

ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Volunteers

Rahul Kumar
Gagandeep Kaur

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Saurabh Vispute, PhD, DABT
ASIO President, 2022-2023

Dear ASIO Members:

Welcome to the Fall 2022 Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO) newsletter! The entire 2022-2023 ASIO Executive Committee looks forward to another exciting year of new and ongoing activities for our membership. Firstly, kudos to our 2021-2022 ASIO President, Jaya Chilakapati for her exemplary leadership during a challenging year with uncertainties and ever-changing restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you all for a successful and well-attended ASIO reception in March 2022 at the SOT Annual Meeting in San Diego. It was a testimony to our close-knit ASIO community's resilience to overcome challenges; returning bigger and stronger.

At ASIO, we are committed to providing a platform to toxicologists of Indian origin in and outside of the US to network, mentor, and recognize their peers. I am fortunate to lead an excellent team of ASIO leaders and please join us in welcoming our newly elected incoming officers: Sudin Bhattacharya (Vice President-Elect), Satya Achanta (Junior Councilor), Gagandeep Kaur (Postdoctoral Representative), and Manasi Kotulkar (Graduate Student Representative). On behalf of the team, I welcome you to our newsletter for updates on various activities such as webinars, podcasts, awards, membership updates, etc. that our fabulous group of officers and volunteers have been diligently working on. ASIO strives to focus on topics and events of interest to our membership and if you have any suggestions, please reach out to the ASIO Executive Committee.

With the upcoming 2023 award application season, we encourage you to consider applying for several ASIO awards, details of which can be found on the ASIO Awards webpage (<https://www.toxicology.org/groups/sig/ASIO/Awards.asp>). In addition, if you would like to join the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin leadership team, I would encourage you to submit your application for an open officer position in the upcoming 2023-24 Executive Committee elections. Please reach out to any of the current officers for additional information.

All these initiatives wouldn't be possible without the support of members, collaborators, endowment sponsors, and dedicated volunteers. I sincerely appreciate everyone's continued support that helps us achieve sustained growth as well as strengthen our commitment to the ASIO and toxicology community. Looking forward to another successful year at ASIO.

I wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy end of 2022 and I am excited to see you at our ASIO reception at SOT 2023 in Nashville next March!

ASIO 2022-23 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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President

Saurabh Vispute



Past President

Jaya Chilakapati



Vice President

Ashwini Phadnis Moghe



Vice President- Elect

Sudin Bhattacharya



Treasurer/Secretary

Pankajini Mallick



Sr. Councilor

Hemant Chavan



Jr. Councilor

Satya Achanta



Postdoc Representative

Gagandeep Kaur



Student Representative

Manasi Kotulkar

ASIO ANNUAL RECEPTION

SOT 2022, San Diego

ASIO meeting at San Diego was a great success and a delightful experience. Scholars from all over the country together with international visitors gathered at the meeting for intellectual exchange of knowledge and experience, making connections and celebrating the accomplishments of our ASIO members. The members were apprised with association's financial status, members' activities, and upcoming events. The house appreciated the efforts of outgoing officers and welcomed newly elected officers for 2022-2023 term.



ASIO 2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

SOT 2022, San Diego

CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!

BEST PAPER AWARD WINNER

Dr. Milankumar Prajapati

Paper Title: Biliary excretion of excess iron in mice requires hepatocyte iron import by Slc39a14. J. Biol. Chem. (2021) 297(1) 100835

DR. LAXMAN DESAI GRADUATE STUDENT

BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Chittaranjan Sahu**, *NIPER, India*

2nd- **Rama Kant**, *University of Colorado*

3rd- **Dipro Bose**, *University of South Carolina*

DR. HARIHARA MEHENDELE GRADUATE STUDENT

BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Manasi Kotulkar**, *University of Kansas Medical Center*

2nd- **Archana Panghal**, *NIPER, India*

3rd- **Punnag Saha**, *University of South Carolina*

DR. DHARM SINGH POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

BEST ABSTRACT AWARD

1st- **Isha Mhatre-Winters**, *Florida International University*

2nd- **Avinash Kumar**, *Louisiana State University*

TOXICON, A PRECLINICAL TOXICOLOGY ORGANIZATION; AND

DR. DHARM SINGH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD

1st- **Dinesh Babu**, *University of Alberta, Canada*

2nd- **Chittaranjan Sahu**, *NIPER, India*

ASIO 2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

SOT 2022, San Diego

ASIO SENIOR TOXICOLOGIST AWARD



**Pramod Terse, DVM, MS, PhD,
DABT, DABVT**

Lead Toxicologist
National Center for Advancing
Translational Sciences
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Terse was awarded ASIO 2022 Senior Toxicologist Award for his remarkable contribution to the field of toxicology and pharmacology. He has served as a lead regulatory toxicologist/risk assessor at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help regulate the use and approval of chemicals based on human risk assessment. He has also contributed to more than 30 pharmaceutical Investigational New Drug applications. He is committed to improving the in vitro and in vivo safety evaluation of therapeutics, employing innovative technologies to facilitate drug discovery and easing the drug development process.

ASIO EARLY CAREER SCIENTIST AWARD



Saurabh Chatterjee, MS, PhD

Professor
University of California Irvine

Dr. Chatterjee was awarded ASIO 2022 Early Career Scientist Award at the annual meeting for his accomplishments as an early-stage investigator. He currently holds various academic and non-academic positions at the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and the US Department of Veterans Affairs. He continues to obtain research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and federal agencies since 2012. He has mentored several graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. He serves as an editorial board member of several scholarly journals and grant review panels of NIH and other national and international research agencies.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ASIO MEMBERS

SOT 2022, San Diego

DISTINGUISHED TOXICOLOGY SCHOLAR AWARD



Prakash Nagarkatti, PhD
University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC

Dr. Nagarkatti was bestowed with SOT's 2022 Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award for his seminal scientific contributions to the understanding of the science of toxicology and active involvement in toxicological research. From 2011 to 2021, he served as the Vice President for Research and managed a \$280 million/year research enterprise at the University of South Carolina. During his career of 35 years, Dr. Nagarkatti has obtained outstanding funding of \$100 million in grants from NIH and other federal agencies and has published more than 325 peer-reviewed papers with over 17,000 citations, making major contributions to advancements in the field of immunotoxicology. He has mentored 44 graduate students, 29 postdoctoral scholars, and 35 junior faculty as well as 36 international scholars from more than 15 countries. Dr. Nagarkatti is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Academy of Toxicological Sciences, and the National Academy of Inventors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ASIO MEMBERS

SOT 2022, San Diego

LEADING EDGE IN BASIC SCIENCE AWARD



Urmila Kodavanti, PhD, DABT
US EPA/CPHEA
Research Triangle Park, NC

Dr. Kodavanti has received the 2022 SOT Leading Edge in Basic Science Award for her novel, rigorous, and impactful research on the scientific understanding of how irritant air pollutants adversely affect human health. She has delivered convincing, scientifically based evidence that this linkage involves metabolic and immune/inflammatory deregulation caused by pollutant-induced neuroendocrine stress. Her research has provided new avenues to explore the cellular and molecular mechanisms responsible for systemic and organ-specific toxicology of ozone, particulate matter, and other criteria air pollutants. Dr. Kodavanti is a longtime Associate Editor for both Inhalation Toxicology and the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part B, as well as serving on the Editorial Boards of four additional journals, including Toxicological Sciences. She has received six US EPA Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards and SOT specialty section awards.

ASIO'S UPCOMING EVENTS

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ASIO is pleased to announce the new webinar series for our members

Connect with peers both in the US and abroad and learn new concepts in toxicology and career development at the time of your choosing

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RE-ENTRY FELLOWSHIP
IN OUR FIRST WEBINAR FEATURING**

DR. ASHUTOSH SRIVASTAVA

RAMALINGASWAMY AWARDEE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, IIT GANDHINAGAR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022

12:00-1:00 PM EST

REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR [HERE](#)

**FOR MORE DETAILS ON OUR UPCOMING WEBINARS, PLEASE
VISIT- [ASIO EVENTS](#)**

TOXSCHOLAR OUTREACH GRANT

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**Logeswari Ponnusamy, DVM,
MVSc, PhD, DABT, ERT**
Principal Scientist and Manager,
Toxicology,
Veterinary Medicine R&D, Zoetis,
Michigan, USA

Toxicologists wear several hats: scientist, educator, communicator, and advocate. Adding to these roles is outreach to underserved institutions and inspiring the next generation.

Looking for opportunities to serve the community? Consider toxicology outreach programs!

The SOT [ToxScholar program](#) offers a great opportunity to share our experience and knowledge to create awareness and inspire the current generation of underserved as well as next-generation students and researchers. This can be a domestic or international visit to institutions serving students enrolled in associate/bachelor's or graduate degrees. Check out the [list of countries](#) that benefit from this grant program. Detailed guidance can be found [here](#).

There are several ways to accommodate outreach support during your work schedules.

Vacationing or traveling to any of the countries on the list? Use resources within SOT or a professional network to find out institutions that can benefit from your visit and make a half a day visit. Can't make an international visit? Explore domestic outreach within the US. Several campuses throughout the US do not have toxicology discipline or lack access to such resources and could use a day trip or two.

Are you a parent with young child/children and outreach-related travel is harder? Consider participating in virtual outreach. For example, community colleges, public K-12 schools, homeschools, and community education centers seek professionals to present to their students what we do and how we protect public health, etc. Check out [Skype a Scientist](#).

Is the fear of public speaking holding you back from associating with outreach programs? Fear not as these outreach activities do not require one to be a great public speaker. All it takes is to be able to communicate our experiences, shed light on the several opportunities available and point to such resources. Are you a graduate student who thinks you may not be experienced enough to do outreach? These toxicology outreach programs within and outside SOT seek motivated individuals who are interested to inspire others. You can talk about a range of topics such as finding a good toxicology program, choosing a research topic, funding, and scholarships, internships, lab etiquette, how collaborations work, how MS or Ph.D. programs in the US differ from other countries, cultural differences and support system available through graduate school and so on. There is a long list of unanswered questions that undergrads would like to find answers to.

The ToxScholar program [speaker directory](#) helps you find example topics that volunteers have signed up for. On behalf of the SOT leadership, I encourage you to sign up to serve as speakers so when such a need arises, the SOT will contact you for outreach activities.

The outreach visits enable toxicologists for sharing their experience with students and researchers domestically or internationally, and in turn, inspire them to explore the field of toxicology and benefit from the opportunities available through the SOT.

The pandemic-induced rise in digital platforms makes it easier to connect with students and faculty around the globe at their convenience and enables us to reach a wider audience. Although there are online resources available on toxicology, "in-person" face-to-face interactions make a lot of difference. I am happy to share my impactful personal experience on the international ToxScholar visit to four campuses in India. You can find the detailed report of my visit and testimonials [here](#).

ASIO SPONSORS

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Endowment sponsors



Dr. Dharm Singh



Dr. Laxman Desai



**Late Dr. Harihara
Mehendale**

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ADVANCING YOUR INNOVATION

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Please Consider a Donation to the ASIO Endowment Fund

Your contribution will be primarily used for ASIO activities at the SOT Annual Meeting and the career advancement of our members. It will also be used to provide early career toxicologists an opportunity to enhance their training and current members of the toxicology community a path to enrich their ongoing careers as toxicologists and promote diversity within the field of toxicology.

To donate, please visit- [SOT ASIO](#) | [Sponsors](#)

Join ASIO and become a volunteer



Membership

- Network with fellow Indian-origin toxicologists around the globe
- Get involved and participate in ASIO activities



VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteering opportunities for students, postdocs and professionals
- To explore the possibility of serving on an ASIO committee, please visit [ASIO Committees](#)

JOIN US

ASIO MEMBERSHIP



FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE REACH OUT

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