asis&t SIG-iii
Special Interest Group
International Information Issues

NEWSLETTER
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Message from the Chair

Hello everyone. Greetings from India! I am happy to share the updates of the amazing initiatives and achievements of SIG-III through this summer issue. As promised and planned, in the last nine months, SIG-III engaged with the community members through the International Paper Contest, International Café meetings, Research Wing, InfoShare and SIG-III Newsletter and many other events. SIG-III officers with the help of volunteers representing each of these initiatives worked very hard to deliver each of these initiatives by actively planning, and successfully implementing each initiative bringing value to your membership.

Leili Seifi and Manika Lamba continued to engage members through fun filled theme-based events through the International Café Meets. Zehra Taskin and the team of International Paper Contest did an incredible task of planning and implementing the contest with the final awardees announced in May 2023. I welcome and congratulate the winners of the IPC contest. In this issue we also share a brief note of the newly launched Research Wing initiative led by Brady Lund and the team members Ruwan Gamage, Abdul Rohman and Research Wing Advisor Devendra Potnis. InfoShare has always been a valuable initiative of SIG-III allowing us to add new members to the SIG-III community. This year the team led by Muhammad Tariq and volunteer members Bushra Jaswal, Sadaf Rafiq and Nifemi Segun Adetunji with support from Leili Seifi, Chair, elect of SIG-III worked hard to select the InfoShare awardees and announced their results by end of June 2023. I welcome the ten new members to the SIG-III community.

Fatih Oguz, Co-chair, SIG-III rolled out the Member Survey Feedback in May 2023. We successfully collaborated with the South Asia Chapter to organize a webinar. I am extremely happy to announce that SIG-III has been awarded the 2023 **SIG Special Project Award**. It is a proud moment for us that our SIG-III Co-Chair elect **Nosheen Fatima Warraich** has been awarded the **2023 Cretsos Award**- Congratulations for this achievement!

I am especially thankful to Devendra Potnis, Leili Seifi, Shalini Urs and Laurie Bonnici for their constant support and guidance.

We have conducted three business meetings this year with the final one scheduled before the AM23. I thank all the officers, volunteers, and advisors for their active participation and contribution toward the functioning of SIG-III. As a final note, a word of appreciation for all the SIG-III community members who actively participate in the different initiatives of SIG-III. Your participation makes the efforts worthwhile. Let's make SIG-III the best in its every endeavor!

Devendra Potnis

SIG-III sponsored Panel in ASIS&T Mid-Year Conference 2023

Devendra Potnis (US), Bhakti Gala (India), Vanessa Reyes (US), Manika Lamba (India), Nosheen Warraich (Pakistan), Leili Seifi (Iran), and Paul Jason Perez (The Philippines) presented a 75-minute panel on **"How to Better Engage with ASIS&T Members? Lessons Learned From SIG-III's Activities During the COVID-19 Pandemic"** at the ASIS&T Mid-Year Conference in April 2023.
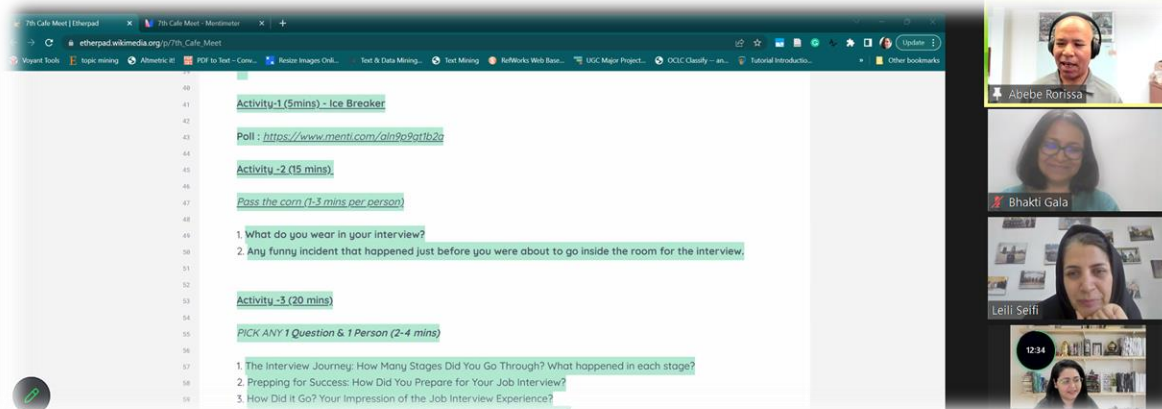
Excerpts from the extended abstract of the panel: "Collaborative engagement with members is crucial to sustained membership in professional associations. It also empowers members to connect, grow, and build relationships across large special interest groups (SIGs) within a widely networked organization. Disengagement, social disconnectedness, and lack of belonging among members are challenges that professional associations deal with at an increasing pace. SIG-III has over 600 members. One of the challenges of having such a large member base is maintaining engagement and finding ways to connect with an international community of academics and information professionals. Engaging with geographically scattered and culturally diverse members is a demanding situation resulting in weak ties among community members. The pandemic further accentuated the social disruption with the lack of physical gatherings (p.1)". "The panel answered the following three questions: 1. What was done by SIG-III to better engage with the community members during the COVID-19 pandemic? 2. How was it implemented, and what were the challenges faced? 3. What are the lessons learned from these experiences of engaging with community members? (p.2)" Finally, the panelists engaged with the audience. The panel was well-received.

The details of the initiatives SIG-III undertook to promote engagement amongst its members, the best practices for implementing those initiatives, the lessons learned from their experiences, and the outcomes can benefit future officers of SIG-III, other SIGs, Chapters, and professional associations. The panel's extended abstract is available for free at: https://zenodo.org/record/7776962.

International Café Meet

Leili Seifi

The International Café Hour is a relaxed environment where Information Professionals and Scholars can chat about their research, careers, and interests, among many other interesting things. Organizers of 2023 are Dr. Leili Seifi University of Birjand, Iran and Dr. Manika Lamba University of Delhi, India. The 7th Café Meet's was held on the theme **"Memorable Job Interview Experiences"** on **11th May 2023 at 9:30 am EST**. The presence of the ASIST&T president, Dr. Abebe Rorissa added more value to the meeting.

18 participants joined this engaging and dynamic meeting. The participants were from India, Iran, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Nigeria, Uganda, and USA.

8th Café Meet

Are you looking for an opportunity to know about how women LIS professionals overcome personal and professional challenges?

Would you like to learn about women LIS professionals' exciting stories from all over the globe, successful LIS Women's stories, or how about a space for having a relaxing and friendly conversation?

SIG-III International Cafe has scheduled its last informal meeting to provide these opportunities to all ASIS&T members. We invite all practitioners, faculty, and students to join us for an exciting hour and share with us how women LIS professionals overcome personal and professional challenges on **13th July 2023 at 9:30 am EST**.

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8th SIG III Café International

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING HOUR ON
WOMEN AS CHANGE AGENT: BRING YOUR FRIEND WITH YOU (ASIS&T MEMBER)

HOW DO WOMEN LIS PROFESSIONALS OVERCOME PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES?

VIA ZOOM
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023
AT
7:00PM IST/ 9:30 AM EST

women empowerment

Zoom Meeting Link Available Via iConnect

Zehra Taşkın

International Paper Contest

SIG-III is thrilled to reveal the distinguished winners of the 23rd International Paper Contest (IPC). This year's contest witnessed an outstanding participation of researchers from developing countries, emphasizing their contributions to the field of library and information science (LIS).

Claiming the coveted **first-place honor** is the research paper titled **"Inclusion We Stand, Divide We Fall": Digital Inclusion from Different Disciplines for Scientific Collaborations**, authored by Wei Feng, Qinggong Shi, and Lihong Zhou, representing China. Their work delves into the crucial topic of digital inclusion, highlighting the significance of collaboration among diverse disciplines in fostering inclusive scientific environments.

Securing the **second-place** distinction is the research paper titled **Unlocking the Privacy Paradox on Social Media Platforms from a Configurational Perspective: Perceived Values, Privacy Concerns, Cognitive Style, and Platform Trust**. This insightful paper is the collaborative effort of Ruoxi Yang and Xiaoyu Chen, also from China. Their study offers valuable insights into the intricate dynamics of privacy concerns, cognitive styles, perceived values, and platform trust in the context of social media platforms.

The **third-place** recognition goes to Irfan Ali and Nosheen Fatima Warraich from Pakistan for their remarkable paper titled **Information Systems Success in Libraries: A Meta-Analysis of ISSM and Future Direction**. This research paper undertakes a comprehensive meta-analysis, shedding light on information systems success within library settings and providing a roadmap for future directions in the field.

The IPC received an impressive total of 18 submissions from various countries, including China, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and India. This diversity of participation showcases the global enthusiasm and commitment of

LIS professionals in advancing information, people, and technology in contemporary societies, particularly in developing countries.

The first-place winner of the IPC-2023 will attend the 86th Annual Meeting of ASIS&T in London, where they will present their groundbreaking research. This esteemed gathering of professionals from around the world offers a unique platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration.

ASIS&T and SIG-III extend their warmest congratulations to the winners and express their sincere appreciation to all participants for their valuable contributions. The research papers submitted for the IPC-2023 have significantly enriched the field of LIS, pushing the boundaries of knowledge and promoting practical solutions for the benefit of societies worldwide.

Muhammad Tariq

InfoShare Award 2023

InfoShare Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the InfoShare Award for 2023. These will really be a great addition to ASIS&T and SIG-III family. These awardees have been selected after an extensive selection process. The winners of the "InfoShare Award 2023" are:
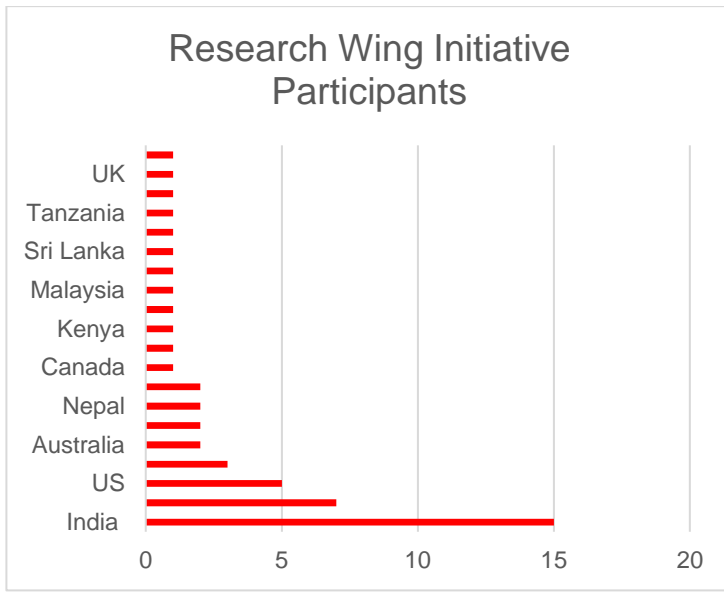
Adeoye, Azeez Adebamgbola Senior Librarian Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila-Orangun, Nigeria	**Elçin Ziya** PhD Student, Hacettepe University, Ankara – Turkiye	**Khadije Moradi** Researcher Judiciary of Iran Tehran – Iran	**Massoomeh Niknia** Archivist Iranian Grid Management Company Tehran, Iran	**Sima Esmaeilzad Hojbi** Manager Library Tabriz University of Medical Sciences - Iran
Mehdi Rahmani Postdoc researcher, National Elite Foundation in Iran Tehran – Iran	**Nasira Munir** Assistant Librarian COMSATS University Islamabad – Pakistan	**Nooruddin Merchant** Directror Libraries Habib University, Karachi – Pakistan	**Shammasu Musa Dantsoho** Student Federal University Dutsin-ma, Nigeria	**Victoria Sokari** Senior Librarian Bayero University Kano, Nigeria

Congratulations to all awardees, and a very warm welcome to the ASIS&T family!

Within the due date, a total of 19 nominations were received from different regions of the world including India, Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, USA, Nigeria, and Turkey. The candidates belong to different professional statuses, like librarians, archivists, editors, students, faculty members, and software developers. They also had different levels of expertise and experience.

An important criterion for the final selection was that preference was given to non-ASIS&T members within the allocated budget. As per ASIS&T policy, the membership is free for Tier 2 counties, so SIG-III will have to pay only the candidates belonging to Tier 1 countries, which were only 5. So, the committee decided that the InfoShare Award should be given to all non-ASIS&T members. The committee would include regional representatives in future, particularly those areas where ASIS&T membership is very less. The committee suggested a separate column for InfoShare activities in the SIG-III Newsletter.

Research Wing

Brady Lund

June 1, 2023 was the official launch of the Research Wing. After months of meticulous planning, communication, and matching processes, the initiative was ready to commence its work in earnest, bringing together mentors and mentees to collaborate and foster growth within the research community. There were 50 sign-ups for the Research Wing Initiative in its inaugural year, including 22 mentors and 28 mentees. Each of the mentees was successfully matched with a mentor, with some mentors agreeing to take multiple mentees. Memorandums of Understanding were sent to all pairings, and signed copies were received back. Pairs are now beginning work on a variety of research activities. We are happy to share that the participants in our first annual program originate from 20 different countries around the world!

Research Wing Initiative Participants.

Types of mentoring support offered.

3rd Business Meeting and Membership Survey Report

Fatih Oguz

The SIG-III 3rd Business Meeting Report was conducted on 27th April from 7:00- 8:00 pm IST with the zoom account shared by ASIS&T headquarters. Officers leading various initiatives (IPC, ICM, Research Wing, InfoShare, Speaker Series and Newsletter) gave updates on the tasks implemented. SIG-III Cabinet Representative shared the points discussed in the Cabinet Meeting related to promotion of SIG activities, Special Project Fund Deadline, and submission of the annual report and budget by the stipulated date. The Chair gave an update on the project submission and webinar's being planned in collaboration with the South Asia Chapter and the submissions received for SIG-III sponsorship to the AM23. The co-chair shared a detailed overview of the membership survey feedback which was customized using Qualtrics and circulated in April to all SIG-III community members on iConnect. A total of 85 responses were received to the survey. It was also decided to have separate meetings to plan for the International Reception at the AM23. A final meeting will be scheduled before the AM23.
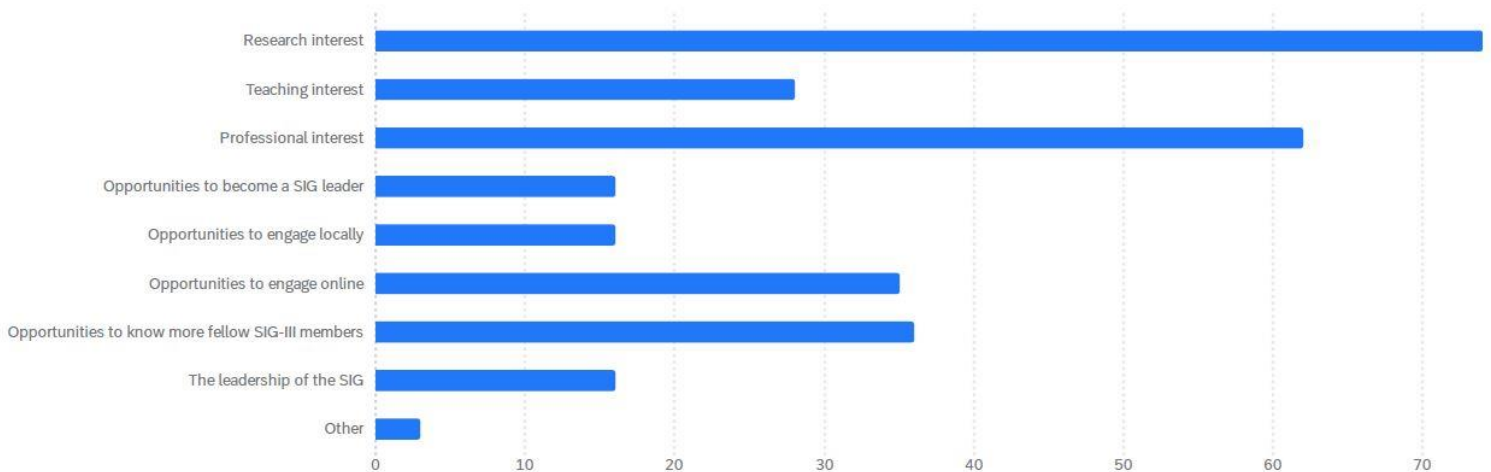
Comments received in response to Membership survey question: **What benefits would you like SIG-III to deliver for you? And how can SIG-III improve to deliver those benefits?**

"Interacting with imminent scholars paves the way to attaining a milestone in academia and serves as a cornerstone for improving oneself. Organizing events and call for paper submissions for conferences, seminars, or workshops are important aspects in scholarly communication circle. Some of the members like me who have backgrounds other than information science, such academic interactive sessions mean a lot for us. It's a journey from relatively unknown to a known destination. It's a journey that prepares someone else to interact with seasoned professors who have been practicing in the fields for decades that a single word or phrase or sentence they utter can change someone's life for better. In effect, SIG-III should continue to organize events like conferences, seminars, informal café meeting, call for book chapters, etc. to enable the growing scholars understand the depths and width of the profession thereby giving it different look as they progress in it."

What's your impression of the election(s) you have participated in? Could you provide suggestions for improvement?

"It is great that ASIS&T holds its elections online because doing so can make it easier for members to participate in the process. In addition, the reminders that the organization sends out to its members can play a role in ensuring that everyone is aware of the opportunity to vote and that they are able to make judgments based on accurate information."
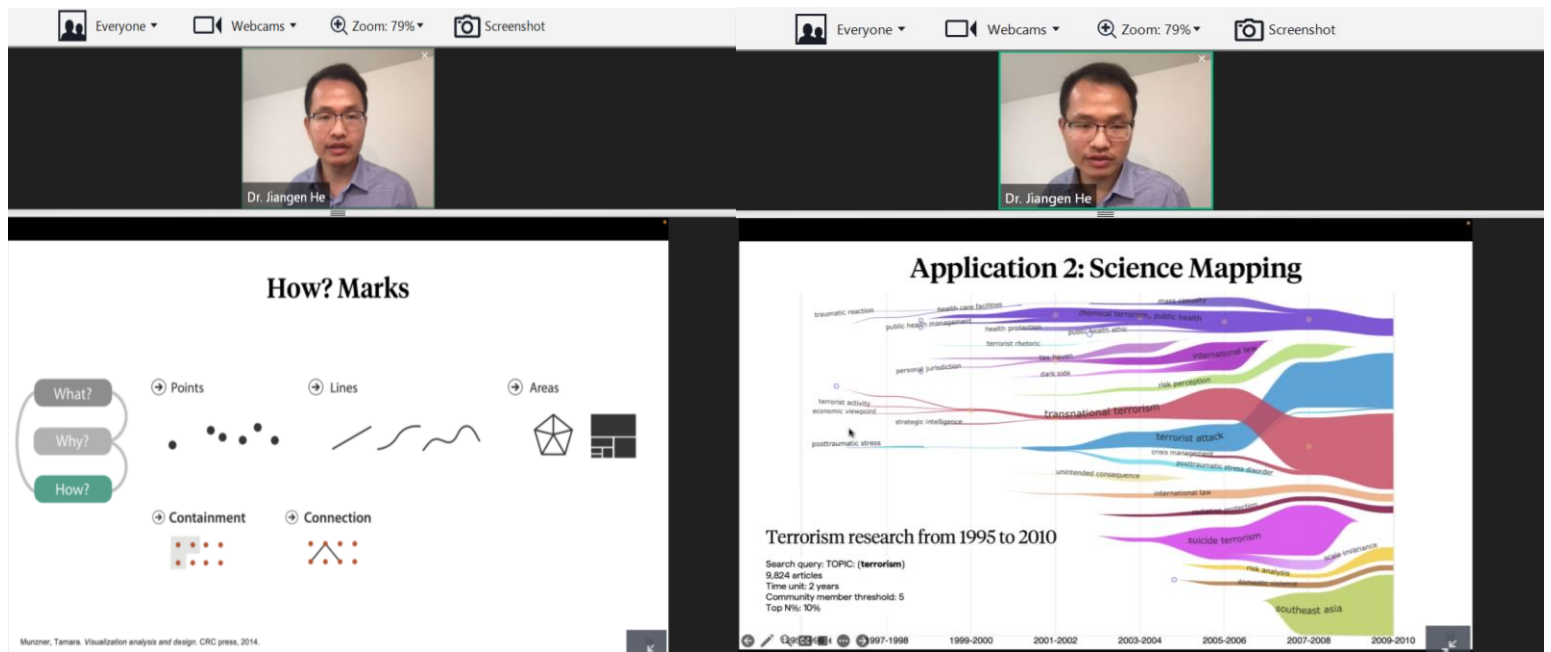

Bhakti Gala

Collaborative Events

Webinar on "Foundations of Data Visualization"

SIG-III collaborated with the South Asia Chapter and organized a webinar on 1st June 2023. Jiangen He, Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA shared his expertise on "Foundations of Data Visualization." More than 32 participants joined the session and interacted with professor He.

Visually and interactive presenting data in compelling graphs and charts can help all to gain a deeper understanding of stories in massive datasets. Although there are many available techniques and tools of visualization, it is still important to execute effective design and best practices to create clear and accurate visualizations. He described the basic framework and workflow of information visualization first. With the framework, discussed how to effectively use various visual elements (channels and marks) to encode different types of datasets and interactive designs.

Jiangen He is explaining the different ways of data representation.

⚲ Announcements

◗ SIG-III receives Special Project Fund

SIG Special Project Fund 2023 has been awarded for the proposal on "Winter School for Enhancing Research Skills: A SIG-III initiative". We have received an award of $4000. Bhakti Gala, Leili Seifi, Manika Lamba, Naailah Parbhoo Ebrahim, Ruwan Gamage, Shalini Urs, Fatih Oguz and Sourav Debnath contributed towards the proposal. In the coming days various announcements related to the project will be shared through iConnect and SIG-III website.

◗ SIG-III Best Volunteer Award Winners

The winners of the SIG-III Best Volunteer Award are Manika Lamba and Vanessa Reyes for their dedication of time and energy to SIG-III. Thanks to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and efforts to the successful implementation of the various activities organized by SIG-III.

The winners were selected on two criteria. The criterion of selection was that the member/s should not be elected officers of SIG-III and should have demonstrated active participation in SIG initiatives in the current year. The selection committee members were Leili Seifi, Chair-Elect, SIG-III, and Nosheen Fatima Warraich, Co-Chair Elect, SIG-III.

Nosheen Fatima Warriach receives 2023 James M. Cretsos Leadership Award

SIG-III is delighted to share the news with you that SIG-III Co-Chair Elect, Nosheen receives the 2023 ASIS&T James M. Cretsos Leadership Award. The award's purpose is to recognize a new ASIS&T member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in professional ASIS&T activities.

She believes in collaboration and inclusiveness. She served as co-chair SIG-ED in 2017-18, and as recruitment officer SIG-SM for two years 2018 and 2019. In 2022, she was elected as chair SIG-InfoLearn. She also served as panel co-chair in ASIS&T 2023 Mid-year conference. Congratulation Nosheen!

Silent Auction and Raffle @International Reception

We are excited to announce that SIG-III is holding the **Silent Auction and Raffle** at the International Reception of ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2023. Watch out for the call for donating items for the Auction.

📅 **Sunday, 29/Oct/2023 | 7:30pm - 8:30pm**　　　　📍 **Cognac, 1st Floor, Novotel**

International Reception (Sponsored by SIG-III)

We have already announced the call for volunteers twice through iConnect for this and Vanessa Reyes, Blessing Mawire, and Chris Cunningham have volunteered to help with the implementation for the same in London. The Committee Members for planning the International Reception Silent Auction and Raffle are Bhakti Gala, Devendra Potnis, Leili Seifi, Laurie Bonici, Vanessa Reyes, Blessing Mawire, and Chris Cunningham. In the coming months, a Google form will be circulated to request members to share items for the auction.

The IPC Award winners, Wei Feng, Qinggong Shi, and Lihong Zhou will also present their winning paper as a poster presentation at the reception.

SIG-III Panel in ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2023

Achieving Academic Success in Information Science: A Multi-Faceted Approach - hosted by SIG-III and the Professional Development Committee

📅 **Sunday, 29/Oct/2023 | 4:00pm-5:30pm**　　　　📍 **Bourg, Mezzanine, Novotel**

Panelists: Hsin-liang {Oliver} Chen, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, USA; Ying-Hsang Liu, Uppsala University, Sweden; Sandra Hirsh, San José State University, USA; Stephann Makri, City, University of London, UK; Blessing Mawire, Integra Professional Solutions, South Africa.

asis&t ANNUAL MEETING

27–31 OCTOBER 2023 | LONDON

[Schedule-at-a-Glance](#)

[Register Now](#)

MEMBER REGISTRATION OPTIONS
(requires membership at time of registration and meeting)

1st Time Attendee		Regular Attendee		Student/Retired/Lifetime		One-Day	
EARLY	ADVANCE	EARLY	ADVANCE	EARLY	ADVANCE	EARLY	ADVANCE
By 11 Aug	By 14 Oct	By 11 Aug	By 14 Oct	By 11 Aug	By 14 Oct	By 11 Aug	By 14 Oct
$600	$700	$650	$750	$375	$425	$360	$410

NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION OPTIONS*

1st Time Attendee		Regular Attendee		Student		One-Day	
EARLY	ADVANCE	EARLY	ADVANCE	EARLY	ADVANCE	EARLY	ADVANCE
By 11 Aug	By 14 Oct	By 11 Aug	By 14 Oct	By 11 Aug	By 14 Oct	By 11 Aug	By 14 Oct
$760	$860	$810	$910	$425	$475	$430	$485

*Registration as a non-member in the 1st Time, Regular and Student categories includes membership in ASIS&T for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

TIER 2 MEMBER REGISTRATION

Tier 2 1st time attendee members may register for the full meeting at a cost of $450. Rate will increase $50 on August 12 and a further $50 on October 15.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops carry an additional registration fee. Workshop rates will increase by $25 each after 11 August and again after 14 October.

For more information on the SIG-III, stay connected with us:

SIG-III Officers

Please feel free to contact current officers for questions about SIG-III

Chair
Bhakti Gala
Central University of Gujarat, India

Co-Chair
Fatih Oguz
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA

Chair-Elect
Leili Seifi
University of Birjand, Iran

Co-Chair Elect
Nosheen Fatima Warraich
University of the Punjab, Pakistan

Treasurer
Omobolade Adeagbo Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

International Paper Contest Chair
Zehra Taşkın
Hacettepe University, Turkey

InfoShare Chair
Muhammad Tariq
COMSATS University in Lahore, Pakistan

Research Wing Chair
Brady Lund
University of North Texas, USA

Research Wing Officer
Ruwan Gamage
Maldives National University, Maldives

Research Wing Officer
Abdul Rohman
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University, Vietnam

SIG Cabinet Representative
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The Uni. of Tennessee in Knoxville, USA

Newsletter Officer
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Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad, India

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Nominating Committee Member
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International Paper Contest Jury
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International Paper Contest Jury
Lu An
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Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

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Your comments and enquiries always inspire us.

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