



# Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

## INSIDE THE ISSUE.....

President's Message	1
Past President's Message	2
ASIO Officers	3
ASIO Sub-committees	3
ASIO Annual Reception	4
Award Recipients	5-6
ASIO Committee Updates	7
Special Thanks to Sponsors	8
Call for Volunteers	9
ASIO Sponsors	10



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# President's Message

**Dr. Mamta Behl**

**May 2016 Newsletter**

Dear ASIO Family,

I am humbled and honored to serve as President for the ASIO-SOT for 2016-2017. Today, ASIO is the leading Special Interest Group (SIG) at SOT with the highest number of endowment funds and awards, and is the only SIG that sponsors an International Student/post-doc award. This makes it possible for several Indian origin students and post-docs to attend the annual SOT meeting to present their inspiring work, and network with peer toxicologists and win competitive awards! For ASIO to continue to influence and impact careers of the next generation of toxicologists, we urge you to continue to support your ASIO family. Remember, it doesn't matter how big or small the donation might be, every drop in the ocean counts!

Over the past few years, ASIO has created educational and fun events like Lunch N Learn, Coffee Hour, and webinars. In addition, the newsletter team continues to work towards improving the quality of every newsletter issue! All this is impossible without a dedicated and hard-working team of BOD and volunteers that bring fresh energy and ideas.

While we are proud of our success, we continue to strive to better the society. This year, ASIO is proud to announce two new improvements. The first is working towards launching a Facebook page and exploring social media to increase outreach. The second is the formation of the Past Presidents Committee in recognition of the invaluable contribution of our founding fathers towards the current growth and success of the SIG. ASIO is proud to announce that the goal of this committee will be to maintain continuity between the past-present-future leaders of ASIO.

Finally, a team is only as strong as its members! Please continue to support your team and send in any suggestions you might have for us to improve the visibility, growth and success of ASIO worldwide. For those of you that are not yet members, sign up now to receive benefits, seize opportunity, and to make a difference.

With your support, we look forward to a productive and exciting year ahead!

Warm Regards,

Mamta Behl  
President, ASIO-SOT



# Past President's Message

**Dr. Sudheer Beedanagari**

**May 2016 Newsletter**

Dear ASIO members,

The year 2015-2016 has been a great year for ASIO due to the hard work and active participation of ASIO BOD and volunteers. My sincere thank you for working with me round the year to make it a successful year for ASIO.

This year's ASIO reception was well attended with standing room only, with about 130+ attendees. It was great to see the members networking before and after the ASIO reception, which is what the event was intended for.

The ASIO made special efforts to include and recognize achievements of our fellow Indian origin toxicologists around the globe. Congratulations to all the ASIO 2015-2016 award recipients. I want to sincerely thank our endowment fund donors (Drs. Harihara Mehendale, Laxman Desai, Toxikon, and Dharm Singh) for their generous support to make these awards possible year after year. I also would like to acknowledge and thank ASIO Reception grand sponsor Advinus for their support to ASIO over the past few years.

I am very happy to hand over the reins of ASIO 2016-2017 into the capable hands of Dr. Mamta Behl and wish her and her ASIO BOD team the very best for the year ahead.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank the ASIO members and BOD, who provided me the opportunity to lead ASIO team for 2015-2016.

## 2016-2017 ASIO Officers



**Mamta Behl**  
**President**

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**Past-President**

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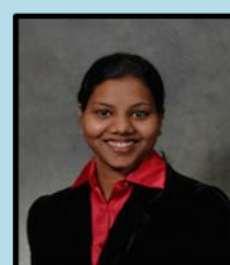
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**Pankajini Mallick**  
**Student Rep**

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## 2016-2017 Sub-committees

### ASIO Reception Committee

Chair: Mamta Behl  
Co-Chair: Mayur Mitra  
Volunteers: Sudheer Beedanagari

### ASIO Sponsorship/Endowment Committee

Chair/Endowment Fund Steward: Mayur Mitra  
Co-Chair: Udayan Apte  
Volunteers: Nikita Joshi, Trisha Dhawan

### ASIO Awards Committee

Chair: Subramanya (Subbu) Karanth  
Co-Chair: Udayan Apte  
Volunteers: Saurabh Chatterjee

### ASIO Outreach Committee

Chair: Sudheer Beedanagari  
Co-Chair: Pooja Naik  
Volunteers: Sainath Babu, Pankajini Mallick

### SOT Proposal Review Committee

Chair: Udayan Apte  
Co-Chair: Mayur Mitra  
Volunteers: Saryu Goel, Sudheer Beedanagari

### ASIO Newsletter Committee

Chair: Saurabh Vispute  
Co-Chair: Vijay P. Kale  
Volunteers: Smita Salian-Mehta, Vijay More, Pankajini Mallick

### ASIO Website Committee

Chair: Vijay P. Kale  
Co-Chair: Pooja Naik  
Volunteers: Sainath Babu, Sridhar Jaligama

### SIG-Collaboration Committee

Chair: Mamta Behl  
Co-Chair: Mayur Mitra

### Past-Presidents' Committee

Chair: Sudheer Beedanagari  
Co-Chair: Mamta Behl



# ASIO Annual Reception at SOT 2016, New Orleans

\*Meet new students



\*Learn about activities



\*Make new friends



\*Enjoy Dinner



\*Ask Questions



\*Lunch & Learn with Experts



We are looking forward to meeting all of you again in 2017 at Baltimore!!!

## Kshama Doshi

PhD candidate

University of Maryland

### Dr. Desai Graduate Student Awardee 2016

#### How does my research impacts human health?

My thesis work is directed towards modulating the effects of Pim-1 kinase in acute myeloid leukemia cells with mutation in FLT3 receptor. The overall goal of this work is to design novel treatment regimens for improving long-term clinical outcome of AML patients with FLT3-ITD mutation.

#### The ASIO travel award is important for your success because...

Receiving ASIO graduate student award gave me an opportunity to attend the conference, thus providing me with a valuable platform to network effectively with scientists in the field. The monetary component of the award will help me cover part of the fees for classes I intend to take in the

#### How was SOT meeting 2016 different?

This was my first time attending the Annual SOT Meeting. While I have attended several other national conferences, SOT 2016 was by far the most fulfilling experience. ASIO in particular gave me a very warm welcome, giving me an opportunity to host their Annual reception. Going further, I look forward to serving more at SOT/ASIO.

#### Advice for aspiring scientist and high school students about Toxicology as a career

Toxicology is a very wide field and has ample applications. Attending SOT 2016 broadened my knowledge about various sub-disciplines in Toxicology. In my opinion, a lot of these specialties are inter-related and hence as a budding scientist, we should try to gain knowledge in most of these sub-disciplines.

#### Most memorable experience of my graduate school training

Most memorable moment in my PhD training is yet to come, when my first primary author paper gets accepted :) Fingers crossed, hopefully soon!



**Kshama Doshi**

## Prachi Borude

PhD candidate

University of Kansas Medical Center

### Dr. Desai Graduate Student Awardee 2016

#### How does my research impacts human health?

I received the ASIO award for one aspect of my dissertation research elucidating the significance of Double Strand DNA Break repair in resolving p53-mediated prolonged growth arrest and delayed liver regeneration after APAP overdose. These studies have revealed very novel mechanism that regulate liver regeneration and may identify new therapeutic targets for regenerative therapies after APAP induced acute liver failure patients.



**Prachi Borude**

### How was SOT meeting 2016 different?

I volunteered for one of the CE courses that gave me an excellent opportunity to learn about systems pharmacology approaches used by industries for DILI risk assessment. This meeting also gave me an opportunity to meet and network with expert toxicologists in government and industries.

### Advice for aspiring scientist and high school students about Toxicology as a career

With increasing awareness about chemical use and its impact on our health as well as environment, career opportunities as a toxicologist are wide. Toxicology as a career is very rewarding as it provides opportunity to do research and contribute to well-being of society.

### Most memorable experience of my graduate school training

Our lab research involves animal experiments with various time-points. During one of the experiments, 2 mice were not breathing well post-treatment. So, my PhD mentor performed CPR on them and all lab members "Tebowed" so that they won't die. Walla!!! Those mice didn't die before time-point.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!! SOT 2016 Award Recipients

### **ASIO Senior Toxicologist Award –**

Dr. Bhagavatula Moorthy

### **ASIO Young Investigator Award –**

Dr. Neera Tiwari-Singh

### **Toxikon, a Preclinical Toxicology Organization; and Dr. Dharm Singh International Travel Award –**

B. S. Prasad, Indrachand Gupta

### **Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Awards –** Dr. Priyanka Trivedi, Dr. Ratanesh K. Seth

### **Dr. Desai Graduate Student Awards**

– Kshama Doshi, Prachi Borude

### **Dr. Mehendale Graduate Student Awards**

– Bharat Bhushan, Alok Ranjan, Gopi Gadupudi







**Dr. Saurabh Chatterjee**  
Awards Committee

Total 11 awards were given during SOT 2016. ASIO is proud to be the Special Interest group that sponsors highest number of awards including international travel and high school student awards



**Dr. Mayur Mitra, VP ASIO-SOT**  
Sponsorship Committee

Four major endowment funds including Dr. Harihara Mehendale ASIO student award fund, Dr. Laxman S. Desai ASIO student award fund, Dr. Dharm V. Singh ASIO postdoctoral fellow award fund and Toxikon: a preclinical toxicology organization and Dr. Dharm V. Singh ASIO award fund.



**Dr. Saurabh G. Vispute**  
Newsletter Committee

ASIO newsletter is published quarterly on ASIO-SOT website. It provides information about activities planned by ASIO, showcases awards and achievements by ASIO members as well as promotes networking among ASIO members.



**Dr. Sridhar Jaligama**  
LNL and Coffee hour Committee

Organizes Lunch and Learn and Coffee Hour. Strives to bring in experts from different fields for career guidance



**A BIG Thank you to our  
outgoing President  
Dr. Sudheer Beedanagari**



**A very Special Thanks to our...**



ASIO president Dr. Beedanagari expressed thank you to Advinus, GRAND sponsor of ASIO annual reception.

Special thanks to our Gold Sponsors SOT CRAD committee as well as our endowment sponsors: Dr. Dharm Singh, Dr. Harihara Mehendale, Dr. Laxman Desai and Toxikon for their generous support to ASIO.

### **Call for Donations!!!**

Dear ASIO members,

ASIO would like to urge our members to consider making a one-time donation towards the ASIO general funds. The ASIO general funds are used to cover expenses for our year-round activities and the annual reception. Therefore, these funds would go a long way to bring together pre-clinical scientists and companies of Indian origin to serve their common goals. Your contribution to SOT are tax deferred. Please contact Mayur Mitra at [mayur.mitra@bms.com](mailto:mayur.mitra@bms.com) if you would like to donate or have questions.



# Join ASIO...

May 2016

Over last three decades ASIO has evolved into a leading Special Interest Group of the SOT, connecting toxicologists of Indian origin across the world. As an ASIO member you get to involve and participate in ASIO activities throughout the year and get to network with fellow Indian origin toxicologists around the globe. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join ASIO and be a part of the growing ASIO community. To become an ASIO member today and enjoy numerous member benefits log on:

[www.toxicology.org/groups/sig/asio/membership.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/groups/sig/asio/membership.asp)

### **Get involved with ASIO activities...**

Would you like to develop your leadership and communication skills? Would you like to network effectively and showcase your creativity? If so, ASIO is an ideal platform for you!!! Here in ASIO, we have multitude of volunteering opportunities for students, postdocs and professionals to contribute as a volunteers in one of the following committees...

**Outreach committee:** Improves the awareness about ASIO membership-benefits, strengthen collaborations amongst other SIGs and Toxicologist Associations in India and conduct webinars on diverse topics by distinguished scientists to benefit the scientific community and increase the visibility of ASIO in the field of toxicology.

**Sponsorship committee:** Develop and implement strategies to attract sponsorship/endowment funds for ASIO activities.

**Newsletter committee:** The voice of ASIO - A vibrant committee publishing quarterly updates about ASIO activities and its members' achievements.

**LNL and Coffee hour committee:** One of the most successful and beneficial ASIO event, where students and postdocs get their questions answered and explore career paths. The committee strives to gather experts from diverse toxicology careers, and organizes the interaction.

**Reception committee:** Planning and organization of the ASIO annual reception with coordination and cooperation from other committees.

**Awards committee:** Manages nominations, and selects candidates for multiple ASIO awards annually.

**Website committee:** Maintains and updates ASIO website, social media pages and keeps us all informed all year long about ASIO events

The success of ASIO depends on your innovative ideas, enthusiasm and positive attitude. If you interested in volunteering and contributing towards the ASIO team or if you have any suggestions, please send your names and preference of committee to ASIO Student Representative

## ASIO 2015-2016 SPONSORS

### GRAND SPONSORS



### GOLD SPONSORS



Thank you so much for your generous contribution!

### ENDOWMENT SPONSORS



Dr. Dharm Singh



Dr. Harihara Mehendale



Dr. Laxman Desai

