



Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

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Editors: Vijay P. Kale, Saurabh Vispute,
Smita Salian-Mehta, Vivek Dadhania

President's Message

On behalf of the ASIO Board of Directors (BOD) we are very excited about the upcoming 2016 SOT Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. It has been a great year for ASIO with successful activities throughout the year culminating to a flurry of activities and events planned as part of SOT Annual Meeting, such as the ASIO reception, Lunch N Learn and Coffee hour, etc.

My affiliation with ASIO and SOT started the very same year I started my graduate studies in toxicology at the UCLA in 2006. Since then, it's been an absolute privilege to interact with wonderful people by being part of ASIO organization as a member and as a leader. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ASIO members and leaders who helped me to evolve into the person who I am today both personally and professionally. Although it's difficult to enlist everyone who mentored and helped me over the years, I would like to acknowledge previous ASIO leaders Drs. Gunda Reddy, Gopala Krishna, Vinayak Srinivas, Binu Philip, Saryu Goel, Satheesh Anand, Brinda Mahadevan, Sachin Devi, Madhu Soni, and Sanjay Chanda for all their tremendous support and mentorship.

As you can imagine, the work that goes behind the scenes into organizing all the ASIO activities and events around the year is not trivial, and relies on many people committing their time and energy to a common goal. I'd like to extend sincere thanks to all of you for your contributions and support. I look forward to watching the ASIO organization grow as new leaders in the upcoming years shape the ASIO to new levels within SOT. In the past year since I have been the president of ASIO, I was truly gifted with a great team of BODs and volunteers who helped me to accomplish all the goals we set to achieve at the beginning of my tenure. A special thank to Mayur and Mamta for doing a majority of heavy lifting of workload along with me throughout the year 2015-2016. Our sincere thanks to ASIO endowment donors Dr. Laxman Desai (Toxikon), Dr. Harihara Mehendale and Dr. Dharm Singh for their generous contributions over the years. Also our sincere thanks to ASIO perennial corporate sponsors Advinus and Vivo Bio for their support to ASIO over the years.

In order to keep the ASIO organization evolving with new faces every year, I sincerely request all of you to take a moment and nominate a colleague (or yourself!) for ASIO office in the years ahead.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this 2016 ASIO reception! It undoubtedly has been the favorite part of attending SOT meetings over the years to meet my fellow Indian origin toxicologists face to face.

Yours Sincerely,
Sudheer Beedanagari
ASIO 2015-2016 President

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ASIO Annual Reception



When: Monday, March 14, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Where: River Bend Ballroom, New Orleans Downtown Marriott at the Convention Center

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the ASIO Annual Reception 2016. An opportunity to meet and network with your fellow ASIO members, ASIO 2016 award recipients, ASIO Sponsors and Endowment fund donors. Enjoy the evening full of networking, entertainment and food.



Coffee Hour

When: We will decide depending upon your availability

Where: When we get the right people over a cup of coffee, we really don't care about the place, do we!

An opportunity to meet one-on-one with mentors and experts in the area of your choice- be it Academia or Industry or Government and get professional guidance to develop your career path and achieve your goals!

To sign up, RSVP Sridhar Jaligama at the following email id by **March 04, 2016**.

Email id: sridhar.jaligama@gmail.com



Lunch 'n Learn

When: Tuesday, March 15, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Where: Julia Room, New Orleans Downtown Marriott at the Convention Center

In this casual, small group setting, 'invited experts' answer your queries related to career paths in toxicology as well as guide in Job Search in an interactive Q & A session. Students/Postdocs who are committed and interested are encouraged to RSVP *via* email to Sridhar Jaligama at sridhar.jaligama@gmail.com along with your meal preference (Veg/ Non Veg) by **March 04, 2016**. Please send us two questions along with the RSVP. This would help us better cover topics of interest and engage in a discussion that would be of common relevance.

Participation is limited to the first **30** registrations. Free catered lunch will be provided.

By whom (Expert Panel):

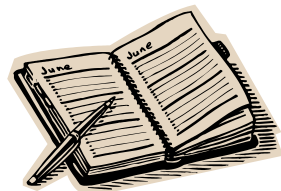
Academia: Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti, PhD, Vice President for Research and Carolina Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Industry: Dr. Binu Philip, PhD, Senior Toxicologist, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Evansville, IN.

Government: Dr. Prasada Rao Kodavanti, PhD, Senior Research Toxicologist at the Neurotoxicology branch of National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC.



ABT Diplomates 2015



Out of 105 candidates who passed the DABT examination in 2015, the following 12 diplomates are of Indian origin. Kudos to all the new diplomats!

Sandeep Akare: Pfizer, Andover, Massachusetts

Bharathi Bethapudi: Natural Remedies, Bangalore, India

Siba Ranjan Das: U.S. Geological Survey, Seattle, WA

Puttappa R Dodmane: U.S. EPA, Cincinnati, OH

Indira D. Jutooru: Covance, College Station, TX

Satyan Kalkunte: Sally Beauty Company, Dallas/Fort Worth, TX

Srinivas J Kammanadiminti: Elanco Animal Health, Greensboro, NC

Gautham K. Rao: Genentech, San Francisco, CA

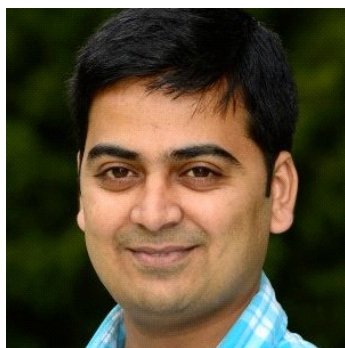
Kailas Shankar Ingle: Advinus Therapeutics Ltd, Bangalore, India

Varadamurthy Srinivasan: AstraZeneca, Rockville, MD

Abhijit Suresh Vichare: Syngene, Bangalore, India

Surekha Pasupuleti: IIBAT, Bangalore, India

Introducing Our New Volunteers/Soon-to-be Newsletter Committee Members!



We are very excited to have two highly energetic new volunteers to help us taking the ASIO newsletter to a new level! Please join us in welcoming Vijay More and Pankajini Mallick on our team!

ASIO SOT 2015 Awardees Speak.....

Nikita Joshi

Pharmacology & Toxicology, Center for Integrative Toxicology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.



Briefly describe the research area for which you won the ASIO award.

My dissertation project seeks to identify mechanisms whereby fibrinogen, an integral blood clotting protein, contributes to chronic xenobiotic induced liver injury. The abstract I submitted for presentation at the SOT 2015 meeting and for consideration for the ASIO Graduate Student Award describes an aspect of this project. These exciting studies highlight the novel protective role of fibrinogen in chronic liver fibrosis via its engagement of the leukocyte integrin $\alpha\text{M}\beta\text{2}$.

What does the ASIO award mean to you in terms of your career/ research?

This award significantly benefited my professional and scientific development, as the funds were used to support my travel to the annual SOT meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to present my work and network with experts in the field, and these are vital to my development as an independent scientist.

Highlight an experience in your travel to SOT this year.

The ASIO sponsored Lunch and Learn and Coffee Hour events were truly enlightening. LNL with toxicology experts from academia, industry and government (Drs. Apte, Reddy and Manjanatha respectively) were hugely beneficial to students and post-docs alike as they generously answered questions from the trainees. This is such a wonderful opportunity for trainees like me as we rarely get to openly discuss topics with toxicology experts in different fields and get their expert opinion. The ASIO Coffee Hour was also extremely beneficial. I got to meet with Dr. Sachin Bhusari as part of the coffee hour and he took the time to patiently answer each and every question that the students in the group had.

Any advice to future aspirants of this award?

Hard work always pays off and unanticipated results which may seem disappointing at first could actually be opportunities to investigate unanswered questions. So don't be disheartened if the data don't seem to go your way, there's always a reason why and that is more fun to explore anyway.

ASIO SOT 2015 Awardees Speak (continued.....)**Prajakta Shimpi**

Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences,
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI.

**Briefly describe your research related to this ASIO award.**

I received Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Award as recognition of my PhD research related to the mechanistic elucidation on the epigenetic reprogramming by Bisphenol A (BPA) to induce persistent steatosis using developmental exposure model. Our finding supports the “fetal basis of adulthood diseases” hypothesis. Also through this study we have elucidated novel regulatory functions of Nrf2 in xenobiotic induced lipogenesis.

What does the ASIO award mean to you in terms of your career/research?

Graduate Student Awards by ASIO provide a competitive environment, which acts as a perfect incentive to graduate students, like me, to excel in my lab work, and present my best at the meeting. I feel that my research work contributes to the knowledge pool of toxicology. Getting such a prestigious award from ASIO certainly boosts the research confidence.

Highlight an experience in your travel to SOT this year.

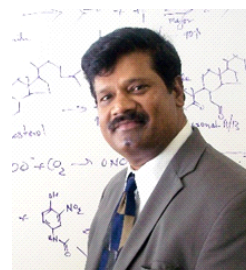
I have been a part of regional (NESOT) and international SOT conference since last 4 years. Society of Toxicology meetings always offers great opportunity to learn exciting new science as well as networking with experts in the field. SOT 2015 at San Diego was one of the memorable SOT meeting for me, as I received several awards. So, it was a pretty exciting conference for me along with scientific development. San Diego was really beautiful and enjoyable place. This year I attended “Lunch ‘n Learn” and session organized by ASIO and it was really helpful for me to understand expectation of all government, academic and industry jobs.

Any advice to future aspirants of this award?

I would really encourage all graduate students to apply for this award. By offering these different awards from various specialty sections like ASIO, SOT give a very good platform for graduate student to write synopsis of their research in form of cover letter. I would also encourage students to join ASIO, as it’s a great network of well-established toxicologists who are always willing to help and guide graduate students.

Prestigious AAAS Society Elected ASIO Scientists

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) recently elected two of our ASIO scientists as Fellows for their prestigious society. Election to the Fellow status by AAAS is a competitive process that acknowledges individuals whose contributions are influential to their field and to the society. During the past two decades, there are six ASIO members who were recognized for their contributions, including Drs. Harihara Mehendale (1995), Rajesh Agarwal (2009), Prakash Nagarkatti (2011), Mitzi Nagarkatti (2012), Rao M Uppu (2015), and Anumantha Kanthasamy (2015).



Dr. Rao Uppu

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Rao Uppu, Professor and Director of the Environmental Toxicology PhD Program and at Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA (SUBR) and Dr. Anumantha Kanthasamy, Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and the Eugene and Linda Lloyd Endowed Chair of Neurotoxicology at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University.



Dr. Kanthasamy

Events Sponsored by ASIO at the SOT 2016

Workshop- Scientific and Regulatory Advances in Safety Evaluation of Heavy Metals in Food: March 15, 9:30 am to 12:15 pm

Workshop- Medical Device Biomaterials: Challenges in Assessing the Toxicity and Biocompatibility of Nanomaterials, Bioabsorbables, and Tissue Scaffolds: March 16, 2:00 pm to 4:45 pm

Join us as an ASIO Member!

Please join Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Special Interest Group of Society of Toxicology (SOT). ASIO members get an opportunity to be involved in several creative initiatives throughout the year. Be an ASIO member today and enjoy numerous benefits. For more information, please contact Sachin Bhusari (bhusaris@gmail.com) or log on to our website: <http://www.toxicology.org/groups/sig/asio/membership.asp>

We thank our sponsors

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Dr. Dharm Singh



Dr. Harihara Mehendale



Dr. Laxman Desai



Thank you so much for your generous contribution!