

**Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America-Society
of Toxicology- Special Interest Group
(ASIOA-SOT-SIG)**



December 2006, ISSUE No.: 2

ASIOA-SOT-SIG

Madhu G. Soni, Ph.D.

Soni and Associates

749 46th Square

Vero Beach, FL 32968, U.S.A.

Officers of SOT-ASIOA Division (2006-2007)

Madhu G. Soni, President

Gopala Krishna, Vice President

Chellu S. Chetty, Secretary/Treasurer

Harihara Mehendale (Past President/Councilor)

Sanjay Chanda (Councilor)

Gunda Reddy (Councilor)

Prakash Nagarkatti (SOT/SIG Liaison)

Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America-Society of Toxicology (ASIOA-SOT)

President's Message

Greetings! It was good to see a big turn out at our last ASIOA-SOT annual meeting and banquet in San Diego, CA. It was very nice to listen to presentation by Dr. Rashmi Barbhaiya on Pharma R & D opportunities in India. Additional presentation by Dr. Seema Handu was also noteworthy. Our banquet provided an excellent opportunity for the senior members and students to discuss or exchange ideas of mutual interest or extend fellowship.

SOT has accepted our group as a Special Interest Group and assured to support the activities of our group. The group has recognition similar to SOT specialty sections. The SOT recognition and support is based on mutually agreeable activities and the long term financially self-sustaining plan. I am certain with the support from all ASIOA-SOT members we will be a strong viable group. **ASIOA-SOT three year self sustaining plan** is included in this newsletter for your review. Please review the plan, so, we are in compliance with the plan for continued success and association with SOT. I am thankful to Dr. Nagarkatti for his continued efforts in advocating our special interest group with SOT and securing continued support.

As we look to next year, we are already looking at Charlotte, NC to make suitable arrangements for our banquet. Our colleagues Drs. Prakash Nagarkatti and Chellu Chetty are exploring the places for organizing the next year's

banquet. Dr. Gopala Krishna is actively looking for well recognized individual(s) as key note speaker(s). We will send an announcement regarding the keynote speaker(s) and banquet in the next newsletter.

Madhu Soni

SOT recognizes ASIOA-SOT as Special Interest Group

On the basis of recommendations from the SOT task force on inclusion of minority/international groups, SOT has recognized ASIOA-SOT as one of the Special Interest Groups (SIG). We all are familiar with Specialty Sections and the SIG activities are similar to these sections. One of the goals of SOT is to encourage ASIOA-SOT to provide a networking venue for toxicologists of Indian origin working in the USA and also for toxicologists from India. SOT Council recognizes the importance of groups such as ours and their potential contribution in achieving some of the goals and objectives of SOT. Our colleague and ASIOA-SOT member, Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti is serving on the SOT task force.

Dr. Singh donates \$5000 to institute student award

To encourage and recognize ASIOA-SOT student members, our colleague and long supporting member, Dr. Dharam Singh has donated \$5000 to institute a best student award. The fund is deposited with SOT and the interest earned from the amount will be used to

recognize students for their achievements. On behalf of ASIOA SOT we are thankful to Dr. Singh for his generosity and support. We also encourage other members for similar support.

Dr. Krishna Receives 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award of West Virginia University



Dr. Gopala Krishna, Director of Toxicology at MGI Pharma, Baltimore, MD, recently received the **2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award of West Virginia University**, CAFCS, Morgantown, WV. This award recognizes and honors graduates of the University who have had distinguished careers and made significant contributions to their profession or society. This award recognized Dr. Krishna's outstanding accomplishments to the science of pharmaceutical drug safety and in collaboration with Dr. Joginder Nath - his mentor at WVU, to the advancement of such science at West Virginia University. This recognition was published in India Abroad (New York Edition): May 26, 2006, Page: A24. Congratulations Dr. Krishna.

Simultaneous renewal of SOT and ASIOA-SOT membership

This year when you renew your SOT membership, just check an additional box under Special Interest Group- Association of scientists of Indian Origin. There is no need for a separate application for ASIOA-SOT membership. The SOT will collect all the membership dues, donations and will run the financial aspects similar to Specialty Sections. The last date for the membership renewal is **December 15, 2006**. Please note that **student membership is free**. We encourage all the students interested in our group to become members at no additional cost. Those who are not SOT members can also become ASIOA-SOT members by sending a separate application. For additional information, please contact Dr. Chellu S. Chetty [chettyc@savstate.edu].

ASIOA – SOT: Three Year Self-Sustaining Plan:

STRATEGY: **Objective:** Create a self-sustaining Special Interest Group (SIG) with a diversified financial base that complements, but does not compete with the work of Society of Toxicology (SOT), amplifying the impact of the parent organization and serving as a platform for collective action of Association Scientists of Indian Origin in America (ASIOA).

Pathways to achieve self-sustaining strategy include:

1. Study the feasibility of membership: For the past several years approximately 75 ASIOA-SOT members have attended the ASIOA-SOT annual banquet and meeting. Out of these, approximately 40-50 are full members and 10-25 are student members. As the SIG membership is \$15 and the student membership is free, with an assumption of 50 full members joining the ASIOA-SOT during Year 1, funds of approximately \$750 will be raised. Priority for the first year is to encourage members to join the ASIOA-SOT through Society of Toxicology. Our Membership goal is: 50, 60 and 70 members for Year 1, 2, and 3, respectively. This membership drive is very much required as mandated by the bylaws of ASIOA-SOT to sustain the recognition and financial support from the SOT

2. Consider fundraising to support the SIG activities: Create models for fundraising which helps revenue generation. This includes educating donors/supporters and making them become aware of the impact and value of ASIOA-SOT effort in the US and India. To this end, ASIOA-SOT has developed a plan for accepting donations from members who wish to institute awards in the name of their choice that will be given at the ASIOA-SOT annual meeting. During 2006, ASIOA-SOT has received a donation of \$5000 from Dr. Dharam Singh, a long-time ASIOA-SOT member, to institute "best student award" selected by the ASIOA-SOT award committee. Every year, part of the interest generated from this fund will be used to give the award. Members and philanthropists will be encouraged to donate in a similar fashion, so, a source of additional funds will be initiated.

ASIOA-SOT has already created a model by which non-members and

others (particularly pharmaceutical companies and philanthropists from India) can show their support by sponsoring the ASIOA-SOT meeting, dinner or awards. We are expecting to raise \$500, \$750 and \$1000 for Years 1, 2, and 3, respectively. In this regard, during 2006, to encourage student participation in the ASIOA-SOT SIG, Dr. Raje from Long Island University sponsored dinner for all students amounting to \$500. During such fund raising, we will make sure that we are not competing with parent SOT and that we will approach only those who have direct interest in ASIOA. When necessary, we will take permission from SOT to collect donations.

Additionally, we will encourage members for general donations to support the ASIOA-SOT activities. We anticipate raising \$100, 150 and 200, for Years 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

3. Efficient use of funds: SOT contribution: SOT is expected to pay \$2000 towards meeting expenses of ASIOA-SOT for 2007. These funds will be efficiently used. We will only have business meeting without food at the conference venue, thereby saving this amount and putting this amount for better use—for other activities of SOT. We plan to save \$ 1000-1500 in 2007 and use this amount for ASIOA-SOT activities for the Years 2, and 3, as necessary.

4. Current balance: (a) With Society of Toxicology: \$5,000.00 (donated by Dr. Dharam Singh towards ASIOA-SOT). (b) With ASIOA-SOT: Currently, ASIOA-SOT has approximately \$1000 in the bank, which will be transferred to ASIOA-SOT SIG.

By implementing above strategies we will certainly be a self-sustaining group.

ASIOA-SOT students award-Nominations request:

ASIOA-SOT invites applications for two student awards. Students who have submitted abstracts to SOT will be considered for these awards. These students must also be members of ASIOA-SOT or send a note to Dr. Chetty, expressing an interest in becoming a member at the current SOT meeting. The award committee will review the abstracts submitted and will select two students for awards. Please submit your application (cover letter) along with abstract submitted for 2007 SOT to Dr. Chetty [chettyc@savstate.edu] before February 15, 2007. The students will be recognized at the meeting and will receive a plaque.

Venue and the other details of the Annual Meeting

Please check the SOT meeting information for annual ASIOA-SOT meeting. The annual business meeting and reception will be held at Westin Hotel, the official site of SOT followed by banquet at an Indian restaurant. We are working to secure the banquet place and will inform you all the details by the end of February 2007.

Mailing List

Do you know anyone not receiving this newsletter? Ask your SOT friends. Please let us know the address, phone, fax, and e-mail and we will be happy to

include the address in our mailing list. Also if your address has any changes, please send them to Dr. Chellu S. Chetty [chettyc@savstate.edu]

Newsorthy contributions solicited

Please contribute information for the newsletter (any awards, fellowships, job opportunities, any commentary, etc.) for future inclusion. Please e-mail the items to: sonim@bellsouth.net

