

2021 - 2023 Clinical Investigator Award Criteria & Application Process



Application deadline: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Purpose

- To promote patient-oriented research conducted by surgical oncologists in clinical and translational science.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be surgical oncologists within 8 years of completion of training.
- Be full SSO members for at least 6 months prior to application submission to be eligible for the award.

Effective in 2014, it is no longer necessary for the applicant to commit at least 25% effort to the research project this award will support. Time committed should be reflected in the research proposal budget and will be taken into consideration as part of the overall assessment of the project.

Terms of the Award

- The award will be funded for two years at \$100,000 (\$50,000 per year) beginning April 1, 2021. The Award concludes March 31, 2023.
- The award is given to the sponsoring institution and may be used for partial support of applicant's salary, research fellows or staff support, tuition, travel (no more than \$2,000 per year) and/or supplies. *No additional funds are available for paying indirect costs.*
- A brief year-one progress report with a financial update will be required by March 31, 2022. SSO reserves the right to withhold the second year of support in the event of unsatisfactory progress.
- A final report (not to exceed 4 pages) will be required before February 15, 2023. This should include a summary of the project and abstracts and publications acknowledged as supported by this award as well as a financial reconciliation report.
- A brief (up to 10 minutes) presentation of results will be required at the SSO 2023 - International Conference on Surgical Cancer Care , scheduled for March 2023.

Application Procedure

The Society of Surgical Oncology requests a proposal in which the applicant plays a central role in the conduct of a specific clinical research project. This might include for example a leadership role in a clinical trial, in a prospective cancer outcomes study, or a translational research project related to a prospective clinical trial. The clinical research focus must be hypothesis-driven and must have a direct patient-oriented focus. Clinical trials may be investigator-initiated, industry-driven or organized by a cooperative group. While the applicant need not be the principal investigator of the trial, nor the lead institutional investigator, the extent to which the applicant is

involved in study design and conduct must be clearly articulated. Ideal applicants will be early to mid-career investigators with a track record of peer-reviewed research funding who are seeking additional extramural support to further clinical cancer research. Of note, this award is not intended to serve as a career development award for new investigators seeking to initiate their research careers. The track record of the applicant, scientific merit of the application, novelty and clinical impact of the anticipated results, and resources available to ensure completion of the study will comprise the review criteria.

The application MUST include the following items in order:

- A. Cover page:** The cover page must include the following information: the title of the proposal, name of applicant, applicant's position, institution and contact information, and the name and contact information for the individual authorized to act for the applicant if the award is made.
- B. Curriculum Vitae:** A three-page bio sketch (including Other Support) in NIH format. "Other Support" should list all grants and awards (one section for current and one section for those completed in the past three years). Each grant or award must include each of the following:
 - 1) title of the project/grant and name of funding source;
 - 2) name of the PI and role of the applicant if not the PI;
 - 3) percent effort;
 - 4) dates of entire project period;
 - 5) award amount (direct dollars) for the current award period;
 - 6) scientific overlap with proposed project;
 - 7) manner in which any adjustments will be made for scientific overlap.

Failure to include all information may be grounds to dismiss the application from scoring and consideration.

- C. Supporting Letters:** A letter from the applicant's institution is required and should include a review of the proposal and summary of the applicant's qualifications. It should also describe the facilities and support available to complete the project. The letter should also specifically stipulate the percentage of time effort the applicant will devote to the research project. The letter should be from the institution's cancer center director, chair of their department or dean of research. Other supporting letters (no more than 3) may be included.
- D. Research Proposal:** This should include the following items:
 - 1. **Abstract:** The abstract should describe the clinical trial, the hypothesis being tested; specific aims of the research, and the novelty and clinical impact of the anticipated results. (Limited to 1 page, single spaced, 12 pt. font, one inch margin)
 - 2. **Research plan:** This section should focus on any critical preliminary data, overall and specific approaches/methodology, any alternative approaches, statistical plan if

applicable, expected results, and the exact role of the applicant. (Limited to 6 pages, single spaced, 12 pt. font, one inch margin)

3. **Resources:** This should include a brief description of the clinical cancer trials infrastructure at the applicant's institution as well as any required resources in laboratory science, population science, epidemiology, bio specimen repositories, biostatistics, etc. (Limited to 1 page, single spaced, 12 pt. font, one inch margin)
4. **Literature cited.** (no page limit)

Failure to adhere strictly to the page limits may be grounds to dismiss the application from scoring and consideration.

- E. **Budget:** In no more than one (1) page, describe proposed budget utilization and justification. **Please identify the percentage of time that would be devoted to the research effort and include any required indirect costs that would reduce the actual amount of direct research dollars available to the applicant.** (The reviewers will take this information into account when reviewing applications and providing recommendations for funding.)
- F. **Appendix:** Clinical protocol, informed consent form, IRB approval notice. Summary statements are acceptable.
 1. Not to exceed five (5) pages in length. If appendix exceeds the 5 page limit, the research proposal WILL NOT be reviewed.

The application deadline is Tuesday, January 12, 2021

The complete application must be assembled as a single .pdf file and sent electronically to sso@surgonc.org by midnight January 12, 2021.

A hard copy of the application also must be submitted to the Society of Surgical Oncology, 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 870, Rosemont, IL 60018, with a postmark of January 15, 2021.

Applications received after this date, or those that do not adhere strictly to the instructions, may not be considered. Award recipients will be announced at the 2021 SSO International Conference on Surgical Cancer Care, and applicants will be informed of the outcome via email shortly after the conclusion of the meeting. Please be aware that applicants will not receive reviewer comments or an application score.

PLEASE NOTE: Funding of grants will be determined by scientific peer review process.

Questions regarding the Clinical Investigator Awards? Contact Jeanette Ruby; Email: jeanetteruby@surgonc.org, or phone 847-427-1400, ext. 111 or 847-909-8828 (mobile). Society of Surgical Oncology 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 870 Rosemont, IL 60018 Email: sso@surgonc.org www.surgonc.org

