



ASIO-SIG Newsletter



Editors: Vinayak Srinivasan, Prasad Krishnan & Rohan Kulkarni

Message from Outgoing President

Dear Friends and Fellow ASIO members,

As the outgoing President of the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO), it has been a pleasure to serve the organization over the years and I plan to continue to do so in one way or another. We began the Year 2008 -2009 as an extremely organized TEAM with multiple sub-teams charged with various tasks. A select set of charges included: increasing membership, creating Endowment Funds, enhancing website appeal, creating a state of the art informative newsletter and most importantly, providing an opportunity for students and young scientists to NETWORK throughout the year and facilitate their attendance at the Annual SOT meetings with cash awards as well as Lunch and Learn programs.

As a TEAM, we worked together exceptionally well and accomplished each of these goals and in some cases even exceeded our own expectations. For example, our membership has increased from about 80 to 120; we have created 3 permanent Endowment Funds with matching funds from SOT - in the names of Drs. Dharm Singh, Harihara Mehendale, and Laxman Desai to a total of over \$75,000 providing sustained investment income in support of student and educational activities; we recognized several senior members and leaders of the organization and provided financial awards to 4 students and a postdoctoral fellow, including an International student – from India; our 3 guest speakers: Dr. John Prakash, Ms. Sheila Khatri, and Dr. Bhaskar Gollapudi, at our 2009 Annual SOT meeting enlightened us with multiple facets of entrepreneurship, international business collaborations and career opportunities within our industry over an excellent Indian dinner with musical entertainment provided by Dr. Sury Vulimiri. The SOT leadership has complimented our group on several occasions as a model SIG and continues to encourage us in many ways. Furthermore, ASIO sponsored and endorsed workshops as well as special sessions and truly provided an opportunity to network.

I believe, our organization has come a long way from the 1980s with gatherings in founders' hotel rooms of a few friends to a well organized reception with guest speeches in SOT sponsored big halls with attendance in the 100's from around the globe. I am very happy to be part of this growing organization with a wonderful group of people, each willing to walk that extra mile to make a difference. I want to sincerely thank each and every member of this organization and the Officers – who have contributed to making a difference and appreciate their support throughout the year. I look forward to working with the new TEAM under the able leadership of Dr. Sanjay Chanda. Sanjay is no stranger to this group and I am confident he will lead us to the NEXT level. Again, I thank the membership at large for their exceptional support in making a difference, collaboratively.

Thanks & Namasthe,
Gopala

Fall Issue, 2009

Inside the Issue:

Message from outgoing president	1
Message from incoming president	2
ASIO Annual Reception and Dinner at SOT 2009	3
Awards and achievements of ASIO members	7
Executive committee nominations	9

Special points of interest:

- Membership renewal
- Endowment fund target achieved
- Call for session topics for SOT 2010
- ASIO senior member award nominations requested
- Seeking suggestions for 2010 SOT ASIO reception

Message from Incoming President



I am honored to be chosen by my peers of Indian origin to lead one of the most successful special interest groups of the Society of Toxicology (SOT), namely the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO). I consider this both a privilege and a daunting responsibility. Like the Presidents who preceded me, I look forward to the next 12 months with excitement, tempered by the somber acknowledgement of duty.

May 1st was the time for transition of new Officers of ASIO. As we make this transition, we should pause to recognize the contributions that have been made by all those who have participated in the leadership of ASIO during the past years. The Group is successful due to the dedication of the numerous members that have volunteered their time. The leadership in the past has done an excellent job of providing guidance to all ASIO activities. While we can take pride in the progress of the past year, it is important that all members now focus on the future. We just had a very successful gathering during the Annual Meeting of SOT at Baltimore that you will read about it in several places in this newsletter. We must carry on the good work and start planning for our next meeting at Salt Lake City in 2010. Some of our strongest efforts should go towards developing ties with the students of Indian origin. Also as part of focus for the future, we should work on developing plans that will assure the long-term financial stability of ASIO. We should try to reach out to companies and businesses for potential corporate membership and sponsorship of our meetings.

I look forward to contributing to the future development of ASIO as your President. ASIO is as capable and as strong as you want to make it – so to our members – we welcome your comments, your commitment to serve on committees, or volunteer to run for office. Contact information for the current board is listed in this newsletter.

With warmest regards,

Sanjay Chanda, President

Association of Scientists of Indian Origin
Special Interest Group of the Society of Toxicology

ASIO TEAM for 2009-2010

President: Sanjay chanda
Past President: Gopala Krishna
Vice President: Binu Philip
Vice President-Elect-: Vinayak Srinivasan
Secretary-Treasurer: Satheesh Anand
Student Representative: Prasad Krishnan
Post-doctoral Representative: Sudheer Reddy
Liaison Officer: Prakash Nagarkatti
Councilors: Brinda Mahadevan, Gunda Reddy, Rangaprasad Sarangarajan and Des Kashyap

ASIO –Annual Reception and Dinner, Baltimore, 2009

The 2009 ASIO Reception was very well attended and it was very heartwarming to see so many scientists involved in the field of toxicology from successful and well recognized figures to students and post-docs in attendance. Dr. Krishna welcomed everyone and recognized the ASIO office bearers. He gave a brief background on ASIO activities before turning the mike over to Dr. Soni who provided an update on the ASIO endowment funds. We are proud to be the only Special Interest Group with three endowment funds thanks to Drs. Dharm Singh, Harihara Mehendele and Laxman Desai.

Dr. Chetty then called up the winners of the student and post-doctoral travel awards. Dr. Srinivasan recognized senior members of ASIO for their contributions - Drs. Nagarkatti, Desai, Chetty and Reddy. Dr. Krishna invited our guest speaker, Dr. Gyan Prakash to the mike and he talked about scientific entrepreneurship during economic hard times. Then we were off to dinner at Memsahib. At the dinner, we were engaged by another speaker, Ms. Sheila Katri, who spoke about her experience with business collaborations between US and India. Dr. Bhaskar Gollapudi then provided advice on careers in the chemical industry. Finally, we were entertained with light music by Dr. Sury Vulimiri.



Dr. Gopala Krishna, Past President, being awarded for his excellence in Leadership and Service to ASIO

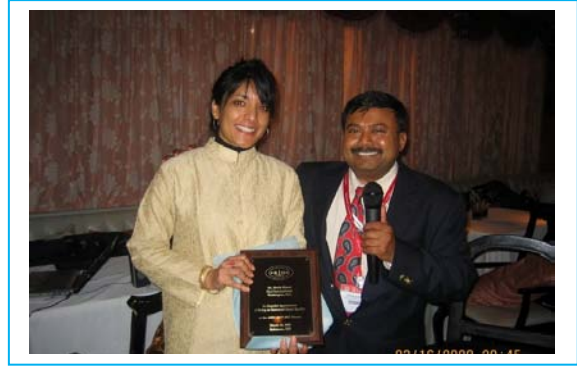


Attendees at the Reception and Dinner.

ASIO conveyed their deep concern at the recent spate of attacks on Indian students in Australia. The letter to the Australian Ambassador to USA was written by the student representative Prasad Krishnan with contribution from Sathesh Anand and other ASIO officers. ASIO wish speedy recovery of all the injured students and wish them all the best in their career.



CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENT AND POST-DOCTORAL AWARD WINNERS



GUEST SPEAKERS AT RECEPTION AND DINNER



PATRONS OF THE ASIO ENDOWMENT FUNDS

ASIO's LNL receives accolades at SOT '09

Submitted by - Drs. Brinda Mahadevan and Sudheer Reddy

The Lunch and Learn (LNL) program initiated for the first time was a very successful and unique program organized by ASIO during the SOT 2009 annual meeting. LNL program was aimed to mentor the graduate students and postdoctoral researchers of Indian origin, by addressing participant's queries spanning a wide range of topics, including carriers in Toxicology.

LNL program was organized and moderated by Dr. Brinda Mahadevan, and Dr. Vinayak Srinivasan, with the help of a panel of five mentors (Dr. Harihara Mehandale - Univ of Louisiana, Monroe), (Dr. Rama Gudi - Bioreliance), (Dr. Channa Keshava – US EPA (Dr. Sharada Balakrishnan - Practical Innovators), and (Dr. Vikram Arora - Talecris Biotherapeutics).

The program was organized in an informal Q & A format and the lunch for students was sponsored by ASIO. The participants were enriched with simple but essential pointers from the mentors in networking and job search. We got great feedback from both the mentors and participants at the LNL session in Baltimore. One of the mentors said "Let me thank ASIO for arranging the 'terrific Lunch 'N Learn' session. That was a bit of enjoyable time with everybody. An opportunity to meet leisurely, a refuge of sorts from the brisk pace of the rest of the SOT meeting". One of the participants commented "It was a pleasure to participate in the LNL session. It is interesting to learn how much of the advice is truly universal – both across different fields of toxicology and cross culture. I immensely benefited from this session".

ASIO is all geared up to organize the LNL program with more new ideas to better serve the participants during SOT 2010 annual meeting at Salt Lake city, UT. Stay tuned, as early RSVP from the interested participants will be much appreciated. We request the participants who obtained the wealth of information by attending the 2009 LNL program, to spread the word among your peers and encourage their participation in 2010 LNL program.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer as a mentor with the LNL program please feel free to drop an e-mail to Sudheer Reddy, ASIO postdoctoral representative at sudheer@ucla.edu.



Mentors and Participants at the Lunch N 'Learn Session

ASIO proudly organized the Historical Highlights Session “Bhopal: A Quarter of A Century since the Bhopal Disaster: Lessons Learned”

Panelists explored the historical, scientific, and global impact of the disaster to enable regulators and scientists to develop better public and environmental health and safety policies and review lessons learned from the disaster. Panelists also provided the current status of health effects from the Bhopal disaster. The session was very well attended and widely appreciated.



**Speakers: Historical Highlight Session
L to R: Drs. Madhu Soni, Brinda Mahadevan,
Rosalie Bertell, Ramana Dhara and Daya
Varma**

History exhibit room - a new feature initiated by SOT!

Chronology of Events of the 1984 Bhopal Accident:

Rangaprasad Sarangarajan (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, MA) and Brinda Mahadevan (Schering Plough Research Institute).

Awards and Achievements by ASIO members

Dr. Madhu Soni, received approval to organize/present following sessions at 49th Annual meeting of Society of Toxicology, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 7-11, 2010

1. Chair for Roundtable Session Titled: Safety of vitamins and minerals: Controversies and perspectives
2. Co-chair for Roundtable Session Titled: Melamine Contamination of Infant Formulas: Lessons Learned
3. Presentation Titled: Clinical and toxicological aspects of Ayurvedic medicinal remedies with high levels of heavy metals. (The roundtable session is titled: Chemical forms of metals underlying potential toxicity of metal-containing traditional medicines).

Dr. Brinda Mahadevan received tentative acceptance to organize a round table discussion titled "Women's Health: Toxicology and Safety of Complementary & Alternative Medicine

Dr. Chellu Chetty was promoted as Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs at Savannah State University and was awarded \$2.0 million grant by the NSF.

Prasad Krishnan, Graduate student, LSUHSC, Shreveport received the Coca Cola award at the poster competition of the American Nutrition Society RIS Diet and Cancer at the Experimental Biology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, April 2009



Membership Renewal

We would like to remind all our members to renew their memberships while registering for the SOT annual meeting. You can do this online through the SOT website. Please remember that this facility is only available during the time of annual meeting. Students and Postdocs can renew their memberships free of cost. So we encourage all our student/postdoc community to take advantage of this opportunity and be a part of ASIO. Please contact the committee members if you need further information or visit:

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

Soliciting nomination for ASIO Senior Member/Science Achievement award

We are requesting nominations from members in order to recognize senior ASIO members who would have led the way and shown us the path forward. We are asking you to bring to our attention individuals who have not only contributed to helping our group get the recognition and status we are receiving within SOT but have also made significant contributions in

the field of toxicology and related disciplines.

Please nominate and submit one nomination letter and two support letters for the nominees with a detailed description of the Senior Member's scientific achievements and mentoring capacities.

The award committee will review the nominations submitted and will select the awardees (up to two)

who will receive a plaque and recognition at the ASIO reception at the SOT meeting in Baltimore. Please submit your nominations to Sanjay Chanda, by December 15th, 2009.

Call for session topics for 2011 SOT Annual Meeting

We are seeking topics from members interested in proposing a session that can be sponsored by ASIO at the 50th SOT Annual meeting to be held in 2011 at Washington DC. The deadline for submission to the SOT is April 30th 2010. Please contact Brinda Mahadevan by January 15th 2010, on session topics for further discussion/finalization at the SOT meeting in Salt Lake City.

Seeking suggestions for a memorable SOT 2010 meeting- ASIO-SIG reception

We are making great strides in growing our organization and expanding its role within SOT. Thanks to your dedication and support that a number of constructive suggestions and activities have been discussed and implemented within the short

term of attaining SOT-SIG status.

We are looking for additional suggestions on activities that would improve and increase the visibility of our organization and finalize an effective and enjoyable evening reception of the

ASIO in Salt Lake City. Please send your suggestions to Sanjay Chanda by December 15th 2009.



Important ASIO-SOT-SIG deadlines:

Nominations for ASIO Positions
December 15th, 2009

Nominations for Senior Member/Science Achievement Award
December 15th, 2009

Call for Abstract submission for Student Travel Award
January 30th, 2010

Call for submission of session topics for abstract proposals, SOT 2010
January 15th, 2010

Call for suggestions for ASIO activities at the SIG reception, Utah, 2009
December 15th, 2009



Seeking nominations for the ASIO Executive Board

Vice President Elect: Assists the VP with his/her responsibilities. Help identify topics at the annual meeting reception as well as organizing and presiding over awards session.

Secretary-Treasurer: Assists the President in arranging for the financing of the annual reception, prepares a financial summary report, help draft newsletters and submit to SOT distribution/web posting, takes minutes at the annual business meeting and tracks membership.

Councilors (4 positions) : Participate in meetings and teleconferences throughout the year; volunteer for various tasks such as planning and presenting at the annual meeting reception, contributing to newsletters and the ASIO webpage. Play a key role in student awards, monitoring submissions and facilitating the review and decision

Visit us [online@http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio](http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio)

Sponsorship Request Letter

The Board of Directors and members of the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO) invite your organization to provide sponsorship and support to the ASIO - Society of Toxicology (SOT) Special Interest Group's (SIG) 2010 awards and activities. The SOT 2010 meeting will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 7-11th. Corporate sponsorships will enable us to initiate and continue activities and specific programs especially for Students of Indian Origin. We believe that an important part of our success is in providing the best possible opportunities to our membership and the greater scientific community at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology.

ASIO is a Special Interest Group of the Society of Toxicology, which is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization. It operates in compliance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. ASIO promotes fellowship among scientists of Indian origin living in North America and extends such fellowship around the globe, especially the Indian subcontinent. ASIO's primary purpose is to enhance collegiality, fellowship, networking and professional development of all engaged in the active learning and practice of toxicology. ASIO's membership is diverse, and represents a cross-section of industrial, academic, governmental, and commercial organizations. Please visit our web site at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio> for more information about ASIO.

- Your organization's support of the 2010 ASIO-SOT-SIG events will help sustain ASIO's effort to promote scientific excellence in toxicology.
- Publicize your company's products and services by sponsoring any or all the three events during the ASIO-SOT annual conferences. Sponsorships are available at the following levels:
- 1. ASIO Evening Reception & Dinner Sponsorship: \$1000 - Be acknowledged and recognized during the reception and in our Newsletters.
- 2. Student & Postdoctoral Travel Awards: \$750 - Help a student of Indian Origin attend the 2010 SOT meeting
- 3. Lunch & Learn Session, such as helping students and postdocs in choosing a career path, visa issues, CV writing, etc: \$500 – Be acknowledged and recognized in our Newsletters
- 4. In a dedicated space, publicize your company's products and services in the upcoming newsletters : \$500

If you would like to sponsor any of these events of ASIO at the 2010 SOT meeting, please send your check payable to: 'Society of Toxicology Fund' for ASIO-SIG and mail to: Society of Toxicology Fund, 1821 Michael Faraday Drive, Suite 300, Reston, VA 20190. If you have any further questions or need clarification, please email your enquiries to Sanjay Chanda, schanda@anacor.com

Thank you for your consideration and support of the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin, a Special Interest Group of the Society of Toxicology, USA.

Sincerely,

ASIO Board of Directors