

2025 International Career Development Exchange Program



Purpose

The International Career Development Exchange (ICDE) program provides support for up-and-coming, early career surgical oncologists with leadership potential to receive one-on-one mentoring and engagement with a distinguished senior member of the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO). Each of SSO's Global Partner Societies is eligible to designate a participant who meets the criteria outlined below. Additionally, SSO supports two ICDE participants from countries not connected to one of our Global Partners.

Participants receive complimentary registration for SSO 2025 in Tampa, FL and the opportunity to participate in a minimum one-week clinical observership at a US-based SSO member's institution. Each participant will be paired with an SSO Member Mentor with the goal that a long-term professional relationship will develop and continue over the course of the participant's career. SSO staff will pair participants with their Member Mentor based on shared clinical interests, there is no expectation that the participant or Global Partner Society will need to arrange the institutional visit.

Eligibility Criteria & Participant Commitments

Eligibility Criteria

Individuals must meet the following criteria to participate in the ICDE program:

- Delegates from Global Partner Societies must be a member of their sponsoring organization.
- Cannot have previously received the SSO ICDE grant.
- Cannot have attended more than one SSO Annual Meeting in the past three (3) years (SSO 2024, SSO 2023, SSO 2022).
- Must be 45 years old or younger at the time of application.
- Must be currently employed in their home country/region.
- Must have a strong command of the English language (both writing and speaking). A Zoom call will be scheduled to confirm fluency.
- Must have a current passport.
- Must be able to travel to the United States and obtain a travel visa to the United States if coming from a country where one is required.

The SSO reserves the right to evaluate and determine eligibility based on the information and justifications included in the requested materials.

Participant Commitments

ICDE participants must commit to the following stipulations in order to participate in the program:

- Complete an online information and agreement form distributed by SSO.

- Complete an SSO membership application (membership will be complimentary, however, a completed application is still required).
- Meet any requirements obligated by the institution where they will complete their observership.
- Submit a summary report about the experience and complete a survey immediately following the program, along with 1-, 3-, and 5- year follow-ups.
- Submit any photos or videos taken during the SSO Annual Meeting or institutional visit for use on SSO’s social media, website, marketing materials, or for any other use in support of the program.
- Participants may be asked to record audio or video interviews regarding the experience.

Award Details

Each Participant will receive the following:

- A stipend of \$3,000 USD to assist with travel arrangements, which will be provided at SSO 2025 via electronic means. No checks or cash will be issued.
- Complimentary registration to SSO 2025.
- One year of complimentary membership in the Society.
- A 5-day observership at a U.S. based institution with an SSO Member Mentor.
 - SSO will match the participant with a host based on shared professional and scientific interests from one of SSO’s eight disease site areas.

Selection Process/Key Dates

| Date | Item |
|------------------|--|
| August 1, 2024 | Launch date for Global Partner Societies |
| August 14, 2024 | Applications open for 2 SSO-sponsored participants |
| August 30, 2024 | Applications close for SSO-sponsored participants |
| October 31, 2024 | Deadline for Global Partners to submit their ICDE participant |
| November 4, 2024 | Deadline for SSO staff send notification letters to participants |
| November 8, 2024 | Deadline for participants to complete online information survey |

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| November 2024 | SSO staff work to pair participants with their SSO Member Mentor/institutional host |
| December 2024 & January 2025 | Participants work directly with institution/host to complete any documentation or other requirements for the visit |
| January 31, 2025 | Deadline for participants to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for US visa • Register for SSO 2025 • Complete membership application • Complete institutional requirements for visit |
| March 26-29, 2025 | SSO 2025 |
| March 31 – April 4, 2025 | Institutional visit |
| June 2, 2025 | Post-activity summary report and survey due to SSO |
| June 1, 2026 | 1-year post-activity summary report and survey due to SSO |
| June 1, 2028 | 3-year post-activity summary report and survey due to SSO |
| June 3, 2030 | 5-year post-activity summary report and survey due to SSO |

Please contact Andrea King, Director of Governance & Global Programs at andreaking@surgonc.org with any questions.