



IISc AANA Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1, March 2019

Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association of North America, Mountain View, CA, www.iiscaana.org

Message from the AANA Co-Chairs

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from AANA Co-Chairs	1
4 th IISc Global Conference	2
Conference Flyer	3
Conference Program	4
AANA Chapter News	6
First woman Ph.D. in Science	8

Our first six months as co-chairs have had a resounding start especially in preparing for the 4th IISc Global Conference. We continue to draw on the gains made by the previous leadership and by Subbarao Gunupudi's accounting expertise. We welcomed new members, Ms. Sujata Tibrewala, (MSc, IISc,) Community Development Manager, Intel, to our Board of Directors, and Mr. Satya Ramachandran, (MSc, IISc) VP, Engineering, Customer Analytics, Neustar, to our Advisory Board. IISc AANA's relations with the alma mater continue to flourish. Both of us were able to attend the IISc Alumni Day, December 16, 2018 in Bengaluru and had constructive conversations with IISc leadership for the planning of the 4th Global conference. At our January meeting, we welcomed participation from our chapter presidents who expressed their interest in revitalizing and in building new networks.

**4th IISc Global Conference
will be held at
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Palo Alto, California on
June 21-23, 2019**

Please see Pages 2-5 of this
newsletter for details

<https://conf2019.iiscaana.org/>

The Silicon Valley chapter is hard at work on the 4th IISc Global Conference, which will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Palo Alto, California on June 21-23, 2019. With its theme "Science and Technology for a Better World" we are sure the conference will be a resounding success. This event will feature professional networking, meeting with fellow alumni, and an opportunity to think of "Giving Back" in a broader sense for what we received from our alma mater. The details of the conference are on Pages 2-5 in this newsletter. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Palo Alto and for rolling out more IIScAANA developments.



Murthy Gudipati



Meena Rao

VISIT AND REGISTER ON
ODAA website
<https://www.alumni.iisc.ac.in/>

IISc Alumni Association of North America (IISc AANA)

897 Independence Ave., #4C
Mountain View, CA 94043
Phone: (650) 965-2500

E-mail: info@iiscaana.org

Co-Chair: Dr. Murthy Gudipati

Co-Chair: 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)

Rachna Tiwary (2007)

* IISc graduation year

1st IISc Global Conference, Santa Clara, CA – June 2007



President Abdul Kalam addressing the attendees (via web)

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).

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

4th IISc Global Conference – Palo Alto, CA

Meena Rao and Murthy Gudipati, Co-Chairs, IISc AANA

The 4th IISc Global Conference will be held in Palo Alto, California from June 21-23, 2019. The conference venue is the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Palo Alto and 500 to 700 attendees are expected to take part in the conference. The overall organization of the conference is by the IISc AANA Silicon Valley chapter. The organizing committee members also include the members of AANA Board. Most of these members were involved in organizing the first IISc Global Conference which was held in Santa Clara in June of 2007. The purpose was to commemorate the centennial of IISc founding in 1908. This and the vent motivated the formation of IISc-AANA. IISc-AANA was officially registered as a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization in 2007.

The 2nd Global Conference was held in Chicago, in 2013. It was attended by over 400 alumni and IISc faculty members from Bengaluru. The 3rd Global Conference was hosted by IISc in Bengaluru in 2015 with over 1000 alumni and guests in attendance. The formation of the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs (ODAA) was announced by the director Prof. Anurag Kumar at this conference. Now in 2019, 12 years after its inception, IIScAANA has grown strong with vibrant activities focused around the vision of "Giving Back" and we return to Silicon Valley for the 4th Global Conference.

There are two main goals for the 2019 conference: Bringing visibility to IISc and its achievements over more than 100 years of its rich history and to providing IISc alumni/alumnae with an opportunity to network. We are expecting between 500 and 700 participants. The organizers have put together an exciting program with outstanding speakers. We urge you to utilize this unique opportunity. Programs are also being arranged for accompanying Spouse/Partner/Friend/Family Member. A preliminary program is given in this newsletter.

The website for the conference including details on registration, accommodation and preliminary program, is up and running. Hotel rooms are blocked at a discount price. Please go ahead immediately and book your journey to what we promise will be a "Historic Reunion" - further details at: <https://conf2019.iiscaana.org>



*2nd Global Conference, Chicago – August 2013
(Over 350 attendees)*



*3rd Global Conference, Bengaluru – 2015
(Over 1000 attendees)*

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

4th IISc Global Conference Flyer



Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association of
North America presents

4th IISc Global Conference

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR A BETTER WORLD
Marching toward the future

Congregate to connect, give back, and learn

 Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Palo Alto, CA 94306

 June 21-23, 2019

 conf2019.iiscaana.org

Key conference sessions

- Biomedical Science and Technology
- Space Technology
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Security and Data Privacy
- AI & Next Generation Computing
- Mentorship programs

Featured Speakers



Dr. Brian K Kobilka
Noble prize winner in Chemistry, 2012
Professor at Stanford University
School of Medicine, Stanford, CA,



Dr. Anurag Kumar
20th Director of Indian Institute
of Science, Bangalore, India



Dr. Penelope Boston
Director of NASA's Astrobiology
Institute (NAI), Mountain View,
CA, USA



Dr. Rohini Godbole
Padmashree recipient, 2019
Professor at the Centre for High
Energy Physics, Indian Institute of
Science, Bangalore, India



Dr. Eugene Tu
Director of NASA Ames Research
Center, Mountain View, CA, USA



Dr. Shuli Goodman
Executive Director, Linux Foun-
dation Energy, San Francisco, CA,
USA

4th IISc Global Conference – June 21-23, 2019**Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306 USA****PROGRAM****FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019**

2:00 – 5:00 PM	On-site Registration	
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Tutorial 1: TBD	Tutorial 3: TBD
3:00 – 3:30 PM	BREAK	
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Tutorial 2: TBD	Tutorial 4: Fund Raising for NGO's –G. Kulkarni
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Mixer/Divisional Get-Together/Batch Re-Unions	
5:30 – 5:50 PM	IISc AANA Co-Chairs – Welcome Talk & AANA Goals: Murthy Gudipati & Meena Rao	
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Dinner and Invited Talk: 6:30-7:00 Alumni Outreach – Public/Private Partnership: Prof. Mohan	
7:00 – 7:45 PM	IISc Director's Address – IISc Vision: Anurag Kumar, Director, IISc	
7:45 – 9:00 PM	ENTERTAINMENT	

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2019

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast and On-site Registration (8:00 AM to 12 Noon)	
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Conference Opening Address (TBD)	
8:30 – 9:15 AM	Plenary Session 1 – Imagining a better world: Brian Kobilka (Nobel recipient 2012- Chemistry)	
9:15 – 9:30 AM	BREAK	
9:30 - 11:30 AM	<u>Biomedical Sciences</u>	<u>Space Technology</u>
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Invited Talk: TBD	Invited Talk: TBD
10:00 – 10:45 AM	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion: VV Giri, Rehmat-Sami, Chattopadhyay
10:45 – 11:00 AM	BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Invited Talk: TBD	Invited Talk: Penelope Boston
11:30 – 12 Noon	Poster Session on Tracks 1 & 2	
12 noon- 1:00 PM	LUNCH	
1:00 – 1:45 PM	Plenary Session 2: Experience of a Better World by Eugene Tu	
1:45 – 3:34 PM	<u>Social Entrepreneurship</u>	<u>Security and Data Privacy</u>
1:45 – 2:15 PM	Invited Talk: Sree Srinath	Invited Talk: TBD
2:15 – 2:45 PM	Invited Talk: TBD	Invited Talk: Madhukar Govindaraju
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Panel Discussion on tracks 3 & 5: Birur, Dasa, & Srivatsan	Panel Discussion on Topics 2 & 6: Sargur Srihari
3:30 – 3:45 PM	BREAK	
3:45 – 4:30 PM	Plenary Session 3 - Designing a Better World: TBD	
4:30 - 5:30 PM	<u>Agricultural Technology</u>	<u>AI and Next Generation Computing</u>
4:30 – 5:00 PM	Invited Talk: Ganesh Kishore	Invited Talk: TBD
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Invited Talk: TBD	Invited Talk: TBD
5:30 – 7:00 PM	Poster Sessions on tracks 3, 4, 5 and 6 followed by dinner	
7:00 – 7:45 PM	Invited Talk: Rohini Godbole	
7:45 – 9:00 PM	ENTERTAINMENT	

PROGRAM (Continued)**SUNDAY JUNE 23, 2019**

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast/Registration		
8:00 – 8:45 AM	Plenary Session 4: Fostering Innovation for a Better World: TBD		
8:45 – 10:45 AM	<u>Environment & Renewable Energy</u>	<u>Human Wellbeing</u>	<u>AI in Healthcare</u>
8:45 – 9:15 AM	Invited Talk: GK Suryaprakash	Invited Talk: TBD	Invited Talk: Padmanabhan
9:15 – 9:45 AM	Invited Talk: Shuli Goodman	Invited Talk: Lata Palaniappan	Invited Talk: Sameer Khader
9:45 – 10:30 AM	Panel Discussion on Track 7	Panel Discussion on Track 8	Invited Talk: Aziz Boxwala
10:30 – 10:45 AM	BREAK		
10:45 – 11:15 AM	Invited Talk: Manjula Walderon – Journey to and from IISc		
11:15 – 12 Noon	Closing Remarks IISc AANA Co-Chairs & IISc Director followed by Boxed Lunch		
12 NOON	END OF CONFERENCE		

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 150 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 on fee for AANA National Meetings and Global Conferences
4. IISc ODAA help in coordinating with IISc faculty on technical and academic topics, IISc Guest House during IISc visits (on availability basis and charges paid by the guest)
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).

IISc AANA strongly encourages alumni to become life members as it strengthens the organization and also allows the alumni to receive full AANA life member benefits

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

AANA Chapter NEWS

Silicon Valley Chapter

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

The Silicon Valley (SV) chapter continues to hold monthly gatherings involving social and professional talks and activities. As in previous years, IISc Founders Day was celebrated on March 9, 2019 (the picture below shows some of the alumni attending the event).

The main focus during the last one year has been on planning the upcoming 2019 IISc Global Conference on June 21-23 at the Crowne-Plaza Hotel in Palo Alto. A preliminary program has been put together and speakers are being confirmed and serious fund-raising efforts are underway.



AANA members and family at the 2019 IISc Founder's Day Event

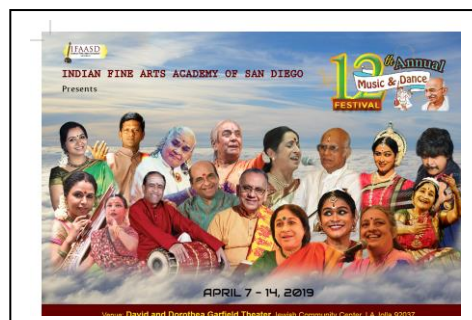
Southern California Chapter

(Gopal Chakravarthy, President AANA So. Cal Chapter)

IISC AANA Southern California get together on Saturday April 13, 2019

The IISc AANA Southern California chapter is planning a social get together of the SoCal AANA members on Saturday, April 13, 2019 in La Jolla, CA during the Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego's Music Festival* from April 7 thru April 14, 2019. Please let Srinivasan Kasturi (srikasturi@gmail.com) or Gaj Birur if you are planning to attend or need more information.

* The Indian Fine Arts Association of San Diego (IFAASD) is organizing this yearly event in La Jolla. Several visiting classical music groups from India will perform, artists including Sri. M. Chandrasekaran, Aruna Sairam, Brij Maharaj, Smt. Sawathi Sen, and Sri. Aswani Bede are. More information about the festival can be obtained from www.indianfinerts.org.



Mid-West Chapter

(Ganapathy Dharmasankar, President AANA Mid-West Chapter)

The Midwest chapter spent much of 2018 organizing the Annual IISc AANA National Meeting in Chicago on August 26, 2018. The event was attended by over 100 guests, largely alumni/ae and including recent alums of IISc's undergraduate program. One of the goals of the Midwest Chapter is to focus on technology and industry practices, as many alums in this area have a career in industry. This year we are planning to have more meetings around these themes to attract and strengthen the participation from local alumni/ae. We will simultaneously engage with alums who have similar interests in other chapters.

We are encouraging IISc alums and their families to get involved in our continued journey of learning. To this end the chapter president Ganapathy is organizing an "IISc-AANA Meet and Eat" on April 13 at a restaurant for the chapter members. We are looking forward to a gathering of active chapter members including Dr. Sivarajan, Prof. Bharat Bhargava, Sundar Venugopalan, Ram Narasingarao, Prof. N. Viswanathan, Prof. M. Ghantasala, Prof. Mrinalini Rao, Subhasish Mohanty and Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan and are hoping for a robust brainstorming of ideas for the coming year. Several alumni from this chapter will be attending the 4th IISc Global Conference in Palo Alto in June 21-23, 2019."



Attendees at the 2018 IISc AANA National Meeting, Chicago, August 26, 2018

OBITUARY

Nagraj Ramachandra Bhargava: Born: June 23, 1922 in Arasikere, Karnataka Died: March 8, 2019 in San Jose, CA

Nagraj Bhargava, the oldest IIScian known to us, would have turned 97 in June. The IISc AANA got in touch with Nagraj when his son Satiesh visited our booth on 14th July at Sevathon 2013 and talked about his nonagenarian father. Since then Nagraj attended several alumni events in the Bay Area. Nagraj was the eldest of 14 children, born into a middle-class family. His wife Draupadi passed away in 2011. They are survived by their only son Satiesh, daughter-in-law Rupa, grand-daughter Verna and grandson Krisna.

Nagraj grew up in several places in Karnataka and took his Bachelor's in Electrical Technology at the Indian Institute of Science in 1947 after studying Physics BSc Hons. He was selected by the UPSC for Indian Ordnance Factories Service and held management positions at several Ordnance Factories all across the country culminating in Jabalpur as the Deputy General Manager, Vehicle Factory (Shaktiman trucks and other military vehicles) in 1967. He retired completely in 1992.



Nagraj Bhargava



*with Anita Jhunjhunwala Mukherjee
at Sevathon Event - July 2014*

How IISc Alumna Defied Gender Bias to become the 1st Indian Woman Ph.D. in Science*

On June 18, 1911, a tumultuous phase of India's history, Kamala Sohonie (nee Bhagvat) was born in Bombay. In time, she would not only go on to become the first Indian woman to get a Ph.D. in a scientific discipline, she would also have a dazzling career as a premier biochemist at Cambridge.



Kamala Sohonie



IISc Physics Department Building (1920's)

After finishing school at the top of her class, she followed the same path her father and uncle had taken – she enrolled herself in the BSc (Physics and Chemistry) course at the Bombay Presidency College. After Kamala graduated with the highest score in her batch, she applied for the master's course at IISc. At the time, IISc was headed by Prof. C. V. Raman and was considered the best institution in the country for scientific studies.

It was a nasty shock for Kamala when she was denied admission to IISc. Though she had high marks in graduation, Raman refused to admit her saying “I am not going to take any girls in my institute!” She took on the Nobel Laureate and demanded that he give reasons for his decision to deny her admission. Unable to give a strong official justification to back his order, Raman agreed to give her admission but with certain conditions (that she will not be allowed as a regular candidate, she has to work late night as per instruction of her guide, and she will not spoil the environment of the lab).

Twenty-two-year-old Kamala accepted it all to be able to study at IISc, but she was deeply hurt by this incident. During a felicitation function organized by Indian Women Scientists' Association (IWSA), she publicly said: “Though Raman was a great scientist, he was very narrow-minded. I can never forget the way he treated me just because I was a woman. This was a great insult to me. The bias against women was so bad at that time. What can one expect if even a Nobel laureate behaves in such a manner?”

At IISc she found a teacher, M Sreenivasayya, a pioneer in microbiological research in India. He was strict and demanding but encouraged and supported students. Such was her dedication to her work that Raman came to believe that women could excel in scientific research. In 1936, Kamala completed her MSc degree with distinction and earned a research scholarship at UK's prestigious Cambridge University. Next year, Raman opened the doors of IISc for female students. A silent revolution had been fought and won.

(* This is a condensed version of the article published in ‘Better India’ website -
<https://www.thebetterindia.com/91026/kamala-sohonia-india-woman-scientist-iisc-cambridge/>)

**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**