



SSO 2027 Annual Meeting Abstract Contests and Awards

Contest and Awards

Can my abstract be considered for an award at the SSO 2027 Annual Meeting?

Yes. SSO offers several **competitive awards** for outstanding abstracts submitted to the SSO 2027 Annual Meeting.

To be eligible for award consideration, authors must:

- **Submit an abstract by the official deadline.**
- Ensure the submission meets all **eligibility criteria** outlined in the award descriptions and submission instructions below.
- **Confirm eligibility** by attesting to specific award requirements during the submission process.
- Ensure the work has **not been published or presented elsewhere** prior to **March 17, 2027**.
- ***Please note:** Abstracts submitted under the **Team Science Category** do not qualify for an award at the SSO Annual Meeting.

All abstracts will be reviewed by the **SSO Scientific Program Committee**, and qualifying submissions will be considered for available awards.

Harvey Baker Traveling Fellow Award

Each year, the SSO awards **\$1,000** to a resident or fellow whose abstract is accepted for presentation at the **SSO Annual Meeting**, in support of their ongoing research and professional development.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The abstract must be submitted by a **resident or fellow** currently enrolled in one of the following:
 - **ACGME-accredited General Surgery residency**

- **ACGME-accredited Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship**
- **SSO/ASBrS-approved Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship**
- The research must represent the **primary work of the resident or fellow**, though co-authors may be included.
- Applicants **within one-year post-training** may be eligible **if the work was completed during training**.
- The presenting author must be an **SSO member or sponsored by an SSO member**.
- **International applicants** must submit a letter from their program director verifying participation in a program with equivalent accreditation.

Additional Requirements:

- The paper must be **presented by the resident or fellow** at **SSO 2027**.
- All finalists must submit a **letter of good standing** from their training program director, chief of service, or department chair. Failure to submit this documentation may result in disqualification.
- Detailed instructions will be provided to selected finalists upon notification.

Annual Resident/Fellow Research Awards (Clinical Research and Basic Science Research)

SSO will present two **\$1,000 Resident/Fellow Research Awards** at the SSO 2027 Annual Meeting for the following:

- **Best Clinical Research Abstract**
- **Best Basic Science Research Abstract**

Eligibility Criteria:

- Abstract must be submitted by a **resident or fellow** currently enrolled in one of the following:
 - **ACGME-accredited General Surgery residency**
 - **ACGME-accredited Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship**
 - **SSO/ASBrS-approved Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship**
- Applicants must be **working with or sponsored by an SSO member**.
- The research should represent the **primary work of the resident or fellow**, although co-authors may be included.
- Individuals **within one year of completing their training** are eligible, provided the work was completed during their residency or fellowship.
- **International applicants** must include a letter from their program director confirming enrollment in a comparably accredited training program.

Submission Requirements:

- Finalists **may be asked** to submit the following:
 1. An **expanded abstract** (up to 3,000 characters)
 2. A **letter of good standing** from their program director, chief of service, or department chair confirming current training status
- Materials must be submitted upon request from SSO.

Selection Process:

- The **Scientific Program Committee** will select **three finalists** per category and notify them by **January 1, 2027**.
- Finalists will be invited to present their work via **Zoom**, approximately two weeks prior to the SSO 2027 Annual Meeting.
- Presentations will be evaluated by the Committee, and **one winner will be selected in each category**.

Presentation & Award Announcement:

- The selected winners must present their research in person at **SSO 2027**.
- Award recipients will be announced during the **SSO Annual Business Meeting on Friday, March 19, 2027, from 5:30–6:15 pm**.
- Recipients do **not** need to be present at the Business Meeting to receive the award.

Top-Rated Oral Abstract Award

SSO will recognize excellence in oral abstract presentations by awarding **nine certificates** to the highest-rated podium presentations—one in each of the following categories:

- **Colorectal**
- **Breast**
- **Disparities/Quality**
- **Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB)**
- **Endocrine/Head & Neck**
- **Melanoma/Sentinel Lymph Node (SLN)**
- **Peritoneal Surface Malignancy (PSM)**
- **Sarcoma**
- **Upper GI/Thoracic**

Eligibility Criteria:

- To qualify, abstracts must be submitted by a **medical student, resident, or fellow** currently enrolled in an:

- **ACGME-accredited General Surgery residency**
- **ACGME-accredited Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship**
- **SSO/ASBrS-approved Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship**

Award Process:

- Final decisions will be made by the **Scientific Program Committee**.
- Awards will be **announced in person** by the session **Moderator** during SSO 2027.
- Certificates will be **delivered electronically** following the meeting.

Top-Rated Poster Award

SSO will present **nine certificates** to the highest-rated poster-designated abstracts—one in each of the following categories:

- **Colorectal**
- **Breast**
- **Disparities/Quality**
- **Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB)**
- **Endocrine/Head & Neck**
- **Melanoma/Sentinel Lymph Node (SLN)**
- **Peritoneal Surface Malignancy (PSM)**
- **Sarcoma**
- **Upper GI/Thoracic**

All nine award-winning posters will be showcased in the HUB Poster Park with recognition as Top-Rated Poster Award recipients.

Eligible Presentation Formats:

Poster-designated abstracts include Quick Shot Poster Presentations and Poster Park Showcase presentations.

Eligibility Criteria:

- To be considered, abstracts must be submitted by a **medical student, resident, or fellow** currently enrolled in an:
 - **ACGME-accredited General Surgery residency**
 - **ACGME-accredited Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship**
 - **SSO/ASBrS-approved Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship**

Award Process:

- Recipients will be selected by the **Scientific Program Committee**.
- Certificates will be **delivered electronically** following the meeting.

The Dale Han Award

Established in 2021 and sponsored by the **Sentinel Node Oncology Foundation** in collaboration with the **Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO)**, the **Dale Han Award** honors outstanding research in the management of **skin cancer**, spanning clinical, translational, or basic science domains. This annual award commemorates the late **Dr. Dale Han**, a respected surgical oncologist remembered for his dedication to research, teaching, and mentorship.

The award includes a **\$1,500 travel stipend** and is presented to a **postdoctoral surgical resident or surgical oncology fellow** whose abstract is accepted for oral presentation at the **SSO 2027 Annual Meeting**.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The abstract must focus on **skin cancer** and be selected for **oral presentation** at SSO 2027.
- Selection will be made by the **Sentinel Lymph Node Working Group Committee**.
- The abstract must be submitted by a **resident or fellow** enrolled in an:
 - **ACGME-accredited General Surgery residency**
 - **ACGME-accredited Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship**
 - **SSO/ASBrS-approved Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship**
- Applicants must be **working with or sponsored by an SSO member**.
- The research must primarily reflect the **resident or fellow's original work**. Co-authors are permitted.
- Individuals **within one-year post-training** may apply if the work was completed during their training.
- **International applicants** must provide a letter from their program director confirming enrollment in a comparably accredited program.

Presentation Requirement:

- The abstract must be **presented by the resident or fellow** at **SSO 2027**.