



ASIO NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

EDITORS: MAMTA BEHL, SACHIN BHUSARI, SHIRISHA CHITTIBOYINA,
PRASAD KRISHNAN, SHEETAL THAKUR

President's Message

I'm proud, but humbled, to be able to lead the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO), a Special Interest Group (SIG) of Society of Toxicology (SOT) for 2013-2014. ASIO is one of the successful and most active SIGs of SOT as evidenced by number of awards, endowment funds, student activities (Lunch N Learn and Coffee Hour), newsletters, and sponsorships. In recent years, we have also seen steady increase in membership and award applications and the level of enthusiasm to volunteer for ASIO activities. ASIO could not have been so successful without the energy, enthusiasm, dedication, and continued support of our members. I'm very grateful to our founding fathers and past presidents/Board of Directors (BODs) of ASIO for building such a strong platform and making it easy for incoming officers. We are coming off of another successful 2013 SOT annual meeting at San Antonio, TX and kudos to Saryu and his team for the great effort. It was the best organized and most attended ASIO annual meeting of all time. The annual meeting activities with pictures are covered in this newsletter, happy reading! While we can take pride in the success of the past year, it is important that we focus on the future. Congratulations to incoming BODs! I am really looking forward to working closely with my team to build on the momentum set up by the predecessors.

We have quite an agenda for 2013-2014 – organize webinars, foster collaboration with toxicology community in India, increase membership, increase student/post doc participation in committees, explore the possibility of enticing high school students into ASIO, and establish new endowment fund for International Student Award. It may sound ambitious, but I am confident that it is achievable because we have excellent officers, energetic volunteers, and outstanding membership. I will be forming *ad hoc* committees for these activities in next few months. Stay tuned for announcements and updates. If you are interested in being part of any of these activities, please contact us. The mission of ASIO is to serve its members, but we only get out what we put into it. So, I invite all of you to take active participation by volunteering your time for a committee, providing valuable feedback, and attending annual receptions at SOT. I would like to remind our student and post doc members that ASIO's objective for you is take and give, so TAKE now and GIVE when you can.

Inside This Issue

<u>Content</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
President's Message	1
Past President's Message	2
ASIO officers 2013-14	3
ASIO Outreach-K12	4&5
LNL & Coffee hour	6
Student Award winner	7&8
Membership	9
Sponsors	10

We have great things going on in our organization and we have come long way from getting together for dinner at SOT annual meetings to various awards and student activities. Let's harness the momentum and keep it going!!

It is also time for us to think about what the ASIO should look like in the next 5-10 years and take it there. Please feel free to send your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions on any of activities present and future to me or any of the officers. Help us make the ASIO truly a product of the hopes and aspirations of our membership.



Together, Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)
S. Satheesh Anand

Past President's Message



Dear ASIO members & well wishers:

It has been a year of tremendous success due to the hard work and active participation of our numerous members and the chairs who helped coordinate the activities. I am thankful to all for your continued support and active participation.

This year ASIO reception was well attended. The icebreakers organized by the Roshni, Sheetal, Shirisha, Sachin and Mamta, got the people to interact with each other and numerous people stayed back to continue networking. We hope people build on the contacts established during ASIO reception and help each other in future career development and advancement of toxicology in US and India. The ASIO made special efforts to include and recognize achievements of our fellow toxicologists from India, establishing that ASIO is a progressive special interest group seeking to recognize and promote toxicology in India. We were honored this year with selection of Ms. Shirisha Chittiboyina, for Graduate Student Leadership Award. She was selected from more than 50 specialty sections of SOT for her extraordinary graduate student leadership and contributions to overall mission of SOT.

This year for the first time we had Dr. Y.K. Gupta, current President, Indian Society of Toxicology (STOX), participate in ASIO reception. It was an honor to have him at ASIO reception. He also participated in ASIO sponsored workshop at SOT on Drug Safety Assessment and Regulatory Landscape in Emerging Markets. I want to thank our three endowment fund donors (Drs. Harihara Mehendele, Laxman Desai and Dharm Singh) and sponsors for their invaluable support (Advinus, Syngene, Vanta, Vivo Bio, and INTOX). They have provided us with the means to provide all of the awards and plan the various events.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the support and advice of senior members, past presidents of ASIO, the hardworking BODs and volunteers who made everything happen within the various committees (Membership, Newsletter, Finance, Annual Reception, Sponsorship, Awards, and Mentoring Program). Their efforts ensured a vibrant ASIO throughout the year. I encourage all who are not currently ASIO members to become member 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 Dr. Satheesh Anand and wish him the very best in his tenure as President of ASIO.

Best Regards,
Saryu Goel

ASIO Officers 2013-14



Satheesh S. Anand, PhD, DABT
President
Senior Research Toxicologist,
DuPont Haskell, DE



Sachin S. Devi, PhD
Vice-President
Director, Laboratory of Experimental and Clinical
Toxicology, Assist. Professor, Lake Erie College of
Osteopathic Medicine, PA



Sudheer Beedanagari, PhD
Councilor
Research Investigator II
Bristol-Myers Squibb, NJ



Mamta V. Behl, PhD
Councilor
Contractor at National
Toxicology Program, NIEHS, NC



Saryu Goel, PhD, DABT
Councilor
Associate Director,
Preclinical Candidate Evaluation
Supernus Pharmaceuticals Inc., MD



Jatinder Singh, PhD
Secretary/Treasurer
Senior Toxicologist,
Genentech CA



Lakshmi Sivaraman
Councilor
Principal Scientist
Bristol-Myers Squibb, NJ



Sainath Babu
Postdoctoral Representative
Dept. of Chemistry
Hampton University, VA



Shirisha Chittiboyina
Graduate student Representative
School of Public Health
Indiana University, IN

ASIO Outreach -K12

Sunny Uppu is a freshman at the Dutchtown High, Geismer, Louisiana. Prior to attending Dutchtown High, Sunny attended Prairieville Middle School (Prairieville, LA) where he was a member of the Beta Honor Society and Chess Club, and also served as Student Legislature. Sunny, from childhood, has been passionate for dance and writing poetry and now they are his hobbies. Sunny says that writing poetry helps him express his inner feelings in ways that could not have been otherwise possible. He has so far written 50 poems and wishes to publish a book of his poems after he completes his 100th poem. He plans to do this before he graduates from high school. He has one poem published in "Stars in Our Hearts: Awakenings" (ISBN 978-1-61936-026-6), a publication of the World Poetry Movement, Pak City, Utah.

Sunny realized his passion for research as a 6th grader after his first science fair project in 2010 at the Prairieville Middle School. Through this project, Sunny won the first place at the school level in the category of **Physics and Astronomy**. He later won first place in the categories of **Biochemistry** and **Chemistry** at the school level in the years 2011 and 2012 (respectively) and participated in the competitions at the Regional and State levels organized jointly by Louisiana Science and Engineering Fair and Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (see below). Sunny won first place in **Chemistry** at the state level and was recognized by the Ascension Parish School Board (APSB) at its May 26th Meeting in 2012. Sunny also secured an "advanced" placement in Science with a perfect score of 500 in Louisiana Educational Assessment Program in 2012.

Sunny is very thankful to SOT and ASIO for proving the opportunity to share the results of his research. While he considers this a great honor and privilege, Sunny now looks forward to participate in outreach activities of these organizations. He firmly believes that through sharing his experiences with his fellow students and peers he can make a positive influence to advance the cause of toxicology research among high school and possibly undergraduate students majoring in STEM disciplines.

Sunny's dream is to achieve an MD/PhD and get into research in the field of cancer.

The following gives a chronological account of accomplishments of Sunny including a poem he wrote recently.

2010 - Won first place in Science Fair at the School (Prairieville Middle) level in the area of physics and astronomy.

2011 - Won first place in Science Fair at Prairieville Middle School level in the area of biochemistry.

2011 - Won second place in Science Fair at the Regional (Region VII) level in the area of biochemistry.

2011 - Presented a poster at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) held in Washington, DC.

- Youngest person ever to attend and make a presentation at SOT, the world's largest toxicology society.

- Recognized by the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO; a subchapter of SOT) for the above achievement (see July 2011 ASIO Newsletter)

2012 - Won first place in Science Fair at Prairieville Middle School in the area of chemistry (

2012 - Won first place Science Fair at the Regional (Region VII) level in the area of chemistry (2012 - Won first place in Science Fair at the Louisiana State level in the area of chemistry - Recognized by the Ascension Parish School Board (APSB) at its May 26th Meeting at the Pecan Grove Elementary.

2012 - Presented the results of his science fair project at the 69th Annual Meeting of the National Institute of Science and the Beta Kappa Chi (NIS/BKX) in Nashville, TN, March 21-25.

2013 - Presented a poster at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology held in San Antonio, TX.

A poem written by Sunny (Sannihith Uppu)

Stepping Stone



Sunny presenting his work during the poster session at SOT 2013, San Antonio

We search and search for inner tranquility
but why in the name of this hunt
is there so much of our history stained
by the blood of the elderly and poor
is it not funny how every child, mother, and father
feel the burden of three letters
W-A-R
and how soldiers must take the greatest hit
is it not time that we send bullets piercing into the
souls of our enemy
instead of their hearts
is it not time we ask soldiers to come back
and fight wars with words
is it not time we realizes
that a hand
is to come hand in hand with someone
not to take a life
that we have eyes to see the true beauty of the deemed ugly
and that we have hearts to love
a time which is led by the words of the wise
but the actions of the cunning
we will be a new step, where
Romes will be built
heroes will be made
MLKs, JFKs, Einsteins, and Gandhis will be born
we are a step that is far greater than the ones of Neil Armstrong's
a step, where all roads will lead to the future
we are a new step for man kind
a stepping stone that will lead us over this curse,
we are new generation

Awards committee 2013

Recognizing the students, postdocs, young and senior toxicologists of Indian origin for their work presented at SOT or for their life time achievements is a committed tradition followed by ASIO over the years. ASIO awards committee plays a important role in keeping this tradition alive and helping chose the best abstracts from the high number of applications.

ASIO awards committee 2013

Chair: Sudheer Beedanagari

Co-chair: Mamta Behl

Judging panel:

Sachin Bhusari, NIEHS

Ravi Dugyala, Novartis

Saryu Goel, Supernus Pharmaceuticals

Ravi Kumar Peri, BMS

Rohan Kulkarni, Bioreliance

ASIO student and postdoctoral members prepare for career opportunities!!

LNL 2013

On March 12 2013, ASIO kicked off the highly anticipated Lunch 'N' Learn (LNL) event during the 52nd SOT meeting at San Antonio, TX. Designed to provide information on a wide range of career opportunities in different sectors of toxicology, the event provided an informal platform for students and postdocs to chat with successful and leading toxicologists over lunch. More than 25 students and postdocs attended and pitched in to help make the LNL event a success story.

Leading toxicologists; **Moiz Mumtaz, Ph.D., ATS, Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti, Ph.D. and Dr. Sudheer Beedanagiri, Ph.D.** were the expert panel this year. The three panelist's shared their energy and excitement with attendees on different aspects of careers in toxicology. Diverse set of questions from trainees, addressed issues ranging from procuring research funding, work environment in government and industry to work visa challenges in navigating the current job market. The panelists were excited to advice and share their own experiences with trainees.

The Lunch 'N' Learn event concluded on a very positive and enthusiastic note with students and postdocs looking forward to their next career steps. Every year, ASIO strives to provide students a great opportunity to learn about career options and to be much better informed on upcoming challenges. We look forward to meeting all of you in 2014, to prepare for meeting the next set of career challenges head on!

-Sheetal Thakur

Coffee Hour 2013

The Coffee Hour with an expert 2013 event was held at the 52nd Annual SOT meeting. The event aimed at connecting experts in Industry, Government and Academia with students and post-docs was set to facilitate a one on one conversation in a casual setting. This year, 11 mentors were matched with interested mentees based on their availability. The collaboration was a success and many of the students were excited for the opportunity to meet with accomplished mentors!

We hope that this unique interaction will continue to enable students and post-docs alike to seek the help of ASIO expertise in future meetings.

-Roshni Rao



Experts on the Panel:
From left to right: **Moiz Mumtaz, Ph.D., ATS, Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti, Ph.D. and Dr. Sudheer Beedanagiri, Ph.D**

LNL 2013

ASIO-SOT 2013 TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS



ASIO-International Travel Award:

Aditi Verma (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore) receives the award from ASIO President, Dr.Saryu Goel



Dr.Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award:

L to R: Winners - Hemantkumar Chavan (Kansas University Medical Center), Amy Sharma (University of Toronto) and Finalist - Shilpi Oberoi (University of Pittsburgh) receives the award from Dr.Laxman Desai



Dr.Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award:

L to R: Winners - Manasi Krishnan (University of Cincinnati), Tejas Lahoti (Pennsylvania State University) and Finalist – Sridhar Jaligama (University of Louisiana-Monroe) receives their award from Dr.Saryu Goel

ASIO congratulates all the winners.....

ASIO-SOT 2013 TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS



Dr.Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award:

L to R: Winners – Dr. Amrendra Ajay (Harvard Medical School) and Dr. Aditya Joshi (University of TX Medical Branch) receives the award from Dr.Dharm Singh.

IUTOX award (R): Dr. Ravinesh Mishra (Baddi University of Emerging Sciences & Technology, India) received an SOT/Astra-Zeneca Award Fellowship by IUTOX Committee to attend & present research findings at the 2013 Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting. This selection was based on outstanding qualifications as a scientist.

ASIO reception 2013

The cheerful spirit of San Antonio was reflected at the 2013 ASIO Annual Reception with a historic attendance of approximately 180 members and renowned scientists of Indian Origin.

The program commenced with a warm welcome by the Masters of Ceremony-Mamta Behl and Roshni Rao followed by light refreshments. President, Dr. Saryu Goel inaugurated the official reception by presenting the agenda for the evening followed by an introduction of the Board of Directors. Dr Goel then provided an update on highlights and accomplishments of ASIO for the fiscal year 2012-2013 followed by updates of various committees provided by the respective chairs.

A total of nine prestigious ASIO awards were presented to students, postdocs, and senior scientists to recognize their accomplishments in the field of toxicology, a record number amongst all the special interest groups (SIGs) at SOT. "Tox-Cross", a toxicology crossword brought out the competitive and united "team effort" amongst the audience. The winners were presented with personally designed portfolio cases with the ASIO Logo. Following concluding remarks by incoming President Satheesh Anand, the floor was opened to a casual and fun-networking event.

Special thanks to our endowment sponsors, Drs. Dharm Singh, Harihara Mehendele, and Laxman Desai, and event sponsors, Advinus, ViVo Bio, Vanta Bioscience, Syngene, and Intox. 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.

-Mamta Behl

Membership and Volunteer opportunities

How??

First, become an ASIO member through our website

<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/membership.asp> . *We are excited and happy to announce for the nth time now that membership for the year 2013-14 is sponsored by Dr. Dharm Singh. We, at ASIO, thank him for his kind gesture. So, go ahead and make the first move!!*

Next, participate in our yearly activities and be a volunteer on our creative and enthusiastic committees.

Membership committee: Encourages fellow toxicologists of Indian origin to become a member and enjoy the benefits.

Sponsorship committee: Takes care of our endowment and yearly sponsorship related process.

Newsletter committee: Vibrant committee which brings out quarterly update of the ASIO activities.

LNL and Coffee year committee: One of the helpful resources ASIO has come up with to help students, postdocs and early scientists of Indian origin, at the SOT annual meeting. You get to hear from the experts in the field about career opportunities at the SOT and being a part of it is very rewarding in itself.

Reception committee: Takes care of the organization of the ASIO annual reception with coordination and cooperation from the rest of the committees.

Awards committee: Works on the evaluation of the travel award applications and making a decision on the best abstracts.

Webinar committee: This is the brand new committee formed this year by ASIO with the idea of our postdoctoral representative Dr.Sainath Babu. The aim of this committee is to increase the visibility of ASIO in the field of toxicology while providing the benefits to the community with talks from big names in the field.

Excellent Opportunity for Graduate students

ASIO is looking for enthusiastic graduate students who have atleast 2 or more years in their PhD program to be considered for the upcoming Graduate Student Representative position in 2014. To quote our student representative, Shirisha Chittiboyina, "Serving as a student representative on an SIG like ASIO not just adds a bullet on your resume but brings out the best of your team work, leadership and the competitive abilities". Being a graduate student representative you can be nominated to the GSLC position to work with SOT directly, to the Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership award and also some monetary reimbursement provided by SOT to their GSLC representatives. So, make use of this opportunity to expose yourself to the community not only as researcher but also a team player and a leader.



ASIO-SOT Reception 2013

*Held on March 12, 2013
at Grand Hyatt, San
Antonio, TX.*

ASIO sponsors for 2013-14

Diamond Sponsors



Syngene

Gold Sponsors



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- Toxikon
Dr. Harihara 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>