

2026-2027 Surgical Oncology Pathways to Health Engagement, Representation, and Education (SPHERE) Committee Charge



Purpose

The Surgical Oncology Pathways to Health Engagement, Representation, and Education (SPHERE) Committee is responsible for recommending policies and initiatives to advance a diverse representation throughout the Society. The Committee will develop projects and programs that support SSO’s Strategic Plan goals surrounding the diversification of the surgical oncology workforce.

Responsibilities

- Monitor and analyze SSO’s Committee and Board makeup annually to ensure leadership composition reflects the diversity of its membership.
- Engage external organizations representing DEI affinity groups in joint projects and programs.
- Recommend strategies and initiatives to expand the presence and ensure meaningful engagement for underrepresented groups within the organization.
- Develop programs that support and engage diverse students, trainees, and cancer care providers to increase the pipeline of underrepresented groups into surgical oncology and the SSO.
- Serve as volunteer reviewers for abstract submissions to SSO’s live meetings, when requested.

Composition/Appointment

- Chair: 2 years
- Vice Chair: 2 years
- Up to 19 members: 2 years
 - 1 Representative from the Association of Out Surgeons and Allies (AOSA)
- Board Liaison: 1 year

New members are appointed by the President-Elect during the Application for Engagement, taking a wide range of factors into account: diversity of gender, race, geographical location, program size, and skillset, among others. New Vice Chairs are selected from among current members or those whose 2-year term is ending.

Eligibility	Time Commitment	Staff Liaison (s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current voting SSO members with dues paid for 2026. • Commit to allocating time to effectively participate. • Complete Application for Engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple virtual meetings per year (approx. monthly). • Additional hours per month to complete committee responsibilities. • Attend the Joint Committee Conference held at the SSO annual meeting. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Amanda Firlit: amandafirlit@surgonc.org</p>