

# ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN AMERICA, INC.



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**NEWSLETTER**  
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Dear members of ASIOA family,

Greetings. Hope all the members are enjoying the Fall as the Holiday Season is around. I am glad to inform you that the Annual meeting and Awards Ceremony concluded very well. The organization committee worked tirelessly to make this national meeting a great success. I thank all the members of Organizing Committee and the participants for their invaluable contributions and making this meeting a grand success. I thank Prof. S. Jamal Mustafa, University of West Virginia, Morgan Town, VA for his keynote presentation and Prof. Parimal Chowdhury, University of Arkansas for presenting awards. We thank the Judging Committee for selecting the winners of Awards for various categories.

I request all the members to actively participate in the organization activities and help the organization to recruit new members. In the past year 11 new members joined ASIOA. Six members renewed their memberships. I request all annual members to pay your dues ASAP as the membership prices will be increasing shortly. We are inviting donations and please use the Paypal link provided in membership form for donations.

Congratulations to the newly elected members of Nominating Committee and Fund Rising Committee. Let us recruit more members and rise funds for the organization.

Kameswara Rao Badri, PhD  
Secretary



### **Report on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of ASIOA, Boston, MA (March 30, 2015)**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of ASIOA was held on March 30, 2015, at Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Boston, MA, in conjunction with the Experimental Biology (EB) Annual Meeting 2015.

Despite a 30 to 40 minutes' delay due to technical problems in the meeting room (Room 205A) and audio-visual set up by the APS, we conducted and concluded the program in a timely fashion.

Approximately 35-40 individuals attended the meeting; however, at any given time there were only about 15-25 people in attendance because of conflicting schedules of some attendees/ awardees with other scientific sessions of EB2015.

The meeting began with opening remarks by Prof. K.N. Dileepan (Executive Officer). He briefly discussed the history, aims & objectives of ASIOA, and introduced the new President, Secretary, and the Council Members. He then invited Dr. Sarfraz Ahmad, President of ASIOA, who welcomed the attendees and thanked Prof. Dileepan for his services to the organization. Dr. Ahmad also introduced/thanked the Executive Council (EC) members individually whether they were present at the meeting or not. He also acknowledged all sub-committee members (Awards Committee and Nominating Committee) as well as the retiring members of the EC for their valuable time and efforts.

The Secretary's report was presented by Dr. Ahmad since Dr. Kameswara Rao Badri was not able to be present at the meeting due to an unexpected health issue. The meeting attendees and the Executive Committee commended Dr. Badri's services, tireless efforts and his active leadership in rejuvenating the organization through regular communications. ASIOA recognized new members and appreciated those who have renewed their memberships. ASIOA also highlighted events of successful conduct of the 6th biennial National Meeting of ASIOA held during January 17-18, 2015, in Orlando, FL. ASIOA distributed color copies of the Program & Abstracts book of the Orlando meeting to the attendees of Boston meeting. In fact, many members felt Orlando would be a better venue for our future ASIOA National Meetings because of the weather conditions, vacation advantage and cost-effectiveness.

Prof. Dileepan presented Financial Statement of ASIOA (as of February 28, 2015). The overall feeling was that ASIOA has been progressively losing resources in the past several years by supporting banquets and mixers because of alarmingly low number of attendees at these events. It was felt that this practice cannot be a sustainable practice. continued...





This was followed by an open discussion, which was very interactive and mostly addressed by Drs. Dileepan and Ahmad. Following issues that were discussed at the meeting are summarized below:

The Annual Meeting in conjunction with the EB should be held in a Dinner/Banquet set-up (as has been done during the past 3-decades or so, except during the past 2-3 years).

Invite dignitaries (such as the Ambassador, Consulate General of India, or distinguished scientist as Guest, Keynote Speakers, etc.).

In addition to our regular emails, website and newsletter, the visibility of ASIOA should be expanded (linked) through the use of modern communication tools such as Facebook, Twitter, etc., to attract new members and sharing timely information. A few of the attendees volunteered to help in this regard through a potentially Membership/P.R. Committee (viz., Drs. Manish Saraf, Anuradha Kalani, Dr. Gauthami Jalagadugula, and Estari Mamidala.).

ASIOA website needs updating with new information.

The Membership Fee should be increased: e.g., Life Member \$300, Annual Regular Members \$30, and so on...

Non-scientific organizations should also be attracted for partnership, especially for our annual events' sponsorship, etc.

More creative projects, such as the Mentor-Mentee program, should be re-visited to help facilitate young scientists in their career advancement and networking.

The office-term of President and Secretary may be extended to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term based on their performance, and through re-nomination & election, in accordance to the by-laws.

We may think of bringing out *Journal of the ASIOA* in future.

A Nominating Committee from the floor was selected (proposed/seconded by ASIOA members in attendance) for the 2015-16 term. The Committee will nominate candidates for election of new Executive Committee members for the coming term, as applicable. Members are:

Prof. Satya P. Kunapuli, Chair (Temple University, Philadelphia, PA)  
Dr. Mohammed A. Nayeem (University of West Virginia, Morgantown, WV)  
Dr. Neethu Tyagi (University of Louisville, School of Medicine, Louisville, KY)

A Fundraising Committee was also instituted for the 2015-16 term with the following ASIOA members:

Prof. Pudur Jagadeeswaran (University of North Texas, Denton, TX)  
Prof. S. Jamal Mustafa (University of West Virginia, Morgantown, WV)  
Prof. Parimal Chowdhury (Univ. of Arkansas for Med. Sci., Little Rock, AR)  
Dr. Masarrat Ali (Alpha Diagnostics International, Inc., San Antonio, TX)

continued...



Prof. K.N. Dileepan expressed his desire to voluntarily retire earlier from the Executive Officer (EO) post as/when a suitable EO is elected/appointed. His term expires in 2016.

A few members (outside the meeting) expressed the idea of instituting new ASIOA Awards in memory of our Past Presidents, Late Prof. Mohammed M. Sayeed and Late Prof. Krishna Agarwal.

After a short break (5-7 minutes), Dr. Ahmad introduced the Keynote Speaker, Prof. S. Jamal Mustafa (Assistant Vice President for Research, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV), who eloquently reviewed his decades'-long research focus and seminal contributions in the field of "Regulation of Coronary Flow by Adenosine". The enlightening lecture was well received followed by Q&A. During his lecture, as one of the founding members and Past Presidents, Dr. Mustafa also talked about ASIOA's history, his experience and future perspective/vision about ASIOA, and recommended a few important things including organizing our annual meeting at a Banquet setting (as we have been doing during the past 3-decades or so, except for the last 2-3 years), where people are more relaxed, invite dignitaries and family-friends, and mostly avoid day-time conflicts of schedules with the ongoing EB professional activities. This would bring more attendees, revenues, and better interactions/fellowship among the members as well as non-members. In appreciation of his longstanding contributions to the organization and Keynote Lecture, a Plaque was presented to Dr. Mustafa by the Immediate-Past Present of ASIOA (Prof. Satya P. Kunapuli) along with Drs. Dileepan and Ahmad.

Next, we presented ASIOA 2015 Awards to the following individuals:

ASIOA Service Award

**Prof. Satya P. Kunapuli**

Temple University, School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

Mario Toppo Distinguished Scientist Award

**Prof. Raju C. Reddy**

University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA

Sudhir Gupta Young Scientist Award

**Dr. Krishna M. Boini**

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Dr. Reddy Laboratories Junior Scientist Award in Molecular Biology

**Dr. Anuradha Kalani**

University of Louisville, School of Medicine, Louisville, KY

Satu Somani Junior Scientist Award in Physiology

**Mr. Rachit Badolia\***

Temple University, School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA





Gopal Krishna Memorial Junior Scientist Award in Biochemistry

**Dr. Rama P. Kotipatruni**

Washington University, School of Medicine,  
St. Louis, MO

BIOTEX Laboratories Junior Scientist Award in Immunology

**Dr. Manoj Prasad\*\***

Mercer University, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Savannah, GA



American Radiolabeled Chemicals Junior Scientist Award in Pharmacology

**Dr. Estari Mamidala**

University of West Georgia, Department of Biology, Carrollton, GA

JOGUE Junior Scientist Award in Nutrition

**Mr. Kishore Polireddy**

University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS



\* Award received by his colleague Dr. Gauthami Jalagadugala.

\*\* Award Certificate (with \$100 check) sent by mail as he could not attend the meeting.

As in previous years, the recipients of Distinguished Service Award, Mario Toppo Distinguished Scientist Award, and Sudhir Gupta Young Scientist Award were presented with plaques, and the six Junior Scientist Awardees were presented with eloquent certificates and a \$100 check.

The Award winners (those who attended the meeting) gave oral presentations on their research work, or summarized their experiences while serving ASIOA, as applicable. All presentations were highly informative and stimulated brief discussions. ASIOA congratulates all the award recipients, and greatly appreciate the services of **the Awards Committee members:**

Prof. Ulhas P. Naik, Chair (University of Delaware, Newark, DE)

Dr. Appu Rathinavelu (Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale-Davie, FL)

Dr. Riyaz Basha (University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX)

Dr. Gauthami Jalagadugula (Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA)

Ms. Sree Latha Aramgam (Savannah, GA)

The meeting was adjourned after the Closing Remarks by Prof. Dileepan followed by Vote of Thanks by Dr. Ahmad. Special thanks to the American Physiological Society (APS) for providing us with the Conference Room for the meeting through Prof. K.N. Dileepan, and to Drs. Gauthami Jalagadugula and Estari Mamidala for their diligence in taking pictures covering the meeting.

A few ASIOA members, award recipients, and officials went out for a 3-hour informal and enjoyable dinner after the meeting.



**List of New Members of ASIOA**  
**ASIOA welcomes all the regular and life members**

**Life Members**

1. Dr. Jamboore K. Viswanath
2. Dr. Riyaz Basha
3. Dr. Mohammad Asghar
4. Dr. Lakshmi Yeruva
5. Dr. Santoshi Muppalla

**Regular Members**

1. Dr. Neethu Thyagi
2. Dr. Soumyaroop Bhattacharya

**Postdoctoral Members**

1. Dr. Anuradha Kalani
2. Dr. Vikrant Kumar
3. Dr. Estari Mamidala
4. Dr. Rama P. Kotipatruni
5. Dr. Lavakumar Reddy Aramadhaka

**Predoctoral Members**

1. Kishore Polireddy

**Members Renewals**

1. Ms. Sreelatha Aramgam
2. Dr. Vinay Kumar Kondeti
3. Ms. Rushita A. Bagchi
4. Dr. Ashim Kumar Bagchi
5. Dr. Manoj Prasad
6. Dr. Krishna M. Boini
7. Dr. Ramesh Kandimalla

**New Memberships rates will be effective from January 2016**

Join ASIOA or renew your memberships immediately

See the membership details in the next page

Send membership enquiries to Dr. Badri

(secretary.asioa.inc@gmail.com)

Dr. Kameswara Rao Badri, PhD

Secretary, ASIOA Inc

## ASIOA Welcomes New Life Members



### **Jamboor K. Vishwanatha, Ph.D.**

Special Assistant to the Provost, Center for Diversity and International Programs  
Professor of Molecular and Medical Genetics  
Director, Texas Center for Health Disparities  
Director, Institute for Cancer Research  
University of North Texas Health Science Center  
Fort Worth, Texas USA

Dr. Vishwanatha received his Ph.D. in biological sciences from the University of South Carolina in 1983. Dr. Vishwanatha's research is in cancer molecular biology, experimental therapeutics and nanotechnology. His laboratory is investigating genetic markers that predict development of aggressive prostate and breast cancers, and nanotechnology-based therapies for breast and prostate cancers.

As the director of the Texas Center for Minority Health, Education, Research and Outreach (Texas Center for Health Disparities), a Center of Excellence funded by the National Institutes of Health, he has directed health disparity research, education and community outreach programs. For the past 10 years, he has organized the annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities that attract national speakers and participants. He is actively involved in programs to diversify the biomedical research workforce. He is one of 4 principal investigators funded to establish the National Research Mentoring Network by NIH. He serves on the external advisory committees for St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas; Alabama State University, Montgomery, Alabama; and Savannah State University, Savannah, Georgia. He has been an active member of the GREAT Group, SACNAS and ABRCMS.

**Riyaz M Basha, Ph.D.** is working as an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Molecular and Medical Genetics & Institute for Cancer Research at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX. He graduated from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, India and received post-doctoral training at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI. Before moving to Texas, he has worked as an Assistant Professor in the Cancer Research Institute at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando, Orlando, FL. Dr. Basha is working on investigational new drugs focusing on developing novel therapeutic strategies for treating various human cancers. He received young scientist travel award from Asian Pacific Society for Neurochemistry, four research presentation awards from the Society of Toxicology and a research presentation award (1<sup>st</sup> place) at the International Conference on Drug Discovery & Therapy. Dr. Basha has delivered several invited talks in Canada, Dubai, Korea, India, and USA. He has co-authored about 60 peer reviewed publications and serving as a reviewer for approximately 30 journals. He has served as Guest Editor for two journals and co-Editor for a book.





## ASIOA Welcomes New Life Members



Dr. Krishna Kumar Veeravalli is currently an Assistant Professor of Cancer Biology and Pharmacology and the Co-Director of Medical Pharmacology Course at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP). He has been a UICOMP faculty since 2010, and currently teaches Pharmacology to medical students.

Dr. Veeravalli received his M.Pharm. and Ph.D. degrees from Andhra University in 2000 and 2005. He worked as a scientist at RANBAXY, in a research-based pharmaceutical company in India from 2003-2007. Dr. Veeravalli was a UICOMP postdoctoral fellow from 2007-2010. He was the recipient of several prestigious and highly competitive fellowships and awards. He received (1) Research Assistantship from University Grants Commission, Govt. of India, (2) Senior Research Fellow

Award from the Indian Council of Medical Research, (3) Gold Medal from the Indian Pharmaceutical Association, (4) G.P.Nair Award from the Indian Drug Manufacturer's Association, and (5) Outstanding Teaching Award from the UICOMP.

Dr. Veeravalli published more than 45 research and review articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals and his research findings have been cited over 500 times by other scientists. His major research focus is to study the molecular and cellular mechanisms of neural repair and neurological/functional recovery after gene silencing and/or stem cell transplantation in preclinical animal models of stroke and spinal cord injury.

## Members in News



Dr. Sarfraz Ahmad, ASIOA President and Director of Clinical Research at Gynecologic Oncology Department, Florida Hospital Cancer Institute, Orlando, FL, has recently been promoted to the rank of full Professor of Medical Education at the University of Central Florida (UCF), College of Medicine (effective July 1, 2015).

## PROFESSOR SEKAR TAKES "BEST PHARMACY PRACTICES" TO INDIA

Dr. Chandra Sekar, University of Findlay, along with Dr. Scott Gier, Director of Pharmacy at Wyandot Memorial Hospital, Upper Sandusky, presented the three-part workshop on "anticoagulation" at St. Peter's Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Warangal, India. Optimum management of patients taking Warfarin involves regular monitoring of the medication's pharmacological activity. This function is often performed at pharmacist-run clinics in the United States, but is currently not the case in India. Organizing and participation in this workshop on anticoagulation is consistent with my long-range efforts to improve the scope of pharmacy practice in India.

<https://www.findlay.edu/search/Faculty-Staff?fsid=sekar>



# ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN AMERICA, Inc (ASIOA)



## Membership Application

Membership Type: (Please check one): New ( ) Renewal ( ) Change of Address ( )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. (Work): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. (Home/Mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

Institution and year of graduation in India: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Area(s) of Research/Interests: 1.  
2.  
3.

Membership(s) in Professional Societies: 1.  
2.  
3.

National Meetings you normally attend:

Membership dues [Circle the applicable item(s)]:

Life Membership : \$200  
Regular Membership : \$ 20  
Postdoctoral Membership : \$ 10  
Student Membership : \$ 5  
Emeritus Membership : \$ 10  
Donations to ASIOA, Inc : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Copy paste the following PayPal link to web browser.....

[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_xclick&business=asioa2015%40gmail%2ecom&lc=US&item\\_name=Conference%20Registration&button\\_subtype=services&currency\\_code=USD&bn=PP%2dBuyNowBF%3abt%20buynowCC%20LG%20egif%3aNonHosted](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_xclick&business=asioa2015%40gmail%2ecom&lc=US&item_name=Conference%20Registration&button_subtype=services&currency_code=USD&bn=PP%2dBuyNowBF%3abt%20buynowCC%20LG%20egif%3aNonHosted)

Enter Item Price (Total Membership Fee/s)

Click on Update

Go to Right Side of the Screen either to pay by PayPal account or follow "don't have PayPal account" icon/link to pay by credit/debit card.

PayPal Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced By (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Send the scanned copies of membership applications to Dr. Kameswara Rao Badri, Secretary, ASIOA Inc, email: [asioa2015@gmail.com](mailto:asioa2015@gmail.com).