

RFP – 2027 Research Funding CIA and YIA Awards

BACKGROUND & GENERAL INFORMATION

For the first time ever, the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) has increased the Clinical Investigator Award to \$150,000 and the Young Investigator Award to \$50,000. These expanded awards reflect SSO's commitment to accelerating innovative cancer research while supporting emerging investigators. As a global community of cancer surgeons, SSO advances research, education, and collaboration to improve the quality of surgical cancer care and patient outcomes worldwide.

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

- Significance
- Approach
- Investigator
- Innovation
- Environment
- Future directions

Finalists in each award category are required to present their proposed project to representatives of the SSO Research Committee. This includes an eight-minute research presentation using slides, followed by a seven-minute Q&A session.

All applicants are encouraged to please mark your calendars with these presentation dates in the event you are selected as a finalist:

YIA: Tuesday, December 1, 2026, 5-7pm CST

CIA: Wednesday, December 2, 2026, 5-7pm CST

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications Open	August 17
Applications Due	October 2, 11:59pm EST
Finalist Presentation Dates	YIA: Tuesday, December 1, 2026, 5-7pm CST CIA: Wednesday, December 2, 2026, 5-7pm CST
Recipients Notified	December 2026
Recipients Announced	January 2027

For all awards, please complete the online application by clicking [here](#). Only proposals submitted through the link will be accepted.

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS (CIA) 2027-2029

SSO OFFERS TWO CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

Awards are funded for two years at \$75,000/year for a total award of \$150,000 beginning April 1 of the award year and concluding March 31 of the 2nd year. (Example: April 1, 2027-March 31, 2029).

Applicants may apply more than once but may only receive the award one time.

1. Any topic CIA

- a. This grant is intended to promote patient-focused research conducted by surgical oncologists in clinical and translational science.

2. Lisa Kurtz Luciano Appendix Cancer and

Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Clinical Investigator

Award due to the support of the Appendix Cancer

Pseudomyxoma Peritonei
Research Foundation
(ACPMP).



- b. This grant is intended to support scientific, clinical, or translational research focused on appendix cancer or pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) of appendiceal origin.
- c. 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.

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.
- Applicants should play a central role in the conduct of a specific research project.
 - This includes 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 should be hypothesis-driven, and 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.
 - 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: The process by which the results of research done in the laboratory are used to develop new ways to diagnose and treat disease. Projects that involve animals are allowed if they also involve some component of human subjects' research.

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.

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS (YIA) 2027-2029

SSO OFFERS TWO YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS FOR THE 2027 CYCLE

Awards are funded for two years at \$25,000/year for a total award of \$50,000 beginning April 1 of the award year and concluding March 31 of the 2nd year. (Example: April 1, 2027-March 31, 2029).

Applicants may apply more than once but may only receive the award one time.

1. Any topic YIA

- a. This grant is intended to 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.

2. YIA opportunity available due to the generous

support of the Appendix Cancer Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Research Foundation (ACPMP).



- a. This grant is intended to support scientific, clinical, or translational research focused on appendix cancer or pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) of appendiceal origin.
- b. 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.
- c. Applications involving other cancer types are not eligible.

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.
- Must be an SSO U.S. member in good standing.
- 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.
- SSO does not support research for commercial benefit or industry development.



ALL FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS APPLICABLE TO ALL FOUR RESEARCH GRANTS

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Failure to include all information may dismiss the application from consideration. No exceptions will be made to the deadline, date and time. Failure to adhere to formatting guidelines will result in administrative withdrawal.

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

FORMATTING

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

REQUIRED DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- Certification that applicant meets eligibility requirements.
- Indication of Award applying to
- Project Type (Clinical or Translational)
- Proposal Title
- Disease Site (identify)
- Applicant Name
- Institution
- Contact Information
- Names and Credentials of all Coinvestigators
- Title, Institution, and Contact Information for each Coinvestigator
- Payee (Individual and Institution authorized to receive the grant payment if award is given)

PI BIOSKETCH

- NIH Biosketch for the Principal Investigator, following current NIH formatting guidelines and lengths. [Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions, and Samples | Grants & Funding](#)

LETTERS OF SUPPORT (LOS)

(ONE REQUIRED, UP TO THREE ALLOWED)

Applicants are required to obtain LOS and upload as part of their application.

A LOS 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.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- The research proposal should include:
 - Lay Summary/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:
 - Maximum one page.
 - Research Plan:
 - Maximum 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 \$3,500 per award may be used for travel of the PI to attend a SSO-sponsored annual meeting to present results.
- 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.

CURRENT/PENDING SUPPORT

- Facilities and Resources
- Maximum one page
- Description of facilities and support available to complete the project

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.

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 2027, or if I cannot attend, select a designated representative to attend on my behalf (all award winners).
 - I will provide a 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.

- I will provide a final report April 30 of the second year with required elements.
- I will 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.
- 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FOR ACPMP AWARDS

- 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 2027.
- 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.
- 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.

