

South Asian Sub Continent Origin (SASCO) Interest Group (ATS)

Meeting Minutes 5/22/12

Noon-1:30pm

Approximately 60-70 attendees were at this meeting. They were predominantly physicians and scientists of South Asian origin, but industry members from US and South Asia were also present. Several south asian attendees were now settled in other parts of the world, e.g. UK, Middle East etc. Dr Sanjay Sethi and Sam Patel greeted the arrivals, attendees had lunch and the meeting commenced around 12:20 pm. Sam opened briefly and turned things over to Sanjay who reviewed the slides with the group. After the slides review, there was a very engaging and fruitful group discussion, with a focus on the objectives of the group and how those would be accomplished.

Comments, Discussions and Suggestions:

- Overwhelmingly, all attendees were pleased, grateful and excited that this interest group was formed and supported by the ATS.
 - They were pleased with the name of the interest group (SASCO).
 - Many anticipated greater participation with increased awareness of future meetings.
 - Many individuals said they would be glad to volunteer to accomplish the objectives of the organization.
- Timing of Future Meetings of this interest group at the ATS
 - Almost all attendees agreed that Tuesday noon is not an optimal time.
 - Most attendees general arrive to ATS by Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning and left on Tuesday/Wednesday
 - This was dependent on location of meeting also
 - After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was to have this interest group meeting on **Sunday evening** in the 7-10PM time frame. This would allow attendees to attend the assembly meetings of a couple of assemblies that happen on Sunday.
 - Saturday evening is another possibility, but that would conflict with Foundation dinner.

- The members provided confirmation on the listed objectives/goals of the group
 - Would like to ensure the group is structured to facilitate networking for ATS Members, fellows and other interested parties such as the pharmaceutical industry.
 - Wanted to ensure that there is collaboration and communication with thoracic societies of the SASCO countries as well as organizations similar to SASCO in other parts of the world.
 - Possibly have a link to SASCO-ATS on these other society homepages
 - All members supported the need to give back to SASCO countries in many ways
 - Knowledge and Expertise sharing
 - Research and Clinical Expertise sharing and collaboration
 - Education Initiatives

- Meeting Agenda and Structure
 - Members want to see a template agenda as follows:
 - Reception and Networking
 - Brief Business Meeting
 - Key Note expert speaker
 - Speaker and Topics can vary but should focus on something relevant to SASCO countries health issues
 - Preferably speaker should be of South Asian origin
 - Dinner and more social time to network

- Communications, Homepage and Networking
 - Members want a forum or place to communicate
 - Major Suggestion was to create on the ATS Home page an interest group section
 - Alternative suggestions were a facebook page, linked-in group, etc.

- Funding and Support
 - Members asked how these meetings would be funded?
 - ATS support would be important

- Suggestions were made to solicit support from US and India based pharmaceutical companies.

Action Points

- Create web page for SASCO on the ATS homepage as a means of communication.
- Obtain ATS assent and support to organize the first Sunday evening meeting at ATS 2013.
- If necessary, reach out to US and Indian pharmaceutical companies for support for the meeting and other SASCO activities.
- Create infrastructure of voluntary committees to achieve the various goals of SASCO including educational activities, research collaborations, organization of annual meeting, web page maintenance, liaison with other societies etc.