



ASIO NEWSLETTER

MAY 2012

Editors: Mamta Behl, Shirisha Chittiboyina, Saryu Goel,
Prasad Krishnan, Sheetal Thakur

President's Message

Saryu Goel

I am honored to have the privilege of serving as the ASIO President for the year 2012-2013. ASIO is among one of the leading and most successful special interest groups of SOT due to active participation and generous support from its members. In addition, we have excellent team of Board of Directors (BOD), who worked hard to bring the programs like ASIO-Reception, LNL and Coffee Hour at SOT to the benefit of all. Reflecting on the activities of last year, Vinayak successfully coordinated efforts to continue the growth and membership of ASIO. Satheesh helped with fundraising, Sudheer with streamlining processes to help with selection of candidates for various awards, and Vikrant lead with LNL. We saw increased participation in ASIO activities from our members at annual meeting in San Francisco. A new event Tox Trivia was a great icebreaker and fun. Thanks to our young and emerging leaders, Mamta, Roshni, and Shirisha for organizing the event. The ASIO newsletter saw a big facelift due to enthusiastic and creative efforts of Mamta and Shirisha. The newsletter contents were more diverse and efforts were made to provide greater visibility to our members and promote their achievements. A unique Student-Postdoc column was introduced in the newsletter, by our postdoctoral representative Sheetal, to engage the young and emerging scientist in ASIO activities. ASIO continues to lead in number of awards, thanks to the funds provided by our generous endowment and corporate sponsors, and the large number of submissions. As always, there are areas of improvements in any organization, and ASIO is no exception. The BOD reflected on the activities and identified several changes that we will plan to implement this year. One of our goals is to increase our interaction and support to Society of Toxicology in India. ASIO relies on volunteers to serve on various committees, so send in your names to me. It provides opportunity for members to voice their opinion, test their leadership skills and increase networking. Please volunteer to take your organization to next level. Please feel free to contact me with your suggestions. With strong support from members and the BOD, I look forward to contribute to the growth of ASIO.

Best Regards,

Saryu Goel



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Dear Friends:

It has been a busy year for ASIO and I am proud of our achievements across the entire organization. We had a highly successful reception at the Annual SOT meeting a few months ago in San Francisco. Both mentoring programs, LunchNLearn and Coffee Hour were well received. We got excellent positive feedback for all events as well as some constructive feedback on how we can do a better job next year. We pride ourselves in reviewing and when possible acting on all suggestions and recommendations from our membership, so please keep them coming! We continue to grow as an organization and have close to 200 members now, which make us one of the largest special interest groups within SOT.

One of the biggest accomplishments this year was that we can now open up membership for non-SOT members to join any of the Special Interest Groups, such as ASIO, by paying just a \$15 annual membership fee. Also this year, we were able to add another award, the "ASIO Young Investigator Award", to recognize a scientist of Indian origin who has made significant contributions to the field of toxicology and related disciplines. We also changed the format and content of our newsletters and included new features thanks to the creative editorial team. The website was also enhanced with new content and information. Please visit the website for more details on all of our activities.

I cannot thank our three endowment fund donors (*Drs. Harihara Mehendele, Laxman Desai and Dharm Singh*) as well as our sponsors enough for their invaluable support (*IIBAT, Advinus, Vanta, Syngene, Vivo Bio, INTOX and CiTox*). They have provided us the fiscal means to provide all of the awards and plan the various events which we have been able to attend.

I also want to acknowledge the support and advice of senior members and past presidents of ASIO. Lastly, thanks again to the hardworking BOD and volunteers who made everything happen within the various committees (Membership, Newsletter, Annual Reception, Sponsorship, Awards, Website, STOX Collaboration and Mentoring Program). Again, I encourage all of you to become ASIO members or renew your membership right away and volunteer in the committees. Please contact anyone on the current board of directors listed in this newsletter for more information.

I am very happy to hand over the reins of ASIO into the capable hands of my good friend Dr. Saryu Goel and wish him the very best in his tenure as President of ASIO.

Regards,

Vinayak Srinivasan



WELCOME NEW ASIO BOARD 2012-2013



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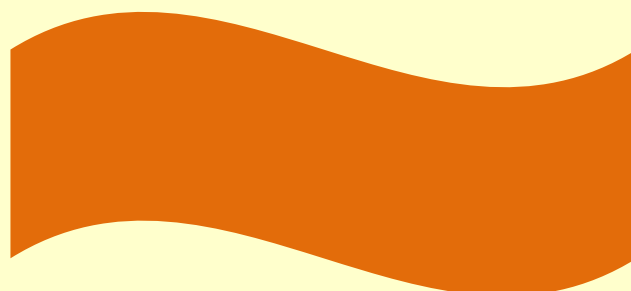


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Past President
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Assistant Vice President,
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Volunteer Opportunities for Career Development

Get Involved!

How can I prove that I can go the extra mile to invest in my professional growth? How do I develop and enhance my leadership and communication skills? After Ph.D. degree, what else could I do to stand apart from the crowd of brilliant minds?

When it comes to career development, all of the above and many more professional questions must be crossing through my fellow colleagues mind!!! To help, Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO), our own special interest group has numerous committees to engage scientists (like you), and help you develop into leading professionals. Listed below are names and functions of different ASIO committees –

- **ASIO Reception Committee**: Plans and implements activities for ASIO Reception at the Annual SOT meetings
- **ASIO Awards Committee**: Manages nominations and selections of outstanding candidates for various ASIO Awards
- **ASIO Membership Committee**: Develops and implements strategies to reach out to fellow toxicologists, and increase awareness of opportunities through ASIO membership
- **ASIO Newsletter Committee**: Identifies and collates contents for the quarterly ASIO Newsletter
- **ASIO LNL/ Coffee Hour/Networking Committee**: Plans and implements learning and networking activities for students and young members around the year and during SOT meetings
- **ASIO Endowment/ Sponsorship Committee**: Develops and implements strategies to increase fundraising to support ASIO activities including; retain old sponsors and engage new sponsors
- **ASIO Website/IT Committee**: Designs, updates and maintains ASIO Website

ASIO's success depends on your innovative ideas and enthusiasm. Think about giving back to your community and professional organization! If you wish, you can contribute to and benefit from any of the above ASIO committees. Please send your names and preference for the committee you wish to volunteer by 30 May 2012 to Dr. Saryu Goel. Email: saryu.goel@gmail.com.

(This write-up is an extension of the Student-Postdoctoral column, specifically designed to engage more enthusiastic volunteers)

- Saryu Goel & Sheetal Thakur

ASIO's Lunch N Learn Draws a Capacity crowd!

Organizers: Vikrant Vijay, Sandeep Sreevalsan and Sheetal Thakur



Ever since its launch in 2008, the annual ASIO Lunch N Learn (LNL) event has been a much awaited and a popular event of SOT. This year's LNL was no exception! Sponsored by the ASIO, the two hour event was held at the 51st Annual SOT meeting in San Francisco, CA. Despite the pouring rain, more than 30 students and postdoctoral fellows gathered to gain insights on how to succeed in this ever evolving job market.

This year's panel of experts included leading and experienced toxicologists; Dr. Harihara Mehendale, Dr. Saryu Goel and Dr. Gopala Krishna. The panel fielded diverse set of questions from the trainees ranging from the importance of higher education, networking skills, career development strategies and the nuances of job search and interviewing skills. Dr. Harihara Mehendale brought his years of successful mentorship and academic experience to the table. He encouraged young scientists to be proactive and to create a contact network as they plan for their future careers in toxicology. Dr. Saryu Goel and Dr. Gopala Krishna generously shared their experiences in the industry and CRO, and provided valuable advice on continuing professional development in the pharmaceutical industry.

Overall, the ASIO LNL was a huge success! All the trainees felt rejuvenated and more confident in their job search and career plans. Every student wants that 'What awaits in the future' perspective and this event does just that! We continually strive to make the ASIO LNL a fulfilling experience for all the trainees and encourage more feedback on avenues of improvement. The ASIO is already looking forward to organizing the next annual Lunch N Learn event at the 2013 Society of Toxicology Meeting.

-Sheetal Thakur

Coffee Hour update

Organizers: Mamta Behl & Roshni Rao

One of the highlights of the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting was a unique mentor-mentee program, Coffee Hour - with an expert. This initiative, taken by Mamta Behl and Roshni Rao, was developed as a means to connect students and post-docs with experts from Academia, Government and Industry who can offer advice, suggestions and tips on how to establish and develop a career in Science. Within a week of the announcement, nine experts offered to serve as mentors and connect with students at the annual meeting. Students with an interest in a particular mentor had the unique opportunity of signing up against a mentor name, obtaining the necessary contact information and meeting with them during the conference. While, this was a new initiative met with much encouragement from prominent experts and students alike, the ASIO team plans to continue with this unique Coffee hour in the coming year with the aims of establishing a much stronger, more popular mentor-mentee program.

-Roshni Rao



'The Reception Team' with ASIO signature mugs



Huge response to the ASIO-SOT 2012 reception

ASIO 2012 RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS

The 2012 ASIO Annual Reception was a grand success and was well attended by over 125 members and renowned scientists of Indian Origin. The program commenced with a warm welcome by the Masters of Ceremony-Mamta Behl and Sheetal Thakur. President, Vinayak Srinivasan enthusiastically provided a brief introduction and history of ASIO followed by an update on accomplishments for the fiscal year 2011-2012. Chairs of various committees then provided an update on their activities and accomplishments. The new office bearers for 2012-2013 were introduced by the incoming President, Saryu Goel.

Prestigious ASIO awards were presented to students, postdocs, and senior scientists to recognize their accomplishments in the field of toxicology. Satheesh Anand provided an explanation for the criteria of these awards. A new award was introduced this year titled the **"Young Investigator Award"**. This award is presented to a young scientist with outstanding achievements in the field of Toxicology. This year's award was bagged by Dr. Vishal Vaidya, Assistant Professor, Harvard University.

One of the major highlights of the Reception was **"Tox – Trivia"**, a fun and stimulating quiz event which brought out the competitive spirit amongst various teams, and enhanced casual networking opportunities. There was also a contest for the best team name to describe the scientists of Indian Origin. **Toxoholic** was chosen as the best team name. The winners were awarded with personally designed coffee mugs with the ASIO Logo, a great memento.

This event would not have been possible without generous contributions from our sponsors, and endowment fund contributors. Special thanks to our endowment sponsors, Drs. Dharm Singh, Harihara Mehendele, and Laxman Desai, and event sponsors, IIBAT, Advinus, ViVo Bio, Vanta Bioscience, Syngene, Intox and CiTox Lab. Sponsors of the event were recognized with plaques, and presented a talk to the audience about their organizations.

The evening concluded with high spirits and enthusiasm; and a zest to expand and unite to encourage and spread toxicology research amongst scientists of Indian Origin within the USA and overseas.

- Satheesh Anand & Mamta Behl

ASIO-SOT AWARDS 2012

ASIO-SOT Senior Toxicologist Award



Dr.K.S.Rao
Chief Scientific Officer
Rao Toxicology Foundation

ASIO-SOT International Travel Award



Sreenivasa Ramaiahgari
LACDR Leiden University
The Netherlands

ASIO Young Investigator Award



Dr.Vishal Vaidya
Assistant Professor,
Harvard University

Dr.Dharm Singh Postdoctoral fellow Best Abstract Award



Neera Tiwari Singh
University of Colorado

Dr.Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award



Vijay More
University of Rhode Island

Dr.Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award



Nivedita Banerjee
Texas A&M University

Dr.Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award



Ashwini Phadnis
Michigan State University

Dr.Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award



Murari Misra
University of Kentucky

Lunch n Learn Panel –SOT 2012



Dr.Gopala Krishna(left), Dr.Harihara Mehendale(center) and Dr.Saryu
Goel(right)

As an ASIO member you can be part of the exciting events updated in this newsletter and also enjoy the following benefits

- SOT membership is not required to be an ASIO member and with SOT membership the first SIG membership is free
- Networking and mentoring opportunities with experts in the field of toxicology from academia, industry and government.
- Great opportunity to become aware of the accomplishments of fellow scientists of Indian origin and share your achievements and also to share your achievements
- Volunteer and help in promoting the visibility of toxicologists of Indian origin
- Members are also eligible to apply to all ASIO awards if they meet the criteria for the award

Visit the following website to fill and submit the membership application

- <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/membership.asp>

DIAMOND SPONSORS



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIO-TECHNOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY (IIBAT)



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Our sincere thanks to all our sponsors. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our endowment sponsors for their continued support over the years.

Endowment Sponsors:

Dr.Laxman Desai- Toxicon
Dr.Hairhara Mehendale
Dr.Dharm Singh

Become a sponsor: Contact ASIO team to learn more about how your sponsorship can help strengthen and contribute to the continued growth and success of ASIO.

<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/index.asp>