



# IISc AANA Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1, March 2020

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

## Message from the AANA Co-Chairs

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from AANA Co-Chairs	1
4 <sup>th</sup> IISc Global Conference	2
2020 AANA National Meeting	4
AANA Chapter News	5
Alumni News	6
AANA New Life members	7
Obituary	7

**2020 IISc AANA Meeting  
will be held at Georgia  
Tech in Atlanta  
July 24-25, 2020**

Organized by IISc AANA  
South-East Chapter

(Please see Page 4 for details)

VISIT AND REGISTER ON  
ODAA website

<http://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: 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

2019 was a momentous year for IIScAANA. The 4<sup>th</sup> IISc Global Conference, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Palo Alto, California on June 21-23, 2019 was a resounding success. The theme of "Science and Technology for a Better World" echoed the spirit of AANA and drew over 450 participants. The Silicon Valley Chapter spearheaded the conference. Participants were distinguished IISc faculty and leadership, thought leaders of various fields, and alumni from the USA and around the world. We thank the volunteers who worked for nearly a year to make it a success. We also thank Director Prof. Anurag Kumar, Prof. G. Rangarajan and Prof. S. Mohan for helping IIScAANA in its mission and with the Global Conference.

As an offshoot of the Conference, we have had fruitful dialogue with IISc leadership. Several members of IIScAANA Board participated in events at IISc campus such as the Alumni Weekend in December and the year-long centennial celebrations of the Department of Biochemistry. There is an initiative at IISc to build connections between students and alumni BEFORE students leave IISc, in order to help them in their future plans.

We are excited to announce that a new South-East chapter is taking shape in Atlanta and the members will be hosting a 2020 AANA National Meeting on July 24-25 in Atlanta (please see page 4).

We are privileged to be two of the 25,000 plus people who have benefitted from an IISc education currently serving as co-chairs of IIScAANA. We look forward to your ideas for helping us all to achieve IIScAANA's mission and vision of "Giving Back" to our *alma mater* and to society.

**Murthy Gudipati**

**Meena Rao**



Some of the attendees at the 4<sup>th</sup> IISc Global Conference at Palo Alto, CA

### 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

## 4<sup>th</sup> IISc Global Conference – Palo Alto, CA

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

The 4<sup>th</sup> IISc Global Conference, with a theme of “Science and Technology for a Better World” was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Palo Alto, California from June 21-23, 2019. There were two main goals for this conference: Bringing visibility to IISc and its achievements over more than 100 years of its rich history and networking opportunities for IISc alumni/alumnae. The conference was organized and spear-headed by the IISc AANA Silicon Valley chapter along with an organizing committee which included members of IIScAANA Board. Over 450 attendees participated during the three days of the conference.

To put the Global Conferences into historical perspective, many of the members organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> conference were involved in organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> IISc Global Conference, held in Santa Clara in June 2007. The 1<sup>st</sup> Global conference was intended to commemorate the centennial of IISc’s founding in 1908. This event coincided with the formation of IISc-AANA and its official registration as a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization in 2007. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Conference was held in Chicago, in 2013 and was attended by over 400 alumni/ae and IISc faculty members. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference was hosted by IISc in Bengaluru in 2015 with over 1000 alumni/ae and guests in attendance. Prof. Anurag Kumar announced at the conference the formation of the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs (ODAA). In 2019, 12 years after its inception, IIScAANA has grown strong with vibrant activities focused around the vision of “Giving Back” and we returned to Silicon Valley for the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Global conference in Palo Alto, embodied IIScAANA’s mission and vision of “Giving Back” with its theme of “Science and Technology for a Better World”. There were many highlights of the meeting, and perhaps the most important were the illustrious audience – alumni/ae and well-wishers – all of whom devoted precious time to have made this conference a success, by their presence and engagement. An important undercurrent was engaging more recent alumni/ae and showcasing the contributions of women scientists, industry leaders and entrepreneurs. The conference organizers brought together an eclectic mix of eminent speakers in sessions ranging from agricultural technology to artificial intelligence and next generation computing, cutting edge biomedicine, entrepreneurship, helping underserved communities through entrepreneurship, fundraising for NGOs, peer mentoring, social change, security and data privacy, environment and renewable energy, human wellbeing and space technology. Equally important the discussion leaders brought a variety of experiences and expertise to the audience, whose participation was robust. The wealth of topics necessitated having multiple parallel sessions, leaving many of us wishing we could clone ourselves so we could partake of the many offerings simultaneously. Nevertheless, we all benefitted by the many plenary sessions and invited talks which allowed us collectively to hear from distinguished visitors.

The plenary talks included Nobel Laureate Dr. Brian Kobilka speaking about Imagining a Better World, Dr. Eugene Tu about Experience of a Better World, and Alumnus Dr. Om Nalamasu about Designing a Better World. To ground us to the alma mater we opened the formal proceedings with Director Anurag Kumar providing an overview of IISc’s vision, and concluded with thoughts about future directions from Prof. Rudra Pratap. Equally exciting and especially inspiring we heard from three women pioneers with different and compelling stories of advancing science and in the process, becoming role models: Prof. Rohini Godbole, 2019 Padma Shri Recipient, of her contributions as a pre-eminent physicist and her advocacy for women; Dr. Manjula Waldron for her incredible journey from Delhi to IISc to Stanford and Dr. Cheryl (Sundari) Dembe, for her perseverance and contributions to chemistry and its teaching.

Finally, there were plenty of opportunities for formal and informal networking, mentoring and key lessons learned from pioneers, some of whose career paths were shaped by their formative years at IISc. This ambience of interaction was clearly fostered by the excellent hospitality of the Silicon Valley Chapter members, with the free flow of abundant good food reminiscent of IISc’s Mess Halls. The local organizers also arranged for talented entertainment including some performances by alumni/ae and masterful dances choreographed in homage to Women Heroines. We thank the talented artists for their time and commitment. All registrants received a wonderful Souvenir Program, but nothing can replace the intangible memories of camaraderie and friendship that people experienced. Spouses and family members appreciated the day trip to San Francisco. Space limitations preclude greater details and hope we have provided you a flavor of the conference. We hope that the seeds of many innovative collaborations were sown and existing partnerships nurtured and strengthened at this conference.

We look forward to the success of the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on multiple fronts – expanding our minds, enriching existing collegiality, establishing new interactions and paying tribute to the Institution that shaped our thinking and careers.





*Attendees at the 4<sup>th</sup> IISc Global Conference*



*Members of the Organizing Committee*



*Dr. Om Nalamasu (Applied Materials) with AANA Members*



*Silicon Valley Members of the Organizing Committee*



*IISc UG Alumni Students of the Organizing Committee*



*Lunch Time during the Conference*



*Prof. Thomas Kailath, Murthy and Parveen*



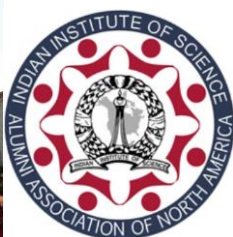
*Rita with Rohini Godbole*



*Volunteers at the Registration Desk*

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

**Indian Institute of Science Alumni National Meeting**  
**Advances in Science and Technology**  
**Atlanta, GA, July 24-25, 2020**



#### Organizing Committee

Aparna Kasani  
 Kamalesh Ruppa  
 Meenakumari Shanmugam  
 Mohanalingam Kathaperumal  
 Mohan Panakam  
 Mrinalini C. Rao  
 Murthy Gudipati  
 Raghu Pucha  
 Rama Amara  
 RamiReddy Bommireddy  
 Sailaja Gangadhara  
 Sampath Ramachandiran  
 Vasanthi Govindu

#### Venue

Georgia Institute of Technology  
 The Bill Moore Student Success Center, North Avenue NW, Atlanta, GA 30332.

#### Accommodation

Nearby Places:  
 (1) Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center  
 (2) Hampton Inn Atlanta Georgia Tech- Downtown  
 (3) Renaissance Atlanta Midtown Hotel  
 (4) Crowne Plaza Atlanta Midtown

#### Atlanta Attractions

CNN center  
 World of Coca-Cola  
 Georgia Aquarium  
 Mercedes-Benz Stadium  
 Zoo Atlanta  
 Stone Mountain  
 Emory University

#### About IISc AANA National Meeting 2020

The IISc Alumni Association of North America (AANA) National Meeting on Advances in Science and Technology will be held on July 24 & 25, 2020 in Atlanta, GA. The conference will feature plenary and invited talks on topics in health sciences, chemical sciences, technology, careers and entrepreneurship, academic and industrial leadership.

#### Program

##### Friday July 24

6:00-7:00 p.m.	Registration and Reception
7:00-7:30 p.m.	Inauguration
7:30-8:00 p.m.	Plenary Lecture
8:00-9:00 p.m.	Dinner
9:00-10:00 p.m.	Cultural Program

##### Saturday July 25

8:00-8:50 a.m.	Breakfast
8:50-9:00 a.m.	Welcome Remarks
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Key-Note Lecture (IISc Director)
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Session I: Health Sciences Chairs: Dr. Rama Amara & Dr. RamiReddy Bommireddy
10:30-11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00 a.m.	Session II: Concept to Market & Entrepreneurship Chairs: Dr. Aparna Kasani & Dr. Mrinalini C. Rao
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Georgia Tech Campus Tour
2:00-3:15 p.m.	Panel on Career Options Chairs: Dr. Sampath Ramachandiran & Dr. Murthy Gudipati
3:15-3:45 p.m.	Coffee Break
3:45-4:45 p.m.	Session III: Chemical Sciences Chairs: Dr. Kamalesh Ruppa & Dr. Mohanalingam Kathaperumal
4:45-5:45 p.m.	Session IV: Emerging trends in Engineering and Technology Chairs: Dr. Raghu Pucha & Dr. Mohan Panakam
5:45-6:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks
6:15-8:00 p.m.	Dinner

#### Registration Information

Adult Registration:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/97854614787>

Kids Registration:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/98327711833>

#### About IISc AANA

We are the alumni of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, who live and/or work in North America, which includes the USA, Canada, and Mexico. Our goal is to bring every alumnus into a single network and connect among them and with IISc. This group serves as a common platform for alumni in North America to reach out to alumni across various graduating classes, branches, locations, and interests. - See more at: <http://www.iiscaana.org/about-us/>

**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**



## Biochemistry Dept. IISc Centenary Year Celebration

**(Feb 21, 2020 to Feb 20, 2021)**

The Department of Biochemistry, IISc will be completing 100 years in 2021. The faculty, students, staff and Alumni are celebrating the Centenary year starting with an Inaugural event on February 21, 2020. The details are below:

**Morning session:** Talks by: by Prof. CNR Rao, Bharat Ratna; Dr Renu Swarup, DBT Secretary; Prof. Anurag Kumar, Director, IISc; Prof. G. Padmanaban Alumnus and former Director IISc followed by inauguration of exhibition highlighting achievements during the past 100 years.

**Scientific session in the afternoon:** Talks by Prof. Graham Walker, MIT, Dr. Anand Swaroop, NIH, Dr Ravikumar, CEO, Xcyton. An exhibition of 100 years of BC dept will be inaugurated by DBT Secretary Dr Renu Swarup. We also have a scientific session on Feb 21, 2020- Dr Graham Walker, MIT will deliver the Plenary talk. A dinner follows.

**Dec 10-12, 2020** - Centenary conference: About 7-8 scientific sessions are being planned along with an alumni reunion. A coffee table book about 100 years of the BC department will be brought out.

**Feb 20, 2021** - The concluding ceremony: Dr Venki Ramakrishnan, Nobel Laureate will give the keynote lecture.

BC Dept. is planning a series of talks by distinguished scientists as part of **Centenary Lecture Series**. BC Dept. requests you to actively participate in the Centenary events especially in the December 10-12 conference. The department is also collecting articles from alumni and will bring out a book 'Reminiscences'. Alumni are encouraged to share their experiences when they were student in the department. Alumni and well-wishers who wish to contribute to the centenary celebrations may transfer funds to the bank account below (inform us the transaction details by email)

Bank Account Name: Centenary celebrations of BC, IISc  
Bank: Canara Bank, IISc Campus Branch  
Bangalore-560012  
Savings Account no: 0683101034332  
SWIFT code: CNRBINBLFD

Alumni residing in North America (US and Canada) can send the check to IISc AANA and their contributions are tax deductible in the US

## AANA Chapter NEWS

### **Southern California get together on Saturday April 13, 2019**

The IISc AANA Southern California chapter held 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\*.

\* The Indian Fine Arts Association of San Diego (IFAASD) organizes this event every year in La Jolla. More information about the festival can be obtained from [www.indianfineartsacademy.org](http://www.indianfineartsacademy.org). This year we plan to do the same during the 2020 festival ( postponed due to Coronavirus) in September 2020. For more info, Contact Srinivasan Kasturi (760-470-3378) or Arkal Shenoy (858-703-7378)



IISc AANA Members (San Diego), April 2019

## Alumni in the News

US President Donald Trump has appointed IISc alumnus Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan as the Director of National Science Foundation. Dr. Sethuraman (Panch) Panchanathan is Senior Vice President of the Office of Knowledge Enterprise Development at Arizona State University (ASU). In this role he is responsible for advancing research, innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development ASU. Panch completed his B.E. in Electronics and Communication Engineering at IISc in 1984.



[https://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=299735](https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=299735)

### 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**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> IISc Global Conference many alumni attending the conference became life members by paying dues of \$500 or making a tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 or more to IISc AANA. Over fifty members were registered as life members and most of them are listed below. Other alumni who have paid the dues and not listed in this issue of the newsletter will be listed in the next issue (please contact Dr. Subbarao Gunupudi if your name is not listed below).

### New Life Members (During 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference, June 2019)

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Abhay S Kanhere         | 25. Sekhar Boddupalli              |
| 2. Anupama Toshniwal       | 26. Shashidhara H Murthy           |
| 3. Balaji Rao              | 27. Srinivas Modekurty             |
| 4. Bhaskara Peela          | 28. Sundarvel Ananthavel           |
| 5. Bore Gowda Raju         | 29. Suvira Srivstava               |
| 6. Chitra Manohar          | 30. Vibhav Dayal                   |
| 7. Damodar Poojary         | 31. Viswanath Subramaniam          |
| 8. Durgam Chakrapani       | 32. Yashwant Vaishnav              |
| 9. K Ramachandran          | 33. Satyanarayana Ramaswamy        |
| 10. Kumar Narayanan        | 34. Murthy Vedula                  |
| 11. Madhukar Govindaraju   | 35. Rajesh Krisnaswamy             |
| 12. Narasimha Prasad       | 36. Nagaraja Rao                   |
| 13. Narendra Ahuja         | 37. Periya Gopalan                 |
| 14. Neelima Sangeneni      | 38. George Brody                   |
| 15. Nitin Muppalaneni      | 39. Vinod Nagarajan                |
| 16. Pradeep Gupta          | 40. Nandini Ramani                 |
| 17. Prakriteswar Santikary | 41. Jag Kotha                      |
| 18. Pratima Gupta          | 42. Sonal Ranjan                   |
| 19. Raghunath Subramanian  | 43. Kallol Bera                    |
| 20. Rajesh Nair            | 44. Vijendra                       |
| 21. Rakesh Agrawal         | 45. Amitva                         |
| 22. Sandeep Bhagwat        | 46. Girishkumar Gopalkrishnan Nair |
| 23. Santanu Sinha          |                                    |
| 24. Satish Prathaban       |                                    |

## OBITUARY

### **K. Srinivasan (ME 1962)**



*Srinivasan with Prof. Dhawan and Nobel Laureate Chandrashekar*

Krishnamachar Srinivasan received his BE from Bangalore College of Engineering in 1957 and his ME from IISc (1962). He spent four years at University of Minnesota and received his PhD from University of Pennsylvania in 1967. After working as a post doc for a year, he worked at Ford, Amdahl, and HP in the field of computer software and retired. He spent the next 10 years teaching at IITs in India as a Distinguished Professor at IIT Guwahati, IIT Ropar, and later at CIT Kokrajhar. He and his professor at U of Penn Dr. Altman, came up with idea of electric cars in the early 70s and never got far with the novel idea. Little did the world knew about electric cars and Srinivasan's inventions then! He has published over 40 technical papers in various categories. Even though his Ph.D. was in the field of mechanical engineering, he taught himself the intricacies in the field of computer science and excelled in it throughout his career.

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