

2026-2027 – Artificial Intelligence and Data Science Work Group



Purpose

The rapid integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and data science into oncology research, education and clinical care requires urgent, coordinated engagement from the surgical oncology community. The purpose of the SSO Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science Working Group is to position the Society of Surgical Oncology as a leader in the responsible and strategic integration of AI and data science across surgical oncology. The case for surgical oncology's unique contribution is compelling: AI applications across the surgical oncology care continuum are distinct problems that require surgical oncologist-led inquiry, validation, and attention.

Responsibilities

- Define SSO's strategic priorities related to AI and data science
- Complete a landscape survey of current AI applications in surgical oncology research, education and practice.
- Draft a formal SSO position statement on principles for responsible AI use in surgical oncology.
- Collaborate with relevant SSO committees on educational materials, an Annual Meeting session proposal.
- Engage interdisciplinary collaborators as needed including biomedical informaticists and data scientists embedded in surgical oncology programs.
- Provide appropriate support and guidance to develop position statements or engage regulatory and policy bodies on AI topics relevant to cancer surgeons and their patients.
- Collaborate with partner societies when appropriate for advocacy, research, and clinical integration of AI
- Review the committee founding charge and propose appropriate modifications to the Executive Committee

Composition/Appointment

- Chair: 2 years
- Vice Chair: 2 years
- Up to 10 members: 2 years
- Board Liaison
- 1 Member from the Education and Innovation Committee

This working group will have an initial 2-year appointment (2026 – 2028). After which, there will be an evaluation of the Working Group's outputs. If the Working Group is approved for continuation, new members will be 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
• Current voting SSO members with dues paid for 2026. • Commit to allocating time to effectively participate.	• Participate in regular virtual meetings. • Additional hours per month to complete responsibilities. • Attend the Joint Committee Conference held at the SSO annual meeting.	Nick Sautter, nicholassautter@surgonc.org