



ASIO Newsletter

November 2011

Editors: Mamta Behl, Shirisha Chittiboyina, Saryu Goel, & Sheetal Thakur

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Message from the President

Dear ASIO Members:

It has been several months since I took over as President. I am happy to report on the activities over this period of time. Through the efforts of several special interest group (SIG) leaders, we were able to convince SOT to allow SIGs to include members even if they are not SOT members. So now, one can become an ASIO member (paying only \$15 yearly for membership) without having to become an SOT member first. This will especially help us to open the doors of ASIO to a lot more international scientists as well as students and post-docs. Please also note that the first SIG or specialty section membership is free for students and post-docs who are already SOT members. The ASIO membership form is attached in this newsletter. I encourage all of you who are non-members to become members as soon as possible. Also, if you are a member, please pass the word around and encourage all non-members to become ASIO members. In numbers, we will have greater strength and ability to achieve bigger and better goals.

We are actively participating in the SIG meetings and contributing ideas on how to showcase the SIGs in a more visible, strategic and global manner at the next SOT

meeting in San Francisco between March 12 and 15. We are playing a key role in SOT global task forces and helping promoting the vision and reach of the organization worldwide.

We continue to add new features to both our newsletter and website in terms of content. We are also reviewing our website content and plan on adding new features. We welcome any feedback and suggestions regarding newsletters and/or the website sent to any of the Board of Directors. We are continuing to discuss and plan opportunities to jointly host meetings and exchange ideas with STOX in India (Society of Toxicology) to seek ways to enhance interactions including setting up webinars and local events during the year. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and inputs.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the hard working committees within ASIO. The committees are - Membership, Newsletter, Annual Reception, Sponsorship, Awards, Website, STOX Collaboration and Mentoring Program. Several new people have joined these various committees recently. I encourage all of you to become ASIO members or renew your membership right away as well as volunteer in the committees. Please contact anyone on the current board of directors listed in this newsletter for more information. I look forward to working with you all and contribute significantly to the growth of our organization.

Best regards,
Vinayak Srinivasan,
President



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vsrinivasan@rd.us.lore.com

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saryu.goel@gmail.com

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AWARDS FOR SOT

- ❖ **Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award***
- ❖ **Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award***
- ❖ **Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award***
- ❖ **ASIO-SIG International Travel Award***
- ❖ **ASIO-SIG Young Investigator Award***
- ❖ **Senior Toxicologist Award***

The number of awards presented each year and the award winner(s) will be determined by ASIO awards committee. To apply for this award, please submit your complete application to Sudheer Beedanagari, by e-mailing to asioawards@gmail.com, on or before **Jan 30th, 2012**.

For award description, eligibility criteria and additional information please visit our website:

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

We strongly encourage becoming a member of ASIO.

Please find the membership application in the newsletter on page 9 and also on ASIO website:

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

Also note that you need not be an SOT member to be an ASIO member but if you are already a member of SOT one SIG is free and you can avail this opportunity to join and contribute to ASIO.

*ASIO MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED



Growth of Toxicology in India: An Update

India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. India also has a highly educated and talented workforce and is emerging as one of the favored destinations for world class R & D work. Toxicology is one among the branches classified in Ayurveda, a comprehensive healthcare system of medicine that has been traditionally practiced in India for more than 5000 years. However, toxicology received the formal recognition as scientific discipline in the country in mid 1900s after inclusion as a part of course curriculum in pharmacology and forensic sciences for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students. In the early 1960's, toxicology research was introduced as a distinct and unique discipline in India with the establishment of Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) (formerly: Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, ITRC), Lucknow, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Government of India, New Delhi. The same veterinary colleges in India offer post graduate training in Pharmacology and Toxicology which constitutes and contributes the bulk of toxicologists in the country. The same veterinary colleges also offer postgraduate training in Veterinary Pathology who ultimately end up in toxico-pathology assessment in most Pharma/biotech companies and Contract Research Organizations (CRO's) in India.

To enhance human, animal and environmental health through the science of toxicology, the Society of Toxicology of India (STOX) was established in 1979. The core purpose of STOX is to enhance public awareness about the use and misuse of pesticides, drugs, chemicals present in food. STOX has been a charter member of the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) since 1980. Dr. P.K. Gupta (formerly at IITR) is the founder and the keeper of the Society of Toxicology of India. Since 1979, STOX has organized

K.S. Rao, M.V.Sc, Ph.D., DABT

Founder & Chief Scientific Officer
Rao Toxicology Foundation
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Ksrao,tox@gmail.com

conferences and annual meetings regularly.

To enable the exchange of scientific information, STOX has started an official Toxicology Journal called "Toxicology International" in 1993. Veterinary Colleges and IITR are the premiere toxicology research institutes in the country. In addition there are several other Universities and Research organizations have produced a good number of MVSc and Ph.D.'s in toxicology. Several colleges in India offer post graduate training in Pharmacology and Toxicology which constitutes and contributes the bulk of toxicologists in the country. The same veterinary colleges also offer postgraduate training in Veterinary Pathology who ultimately end up in toxico-pathology assessment in most Pharma/biotech companies and Contract Research Organizations (CRO's) in India.

The Toxicology contract research in India started with three major CROs, Jai Research Foundation (JRF) – 1977, IIBAT then Fredrick Institute for Plant Protection and Toxicology (FIIPAT) - 1978 and Rallis Research Centre (RRC) – 1979. They majorly supported international clients in Pharma and agri-product developments. As of this writing, we have about 18 CRO's/companies which have toxicology laboratories with the Indian Good laboratory Practices (GLP) certificate. India has been accorded full adherent status in April 2011 for Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) by the OECD council. As per this provision, all non-clinical studies conducted in a GLP facility approved by the National GLP Compliance Monitoring authorities of India will be accepted by the OECD member countries and other adhering countries.

Given the growth of GLP CROs capable of providing toxicology services in the country, the American Board of Toxicology (ABT) was convinced to offer ABT examination in Bangalore, India DABT examination has been conducted in Bangalore since 2008. The ABT has been very impressed by the enthusiasm and the competence level of the toxicologists in India and has decided to conduct these exams every year in India. As of now, we have 30 candidates from India who have passed the DABT

examination from India and we expect this number to increase exponentially in due course of time. In order for India and Indian toxicology labs to make an impact on the global scene, we need mechanistic toxicologists to come back to India. In addition, we need a good source of professional rodent breeding facilities and indigenous certified rodent diets/bedding. Infrastructure of animal facilities also needs improvement to global standards. Nevertheless, many of the existing toxicology labs do conduct good quality regulatory toxicology work which complies with US EPA, OECD, and FDA guidances. It is realistic to believe that with increased investment in the infrastructure of animal facilities and the number of increasing DABTs with the return of experienced toxicologists from US /Europe to India, Indian CROs will become reliable partners for companies from US /Europe who would like to leverage on the India advantage.

Toxicologists returning to India can contact any of the Contract Research Organizations (CRO's), pharma/biotech companies in India. They may contact the following for general Guidance:

1. Dr. K.S. Rao
ksrao.tox@gmail.com;
+91-962-085-1915
2. Dr. P.K. Gupta
drpkg_brly@yahoo.co.in;
+91-935-910-4922
3. Dr. P.V. Mohanan
mohanpv10@gmail.com;
+91-944-654-2702

Dear Graduate Students and Postdocs:

Mark your Calendars for our annual 'Lunch and Learn program'

Date: Tuesday, March 13

Time: 12.00-1.30 pm

You will hear shortly from Dr. Vikrant Vijay for inputs and RSVPs!

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Congratulations to Dr. Mamta V. Behl for her new scientist position at the National Toxicology Program Division at NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC.

Congratulations to Dr. Sachin S. Devi for his new Assistant Professor and Director of Laboratory of Pharmacology and Toxicology positions at LECOM- School of Pharmacy, Erie, PA.

Student Award 1

SOT 2011



Sahabudeen Sheik Mohideen

PhD student

Department of Occupational and
Environmental Health

Graduate School of Medicine

Nagoya University

Japan

1. What is the nature of the project for which you won the travel award? What inspired it? (brief description of your lab work)

I am a PhD student in the department of Occupational & Environmental Health, Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya University in Japan. I won the ASIO travel award, for presenting a poster titled "Effects of 1-bromopropane exposure on myelination and astroglia in rat brain" at the SOT 2011 meeting in Washington DC.

2. How does it relate to the field of toxicology?

I am currently investigating the neurotoxicity of 1-Bromopropane; an alternative to ozone depleting solvent. 1-Bromopropane is used in metal cleaning, foam gluing and in many other electronic factories.

3. Name one challenge in your career as an immigrant and how you overcame/are working on overcoming it?

During my SOT trip, I had to face the challenge of adjusting to the new country and new culture. The opportunity to attend SOT enabled me to learn more about the recent leading research trends in my area of interest and to meet my colleagues in US.

4. How would you like to increase your involvement with ASIO/SOT?

I wish to contribute to ASIO by making other toxicologists of Indian origin in Japan aware of the SOT - ASIO network and improve my involvement with SOT-ASIO. I sincerely appreciate the help from fellow Indian toxicologists, who provided me with useful information on building a good career in toxicology.

5. A one-line message for fellow Indian toxicologists

I would like to thank the SOT-ASIO members for choosing me as an awardee and I would also like to thank the senior members of the ASIO for their kindness.

Sincerely,

Sahabudeen

Student Award 2

SOT 2011



**Senthilkumar Perumal
Kuppusamy**

PhD student

Department of Occupational and
Environmental Health

The University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

USA

1. What is the nature of the project for which you won the travel award? What inspired it? (Brief description of your lab work)

Research in our laboratory mainly focuses on understanding various toxicological effects of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). My project goal was to study the effect of PCB exposure, on telomerase enzyme and telomere length. Recent developments in the role of telomeres in cancer inspired me to pursue research in this arena.

2. How does it relate to the field of toxicology?

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are a group of 209 individual congeners that are persistent environmental pollutants. PCBs have been shown to produce several adverse effects including but not limited to immunotoxicity, neurotoxicity, hepatotoxicity and carcinogenesis.

3. Name one challenge in your career as an immigrant and how you overcame/are working on overcoming it?

As I was raised in a middle class farming community in India, it was difficult for me to get acclimatized to the fast paced life in US. But my interest in research (the reason I came to US) and sports (which I enjoy while I am away from

laboratory) helped me to -build a good group of friends.

4. How would you like to increase your involvement with ASIO/SOT?

SOT provided me with a lot of support and advice in the past three years. As a Toxicologist, I will support SOT as long as I can. Also, as a scientist of Indian origin I would be volunteering for ASIO to help the students from India to become aware of SOT and its activities.

5. A one-line message for fellow Indian toxicologists

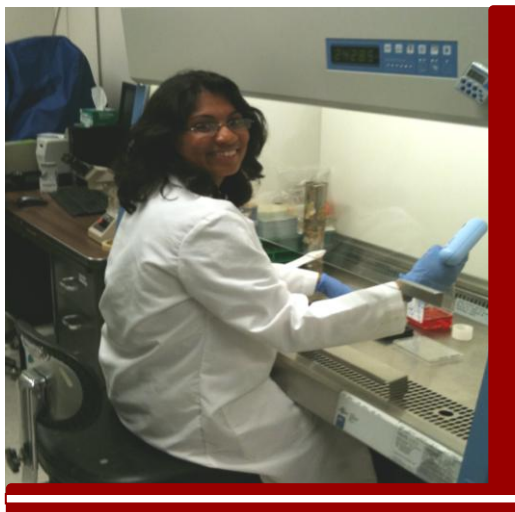
"Love, listen and learn. And DON'T forget to give back to the society you learned and benefited from!"

Sincerely,

Senthil

Student Award 3

SOT 2011



Aishwarya Soores

Graduate Student

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas

USA

1. What is the nature of the project for which you won the travel award? What inspired it? (brief description of your lab work).

The research outlines the synthesis, characterization, and the effects on mosquitoes of our newly developed prototypical nanoconjugate. The results demonstrate the potential to use nanoparticle surfaces to kill insects, specifically vectors of human pathogens.

2. How does it relate to the field of toxicology?

My research objective is to incorporate my strong fundamentals in engineering and my passion for the basic sciences in creating novel materials to enhance targeted delivery. Such a model has the potential to effectively address many of the shortcomings of traditionally utilized active agents in the field of toxicology. In addition, a well characterized-targeted delivery may require smaller concentrations of toxic agents ultimately leading to decreased exposures of harmful chemicals to humans and animals.

3. Name one challenge in your career as an immigrant and how you overcame/are working on overcoming it?

The biggest challenge for me was the transition from the Indian to the American mode of school system. When I started graduate school, I had a steep learning curve with respect to both coursework and research. Valuable inputs, friendly interactions and motivating sessions with professors here at Texas A&M made this transition very smooth and soon I was able to infuse fresh ideas into projects and thus contribute to the ongoing research.

My special thanks to my advisors Dr. Christie Sayes and Dr. Michelle Pine for always believing in me and my ability to excel.

4. How would you like to increase your involvement with ASIO/SOT?

I'd be happy to contribute to the growth of this prestigious organization and volunteer for some of the activities in the coming years.

5. A one-line message for fellow Indian toxicologists.

"It is not because a thing is difficult that one should give it up, on the contrary, the more a thing is difficult the more determined should one be to succeed in it."

Sincerely,

Aishwarya

SPONSORS

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/iosot/sig/asio/index.asp>

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We would like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support



Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Area Code: _____ Phone: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership: \$15 for all members (full, student or post-doc)

(PLEASE NOTE: You can become an ASIO member even if you are not an SOT member; also, the first Specialty Section/Special Interest group membership is free for students/post-docs, who are also SOT members)

Please check the most appropriate responses:

SOT Member	Highest Degree Attained		Type of Affiliation
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> A.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> M.P.H.	<input type="checkbox"/> Academia
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> B.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> M.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> Consulting
	<input type="checkbox"/> B.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> M.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract Lab
	<input type="checkbox"/> D.V.M.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D.	<input type="checkbox"/> Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> D.V.M./Ph.D.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sc.D.	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry- Chemical/Petroleum
	<input type="checkbox"/> M.D.	<input type="checkbox"/> V.M.D.	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry- Pharmaceutical
	<input type="checkbox"/> M.D./Ph.D.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry- Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other- _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Other- _____

Please complete the information above and send with a check payable to "ASIO-SOT". The ASIO-SOT will review your application, and you will be notified within 30 days. Those not accepted will receive a full refund.

Current ASIO members: Please do not use this form since your renewal dues are billed annually through SOT.

Payment Type: Money Order _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/membership.asp> for online ASIO application form. Filled in applications please send to: Dr. Sachin Devi, Secretary-Treasurer ASIO-SOT (Ph. No. (814)-860-5108 ; sdevi@lecom.edu) A4-323, School of Pharmacy, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Erie, PA, 16509, USA