



# IISc AANA Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2, October 2018

Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association of North America, Mountain View, CA, [www.iiscaana.org](http://www.iiscaana.org)

## Message from the New AANA Co-Chairs

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| New AANA Co-Chairs' Message  | 1   |
| New Co-Chairs & Life Members | 2   |
| 2018 AANA Annual Meeting     | 3-5 |
| AANA Chapter news            | 6   |
| IISc Alumni Reunion          | 7   |
| Announcements & Obituaries   | 8   |

**4<sup>th</sup> IISc Global Conference  
will be organized by IISc  
AANA at Palo Alto California  
in late June 2019**

Please plan to attend the  
conference (Page 6)

<http://www.mmediaweb.com/iiscaana/>

2018 IISc Annual Alumni  
Reunion will be held at IISc  
on December 16, 2018  
(Details on Page 7)

VISIT AND REGISTER ON  
ODAA website

<https://www.alumni.iisc.ac.in/>

### **IISc Alumni Association of North America (IISc AANA)**

897 Independence Avenue, 4C  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Phone: (650) 965-2500

E-mail: [info@iiscaana.org](mailto:info@iiscaana.org)

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Murthy Gudipati

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Prof. Meena Rao

**Editor:** Srinivasan Kasturi

#### **Editorial Board:**

Srinivasan Kasturi (1964\*)

Abhinav Dey (2011)

Gajanana (Gaj) Birur (1971)

Guneet Walia (2010)

Mrinalini (Meena) Rao (1972)

Murthy Gudipati (1987)

\* IISc graduation year

We are honored and privileged to accept the responsibility of being the co-chairs of IISc AANA for 2018-2020, starting October 2018. The previous co-chairs Dr. Gaj Birur and Prof. Sunil Kumar set a high bar for us, during their 2015-18 term, with their exemplary organization and execution of the agenda for IISc AANA. We are deeply appreciative of their leadership and efforts.

With the help of the IISc Board of Directors, Advisory Board and membership we hope to continue their good work and further strengthen the organization. We are a volunteer organization and our goal is to make IISc AANA a worthwhile endeavor for its busy stakeholders. Building on the last three years we wish to focus on the following: bolster networking opportunities for alumni/ae at all stages of their careers; strengthen the existing chapters and facilitate the formation of new chapters; provide mentoring opportunities for recent alumni/ae; create a robust web presence; and explore new and improved opportunities to connect with IISc and its ODAA. Most important we are open to suggestions and please feel free to reach out to us with your ideas – this is a collective enterprise and the organization depends on its members. **IISc AANA is a U.S.-based, autonomous, California-Registered, Non-Profit organization that is independent of Bangalore-based IIScAA.**

The AANA Silicon Valley chapter (where AANA was founded in 2006) is hard at work in formulating the 2019 IISc Global Conference. The date (most likely last weekend of June 2019) and venue (Crowne Plaza, Palo Alto) are being finalized and an exciting program is being planned. Please watch out for mailings as details unfold.

**Murthy Gudipati and Mrinalini (Meena) Rao**



Group Photo from the 2018 AANA National Meeting at Chicago - 2018 August, 26  
(More pictures and a report on Pages 3-5 in this newsletter)

### Editor's Message:

Dear IISc alumni;

Please send your thoughts, comments, activities, ambitions, and dreams that you want to realize through IISc AANA and IISc – with a focus on “giving back” to the society where you live and where you come from ([newsletter@iiscaana.org](mailto:newsletter@iiscaana.org)).

**Srinivasan Kasturi**

Any tax-deductible donation/endowments can be made to IISc AANA or through IISc AANA to IISc, including student support. IISc AANA is a California registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, tax ID is 03-0602301

## New Co-Chairs Appointed for IISc AANA BOD

AANA Board of Directors (BOD) unanimously chose Dr. Murthy Gudipati and Prof. Meena Rao to lead AANA in the place of outgoing Co-Chairs Dr. Gaj Birur and Prof. Sunil Kumar during their quarterly meeting on July 15, 2018. Both Murthy and Meena have made significant contribution as members of BOD for the last several years. Both the outgoing co-chairs will continue to be involved with AANA board with Gaj continuing as a BOD member and Sunil as an Advisor.

### Incoming Co-Chairs (2018-2020)

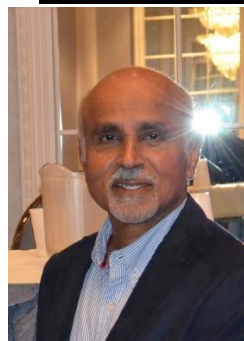


*Dr. Murthy Gudipati*  
NASA Jet Propulsion Lab.



*Prof. Meena Rao*  
U of Illinois (Chicago)

### Outgoing Co-Chairs (2015-18)



*Dr. Gaj Birur*  
NASA Jet Propulsion Lab.



*Prof. Sunil Kumar, Provost*  
Johns Hopkins University

## IISc AANA Membership

IISc Alumni Association of North America (AANA) was formed in 2006 as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization in California. It has over 140 life members as of 2018 and over 600 alumni who are connected with AANA in many activities. Membership in AANA is free to anyone who is an IISc alum or spent six months at IISc. AANA encourages IISc alumni to become its life members as it strengthens the organization and enables it to expand many of its activities to benefit the alumni. Some of the benefits **AANA life membership** provides are:

1. Demonstrates your gratitude for the free and excellent education at IISc which got you to current position
2. Allows for full participation in AANA activities, e.g., invitation to AANA hosted dinner meetings during visits of important IISc and other academics
3. A 25% discount in registration fee for AANA National and Global conferences
4. IISc ODAA help in coordinating with IISc faculty on technical and academic topics, IISc Guest House during IISc visits
5. Strengthens the bond/networking of alumni with IISc, with entrepreneurs, academics, and professionals in the US/India

One can become a life member by sending a check for \$500 to AANA at:

**IISc AANA, 897 Independence Avenue, #4C\*, Mountain View, CA 94043.** Phone: (650) 965-2500

(\* Please include the office number #4C in the address, otherwise your letter will be returned).

### New AANA Life Members in 2018

The following are the new IISc alumni who have become life members:

|                               |        |              |      |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------|------|
| 1. Anjaparavanda Naren        | Ph.D.  | Biochemistry | 1993 |
| 2. Sundararajan Venugopalan   | B.E.   | ECE          | 1986 |
| 3. Bharat Bhargava            | B.E.   | ECE          | 1969 |
| 4. Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan | M.E.   | ECE          | 1997 |
| 5. Aravinda Sistla            | M.E.   | CSA          | 1976 |
| 6. Ramakrishnan Kannan        | MSc    | CSA          | 2008 |
| 7. Nageswara Rao              | M.E.   | CSA          | 1984 |
| 8. Vasuki Arumugam            | MSc.   | ECE          | 1995 |
| 9. Anil Vullikanti            | Ph. D. | CSA          | 1999 |
| 10. Sajal Das                 | M.E.   | CSA          | 1985 |
| 11. Saraju Mohanty            | M.E.   | EE           | 1999 |

*Honorary IISc AANA Life Membership is open to any non-alumni who has demonstrated interest for the vision and goals of IIScAANA. Honorary members do not have right to vote, but enjoy all the other benefits.*

## 2018 AANA National Meeting – Chicago, August 26, 2018

*Ganapathy Dharmasankar and Meena Rao*

The 2018 AANA National Meeting was held in the Chicago area on August 27, 2018. The meeting was attended by over 100 alumni and guest speakers. Five IISc faculty members attending were: Prof. Anurag Kumar (Director), Prof. G. Rangarajan (Chair ODAA), Prof. C. Bhattacharya (CSA), Prof. R. Sundaresan (ECE) and Prof. S. Mohan (CeNSE). The meeting theme was 'Technology in the Health Field'. The key non-alumni speakers were: Mr. R. Madduri (ANL and U of C), Prof. S. Mehrotra (NWU), and Dr. Clem MacDonald (NIH). Alumni speakers were Dr. R. Kannan (ONL, IISc CSA) and Prof. A. Vullikanti (Virginia Tech, IISc CSA). The meeting program on the next page gives the details of their talks.

This meeting was the second annual AANA National meeting held since AANA Board of Directors started holding annual National meetings at different AANA chapter locations. The first one was held on June 6, 2017 at Gaithersburg MD by the newly formed AANA chapter for the Washington DC area. A highlight of the Chicago 2018 meeting was attendance by over 25 alumni from the new IISc undergraduate (UG) program, all doing their graduate studies in the US. This idea was initiated by Dr. Arkal Shenoy (former AANA chair); AANA BOD members donated over \$5,000 to provide travel grants of \$200 each to the UG alumni who attended the meeting.

The AANA Chicago chapter had selected the meeting theme based on a polled feedback from its AANA members. The top choice was 'Technology in Health Care' with "Big Data Analytics" a close second. The morning session was moderated by Prof. N. Viswanathan (UIC) and Prof. B. Bhargava (Purdue). The session culminated with a keynote address by Dr. C. McDonald, Director, National Center for Biomedical Communications, providing a physician-scientist perspective on what we can learn from big medical data.

The afternoon session was kicked off by IISc Director A. Kumar's informative talk which showcased the many new developments at IISc, including its being named an Institution of Excellence and its growing international reputation. The program ended with a panel discussion on "Carving Different Aspirations and Careers" by alumni at various career levels. They narrated how IISc laid the foundation in their endeavors. The experiences of young graduates and faculty who spent summers at IISc gave a new perspective. The ensuing discussion highlighted the need of trained staff at IISc to deal with stress and mental health needs of students; the societal pressures faced by women students and challenges of advancing a career. The conference ended with a dinner with the Director. All attendees enjoyed listening to the talks and networking with alumni, IISc faculty, and the guest speakers.

The entire meeting was superbly organized and executed by the AANA Chicago chapter with help from the AANA BOD. The chapter president Ganapathy Dharmasankar had excellent support from the local alumni. The meeting started promptly at 8:30 AM and ended at 5:30 PM, and pretty much kept to schedule, thanks to emcee (M. Laxminarayanan) and time keepers (S. Athims and R. Narasingarao). Dr. Sivarajan had made excellent arrangements with Ashyana Banquets. The front desk was ably controlled by Mr. S. Mohanty and IISc "friend" Dr. R. Ramachandran. Drs. N. and C. Gopalsami provided their wise support on many fronts. Thanks to Drs. M. Ghantasala and Dr. J. Nanda for speaker suggestions and to Dr. R. Seshadri of Washington DC chapter for helping with the "thank you" plaques.

*(The meeting program is given on the next page; it provides details of the speakers, panel, and topics covered).*

Any tax-deductible donation/endowments can be made to IISc AANA or through IISc AANA to IISc, including student support. IISc AANA is a California registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, Tax ID: 03-0602301

## 2018 IISc AANA National Meeting – Held on August 26, 2018

Ashyana Banquets, 1620 75th St, Downers Grove, IL 60516

### PROGRAM

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m.                | Breakfast and registration   |
| 8:45 a.m.                | Welcome & Emcee: Ms. Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan, Gogo, Inc.,   |
| <b>Morning Session:</b>  | <b>Technology in Healthcare and Big Data Analytics</b>   |
| 8:55 - 9:00 a.m.         | <u>Technology in Healthcare:</u><br>Moderator: Dr. Natarajan Viswanathan, U of Illinois at Chicago   |
| 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.         | Mr. Ravi Madduri, Computer Scientist, Argonne National Laboratory<br><i>"Opportunities for large-scale computation and deep learning in biomedicine"</i>   |
| 9:30 - 9:35 a.m.         | <u>Big Data Analytics/ Cyber Security:</u><br>Moderator: Dr. Bharat Bhargava, Purdue University  |
| 9:35 -10:00 a.m.         | Dr. Ramakrishnan Kannan (Computational Data Scientist, Oak Ridge Natl. Lab.)<br><i>"Scalable constrained low rank approximation for scientific data".</i>  |
| 10:00 -10:25a.m.         | Prof. Anil Vullikanti (Virginia Tech): <i>"Data analytics for public health"</i>   |
| <b>10:25 -10:45 a.m.</b> | <b>Coffee break</b>  |
| 10:45 -11:10 a.m.        | Prof. Sanjay Mehrotra, Northwestern University<br><i>"Data driven health resource allocation policy decisions to address disparity: A US case study from solid organ transplantation"</i>  |
| 11:15a -12:00 noon       | Clinical Informatics: Dr. Clement J. McDonald, Director, Lister Hill,<br>National Centre for Biomedical Communications:<br><i>"Big medical data: Tools for analyzing it and standards for getting more of it"</i>  |
| <b>12:00 -1:10 p.m.</b>  | <b>Lunch: <u>"Meet the Experts":</u></b> Key speakers seated at each table   |
| 1:10 - 1:15 p.m.         | IISc Today: <u>Introduction:</u> Ms. Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan, Gogo, Inc.  |
| 1:15 - 1:30 p.m.         | Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharyya (CSA, IISc): <i>"AI at IISc"</i>   |
| 1:30 - 1:45 p.m.         | Prof. Rajesh Sundaresan (ECE, IISc): <i>"Data Analytics on the Ground"</i>   |
| 1:45 – 2:40 p.m.         | <b><u>Director's Address:</u> Dr. Anurag Kumar, Director, IISc</b><br><u>Introduction:</u> Dr. Sunil Kumar, Johns Hopkins University<br><i>Audience Questions and Answers</i>  |
| 2:40 – 3:00 p.m.         |  |
| <b>3:00 - 3:20 p.m.</b>  | <b>Coffee break</b>  |
| 3:20 – 4:30p.m.          | Panel and Audience Discussion –<br><i>"IISc Influences – Carving Different Aspirations and Careers"</i><br><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Mrinalini C. Rao, UIC   |
|                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sunandha Srikanth, PhD student at UCSD (B.S., IISc)</li> <li>• Dr. Himanshu Joshi, Postdoctoral fellow, UIUC, (PhD, IISc)</li> <li>• Dr. Vaneet Aggarwal – Purdue University, Visiting IISc scientist</li> <li>• Dr. Saisudha Mallur, Western Illinois University, (PhD, IISc)</li> <li>• Dr. Ramesh Swaminathan, CEO EcoFuel Technologies (PhD, IISc)</li> </ul> |
| 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.         | <b>Business Meeting</b>  |
| 5:00 – 5:15 p.m.         | <b>Closing remarks</b><br>Mr. Ganapathy Dharmasankar, President, IIScAANA Chicago Chapter  |
| <b>6:30 p.m.</b>         | <b>Dinner with Dr. Anurag Kumar</b>  |



Photos from 2018 IISc AANA National Meeting, Chicago - August 26, 2018



*A Cross Section of the Audience at the Meeting*



*IISc Director Anurag Kumar and the Guest Speakers at the Meeting: Ravi Madduri, Clem MacDonald, and Sanjay Mehrotra*



*UG Alumni at Breakfast time (left), Ganapathy Dhramasamkar with UG Alumni (center) and Lunch Line (right)*



*Dr. Arkal Shenoy (former AANA Chair and UG travel grant initiator) and UG Alumni at the Meeting*



*Some of the AANA Chicago Chapter's 2018 AANA National Meeting Organizing Committee Members*



## **AANA Chapter NEWS**

### **Silicon Valley Chapter**

(Dr. P. Droupadi, President, Silicon Valley Chapter)

Silicon Valley (SV) chapter continues to hold monthly gatherings involving social and professional talks and activities. As done in the previous years, IISc Founders Day was celebrated on March 12, 2018 (the picture below shows some of the alumni attending the event). A talk was given by Dr. Alope Das on October 14 titled “How secure we are in today’s connected world”.

Dr. Anita Jhunjhunwala led AANA’s participation at the 2018 Sevathon event at San Jose on August 19, 2018. Over \$2,000 was raised from the registration fees and donations by various alumni for IISc AANA. Great job Anita!! Thanks!!

The main focus during the last six months has been on the preparation for the upcoming 2019 IISc Global Conference in late June in Palo Alto. A lot of preparatory activities have been taking place by the chapter members. The conference committee has been formed and has chosen Crowne Plaza Hotel in Palo Alto as the venue and currently developing the conference program and has started raising funds. More details will be coming out soon.

#### **Upcoming events:**

##### **Diwali party:**

November 17th at 3:30 pm, at Dr. KK Singh’s House, 77, Piedmont Road, Milpitas CA 95035.

Lecture on 'Point-of-care diagnostics in healthcare' by Dr. Subbarao Gunupudi

**Christmas Party:** December 16th at 11am, at Drs. Usha and Raghuram’ house, 12663 Sun Valley Court, Saratoga 95070.



### **Mid-West Chapter**

(Ganapathy Dharmasankar, President AANA Mid-West Chapter)

A lot of activities of the chapter during last nine months were on organizing the 2018 AANA National Meeting in Chicago. The meeting was held on August 26, 2018 and was attended by over 100 alumni and speakers (see article on Pages 3-5). Several members of the chapter helped the chapter president Ganapathy in organizing the highly successful meeting, the key members were Dr. Sivarajan (coordinating the venue selection), Prof. Meena Rao and Prof. Bharat Bhargava (coordinating the speakers), Sundar Venugopalan, Ram Narasingarao, Prof. N. Viswanathan, Prof. M. Ghantasala, and Subhasish Mohanty (meeting registration and coordination), and Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan (emceeding the meeting)

### **Southern California Chapter**

(Gopal Chakravarthy, President AANA So. Cal Chapter)

Some of the members of the AANA So. Cal chapter members met at the Jewish Community Center in La Jolla, California during the Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego’s 9<sup>th</sup> annual Music and Dance Festival (March 18<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup> 2018). The get together held on Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon was coordinated by Arkal Shenoy and Srinivasan Kasturi. One of the highlights of the gathering was the presence of several IISc UG (new) alumni from the University of California at San Diego. Arkal Shenoy working with Sunanda Shrikant, an IISc UG alumna doing her Ph.D. at UC San Diego, assembled a list UG alumni at US universities. Arkal initiated a program to provide travel grants to UG alumni studying in the US to attend the 2018 AANA National Meeting at Chicago on August 26<sup>th</sup>. With donations from the AANA BOD members, over \$5,000 was raised and this led to 26 UG alumni attending the Chicago meeting.

## IISc Annual Alumni Reunion 2018

IISc is pleased to announce that registrations are now open for IISc's **Annual Alumni Reunion 2018**, which will be held on **Sunday, December 16, 2018** at the IISc Bangalore campus. Register at: <https://www.alumni.iisc.ac.in/event/iisc-alumni-reunion-2018>

IISc invites all alumni who have graduated with a degree from IISc, as well as current and former faculty members, to register and join in this celebration. Please write to [alumniaffairs.odaaiisc.ac.in](mailto:alumniaffairs.odaaiisc.ac.in) or [odaaiisc@gmail.com](mailto:odaaiisc@gmail.com) for any questions.



*IISc AANA will be represented by its new Co-Chairs, Dr. Murthy Gudipati and Prof. Meena Rao. At the IISc Annual Alumni Reunion 2018. They will be making a presentation on the activities of IISc AANA, especially on the upcoming IISc Global Conference currently being planned to be held in Palo Alto, California during the last week of June 2019. Besides Murthy and Meena, several members of IISc AANA will be attending the reunion. IISc AANA encourages its members to take advantage of this event to coordinate their visits to India during December 2018.*

**Symposium on  
Emerging Computing and Networking**

**January 4, 2019**

**In conjunction with**

***20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Distributed Computing and Networking  
(ICDCN 2019)***

**<https://events.csa.iisc.ac.in/icdcn2019/>**

**Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India**

**Background**

The Department of Computer Science and Automation (CSA), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) will be celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) in 2019. As a kick-off event, the contributions of CSA alumni, faculty, students and staff will be celebrated at the Symposium on *Emerging Computing and Networking* <https://events.csa.iisc.ac.in/icdcn2019/csa50symp.htm> with presentations and a commemorative volume in broad areas of computing and networking algorithms, systems and applications.

**Contact Prof. Sajal K. Das at: [sdas@mst.edu](mailto:sdas@mst.edu) for further details**

## **OBITUARIES**

### **Professor Balasubramanian**

Subramanian, also known as Subbu to some and Mani to others, a student of Prof. Vaidyanathan, succumbed to his cancer on September 23, 2018. Mani retired as professor of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, and the Director of the University of Iowa Center for Biocatalysts and Bioprocessing (CBB) in 2015. At the University, his research arm developed the technology to produce Stable Dry Powder of human liver enzymes for synthesis of drug metabolites, which led to the founding of a company called Redox Biocat. His work also included groundbreaking technology in the isolation, sequencing and cloning of novel enzymes involved in caffeine metabolism.

Born February 18, 1954 in Delhi, India, Mani earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India in 1978. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas, Austin. Mani's passion and curiosity in science was the driving force in his life. Over the course of his career, he had over 70 publications and 20 patents. Mani leaves behind his wife Rama and son Venkat.

### **Professor Arcot Ramachandran**

Arcot Ramachandran, former head of Mechanical Engineering department at IISc (1956-68) passed away in July 2018. He was an



Indian scientist, anthropologist, author, and former Under Secretary General of United Nations Center for Human Settlement. He was known for his scholarship on the subject of heat and mass transfer, environment, and social commitment to the cause of sustainable development. The Government of India honored him in 2003 with Padma Bhushan for his services to the fields of science and engineering. Born in Karnataka, he obtained his bachelor's degree from Madras University and received his M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University.

Any tax-deductible donation/endowments can be made to IISc AANA or through IISc AANA to IISc, including student support. IISc AANA is a California registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, Tax ID: 03-0602301