhD work focused on evaluating the beneficial effects of Telmisartan, a prescribed anti-hypertensive, on testicular toxicity in a diabetic rat model. My studies suggested that telmisartan can reduce somatic as well as testicular toxicity and can be a good intervention agent to manage gonadal dysfunctions in diabetes induced hypertension.

## **How did I come to know about ASIO award....**

My colleague Dr. D. N. Tripathi, an earlier recipient of the ASIO international travel award (2010), strongly encouraged me to apply.

## **How did the award help me at the SOT meeting....**

It is a moment of honor to be recognized by the international toxicology community. This award is a milestone which can be a great confidence boost to budding toxicologist like me. I am thankful to ASIO for providing me a great platform and support to share my research with eminent toxicologists around the globe. The opportunity to participate in interactive sessions and the luncheon organized by ASIO helped me to widen my horizon and expand my research outlook in this expanding field of Toxicology.

## **Where do I see myself in advancing the science of toxicology....**

It is my aim to utilize the experience of SOT 2014 as a stepping stone, to pursue my dream of becoming a toxicologist of high repute in one of India's pioneer research institute. I intent to spread my research in niche areas of toxicology and thus enhance the reach of Toxicology in all areas of Science. I am certain that this is just a beginning of a wonderful journey of unraveling the hidden treasure of nature which remains my passion.

*Interested in sharing your achievement or nominating candidates to interview, please send your request to [asio.sot.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:asio.sot.newsletter@gmail.com)*



# SOT Best Postdoctoral Publication Award Winner 2014

Gul Mustafa, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UTMB, Galveston, Texas

Gul Mustafa received the 'Best Postdoctoral Publication' award for an article titled "Biomarker discovery for early detection of hepatocellular carcinoma in hepatitis C-infected patients" published in Mol Cell Proteomics. 2013 Dec;12(12): 3640-52.

## About her publication:

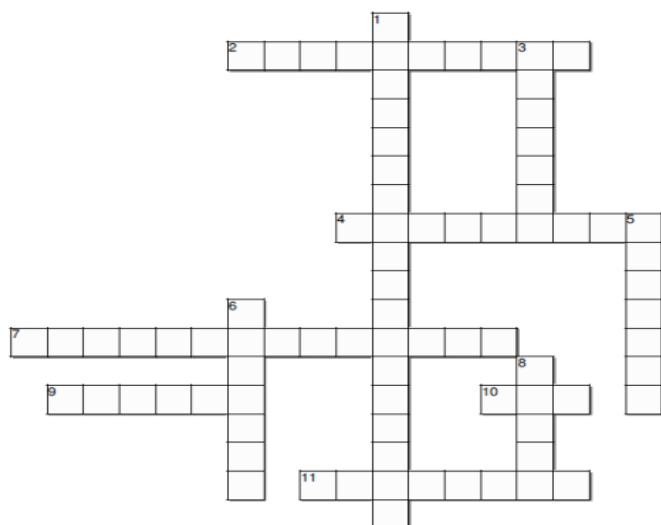
The ability of physicians to effectively treat and cure cancer is directly dependent on their ability to detect cancer at early stages. Development of a minimally invasive test using serum-based biomarkers with the necessary sensitivity and specificity will enhance surveillance and early Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) detection amongst the millions who are at risk of developing liver cancer, which will enable clinicians to offer patients better clinical management and more effective treatment modalities. The powerful workflow discussed in this paper opens up new possibilities for biomarker research that may lead to faster, more robust, and improved clinical assays. It also promises to be a standard methodology in future biomarker development not just for HCC, but in protein biomarker development in general, including exposure and effect biomarker development relevant to toxicology.



## ASIO Newsletter Introduces CrossTox

Let's keep up with Toxicology Facts and have some fun. Introducing Crosstox cross-word puzzle by Vivek Dadhania

### CrossTox-1



#### Across

2. Malignant neoplasms of epithelial origin are called as
4. The cell that act as primary defense against toxicant exposure in CNS
7. The most common site of renal injury
9. One of the most common skin sensitizer
10. Agency that establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards
11. One of the gases used during World War I

#### Down

1. The most characterized transplacental carcinogen
3. Common contaminant of the ground water of India's West Bengal region
5. The most common drug found in victims of sexual assault
6. A metal which is similar to mercury in that it is liquid at or near room temperature
8. The place where the Toxic oil syndrome disaster (Year 1981) occurred

*Please see Page 7 for answers.....*

Got any suggestions/ideas for such scientific fun? Please send them to [asio.sot.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:asio.sot.newsletter@gmail.com)

# Words of Wisdom by Dr. Bhaskar Gollapudi

2014 SOT Arnold J. Lehman Award Winner

## What makes one an ideal candidate for industry?

The ideal candidate is a good scientist in the first place – an attribute essential whether you work in industry, academia, or government. In addition, one should have a solid foundation in theoretical as well as applied aspects of toxicology. The candidate should be a generalist in addition to being a specialist in his/her area of expertise. This is similar to, for example, being a family practitioner in addition to being a board certified cardiologist.

## Apart from technical knowledge, what else is crucial to succeed in the industry?

One should be able to concurrently manage/work on multiple projects to meet the timelines of other investigators and/or groups in the organization. Good oral and written communication skills are a must. The candidate should have excellent interpersonal skills to be an effective team member.

## What are the secrets of continued success in industry?

Having a plan for personal and professional development is essential for continued success. Once such a plan is in place, the candidate should have near-term and long-term goals that are aligned with the plan. Also, one should be striving to find practical solutions to challenging issues and be prepared to make tough decisions. Continue to be active in professional societies to develop good networks.

## For a given particular technical area, what is your opinion about the view of industries towards “non-experienced technically sound person versus experienced person (in a different area) with limited technical knowledge in this area”?

A good athlete can be trained to perform reasonably well in multiple sports. Thus, big industrial toxicology departments are willing to invest time and effort to train a good, inexperienced scientist. However, in small companies with a limited number of toxicologists (more often the case these days), experienced people are likely to be given preference over inexperienced.

## What type of employee engagement and an industry culture can create a “Win-Win” situation?

The employee should keep in mind that his/her success is intimately tied to the success of their team as well as their company. Be a mentor to junior and fellow employees. When an opportunity presents, be willing to offer reverse mentorship to your senior leader. Companies that encourage open dialogue and flexible, family friendly work environment will likely have a better retention of their talent.

## What is your advice to the budding toxicologists for a successful career?

Scientific credibility is the single most important thing, and you have to work hard to earn it. Keep up with the literature. Concentrate your energies in delivering the best quality work product and always look for opportunities to publish your work. Job satisfaction is more than getting that next promotion. Find a good balance between professional and personal life.

***Dr. Gollapudi is a Senior Managing Scientist in Center for Toxicology and Mechanistic Biology at Exponent, an international consulting firm. He has over 30 years of industry experience. He is also an Associate Editor of Journal Toxicological Sciences and a member of the Faculty 1000 Biology since 2006.***



## Announcements / Appeal

### ASIO's 2<sup>nd</sup> Tox-Webinar

ASIO initiated Tox-Webinar series last year with the goal to educate students and fellow scientists on the latest developments of toxicological sciences. Based on the valuable inputs from the members of Society of Toxicology, ASIO is hosting the second webinar. Dr. Udayan Apte an expert in hepatotoxicology has kindly agreed to share his experience in understanding the mechanisms of liver regeneration, hepatic stem cells and chemical carcinogenesis.

**Webinar Topic:** New Frontiers in Chemical Carcinogenesis

**Speaker:** Dr. Udayan Apte, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics, Kansas University Medical Center, KS

**Date:** Friday, Sep 26<sup>th</sup> 2014

(Check <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/events.asp>)

**Time:** 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, USA (EST) [International attendees please convert your local time accordingly]

**Registration:** First come-first serve basis

This webinar will introduce the basic mechanisms of chemical carcinogenesis and highlight recent developments in hepatic carcinogenesis field. Apart from discussing the current trends, it will also provide perspectives on how the new developments can be applied to ongoing research efforts.

Dr. Sainath Babu  
Chair, Webinar Committee



#### CrossTox Answers (Pg. 6)

##### Down

1. Diethylstilbestrol
3. Arsenic
5. Ethanol
6. Gallium
8. Spain

##### Across

2. Carcinomas
4. Astrocyte
7. Proximal Tubule
9. Nickel
10. EPA
11. Phosgene

*Society of Toxicology, India (STOX)'s Annual Meeting is coming up at the end of the year.*

*Watch out for the details (date, venue and speaker) in the next ASIO-SOT Newsletter!*

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Thank you so much for your generous contribution!