

2026 Research Funding

Clinical Investigator Award

Young Investigator Award

Supported by a grant from:



Lisa Kurtz Luciano Appendix Cancer and Pseudomyxoma Peritonei
Clinical Investigator Award

Young Investigator Award - Appendix Cancer, Pseudomyxoma Peritonei
(PMP) and Related Cancers

Supported by a grant from:





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 research is by providing research funding through its competitive Clinical Investigator and Young Investigator Awards.

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

- Significance
- Investigator
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment
- Future directions, including overarching goal and plan for subsequent funding
- Overall score

NEW IN 2026! Invited finalists in each award category will present their research to SSO judges (eight minute research presentation using slides, followed by a seven minute Q&A). Finalists will be notified 10 days prior to date of presentation (See Important Dates).

Please mark your calendars with the presentation date in the event you are selected as a finalist.

Applicants do not receive reviewer scores; however, they will receive comments at the conclusion of the process. SSO maintains control of award selection. Specific individuals or corporations do not influence selections.

2026 Important Dates

Deadline for proposals	October 10, 2025; 11:59 PM CST
Email confirming receipt of proposal	Autoreply upon receipt
Invitations to finalists to present to judges	By December 1, 2025
NEW! Invited finalists in each award category will present their research to SSO judges. (8 minute research presentation using slides followed by 7 minute Q&A). Please mark your calendars with this date in the event you are selected as a finalist.	December 10, 2025 (4pm PST/5pm MST/6pm CST/7pm EST)
Notification to winning applicants of awards	January 23-27, 2026
Announcement of ACPMP supported awards at Advanced Cancer Therapies Meeting • Lisa Kurtz Luciano Clinical Investigator Award • Young Investigator Award-ACPMP	February 14-16, 2026
SSO 2026 annual meeting awards ceremony for all awards	March 6, 2026
Funding Cycle	April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2028

Clinical Investigator Awards

2026-2028

SSO is pleased to announce the availability of two Clinical Investigator Awards: one any topic CIA and a second CIA opportunity available due to the generous support of the Appendix Cancer Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Research Foundation (ACPMP).

Clinical Investigator Award

- Any Topic
- Supported by SSO



Lisa Kurtz Luciano Appendix Cancer and Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Clinical Investigator Award

• *This grant is intended to support scientific, clinical, or translational research focused on appendix cancer or pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) of appendiceal origin. The goal is to fund studies with the highest potential to impact patient outcomes or advance knowledge in appendiceal cancers—ultimately contributing to the development of improved treatments.*

Proposals are strongly encouraged in, but not limited to, the priority research areas identified at the ACPMP Research Foundation Scientific Think Tank and outlined in Holowatyj et al., Nature Reviews Cancer, 2025; (PUBMED PMID: 39979656).

These priority research areas are:

- *Refinement of appendix tumor histology and histopathologic classification*
- *Defining the appendix tumor microenvironment*
- *Molecular characterization of appendix tumors and targets*
- *Prospective investigations and trials*
- *Population-level studies of appendix cancer*
- *Development of disease-specific models and a model repository*

Eligible proposals should focus on appendiceal mucinous neoplasms, appendiceal adenocarcinomas (including signet ring cell and goblet cell subtypes), and/or pseudomyxoma peritonei of appendiceal origin. Applications involving other cancer types are not eligible.

• *Projects will also be evaluated for their potential to lead to future extramural funding (e.g., NIH, DoD, FDA, corporate sponsors), additional preclinical research, or clinical trials.*

Supported by a grant from:



Clinical Investigator Awards promote patient-focused research conducted by surgical oncologists in clinical and translational science. 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, 2026-March 31, 2028). Applicants may apply more than once but may only receive the award one time.

Clinical Investigator Awards

2026-2028

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a surgical oncologist within eight (8) years of completion of fellowship or related training.
- Must be an 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 time.
- **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 disease (i.e., taking research into 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 if 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 APPLICATIONS: DEADLINE - OCTOBER 10, 2025, 11:59 PM CST



For both Clinical Investigator Awards, 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.

The same process is used for both the SSO supported grant and the Lisa Kurtz Luciano Appendix Cancer and Pseudomyxoma Peritonei grant supported by ACPMP.

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 adhere to the following guidelines for uploaded documents. Failure to adhere to formatting guidelines will result in administrative withdrawal of submissions.

•½ inch margins

•11pt. Arial font for all text (including figure and table titles and legends)

If you have questions please contact nicholassautter@surgonc.org.

☐ 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:** _____

✓ **Disease Site (choose one):**

Please indicate which disease site your research applies to. This information assists us in selecting appropriate reviewers.

☐ Breast

☐ Endocrine-Head and Neck

☐ Hepatobiliary

☐ PSM

☐ Colorectal

☐ Gastrointestinal

☐ Melanoma

☐ Sarcoma

✓ **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 for the Principal Investigator, following current NIH formatting guidelines and lengths.

[Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions, and Samples | Grants & Funding](#) (Document upload)

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD APPLICATIONS: DEADLINE - OCTOBER 10, 2025, 11:59 PM CST



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

✓ **Letters of Support (LOS) (one required, up to three allowed)**

You are required to submit at least one letter of support and up to three are allowed. These will be guest uploads where an email will be sent to the person supplying the letter so that they may upload a letter directly as soon as you trigger the email invitation. You will be directed to input the name and email for your LOS. Once you submit your application this will trigger the invite email to your LOS, and they will be provided a link to which they will submit their letter to your application form. We recommend contacting them in advance so they know the requirements of the letter. Letters are due by the proposal deadline.

You can track your LOS in your submission portal in the supplemental forms tab. New and Incomplete status means they haven't submitted at least one letter yet. Ready status means at least one letter has been fully submitted. You are responsible for ensuring that your letters of support are submitted by the application deadline.

Letter writers will not receive the invitation to upload until you submit your application. Please plan to submit in advance of the deadline and notify your letter writers so they have time to upload before the deadline as well.

If you have difficulty sending invitations or uploading letters, please contact nicholassautter@surgonc.org.

A letter of support from the applicant's institution is required. The letter should come from the institution division chief, department chair, cancer center director or dean and should include:

- Proposal title
- Attestation of adequate protected time and institutional resources to carry out the aims of the proposal.
- Other letters of support (no more than three in total) may be included.



Research Proposal (Document upload - one combined document that includes listed elements below)

The research proposal should include:

- Lay Summary/Abstract. The abstract should describe the project and state the hypothesis being tested and the novelty and clinical impact of the anticipated results. Maximum 30 lines of text.
- Specific Aims (Limit to one page).
- Research Plan. (Limit five pages, including figures) using the following categories:
 - Background and significance
 - Innovation
 - Experimental Design (Preliminary data encouraged but not required)
 - Future directions, including overarching goal and plan for subsequent funding
- References (NIH style with PMID's for all references; no page limit).
- Budget. Although no budget is required for submissions at the time of application, the following guidelines may help with submission planning:
 - Funds may not be used for indirect costs.
 - Funds may not be used for salary support of the PI.
 - Up to \$2,000 per award may be used for travel of the principal investigator to attend a Society of Surgical Oncology-sponsored annual meeting to present results at the discretion of the applicant.
 - Awardees will be required to submit a budget to the SSO Research Committee for review and approval prior to the release of funds.
 - No-cost extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis when extenuating circumstances are encountered (e.g., PI change of locations, unanticipated delays out of the PI's control).
- Other Support. (As per standard NIH requirements) Document for the PI, including a statement of overlap. [Other Support | Grants & Funding](#). (Official signature not required)
 - Facilities and Resources (Limit one page). Description of facilities and support available to complete the project (e.g., laboratory science, population science, epidemiology, bio-specimen repositories, biostatistics, etc.).
 - *Additional Documents As Applicable*. Institutional approval letters of any clinical protocol, informed consent, and institutional review board, animal protocol, etc. pertaining to the grant. For any proposals that involve animal and/or human subjects research, appropriate animal studies and/or IRB approval letters may be pending at the time of submission, but will be required prior to the release of funds.

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD APPLICATIONS: DEADLINE - OCTOBER 10, 2025, 11:59 PM CST



- ✓ An electronic signature will be required for the following acknowledgements.

If awarded a grant, I understand and agree to the following conditions:

- I will attend the announcement of winners at SSO 2026, or if I cannot attend, select a designated representative to attend on my behalf (all award winners).
- The winner of the Lisa Kurtz Luciano Appendix Cancer and Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Clinical Investigator Award supported by ACPMP will also be announced at the Advanced Cancer Therapies (ACT) meeting, February 15, 2026. Attendance is not required, but if attending the ACT meeting, attendance for the announcement is strongly encouraged. If you cannot attend, you may also select a designated representative to attend the announcement on your 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 annual meeting 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. The Lisa Kurtz Luciano CIA grant recipient must also acknowledge ACPMP in all papers and presentations resulting from the CIA as a condition of receipt of the award.
- 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 Awards

2026

SSO is pleased to announce the availability of two Young Investigator Awards for the 2026 cycle: an any topic YIA and a second YIA opportunity available due to the generous support of the Appendix Cancer Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Research Foundation (ACPMP).

Young Investigator Award

- Any Topic
- *Supported by SSO*



Young Investigator Award - Appendix Cancer Pseudomyxoma Peritonei (PMP)

- This grant is intended to support scientific, clinical, or translational research focused on appendix cancer or pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) of appendiceal origin. The goal is to fund studies with the highest potential to impact patient outcomes or advance knowledge in appendiceal cancers—ultimately contributing to the development of improved treatments.
- Eligible proposals should focus on appendiceal mucinous neoplasms, appendiceal adenocarcinomas (including signet ring cell and goblet cell subtypes), and/or pseudomyxoma peritonei of appendiceal origin. Applications involving other cancer types are not eligible.

Supported by a grant from ACPMP



The Young Investigator Awards promote and recognize clinical and translational research that advance innovative ideas and concepts designed to improve health outcomes through advances in the delivery of cancer-related care. Awards are 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.

Young Investigator Awards

2026

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 can 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 an SSO U.S. member 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 or translational research project. The 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 APPLICATIONS: OCTOBER 10, 2025, 11:59 PM CENTRAL



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The application must include the following items and adhere to the following guidelines for uploaded documents. Failure to adhere to formatting guidelines will result in administrative withdrawal of submissions.

- ½ inch margins
- 11pt. Arial font for all text (including figure and table titles and legends)

If you have questions, please contact nicholassautter@surgonc.org.

✓ **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:** _____

(if applying for the ACPMP grant, write "(ACPMP)" at the end of your proposal title to be considered for that award)

✓ **Disease Site (choose one):**

Please indicate which disease site your research applies to. This information assists us in selecting appropriate reviewers.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Breast | ☐ Endocrine-Head and Neck | ☐ Hepatobiliary | ☐ PSM |
| ☐ Colorectal | ☐ Gastrointestinal | ☐ Melanoma | ☐ Sarcoma |

✓ **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 for the Principal Investigator and their mentor, following current NIH formatting guidelines and lengths.

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A letter of support from the applicant's institution is required as well as a letter from your mentor. The institution letter should come from the institution division chief, department chair, cancer center director or dean and should include:

- Proposal title
- Attestation of adequate protected time and institutional resources to carry out the aims of the proposal.

The mentor letter should include a statement of commitment and brief mentorship plan.



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- 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>.

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