



Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

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President's Message

Greetings all,

We kicked off Fall 2014 with a very successful webinar on "New Frontiers of Chemical Carcinogenesis". Our guest speaker, **Dr. Udayan Apte**, from University of Kansas Medical Center gave an excellent presentation on Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor-4 α (HNF4 α) and its role in Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC). The webinar was very well attended by 110 participants from seven different countries (Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Taiwan and United States). **Dr. Sainath Babu** (chair of the ASIO webinar committee) along with his team (**Dr. Satheesh Anand, Dr. Sudheer Beednagari, Ms. Shirisha Chittiboyina, Dr. Vijay P. Kale and myself**) successfully organized this event. We extend special thanks to SOT for providing financial support for this event. The complete recording of this webinar is available at (<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/events.asp>). Please let us know if you have any ideas for future webinars.

One of the ASIO's current goals is to create a new endowment fund that will be used for permanently establishing an annual international award. The fund will be used to support educational efforts of emerging toxicologists (undergraduates, graduate students, and post-doctoral trainees) of Indian origin. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 by 1st quarter of 2015 and thereby benefit from SOT's matching funds. This would bring the fund's total assets to \$50,000 at which point it would be considered a permanently established endowment fund and

In This Issue....

President's Message	1
Appeal for Nomination for SOT Committee	2
ASIO Awards and Events at SOT 2015, San Diego	3
ASIO-SOT webinar	4
CrossTox Puzzle	5
Awards and Achievements	5, 6
SOTX, India Conference	7
Establishment of a new ASIO-SOT Endowment Fund	8
ASIO Sponsors	9



Dr. Sachin Devi, President ASIO

will be continued into perpetuity. **Dr. Mayur Mitra** is spearheading these efforts and a progress report detailing these efforts is included in this newsletter.

In the coming weeks, we will start a membership drive. We need your support to spread the word and encourage fellow toxicologists of Indian origin to become ASIO member. ASIO committee for annual reception will meet soon. If you have any ideas or suggestion for annual reception, please let us know.

Together, Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)

Sachin Devi

Nomination for Society of Toxicology Committee

Dear ASIO members,

The ASIO Board of Directors have nominated me as a candidate for the upcoming election to the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Nominating Committee (2015 - 2016). The SOT Nominating Committee is elected by the SOT membership and is responsible for developing the slate of candidates for election to SOT Council and elected committees. **I will be in the ballot for the elections to be held in Jan - Feb, 2015, and am writing to seek your support for my candidacy.**

I am a board certified Toxicologist at Bristol-Myers Squibb. I received my B.S. in Pharmaceutical sciences (B. Pharm) from the University of Mumbai, India, and a Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. I trained as a post-doctoral fellow at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. I have been an active member of SOT and ASIO since 2003 and served on various SOT committees that include: SOT Continuing Education Committee, Risk Assessment Specialty Section, Cardiovascular Toxicology Specialty Section, etc. I currently serve as an ASIO Councilor, Chair the ASIO Endowment Fund Committee, and represent ASIO in the SOT Special Interest Group - Collaboration Group. I have organized, chaired, and presented at several SOT scientific symposiums and continuing education courses.

In the past decade, we have witnessed ASIO grow by leaps and bounds, thanks to its able membership and leadership. It is important that we spread our roots and ensure that ASIO is well represented within the core SOT committees. The election of an ASIO member to the SOT Nominating Committee will be an important step towards achieving this. I would greatly appreciate ASIO member's support to take me through the finish line. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

Thanks and regards,

Mayur Mitra
mayur.mitra@bms.com



2015 ASIO-SIG Awards

The deadline for abstract submission to SOT 2015 meeting has already gone, and perhaps this is the best time to think about the awards! Like every year, this year too ASIO-SIG is sponsoring 6 awards in different categories namely, Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student best abstract award, Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student best abstract award, Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow best abstract award, International Travel Award for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows, Young Investigator Award and Senior Toxicologist Award. The ASIO-SIG Awards Committee strongly encourages the ASIO members to apply for the relevant award. **Please submit your complete application to Mamta Behl (asioawards@gmail.com) on or before Dec 15th, 2014.** For complete description of the awards, eligibility criteria and additional information please visit our website:

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

ASIO Activities at SOT 2015

The ASIO executive committee is excited to welcome you at the various ASIO activities at SOT meeting 2015 to be held in San Diego, CA. In addition to the ASIO Annual Reception, we are thrilled to host ASIO Lunch N Learn and ASIO Coffee Hour with an expert.

ASIO ANNUAL RECEPTION 2015

When: Monday, March 23, 2015; 7:00PM to 9:00PM

We continue our tradition of hosting an ASIO Annual Reception at SOT 2015 in San Diego, CA. The ASIO Annual Reception is a great opportunity for everyone to network with fellow toxicologists and share their knowledge and expertise with the toxicologists of Indian origin. ASIO invites you all to join us for a fun-filled evening.

ASIO LUNCH N LEARN (LNL)

When: Tuesday, March 24, 2015; 12:00PM TO 1:30PM

ASIO encourages students/post-docs to sign-up for the ASIO Lunch N Learn program at SOT 2015. A panel of eminent professionals from different areas of toxicology will be invited to speak at the event. The LNL program is a unique platform to discuss on diverse and varied topics and a great opportunity to connect with senior professionals in the area of toxicology research.

To learn more about the LNL program, please feel free to **e-mail Pratap Kumar** at drprathapk@gmail.com.

ASIO COFFEE HOUR

ASIO is pleased to announce "Coffee hour with an expert". This event calls for motivated students/ post-docs for targeted interactions with generous and experienced toxicologists. Don't miss out on an opportunity to discuss and resolve your queries and make plans for your bright career path. We hope to benefit from the vast experience of our experts who have volunteered their time for the coffee hour and continue to do so. Please sign up for coffee hour as a MENTOR or MENTEE. For additional details please contact our coffee hour coordinator **Pratap Kumar** at drprathapk@gmail.com.

ASIO-SOT successfully hosts webinar on Chemical Carcinogenesis

For many scientists, the Friday morning on Sept. 26 was filled with exciting scientific information this Fall. **Dr. Udayan Apte** from the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics at University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas, presented highly educational webinar on “New Frontiers of Chemical Carcinogenesis”. The webinar was organized by Association of Scientists of Indian-Origin (ASIO) and fully funded by SOT Headquarters. After a brief introduction on basics of carcinogenesis, Dr. Apte focused mainly on the role of Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor-4 α (HNF4 α), an orphan receptor known to bind fatty acids, in the development of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC). He shared with audience the recent findings from his lab that demonstrates the negative regulation of liver cell proliferation by HNF4 α . By using a knockdown mouse model for the deletion of HNF4 α , his group found an abnormal fatty liver with the increased hepatocyte proliferation. Dr. Apte also discussed how the function of HNF4 α could be progressively lost in HCC using core molecular experiments and Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) Database. He then summarized his webinar by explaining how target gene signature of HNF4 α could be used as new tool to identify hepatocellular carcinoma.



Dr. Udayan Apte

Around 110 scientists participated in this webinar representing seven different countries (Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Taiwan and United States). ASIO really appreciate the efforts put in by Mr. Tierre Miller, Ms. Rosibel Alvarenga, and Mr. Raul Suarez to make this webinar successful. The ASIO webinar committee members Dr. Sainath Babu (Chair), Dr. Sachin Devi, Dr. Satheesh Anand, Dr. Sudheer Beednagari, Ms. Shirisha Chittiboyina and Dr. Vijay P. Kale were really instrumental in making this event possible. For those scientists who couldn't attend the webinar, the complete recording of the same is available on the ASIO-SOT Website (<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/events.asp>).

Join us as an ASIO Member. Participate and lead ASIO-SOT initiatives!

Please join Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Special Interest Group of Society of Toxicology. ASIO Members get an opportunity to be involved in our creative and enthusiastic initiatives throughout the year.

Be an ASIO member today and enjoy numerous benefits. Just log on to our website: <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio/membership.asp>

For current members, you can renew your ASIO annual membership online when you pay your annual SOT membership dues, simply by checking ASIO membership listed under SOT-SIG membership section. To renew your membership, please visit: <http://www.toxicology.org/ms/renew.asp>

CrossTox

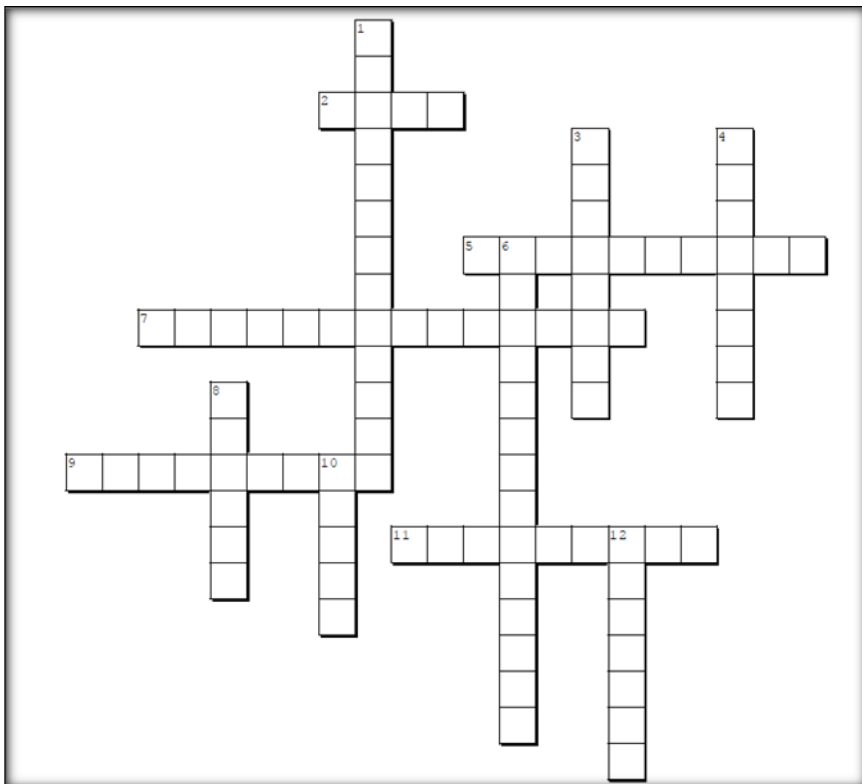
CrossTox 2 - by Vivek Dadhania

Down

1. Gas associated with the Lake Nyos environmental disaster
3. Compound that inhibits mitochondrial electron transport chain (ETC)
4. Agent producing reactive airways dysfunction syndrome (RADS)
6. Condition that represents a manifestation of moderate chronic fluoride toxicity
8. Target organ of aminoglycoside-induced toxicity
10. The metabolite responsible for the hepatotoxicity of APAP
12. Substance that has been identified as a respiratory tract carcinogen in humans

Across

2. Toxin treated with deferoxamine
5. First line treatment for methanol overdose
7. The most significant contributor to air pollution by mass in suburban areas
9. Sympathomimetic substance contained in Ma Huang
11. Heroin and cocaine mixture is known by this word



Please send your suggestions/comments to asio.sot.newsletter@gmail.com

“West Virginia University Distinguished Alumni” Recognition to Dr. Gopala Krishna

Dr. Gopala Krishna, who has earlier served as ASIO Secretary, Vice President and President, was recently inducted into the West Virginia University (WVU) Academy of Distinguished Alumni. This prestigious honor is bestowed by WVU to their extraordinary graduates who exemplify an entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and hard work. Dr. Krishna currently serves as an executive director and head of Preclinical R&D and Competitive Intelligence for Supernus Pharmaceuticals where he directs drug discovery and development in the area of neuroscience. Dr. Krishna has published extensively and has been a recipient of several awards for his innovative contributions and leadership in the field of Toxicology. ASIO congratulates Dr. Krishna for this distinguished achievement.



Dr. Gopala Krishna

Dr. Sidhartha Ray honored by Manchester University

Manchester University College of Pharmacy honored Dr. Ray as outstanding scholar of the year for 2013-14. Dr. Sidhartha D. Ray serves as a Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and was the Founding chair of the



Dr. Sidhartha Ray

department at Manchester University College of Pharmacy in Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA. Prior to joining Manchester, Dr. Ray has served as Professor at the Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences of Long Island University, New York for nearly two decades. Dr. Ray's seminal discoveries have provided clear understandings on the dynamic role of apoptosis and necrosis in drug-induced organ toxicity and have influenced the development of safety measures for a stunning variety of xenobiotics, phytochemicals and nutraceuticals. Based on his contributions to teaching, service and scholarship to health sciences in general, Dr. Ray received multiple prestigious awards, including the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology's national research award (1996), 'Fellow of the American

College of Nutrition (FACN)' honor in 1999, David Newton Award for Excellence in Teaching Pharmacy (2005), the Biennial Abraham Krasnoff Memorial Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement (2008), A&M Schwartz College of Pharmacy & Health Science's 'Wall-of-Fame' honor (2011), the Society of Toxicology's 'Undergraduate Educator of the Year' national award (2013). Dr. Ray loves to promote 'Lifelong Learning' strategies to his students and clearly models his belief day in and day out. ASIO-SOT congratulates Dr. Ray for this extraordinary award.

CrossTox 2 Answers

Down	Across
1. Carbon dioxide	2. Iron
3. Rotenone	5. Fomepizole
4. Chlorine	7. Transportation
6. Osteosclerosis	9. Ephedrine
8. Kidney	11. Speedball
10. NAPQI	
12. Arsenic	

XXXIVth Society of Toxicology (India) Annual Conference 2014

Where: Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)

When: 10th to 12th December 2014

The 34th SOTX, India annual conference will be held at Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) from 10th to 12th December 2014. Annual Conference of STOX, India is a large congregation of the toxicologists, pharmacologists, pathologists, environmental and occupational-health scientists from academia, industry, govt. and regulatory agencies in India and even abroad. Annual meetings of the Society provide a suitable platform to all professionals for interaction and exchange of scientific developments and identify emerging and frontier areas of toxicology research in India and from global prospective. It is also the time for honoring the senior toxicologists for their outstanding scientific achievements and contributions and for recognition of young and promising toxicologists for their outstanding research work. The 34rd Annual Conference theme ***“Challenges and Strategies in Toxicology for Food Safety”*** will be focusing on diverse research topics in contemporary toxicology that will be befitting to all toxicologists from diverse fields.

As a major milestone towards fostering relationship between ASIO-SOT and STOX, Dr. Gopala Krishna and Dr. Y.K. Gupta put together a symposium which is being co-funded by SOT and STOX organizations and included as part of this year's STOX meeting. The symposium titled ***“Global Regulatory Safety Testing Strategies in the 21st Century”*** includes following ASIO-SOT members:

- Gopala Krishna, PhD, MBA, DABT, FATS. Supernus Pharmaceuticals, Rockville, MD, USA
- Y. K. Gupta, MD. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi-110029, India
- B. Bhaskar Gollapudi, PhD. Exponent® Inc., Midland, MI 48640, USA
- Sudheer Beedanagari, PhD. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, New Brunswick, NJ, USA
- Manoj Aggarwal, Ph.D. Dow AgroSciences, Oxfordshire, Abingdon, OX14 4RN, UK

Abstract submission deadline for STOX 2014 is 17th November 2014.

For further information on the STOX 2014 Annual meeting please contact:

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Phone: 091-44-25550111

Establishment of a New ASIO Endowment Fund

Dear ASIO members,

ASIO had initiated a fundraising effort during the ASIO reception at the 2014 SOT Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AR. The purpose of the new fund is to permanently establish annual international awards.

Towards this effort, we are pleased that a new endowment fund titled 'Toxikon, a preclinical toxicology organization; and Dr. Dharm Singh ASIO Award Fund' is now approved and established at SOT. The new endowment fund has been possible due to generous donation of \$10,000 each from Dr. Dharm Singh and Toxikon Corporation. Additionally, we have received donations of approximately \$3800 from several other donors.

ASIO would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions that will be applied towards the fund:

- Dr. Dharm Singh
- Toxikon Corporation
- Dr. Kumar Sripathirathan (Drik, LLC)
- Dr. Chellu Chetty
- Dr. Nagender Reddy Panyala
- Dr. Armandla Ramesh
- Dr. Vijay Kale
- Dr. Rao M Uppu

To establish the new fund as a permanent endowment fund, ASIO is required to raise at least \$25,000. Additionally, ASIO intends to take advantage of the SOT dollar-for-dollar matching contributions and bring the total fund assets to \$50,000. At this point we have a deficit of about \$1200 from reaching our goal.

ASIO would appreciate and urge our members to contribute and continuously support the new endowment fund. Please contact mayur.mitra@bms.com for questions.

Thanks in advance for your donations.

Regards,

Mayur Mitra

Chair, ASIO Endowment Committee



Dr. Mayur Mitra

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Dr. Dharm Singh



Dr. Harihara Mehendale



Dr. Laxman Desai



Thank you so much for your generous contribution!