



Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

INSIDE THE ISSUE.....

President's Message	2
ASIO Reception Snapshots	3
ASIO Award Recipients	4
ASIO Award Recipient Corner	5
ASIO Officers 2019-2020	6
ASIO Committees 2019-2020	7
ASIO Member Accolades	8
ASIO Sponsors	9



Editors:

Pankajini Mallick, Chair

Tarana Arman, Co-Chair

Rashmi Pathak, Co-Chair



President's Message

Sharmilee P. Sawant, PhD, DABT, RAC
Associate Director-Global Product Safety
Avanos Medical

Sep 2019 Newsletter

Greetings my dear ASIO members

It is my great pleasure to serve as the President of ASIO for the year 2019-2020. It my privilege to welcome the incoming officers Jaya Chilakapati (Vice President-Elect), Vijayavel Kannappan (Councilor), Vishakha Bhav (Secretary/Treasurer), Rashmi Pathak (Postdoctoral Representative), and Tarana Arman (Student Representative) on the ASIO Executive Committee (ASIO EC). They join Udayan Apte (Past President), Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe (Councilor), Vijay Kale (VP) and myself on the 2019-2020 ASIO EC to serve the ASIO members. I would like to thank the outgoing officers, Mayur Mitra, Sindhura Ramasahayam, Navatha Alugubelly, and Nitya Matiappan for their outstanding contributions and service to ASIO.

We had exceptional attendance at our ASIO reception held at the Hilton Baltimore in March during the 2019 SOT Annual Meeting. The mentoring event "ASIO Coffee Hour" and "Career Talk with Toxperts" were also well attended. I want to thank the sponsors (Calvert Labs and Battelle, Vivek Dadhania and Priyanka Trivedi-Dadhania) for their donations this year that helped with the ASIO reception. I am also proud of the fact that we are one of the SIGs who give a large number of awards (Graduate Student Best Abstract Award, Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award, Young Investigator Award, Senior Toxicologist Award and International Travel Award) to accommodate the diverse range of ASIO members. This year we awarded a total of 10 awards, two of which were international travel awards. Thanks to Sindhura Ramasahayam (Chair) and Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe (Co-Chair) for doing an outstanding job in leading the Awards Committee and bringing forward these deserving winners.

Also, thanks to the endowment sponsors (Toxikon, Dr. Laxman Desai, Dr. Dharam Singh, and Dr. Harihara Mehendale) and all the ASIO members for their contributions to maintain these endowments. I encourage all the ASIO graduate student and postdoctoral members to apply and take advantage of these awards offered by ASIO.

My primary goals for this year are effective and timely communication throughout the year; working on strengthening the ASIO general budget, used to support the webinars and the ASIO reception activities at the Annual Meeting and host scientific and career-related webinars throughout the year for ASIO members, and encourage new members to join ASIO. I am happy to have a very strong Executive Committee (EC) this year to help achieve these goals. On behalf of the ASIO EC want to thank the membership for volunteering on several committees. The ASIO EC cannot be successful without help from the ASIO members. I request ASIO members to be engaged throughout the year. Some of the ways I can suggest are providing feedback, participation in webinars (either as a speaker or attendee, or by sending us ideas if you have for a potential webinar), volunteering on committee activities i.e. Newsletter Committee or Awards Committee, and participate in ASIO sponsored Student/Postdoc mentoring events at SOT. If you have any bright ideas to further strengthen ASIO's mission or any questions, please forward them to me.

I look forward to working with all of you to ensure ASIO has another successful year and we meet the needs of Scientistits of Indian Origin.

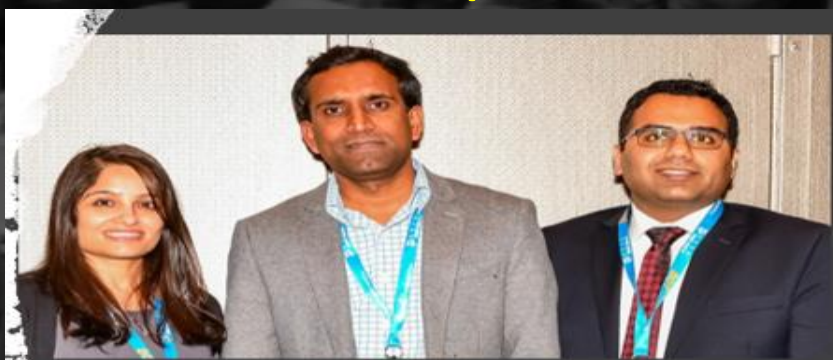
Snapshots of Annual Reception

Sep 2019 Newsletter

**Network, Meet-Greet,
Learn, Share...
100+ attendees all under
one roof**



"Career talk with Toxpert" provided a relaxed chat with toxicologists Dr. Saurabh Vispute, Dr. Vishakha Bhawe, and Dr. Prathap Kumar



"Coffee hour with an Expert" provided one-on-one mentoring to our students/postdocs and young scientists by 12 very enthusiastic mentors





ASIO SOT 2019 Award Recipients CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Sep 2019 Newsletter

Award	Winner
Senior Toxicologist	Vijay Kannappan, PhD Georgia-Pacific LLC
Young Investigator	Saurabh Vispute, PhD Pfizer
Toxikon and Dr. Dharm Singh International Travel Award*	1. Nitin Verma Baddi University of Emerging Sciences and Technology, Baddi, India 2. Rashmi Rajashekaraiah Department of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology Veterinary College, India
Dr. Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award*	1. Bharat Bhushan, PhD University of Pittsburgh, School of medicine 2. Manushree Bharadwaj, PhD FDA
Dr. Harihara Mehendale Graduate Student Best Abstract Award*	1. Sireesha Manne Iowa State University 2. Sharavan Ramachandran Texas Tech University
Dr. Laxman Desai Graduate Student Best Abstract Award*	1. Navatha Alugubelly, PhD Mississippi State University 2. Sreedhar Reddy Suthe Texas Tech University

*Endowment Fund Awards



Dr. Nitin Verma
School of Pharmacy and Emerging Sciences
Baddi University of Emerging Sciences &
Technology,
Vill- Makhnumajra, Baddi, Distt. - Solan-
173205, H.P., India

Q1) What does this award mean to you?

Winning the 2019 Global Scholar Award was a precious and a big achievement for me. It has created a sense of self satisfaction and motivation within me. Now I feel more passionate in respect of my career.

Q2) What are the benefits of the participation, from a student perspective?

According to student perspective this is a win-win situation for them. It helps them to meet experienced professionals from around the world. Students are able to build networks and work with professionals by collaborating in different projects. This brings laurels not only to the students but also to their affiliated Institution.

Q3) Your advice to students/fellows for receiving the award?

My advice to all the students and fellow researchers is that self discipline and passion for your dream can lead you to turn it into reality. Hard work always reaps fruit.

Q4) What is your motivation, journey, efforts, and support system to win this award?

The foremost thing that I would like to tell is that I had applied for this award earlier but wasn't selected. But I did not give up and my effort paid off this time. Receiving such an award is "the motivation". Perseverance and hard work helped me achieve this prestigious award and most importantly, it would not have been possible without the support of my family and colleagues.

***So at last I will say, a journey of thousand steps, begins with single step.
So never underestimate yourself and keep thriving for your passion.***

2019-2020 ASIO Officers

Sep 2019 Newsletter

President

Sharmilee Sawant,
PhD, DABT, RAC
Avanos Medical Inc



Sr. Councilor

Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe,
PhD Covance Laboratories



Vice President

Vijay P. Kale, PhD,
DABT, ERT
Battelle Memorial
Institute



Councilor

Vijay Kannapan, PhD, ERT
Georgia Pacific LLC



Vice President-Elect

Jaya Chilakapati, PhD,
DABT
Merial Inc



Postdoc Representative

Rashmi Pathak, PhD
University of Pittsburgh



Past President

Udayan Apte, PhD,
DABT
University of Kansas
Medical Center



Student Representative

Tarana Arman
Washington State University



Secretary/Treasurer

Vishakha S. Bhave, PhD
PCOM Georgia, School
of Pharmacy



ASIO 2019-2020 Committees

<p><u>ASIO Reception Committee</u> Chair: Sharmilee Sawant, Co-Chair: Vijay P. Kale Volunteers: Rashmi Pathak, Tarana Arman</p>	<p><u>Program Committee</u> Chair: Vijay Kale, Co-Chair: Jaya Chilakapati Volunteers: Sharmilee Sawant, Ashwini-Phadnis Moghe, Vijayavel Kannapan</p>
<p><u>ASIO Newsletter Committee</u> Editor: Pankajini Mallick Associate editor: Rashmi Pathak/ Tarana Arman Volunteers: Sharmilee Sawant, Ashwini-Phadnis Moghe, Vishakha Bhave, Nitin Verma</p>	<p><u>ASIO Annual Meeting Student Events</u> Chat with Toxperts Chair: Rashmi Pathak, Co-Chair: Tarana Arman Coffee Hour Chair: Tarana Arman, Co-Chair: Rashmi Pathak</p>
<p><u>ASIO Membership Committee</u> Chair: Jaya Chilakapati, Co-Chair: Vijayavel Kannapan</p>	<p><u>Webinar Committee</u> Chair: Vishakha Bhave, Co-Chair: Rashmi Pathak Volunteers: Ashwini-Phadnis Moghe, Vijay Kale</p>
<p><u>Awards Committee</u> Chair: , Ashwini-Phadnis Moghe Co-Chair: Vijayavel Kannapan Volunteers: Required</p>	<p><u>ASIO Outreach Committee (Website/LinkedIn/Facebook)</u> Chair: Rashmi Pathak, Co-Chair: Tarana Arman Volunteers: Required</p>
<p><u>ASIO Sponsorship/Endowment Committee</u> Chair: Sharmilee Sawant; Co-Chair: Vijay P. Kale</p>	<p><u>Election Committee</u> Chair: Udayan Apte, Co-Chair: Jaya Chilakapati</p>
<p><u>SIG-Collaboration Committee</u> Chair: Sharmilee Sawant; Co-Chair: Vijay P. Kale</p>	<p><u>Past Presidents' Committee</u> Chair: Udayan Apte</p>

Congratulations on your achievements!

Vijay Kale, MVSc, PhD, DABT, ERT
 Principal Research Scientist
 Life Sciences Research

- Targeting Heat Shock Proteins in Multiple Myeloma. In: Asea A., Kaur P. (eds) Heat Shock Proteins in Signaling Pathways. Heat Shock Proteins, vol 17. Springer, Cham.

Rashmi Pathak, PhD
 University of Pittsburgh, School of
 Medicine

- Publication in *Inflammation Research* titled "The incretin enhancer, sitagliptin, exacerbates expression of hepatic inflammatory markers in rats fed a high-cholesterol diet." Received PhD in Environmental Toxicology from Southern University and A&M College
- Received PhD in Environmental Toxicology from Southern University and A&M College
- Joined as Postdoctoral Associate in University of Pittsburgh

Avinash Kumar, PhD
 University of Pittsburgh, School of
 Medicine

- Received PhD in Environmental Toxicology from Southern University and A&M College
- Joined as Postdoctoral Associate in University of Pittsburgh

Congratulations on your achievements!

Vivek Lawana, PhD
Purdue University

- Completed PhD from Iowa State University

Adhithiya Charli, PhD
Charles River Laboratories, PA

- Started as Study Director. Area of focus is PhotoTox and DART.

Gurjot Kaur, PhD
Shoolini University

- Awarded the “Undergraduate Faculty Development Grant”, SOT

Prathyusha Bagam, Graduate Student
Southern University & A & M College

- Recipient of Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) Summer Research Grant

Brinda Mahadevan, PhD
Abbott Laboratories

- Awarded The Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS) Fellow

Jolyn Fernandes, PhD
Emory University, School of Medicine

- Publication in *Frontiers in Genetics* titled “Transcriptome Analysis Reveals Distinct Responses to Physiologic *versus* Toxic Manganese Exposure in Human Neuroblastoma Cells”

Shrawan K Mishra, PhD, DABT
WuXi AppTec Inc.

- Started working as consultant regulatory toxicologist
- Research article accepted in *Biochim Biophys Acta Mol Cell Biol Lipids*. 2019 Feb;1864(2):158-167 , PMID: 30472325

Sampath Kumar, PhD
Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited

- Awarded the Employee of the Year 2018 Award

Vishakha Bhave, PhD
PCOM Georgia, School of Pharmacy

- Appointed as a faculty expert on Exxat's product advisory board
- Elected as the faculty delegate (2019) to represent PCOM School of Pharmacy to American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

Mayur Mitra, PhD, DABT
Senior Scientist, Toxicology, Safety Assessment

- Invited Speaker to 2019 Peptide Drug Design and Development Summit, Philadelphia, PA. Title: “Non-clinical peptide product development: Regulatory aspects with a focus on toxicology”

Irfan Rahman, PhD
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

- Awarded leadership roles in various scientific societies including Chair for Lung Aging Research Interest Group of the American Thoracic Society, Vice President 2019-2020 Inhalational Respiratory Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology, American Thoracic Society Fellow
- Awarded \$19M award by NCI for NIH TCORS CRoFT U54 project

A very Special Thank you to our Sponsors and Donors

GOLD SPONSORS



Thank you so much for your generous contribution!
ENDOWMENT SPONSORS



Dr. Dharm Singh Dr. Harihara Mehendale Dr. Laxman Desai

ASIO is deeply grateful to generous donors!

Priyanka Trivedi, PhD
Study Director
Envigo

Vivek Dadhania, PhD
Sr. Toxicologist
L Brands

Sharmilee P. Sawant, PhD
Associate Director
Avanos Medical