

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



**January 2008, ISSUE No.: 1**

**ASIOA-SOT**

**Madhu G. Soni, PhD., FACN  
Soni & Associates Inc  
749 47<sup>th</sup> Place  
Vero Beach, FL 32968, U.S.A.**

**Officers of SOT-ASIOA Division (2007-2008)**

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>           | Madhu Soni                   |
| <b>Vice President:</b>      | Gopala Krishna               |
| <b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b> | Chellu S. Chetty             |
| <b>Members:</b>             | Sanjay Chanda<br>Gunda Reddy |

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

## President's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the 2007 accomplishments of ASIOA-SOT. The last ASIOA-SOT annual meeting in Charlotte, NC, was very successful. At the meeting Keynote Speaker Mr. Harshavardan V. Agadi, Chariman GSH Holdings gave an excellent inspirational presentation on Entrepreneurship- "just does it". The dinner was excellent and the best singing prize was unanimously awarded to Dr. Vulimiri for the Computer song. The hidden talent of Dr. Nagarkatti as a good singer was evident and acknowledged with a huge applause. Also, a moment of prayer was observed on behalf of Professor Mehendale for speedy recovery from illness.

Plans are underway for the ASIOA-SOT annual meeting to be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2008 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Sheraton Hotel followed by reception. The officers of ASIOA-SOT are actively working to make the meeting successful. All members and guests are invited. Further information on this event can be found in the meeting program.

We have met SOT's goals of membership and raising significant amount of funds for a self-sustaining group. Currently, our division has over 70 members. One of our senior members, Dr. Dharma Singh generously donated \$5000 to support and enhance our activities and focus on student participation. For the year 2007-2008, we plan to focus on increased student involvement. With the assistance from our student and post-doctoral

representatives we plan to explore multiple ways to increase student participation in our award program. We are also exploring to have a representative from India who is a member of the Society of Toxicology India (STOX).

We are actively working on our website and we plan to have our website before the annual meeting. Dr. Chanda has taken a lead to develop the website and if you have any suggestions please contact him. It is easy to become ASIOA-SOT member and pay the nominal dues when you renew your SOT membership or by simply visiting SOT website – at your convenience. I look forward to seeing each and every one of our members and potential new members at the annual meeting in Seattle, WA.

On behalf of SOT-ASIOA, I wish all our existing members and potential new members a wonder NEW YEAR!

Madhu Soni

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Venue and other details of the Meeting and Reception at a glance:

### Meeting/Reception:

**When:** *Tuesday, March 18, 2008*

**Time:** *6:00 PM*

**Meeting Venue:** Sheraton Seattle Hotel & Towers,

**Room:** Grand Ballroom A

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## ASIOA-SOT students award-Nominations request:

Similar to last year, ASIOA-SOT has decided to give two student awards for excellence. Students who have submitted abstracts for 2008 SOT will

be considered for these awards. The award committee will review the abstracts from the SOT abstract book and will select the two abstracts for awards. Please let Dr. Chetty know ASAP, if you wish to be considered for the award before February 18, 2008. The students will be recognized at the meeting and will receive a plaque.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Dr. Harihara Mehendale Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from American College of Toxicology.**



One of our founding members of ASIOA-SOT and Professor at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Toxicology at its 28th Annual Conference on Nov. 12 in Charlotte. The members of ASIOA-SOT are well aware of Dr. Mehendale's exceptional and long-lasting effect in the area of toxicology. He is very deserving of this recognition. We congratulate Dr. Mehendale for the award.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Dr. Chellu Chetty appointed as Dean:**



Dr. Chellu S. Chetty, Regents Distinguished Professor at Savannah State University, a Unit of University System of Georgia has been appointed as the Dean, Graduate Studies and Sponsored Research effective July 01, 2007. In 1979 he has received his doctoral degree in physiology from Sri Ventakeswara University, Tirupati, India To date, he has received more than \$5 million funding from the NIH, NSF and other federal agencies. He has guided 15 doctoral and post-doctoral fellows and has written or co-authored more than 250 professional research articles for publications. He has earned numerous accolades and awards including 2003 United States Presidential Award for Excellence in Mentoring at a White House Ceremony and 2003 University System of Georgia Regents Distinguished Professor Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research.

**SUMMARY OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG) LEADERSHIP SESSIONS**

**June 20-21, 2007, Chicago**

Drs. Chellu Chetty and Gopala Krishna (Association of Scientists of Indian Origin) attended the SIG meeting in Chicago.

The representatives of SIG groups state they are ready to implement their web sites. Attendees requested that a category be added for non-member participants to help with increasing membership in the Special Interest Groups and in the Society. This was of particular interest to the Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists and the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin. Potential barrier: Must be SOT

Member to join a Special Interest Group. Perhaps such a request could be accommodated if prospective member had a pending SOT Membership

Discount for International Special Interest Group members attending SOT Annual Meeting. Rationale is that many international attendees must travel from other countries and must apply for permission to travel. Once the arrangements have been secured, several registration deadlines for the SOT Annual Meeting may have passed. Thus, the prospective international attendee must pay later in the registration process and at a higher fee. This category for International SOT Members might serve as a precursor for an international rate being offered for the Annual Meeting, which is consistent with the Long-Range Plans for SOT to be more inclusive internationally.

Funding for student participants and travel awards was voiced as an area of concern by the two groups with representatives: Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists and Women in Toxicology. Without adequate funding resources it was perceived to be challenging to continue to support the participation of graduate students and early career investigators. The newer Special Interest Groups have more financial resources, but have not integrated student participation into their practices.

Meet and Greet at Annual Meeting Suggested. Enhanced international outreach at the SOT Annual Meeting would help to attract members to the Special Interest Groups. It was suggested that this outreach could be accomplished by setting up a "welcoming area" near the main

Registration area. This idea must be further fleshed out.

Others suggested that re-branding was needed on main Society of Toxicology Web site to attract and engage international members.

Budgetary issues were discussed and tabled for further review and analysis following the dinner hour

Dr. Bhattacharyya raised the issue of funding and requested a more comprehensive understanding of the Society's expectation for the Special Interest Groups, SOT financial support options, and fundraising assumptions regarding these groups. A discussion followed with the Korean Toxicologists Association in America and the Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists providing suggestions for fundraising strategies.

Some time was spent in brainstorming the possibility of Special Interest Groups operating in the same manner as Specialty Sections regarding receiving an allocation of the SOT Annual Meeting revenues based on the participation of SIG members at the Annual Meeting. It was the consensus of those attending this meeting that Dr. Slikker forwards this recommendation to SOT Council for their deliberation.

Annual Meeting Proposals: There was general discussion regarding the type of proposals that the Society expected to be generated from the Special Interest Groups. Some frustration was expressed by representatives of the Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists whose proposals were not accepted this year or last. There was discussion about the success of the Cross Cultural Proposal developed by the Korean and Indian Special Interest Groups and

attendees evaluated the reasons that this submittal was successful, including its eloquent presentation and unique topic. We expressed frustration that underwriting for speakers would now be more limited and Dr. Slikker advised that is why many sessions rely on SOT member speakers who will be attending the SOT Annual Meeting. During this discussion, Dr. Bhattacharyya suggested that the Special Interest Groups would benefit from working together to evaluate proposals from each other and stimulate strategic planning, including remaining mindful of the different types of proposals that could be submitted, ranging from roundtables to informational sessions.

Student participation and awards: The groups reviewed the benefits of having both a Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow participate. Because of the budgetary constraints alluded to in their discussion, the funding of travel awards was raised. Ms. Lawson encouraged the participants to turn to SOT for communicating information about the student awards and to submit these awards through the on-line Awards system presently available on the SOT Web site.

Receptions held at the SOT Annual Meetings were discussed and the groups were reminded that they were responsible for organizing these events, which could be held at the SOT Headquarters hotel or a hotel in close proximity to the Convention Center. Some limited assistance is available from SOT Staff to help with the planning of receptions.

Dr. Slikker led the final brainstorm activity for this group. Many of the points addressed above were reiterated and clarified and the Special Interest Groups

will continue to communicate with Dr. Slikker and Ms. Lawson to establish their web sites and awards incorporate student participation in their ongoing practices and procedures, and determine how to take a more active role in the development of SOT Annual Meeting programming.

Additional topics discussed are as follows:

All Special Interest Groups agreed to help staff the SOT membership booth at the SOT Annual Meeting if it were moved to a central location near the SOT registration area (hand out information will have to be developed);

All Special Interest Groups have asked to be invited to the President's breakfast meetings during the SOT annual meeting, which is usually attended by Specialty Section and Regional Chapter presidents/vice presidents

All Special Interest Groups would like to have access to undergraduates and minority students during the SOT Annual Meeting.

### **SOT-ASIO Elections**

**Potential candidates are in:** We sought candidates for officer/councilor positions, including Vice President, Secretary, 1-2 Council Members, and a Graduate Student Representative. The current Treasurer/Secretary position will be separated. The remaining positions shall rotate.

Based on our request to the SOT-ASIO membership, following candidates have expressed interest in serving the ASIO office. A decision will be announced at the SOT-ASIO meet in Seattle.

Sudheer Reddy:  
Grad. student at UCLA: [sudheer@ucla.edu](mailto:sudheer@ucla.edu)  
S. Satheesh Anand: [satheeshanand@yahoo.com](mailto:satheeshanand@yahoo.com)  
Des Kashyap, UNC: [drkashya@email.unc.edu](mailto:drkashya@email.unc.edu) Council member  
Rangaprasad Sarangarajan:  
[Rangaprasad.Sarangarajan@mcphs.edu](mailto:Rangaprasad.Sarangarajan@mcphs.edu)  
Council member  
Viny Srinivasan: VP/council member:  
[vsrinivasan@rd.us.lore.com](mailto:vsrinivasan@rd.us.lore.com)

RSVP before Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 to Dr. Chetty ([chettyc@savstate.edu](mailto:chettyc@savstate.edu); phone: 912-353-3057)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SOT-ASIOA Membership**

Effective 2008 SOT-ASIO will offer free membership to Undergraduate/ Graduate Students and \$10 for postdoctoral fellows [up to 3 years]. We hope that this will increase student participation in our SIG activities. Please feel free to forward this message to any graduate student/postdoctoral fellow who will be interested in joining the SOT-ASIO SIG.

### **Dinner at Chutneys Grill** (March 18<sup>th</sup> 2008, 8:00 PM)

#### **Menu:**

Vegetable Samosa, Potato pea stuffed flaky pastries, Coriander Calamari  
Coriander crumbed Calamari fried tender Tandoori Chicken Tikka  
Savory yogurt marinated and tandoor cooked breast of chicken  
Lamb Khurma, Loin of Lamb simmered in a curried nut puree sauce, Palak Panir, Farmer's cheese and Pureed spinach curry, Avial, Tropical vegetables in a Coconut and Yogurt sauce  
Basmathi Rice Pulao, Naan & Dessert

Price: \$30/person (All beverages extra)  
Selected wines: \$7.00; Beer: \$4.00  
Mango lemonade/Mango Lassi/Soft Drinks \$3.00

