



ASIO- Newsletter



Editors: Vinayak Srinivasan, Rohan Kulkarni, Binu K. Philip, and Brinda Mahadevan

ASIO Sponsored/Endorsed Events: SOT

President:

Gopala Krishna
gkrishna@supernus.com

Past President:

Madhu G. Soni
SoniM@bellsouth.net

Vice President:

Sanjay Chanda
schanda@anacor.com

Secretary:

Satheesh Anand
Satheesh.S.Anand@usa.dupont.com

Treasurer:

Chellu Chetty
chettyc@savstate.edu

Liaison Officer:

Prakash Nagarkatti
pnagark@gw.med.sc.edu

Councilors:

Gunda Reddy
gunda.reddy@us.army.mil

Brinda Mahadevan
brinda.mahadevan@spcorp.com

Rangaprasad Sarangarajan
rsarangarajan@mcphs.edu

Viny Srinivasan
vsrinivasan@rd.us.loreal.com

Des Kashyap
drkashya@email.unc.edu

Post-doctoral representative:

Binu K. Philip
bkphilip@iupui.edu

Safety of High-Intensity Sweeteners: Bittersweet Controversy

Chair: Dr. Madhu Soni (Soni & Associates Inc.) and D. Charles Thompson (US-FDA/CDER); **Tuesday, March 17, 1:30 to 4:15PM**

Immunomodulation During Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Therapy: Risks and Benefits

Chair: Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti (University of South Carolina School of Medicine) and Barbara L.F. Kaplan (Michigan State University); **Tuesday, March 17, 9:00 to 11:45AM**

A Quarter of a Century (1984-2009) Since the Bhopal Disaster: Lessons Learned

Chair: Dr. Brinda Mahadevan (Schering-Plough Research Institute) and Dr. Madhu Soni (Soni & Associates Inc.); **Monday March 16, 2009; 12:10 to 1:30 PM**

Speakers: Rosalie Bertell, Ph.D., Founder and retired President of the International Institute of Concern for Public Health, Toronto, Canada, and Coordinator of the International Medical Commission Bhopal, 1994.

Daya Varma, Ph.D., Dept of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, McGill University, Toronto, Canada

Ramana Dhara, Ph.D., Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Bhopal Disaster to feature in the Toxicology History Room

For the first time ever, the 2009 SOT Annual Meeting will feature a Toxicology History Room (THR). The exhibit will showcase documents and other printed matter, artifacts, memorabilia, and digital displays that highlight the historical importance and societal impact of toxicology, and the history of SOT.

Dr. Sarangarajan and Dr. Mahadevan will be exhibiting a time line poster on the Bhopal Incident. A video on the incident which features all the three speakers who will be talking at the highlight session will also be played at the Toxicology History Room.

Don't forget to stop by this room which will be open for viewing late Sunday afternoon, March 15th hosting the 25+ year member reception.

Introducing New this Year: An Informal Lunch'N'Learn Program

Are you trying to make decisions regarding a professional career in toxicology? Are you seeking advice on how to effectively network with recruiters? Do you want to learn how to interview better?

Then, sign up by sending an email to brinda.mahadevan@spcorp.com or vsrinivasan@rd.us.loreal.com on or before March 9, 2009. Attend the Informal Lunch 'N' Learn session and we will provide you answers to your questions along with light lunch/refreshments! Join us in the friendly environment of Sotto Cafe on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 from 12-1:30 PM. You will get to meet ASIO members with vast experience in various fields of toxicology and ask relevant questions regarding your careers (**see detailed agenda on page 5**).

2009 ASIO-SIG Annual Reception, Baltimore, MD

Date: Monday, March 16, 2009

Venue: Hilton Baltimore, Key Ballrooms 9 & 10

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Agenda

- **Introduction/Welcome** (Dr. Krishna)
 - Recognition of Officers
 - Background on SIG
- **Update on ASIO-SOT Endowment Funds** (Dr. Soni)
 - Established Funds: Drs. Singh & Mehendale
 - New Fund: Dr. Laxman Desai
- **Guest Speaker Introduction:** Dr. Krishna
 - Dr. Gyan Prakash
- **ASIO Student, Postdoc & International Awards** (Dr. Chetty)
 - Students: Gayathri Chadalapaka, Yogesh Saini and Mamtha Behl
 - Postdoc: Raja Settivari
 - International Student (India): Smitha Salian
- **Recognition:** Dr. Srinivasan
 - Students & Faculty receiving SOT Awards
 - Recognition of Senior members:
 - Drs. Nagarkatti, Desaiah, Reddy, Chetty
- **Bhopal Disaster: Lessons Learned, Historical highlight Session**
 - Lunch N'Learn - Dr. Mahadevan
- **Elections:** Dr. Anand
- **Concluding Comments:** Dr. Chanda
- **Dinner at Memsahab, Networking, Q & A:** Dr. Philip

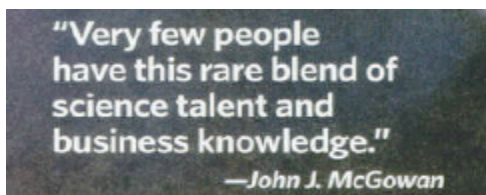
Reception Guest Speaker: **Dr. Gyan (John) Prakash, PhD, MBA** will discuss
“Scientific entrepreneurship during global economic hard times - a personal perspective”



Dr. Prakash is currently serving as the Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President at AMAR International, Inc., Fairfax, Virginia. AMAR is certified by the US Government-SBA as an 8(a), SDB and women owned small business enterprise. The company is a prime government contractor in biomedical services business providing biomedical program support services. Dr. Prakash currently serves on Board of Directors and Board of Advisors at several Washington, DC metro area companies.

His life story is very interesting. He took an exam for a coveted government position in India. Though he passed, they told him he was slightly short for the job! “It was absolutely the best thing that happened,” Prakash says. With the blessing of his father and little more than \$20 to his name, Prakash headed off to the United States to study microbiology. In the US, he earned his doctorate at the University of Illinois. As he was finishing up, his mentor asked him to name his three top choices for a post-doc advisor. Not one to let circumstances decide his fate, Prakash slipped a piece of paper into Meyer’s mail box on which, as requested, he’d written three names: Sydney Finegold, Sydney M. Finegold, and Dr. Finegold.

At AMAR, race and ethnicity represent a crucial variable in its models, which include technical issues specific to different ethnic groups, down to the diets that different groups eat. Dr. Prakash says “Sure, you can hit all the boxes, and you might even get your drug approved, but as soon as it hits the market, it gets exposed not just to the patient on which you did the trial; we haven’t come to grasp that our population is changing; we are running trials on the patients of yesterday.” He was once denied a job because of the way he looked, now he spends his career talking about why diversity is crucial to drug development. A quote about Dr. Prakash:



An article about Dr. Prakash has recently been published in The Scientist (August-2008). The article can be accessed at http://www.genego.com/pdf/The_Scientist_August_2008.pdf.

ASIO-SIG Dinner, Networking and Musical Evening

When: Monday, March 16th, 2009

From: 8:00pm – 11:00pm

Where: walking distance from Hilton



Vegetarian & Non-Vegetarian

Address: 400 W. Lexington St, Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-576-7777

Dinner Menu (Buffet style)

Appetizer: Cucumber Salad, Pickles, Chutney, Vegetable Samosas, Vegetable Pakoras

Main Course:

Veg: Channa Masala, Palak Paneer, Bhindi Masala,

Non-Veg: Chicken Tikka asala, Mutton Curry, Tandoori Chicken,
Basmati Rice Pilau, Tandoori Naan

Dessert: Mixed Fruit, Gulab Jamun, Masala Chai

Sodas (Coke, Diet Coke, Ginger Ale, Sprite) will be included.

(Discounted rate for students & reasonably negotiated rate for the rest; Cash or
Check ONLY as we will be using tax-exempt status)

Light Music Entertainment by:

Dr. Sury Vulimiri, DVM PhD DABT

National Center for Environmental Assessment Office of Research and Development U.S.
EPA, Washington DC

Dinner Guest Speaker: **Ms. Sheila Khatri** will talk about "**Biotech business collaborations – US & India: practical issues and success stories!**"



Ms. Khatri is the founder of Moti International, helps U.S. companies do business in India. Khatri, a former lawyer, headed Maryland India Center, a trade office for the state. She spent two years opening and running Maryland's office in Bangalore. Ms. Khatri says the India-U.S. connection is getting stronger through licenses or partners, and overcoming the myriad challenges surrounding new market entries.

Ms. Khatri represents companies and government agencies, primarily in India, to achieve business and economic development initiatives. Before her involvement in the international arena, Ms. Khatri was a practicing attorney in the area of employment and business law. She holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Baltimore, School of Law and a Bachelors of Science degree in Finance from the University of Maryland, College Park.

ASIO-SIG-SOT: Welcomes you to Baltimore, MD for a fun-filled educational and networking week: Mar 15-19, 2009!

On behalf of ASIO-SIG-SOT, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Baltimore, MD. On March 16th at 6 p.m. ASIO has planned for a great reception at Hilton key ballrooms 9&10 followed by an elegant Indian cuisine, networking and a musical night at Memsahab (See details on pages 2-4), which is within walking distance from Hilton. I believe, this will be a great opportunity for us to network and get to know each other. I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you there! Thank you.

Gopala Krishna, President, ASIO-SIG-SOT

Lunch 'N' Learn – ASIO Sponsored Event

Tuesday, March 17th, 2009

Venue: Soto Cafè, 100E. Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD

Tel: (410) 332-1010

Sign up by sending an email to brinda.mahadevan@spcorp.com or vsrinivasan@rd.us.loreal.com on or before March 9, 2009

Program

11:45 a.m. **Meet at the SOT Message Board**

12:00 p.m. **Welcome and Introduction**

Binu Phillip and Sudheer Reddy

Career Guidance and Net working: Presentation and Discussion

Chairs: Vinayak Srinivasan & Brinda Mahadevan

12:15 – 12:45 pm Pursuing a Professional Career in Toxicology:
Industry/Academia /Government

12:45 – 1:15 pm Networking and Interviewing Skills

1:15 – 1:30 pm Concluding Remarks and Discussion

Winners of 2009 Drs. Mehendale & Singh Merit Awards

Student Award Winners

Gayathri Chadalapaka

Gayathri is a graduate student at Texas A & M University, College Station, TX. Originally from Andhra Pradesh, Gayathri completed her Bachelor's in veterinary medicine in 2004 and joined TAMU to pursue her Ph.D. in Toxicology. Her area of research is "Natural products and their synthetic derivatives as anticancer agents".

Yogesh Saini

Yogesh, a graduate student from Michigan State University, completed his Masters in Veterinary Science from G.B. Pant University, Pant Nagar in 2003. He also holds a graduate degree in Veterinary medicine and animal husbandry from Palampur, H.P. His area of research is "the role of hypoxia signaling in cobalt-induced lung injury".

Mamta Behl

Mamta is a Ph.D. student at Purdue University, Indiana from where she also obtained her Master's in Psychological Science in 2004. Currently, she is working on "Effects of lead exposure on the homeostasis of β Amyloids at the Blood Cerebrospinal fluid Barrier: Implications in Alzheimer's disease". Mamta is planning to finish her Ph.D. in August this year and seeking a position in Neurotoxicology.

Post-doctoral Award

Raja S Settivari, PhD

Dr. Settivari, a veterinarian by training from India, finished his Ph.D. from University of Missouri-Columbia in 2007. After a one year stint at Harvard Medical School as a research fellow, he joined Indiana University School of Medicine as a postdoctoral fellow in 2008. His current area of research involves "Drug screening for Parkinson's disease and Heavy metal toxicity".

International Travel Award

Smita Salian

Smita Salian is a Ph.D. candidate at National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's in Microbiology from University of Mumbai. She is an active member of Society of Toxicology, India (SOTX). She bagged a SOTX gold medal in 2006 for the best poster presentation followed by another gold medal in 2007 for the best oral presentation. Her abstract has been selected for the platform presentation in SOT 2009.



Achievements

Establishment of the Laxman S. Desai ASIO Student Award Fund

We are very pleased to announce a third ASIO award fund established through generous contributions from Dr. Desai. In his official letter to ASIO, Dr. Roger. O. McClellan Chair, SOT Endowment Fund Board noted " I extend my congratulations to the ASIO SIG for having three Award Funds aligned with your SIG. This is an extraordinary achievement that will have an enduring impact on encouraging students of Indian Origin to enter the field of toxicology. I hope that in the future, ASIO SIG members will make additional contributions to the Funds created with initial generous contributions from Drs. Dharm V. Singh, Harihara Mehendale and Laxman S. Desai so the funds will grow and have even greater impact. Most importantly, when you have the opportunity please send a note to these three fine gentlemen your appreciation of their generosity.

New Diplomates of ABT !!!

S. Satheesh Anand, DuPont Haskell
Udayan M. Apte, University of Kansas Medical Center
Sunita Babbar, NeurogesX, Inc
Neetesh Bhandari, Merck & Co Inc
Pragati Sawhney Coder, WIL Research Laboratories LLC
Jaspreet S. Gujral, Exponent Inc
Chandrashekar K. Korgaonkar, WIL Research Labs
Kannan Krishnan, Université de Montreal

SOT Members of Indian Origin - 25 Years or more !!!

Kandiah Sivarajah, M.S., Ph.D.
Dharm V. Singh, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Dineshwar P. Sinha, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Raghubir P. Sharma, D.V.M., Ph.D., CIH, DABT, DABV
Hasmukh C. Shah, Ph.D.
P. V. Shah, Ph.D., ASCP
B. V. Rama Sastry, Ph.D., Sc.D
Saura C. Sahu, Ph.D.
Gunda Reddy, Ph.D., DABT
Krishna Reddy, Ph.D., DABT
Kandala V. N. Rao, DSc, DABT
Ravindra R. Raje, Ph.D., DABT

Jawaharlal M. Patel, Ph.D.
Yogendra M. Patel, Ph.D.
Velayudhan Nair, D.Sc., Ph.D.
Naresh C. Jain, Ph.D.
Sharat D. Gangolli, Ph.D.
Rajendra S. Chhabra, Ph.D., DABT
George M. Cherian, Ph.D.
Harihara M. Mehendale, M.S., Ph.D., DABT, FAACT, ATS

SOT Member Dr. Rao receives the Lifetime Distinguished Scientist Award From Indian Society of Toxicology (STOX)

Dr. K.S. Rao is currently serving as the President of STOX (2008-2010). He worked in the United States for nearly 38 years and is now employed at Advinus Therapeutics Private Limited, Department of Toxicology, Bangalore, India. Dr. Rao joined SOT in 1984. He has worked to expand the global reach of toxicological understanding by working with SOT Past President Curtis Klaasen to organize the Mid-America Toxicology course in India (with 10 faculty from the U.S.) and to work with the American Board of Toxicology (ABT) to hold examinations in India, beginning in 2009.

Dr. Mahadevan receives the "2008 EMS Student Education Award"

Dr. Brinda Mahadevan, a councilor/officer of ASIO was recognized for her sincere dedication to student and young investigator members of the Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS). The EMS award is given by EMS every year to recognize mentors who have made an impact on careers of EMS members. Dr. Mahadevan has trained and mentored many undergraduate and graduate students during her tenure as Research Assistant Professor at Oregon State University. Currently she is a senior scientist in Genetic Toxicology, in the department of Mechanistic and Predictive Toxicology at Schering-Plough Research Institute, Summit, NJ.

Dr. Mahadevan says *"everybody needs mentors"* and wants to especially encourage students and postdocs to sign up and benefit from the Lunch N'Learn Program she is organizing along with Dr. Srinivasan, for the first time as an ASIO sponsored event ([see page 5 for details](#)).

Membership Renewal

We would like to remind all our members to renew their memberships while registering for the SOT annual meeting. You can do this online through the SOT website. Please remember that this facility is only available during the time of annual meeting. Students and Post-docs can renew their memberships free of cost (first SIG membership free). So we encourage all our student/postdoctoral community to take advantage of this opportunity and be a part of ASIO. Please feel free to contact any of the committee members if you need further information.