

2026 – Advocacy Task Force

Purpose

The SSO Advocacy Task Force will develop the SSO’s advocacy vision statement and guiding documents for external advocacy. Task Force members will adhere to four core philosophies: advancing accessibility, providing educational resources for the membership, sustaining long-term representation in health policy, and promoting basic, translational, and outcomes research.

Responsibilities

- Draft the Society’s advocacy vision statement and submit for Board approval.
 - Identify the Society’s opportunity for engagement in public health, public policy, and cancer research and patient care.
- Draft standard operating procedure for the Society’s response to external requests for SSO advocacy engagement including but not limited to endorsement requests and collaborations with partner societies, coalition partnerships, and endorsement requests (e.g. guidelines, position papers), and submit the SOPs for Board approval.
- Identify the Society’s foundation of advocacy resources and educational materials. For example, practice management tools, billing and coding updates, NCCI standards, and guidance for practitioners.
- Identify possible partnerships with additional societies, coalitions, and/or delegations.
- Cultivate SOPs for SSO to be able to quickly provide response and the SSO’s position in response to major events, factoring in the needs of the membership, emerging issues, and opportunities to collaborate with partner advocacy organizations; and submit the SOPs for Board approval.
- This Task Force will not engage in any lobbying activities.

Composition/Appointment

- Chair: 6 months
- Vice Chair: 6 months
- Up to 9 members: 6 months
- Board Liaison: 6 months

This Task Force is appointed for the first 6 months of the 2026-2027 SSO governance year. After the Task Force has completed its work, it will be sunset. At this time, an Advocacy Committee may be formed using the SOPs and vision statement created by this Task Force.

Eligibility	Time Commitment	Staff Liaison
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current voting SSO members with dues paid for 2026. • Commit to allocating time to effectively participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in virtual monthly meetings. • Additional hours per month to complete committee responsibilities. • Chairs will present at the Fall 2026 in-person Board meeting held in conjunction with the ACS Annual Meeting. 	<p style="text-align: center;"> Nicholas Sautter nicholassautter@surgonc.org </p>