

2022 RESEARCH FUNDING

Clinical Investigators Award

Young Investigators Award

Deadlines
for Clinical Investigator
and Young Investigator
Awards

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS

November 30, 2021
11:59 PM CST

EMAIL CONFIRMING RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL

Within 24 hours of receipt

NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS OF AWARDS

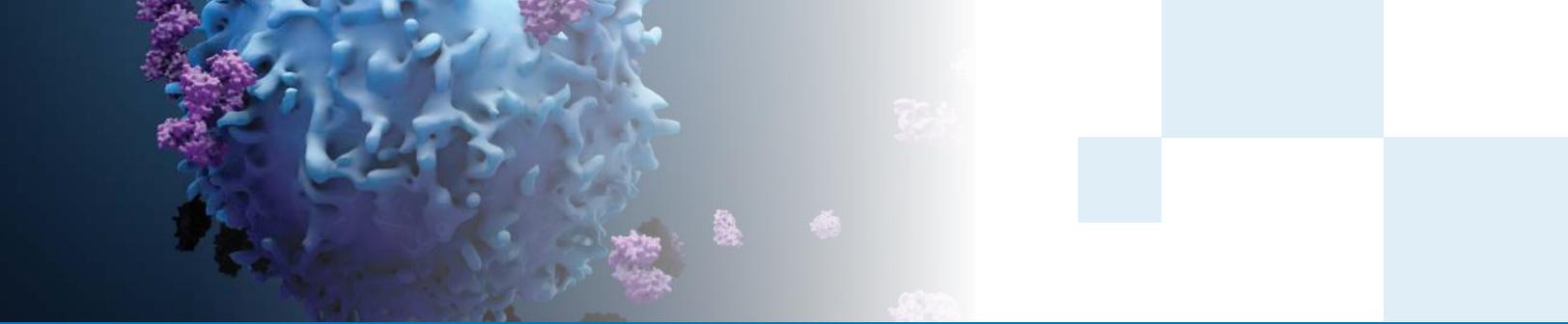
February 11-15, 2022

**AWARDS CEREMONY AT SSO INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON SURGICAL CANCER CARE**

March 9-12, 2022
(exact date/time TBA)

FUNDING CYCLE

April 1-March 31



The Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) is a dynamic community of cancer surgeons shaping advancements in the profession to deliver the highest quality surgical care for cancer patients. SSO promotes leading-edge research, quality standards and knowledge exchange connecting cancer surgeons worldwide to continuously improve cancer outcomes. One of the ways SSO advances cancer treatment research is by providing research funding through its competitive Clinical Investigator and Young Investigator Awards programs.



Each year applications are scored, and awards selected by the SSO Research Committee using a scientific peer-review process, considering the following criteria:

- Strength of applicants
- Scientific merit
- Novelty and clinical impact of anticipated results
- Resources available to ensure completion of the study

Reviewers also consider the percentage of time devoted to the research effort and any indirect costs. Applicants do not receive reviewer comments or scores. SSO maintains control of award selection. Specific individuals or corporations do not influence selections.

Clinical Investigator Award 2022-2024

The Clinical Investigator Award promotes patient-focused research conducted by surgical oncologists in clinical and translational science. One award is given per year. Awards are funded for two years at \$50,000/year for a total award of \$100,000 beginning April 1 of the award year and concluding March 31 of the 2nd year. (Example: April 1, 2020-March 31, 2022). Applicants may apply more than once but may only receive the award one time.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a surgical oncologist within eight (8) years of completion of fellowship or related training.
- Must be a full SSO U.S. member in good standing for at least six (6) months prior to application submission to be eligible for an award.

Applicants should play a central role in the conduct of a specific research project. This may include, for example, a leadership role in a clinical research project, a prospective cancer outcomes study, or a translational research project related to a prospective clinical research project. Projects are intended to be clinical or translational in nature, not bench science.

- Clinical Research: Research in which people, or data or samples of tissue from people, are studied to understand health and disease. Clinical research helps find new and better ways to detect, diagnose, treat, and prevent disease. Types of clinical research include clinical trials, which test new treatments for a disease, and natural history studies, which collect health information to understand how a disease develops and progresses over timeⁱ.
- Translational Research: A term used to describe the process by which the results of research done in the laboratory are used to develop new ways to diagnose and treat diseaseⁱⁱ (ie, taking research to real world scenarios).

The project must be hypothesis-driven and patient-oriented using the National Institutes of Health (NIH) definition of patient-oriented research: research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Translational research projects that involve animals are allowed as long as they also involve some component of human subjects' research as defined above.

While the applicant does not have to be the principal investigator or the lead institutional investigator, the extent to which the applicant is involved in the 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. This award is not intended to serve as a career development award for new investigators seeking to initiate their research careers. SSO does not support research for commercial benefit or industry development.

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD APPLICATION: DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30, 2021, 11:59 PM CST

Please complete the online application by the deadline using the link accompanying this call for proposals on the SSO website. Only proposals submitted through the link will be accepted. The below descriptions of materials required are provided for information only to allow applicants to prepare for their submission. [Questions? pamhayden@surgonc.org](mailto:pamhayden@surgonc.org)

Failure to include all information may dismiss the application from consideration. No exceptions will be made to the deadline date and time. The application must include the following items, and be single-spaced, 12pt font, one-inch margins for any document uploaded to the site.

I certify that I am a surgical oncologist within eight (8) years of completion of fellowship or related training.

Project Type (choose one):

- Clinical
 Translational

Proposal Title

✓ **Name and Credentials of Applicant**

✓ **Applicant Title, Institution, and Contact Information**

✓ **Role of the Applicant in the Project**

✓ **Names and Credentials of All Coinvestigators**

✓ **Title, Institution, and Contact Information for Each Coinvestigator**

 **NIH Biosketch in current NIH required format for Applicant and each coinvestigator.** (Document upload)

The bio sketch should include other sources of support and list all grants and awards, both current and those completed within the past five years. Each grant or award listed must include:

- Title of the project/grant
- Name of the funding source
- Names of all investigators, including the principal investigator (PI) and the role of the applicant, if not the PI
- Percent effort for project
- Dates of entire project period
- Award amount (direct dollars) for the current award period
- Scientific overlap with proposed project
- Any adjustments that will be made for scientific overlap

✓ **Payee** (Individual and Institution authorized to receive the grant payment if an award is made)

✓ **Letters of Support** (one required, up to three allowed) (These will be guest uploads where you will be able to send an email to the person supplying the letter so that they may upload a letter directly. However, we recommend contacting them in advance so they know the requirements of the letter).

A letter of support from the applicant's institution is required and should include:

- A review of the proposal and summary of the applicant's qualifications.
- A description of the facilities and support available to complete the project.
- A specific stipulation of the percentage of time effort the applicant will devote to the research project.
- The letter should be from the institution cancer center director, department chair, or dean of research attesting to adequate protected time and institutional resources to carry out the aims of the proposal.
- Other letters of support (no more than three) may be included.

 **Research Proposal.** (Document upload)

The research proposal should include:

- **Abstract.** The abstract should describe the project and state the hypothesis being tested. It should include the aims of the research, and the novelty and clinical impact of the anticipated results (Limit one page).
- **Research Plan.** 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 (Limit to six pages).
- **Resources.** Include a brief description of the clinical cancer research project infrastructure at the applicant's institution as well as any required resources in laboratory science, population science, epidemiology, bio-specimen repositories, biostatistics, etc. (Limit to one page).
- **Literature Cited.** (No page limit).
- **Budget.** In table format, describe the proposed budget and provide a budget justification using the current NIH forms/format. Identify the percentage of time 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. Indirect costs are limited to partial support of the applicant's salary, research fellows or staff support, tuition, travel, and/or supplies (up to a total of \$2,000 per year). Additional funds are not provided for indirect costs. Percentage of time devoted to the project and indirect costs will be considered.
- **Appendix.** Include clinical protocol, informed consent form, and institutional review board approval. Funds will not be released until IRB approvals have been documented. IRB may be pending at time of submission but must be approved before receipt of funds. Summary statements are acceptable. (Limit five pages).

If awarded a grant, I understand and agree to the following conditions (electronic signature):

- I will attend the announcement of winners at the SSO International Conference on Surgical Cancer Care, or if I cannot attend, select a designated representative to attend on my behalf.
- Reporting
I will:
 - Provide a brief progress report with required elements by completion of the first year of research on March 31. SSO reserves the right to withhold the second year of funding in the event of unsatisfactory progress as determined by the Research Committee.
 - Provide a final report April 31 of the second year with required elements.
 - Present my results at the SSO International Conference on Surgical Cancer Care in March at the conclusion of the research, at my own expense.
- Return of Residual Funds. If a funded project does not take place, all monies awarded will be refunded to SSO. If it concludes early, a partial refund with an accounting of the funds expended up to the conclusion date will be provided. After the project is completed, any unused funds over \$50 will be refunded to SSO.
- Citation. SSO must be cited as the source of funding in any publication, presentation or in any publicity resulting from the project or its results. SSO should be sent reprints of all publications resulting from research supported by the grant.
- Abide by all SSO conditions, deadline policies and decisions of SSO.
- All correspondence will be sent to the applicant.
- Funds are given to the sponsoring institution.

Young Investigator Award 2022

The Young Investigator Award promotes and recognizes clinical and translational research that advances innovative ideas and concepts designed to improve health outcomes through advances in the delivery of cancer-related care. One award is given for up to \$25,000 for one year, beginning April 1 of the award year and concluding March 31 of the following year. The award is non-renewable. Applicants may apply more than once but may only receive the award one time.

The project must be hypothesis-driven and patient-oriented using the NIH definition of patient-oriented research: research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects.

Proposals in clinical research include:

- Quality of cancer care research
- Cost effectiveness and decision analysis
- Meta-analysis
- Survey analysis
- Comparative effectiveness research
- Qualitative research
- Health disparities research
- Operations research
- Health economics
- Quality of life and patient-reported outcomes
- Patient safety

Translational research projects that involve animals are allowed as long as they also involve some component of human subjects' research as defined above.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Hold DO, MD, or MD/PhD degrees
- Be surgical oncologists within five (5) years of completion of fellowship or related training.
- Be full SSO U.S. members for at least six (6) months prior to application submission to be eligible for an award.
- Proposed research cannot have received other competitive, peer-reviewed funding for the project.
- Applicant must be considered an early-stage investigator by NIH criteria.

Applicant should play a central role in the conduct of a specific clinical research project. The clinical research focus must be hypothesis-driven and have a direct, patient-oriented focus. SSO does not support research for commercial benefit or industry development.

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD APPLICATION: DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30, 2021, 11:59 PM CST

Please complete the online application by the deadline using the link accompanying this call for proposals on the SSO website. Only proposals submitted through the link will be accepted. The below descriptions of materials required are provided for information only to allow applicants to prepare for their submission. [Questions? pamhayden@surgonc.org](mailto:pamhayden@surgonc.org)

Failure to include all information may dismiss the application from consideration. No exceptions will be made to the deadline date and time. The application must include the following items, and be single-spaced, 12pt font, one-inch margins for any document uploaded to the site.

I certify that:

- I am a surgical oncologist within five (5) years of completion of fellowship or related training
- Proposed research has not received other competitive, peer-reviewed funding for the project.
- I am considered an early-stage investigator by NIH criteria.

Project Type (choose one):

- Clinical
- Translational

Proposal Title

✓ **Name and Credentials of Applicant**

✓ **Applicant Title, Institution, and Contact Information**

✓ **Role of the Applicant in the Project**

✓ **Names and Credentials of All Coinvestigators**

✓ **Title, Institution, and Contact Information for Each Coinvestigator**

 **NIH Biosketch in current NIH required format for Applicant and each coinvestigator.** (Document upload)

Each grant or award listed must include:

- Title of the project/grant
- Name of the funding source
- Names of all investigators, including the principal investigator (PI) and the role of the applicant, if not the PI
- Percent effort for project
- Dates of entire project period

✓ **Payee** (Individual and Institution authorized to receive the grant payment if an award is made)

✓ **Letters of Support** (one required, up to three allowed) (These will be guest uploads where you will be able to send an email to the person supplying the letter so that they may upload a letter directly. However, we recommend contacting them in advance so they know the requirements of the letter).

A letter of support from the applicant's institution is required and should include:

- A review of the proposal and summary of the applicant's qualifications.
- A description of the facilities and support available to complete the project.
- A specific stipulation of the percentage of time effort the applicant will devote to the research project.
- The letter should be from the institution cancer center director, department chair, or dean of research.
- Other letters of support (no more than three) may be included.

 **Research Proposal.** (Document upload)

The research proposal should include:

- **Abstract.** The abstract should describe the project and state the hypothesis being tested. It should include the aims of the research, and the novelty and clinical impact of the anticipated results (Limit one page).
- **Research Plan.** 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 (Limit to six pages).
- **Resources.** Include a brief description of the clinical cancer research project infrastructure at the applicant's institution as well as any required resources in laboratory science, population science, epidemiology, bio-specimen repositories, biostatistics, etc. (Limit to one page).
- **Literature Cited.** (No page limit).
- **Budget.** In table format, describe the proposed budget and provide a budget justification using the current NIH forms/format. Identify the percentage of time 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. Indirect costs are limited to partial support of the applicant's salary, research fellows or staff support, tuition, travel, and/or supplies (up to a total of \$2,000 per year). Additional funds are not provided for indirect costs. Percentage of time devoted to the project and indirect costs will be considered.
- **Appendix.** Include clinical protocol, informed consent form, and institutional review board approval. Funds will not be released until IRB approvals have been documented. IRB may be pending at time of submission but must be approved before receipt of funds. Summary statements are acceptable. (Limit five pages).

If awarded a grant, I understand and agree to the following conditions (electronic signature):

- I will attend the announcement of winners at the SSO International Conference on Surgical Cancer Care, or if I cannot attend, select a designated representative to attend on my behalf.
- Reporting
I will:
 - Provide a final report April 31 (end of the year of the award term).
 - Present my results at the SSO International Conference on Surgical Cancer Care in March at the conclusion of the research, at my own expense.
- Return of Residual Funds. If a funded project does not take place, all monies awarded will be refunded to SSO. If it concludes early, a partial refund with an accounting of the funds expended up to the conclusion date will be provided. After the project is completed, any unused funds over \$50 will be refunded to SSO.
- Citation. SSO must be cited as the source of funding in any publication, presentation or in any publicity resulting from the project or its results. SSO should be sent reprints of all publications resulting from research supported by the grant.
- Abide by all SSO conditions, deadline policies and decisions of SSO.
- All correspondence will be sent to the applicant.
- Funds are given to the sponsoring institution.

ⁱClinical Research. In *NCI Dictionaries of Cancer Terms*. Accessed: 8.6.21.
Available at: <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/clinical-research>.

ⁱⁱTranslational Research. In *NCI Dictionaries of Cancer Terms*. Accessed: 8.6.21.
Available at: <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/translational-research>.

