



E. Shelley Hwang Sustainability Excellence Grant

Presented by SSO

SSO is committed to a future where health care providers are an effective force for combatting climate change for our patients and our planet.

The SSO Surgical Oncologists for Sustainability Committee was formed in the Spring of 2025, with the goal of reducing waste in the surgical oncologist workspace, advocating and educating to promote sustainable practices, and view climate change activism as an urgent moral and ethical imperative.

The piloted E. Shelley Hwang SEG recognizes surgical oncologists who demonstrate exceptional leadership and measurable impact in advancing environmental sustainability within their clinical practice, institution, or health system.

One grant of \$10,000 will be awarded.

ELIGIBILITY

- Be a surgical oncologist (board-certified/board-eligible) or actively practicing in surgical oncology.
 - Resident applicants who are not board certified are allowable, provided they have a Coinvestigator on their application that fulfills this eligibility.
- SSO member in good standing
- Demonstrate leadership in sustainability efforts within a practice, hospital system, or broader professional setting
- Team-based initiatives are eligible, provided a surgical oncologist serves as the primary lead applicant.

Timeline:

Open Date: August 17, 2026

Close Date: October 30, 2026

Recipient Announced: February 2027

ABOUT E. SHELLEY HWANG

Dr. Shelley Hwang, MD, MPH, MBA

is the Mary and Deryl Hart Professor of Surgical Oncology, Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Surgery, and Director of the Breast Oncology Program at the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her research focuses on breast cancer prevention, less invasive treatments for early-stage breast cancer, and the biological mechanisms that drive cancer progression. She is Principal Investigator of the Breast Precancer Center within the Human Tumor Atlas Network.



Dr. Hwang is a member of the American Surgical Association, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, a Fellow of the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO), and Co-Chair of the NCI Breast Cancer Steering Committee.

She is passionate about exploring the world and advancing innovative approaches to promote environmental sustainability in cancer care. As founder of the SSO Surgical Oncologists for Sustainability (SOS) Committee, she helps to lead efforts to promote sustainable operating room practices, education, research, and collaboration to reduce the environmental impact of surgical care while ensuring the health of patients and the planet.

Within SSO:

- SSO member for over 25 years.
- Served on Board of Directors
- Chair of the Breast DSWG
- Member of Corporate Relations Committee
- Chair, Board Liaison, and Founder of the Surgical Oncologists for Sustainability Committee
- Webpage: [Sustainability - Society of Surgical Oncology](#)

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

FORMATTING

- ½ inch margins
- 11pt. Arial font for all text

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Name, credentials, and institution of all applicants and relevant team members.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT (MAXIMUM 2 PAGES)

- Identifies the systemic problem or environmental challenge being addressed by the application.
- Outlines the intended actions that will be implemented.
- Details of the role of the applicant and all relevant team members.
- Provides detailed timeline of implementation.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (MAXIMUM 2 PAGES)

- Provides quantitative/qualitative evidence such as:
 - Waste reduction data
 - Cost savings achieved
 - Emissions reductions
 - Policy changes enacted
 - Adoption rates across departments or institutions

SUSTAINABILITY GROWTH PLAN (MAXIMUM 1 PAGE)

- Explains how the application will implement, create, scale, or sustain long-term impact.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT (MAXIMUM 1 PAGE)

- Letter of Support (LOS), ideally from the institution division chief, department chair, cancer center director or dean.
 - The LOS should provide clear commitment from the institution and plan to adopt the application.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS (OPTIONAL) (MAXIMUM 2 PAGES)

- Data Charts & figures
- Existing protocols
- Educational materials
- Publications or presentations



EXAMPLES OF QUALIFYING INITIATIVES:

- Operating room waste reduction
- Carbon reduction & resource optimization
- Institutional policy leadership, education and/or culture change
- Research and innovation-based projects

Applications are scored by the SSO Sustainability Committee using a scientific peer-review process, considering the following criteria:

- Feasibility
- Support
- Impact
- Innovation

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

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