



SGO Board of Directors Application / Nomination and Election Frequently Asked Questions

The Nominating Subcommittee of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) is seeking committed members to serve on the 2025-2026 SGO Board of Directors. To help you better understand the process, SGO has compiled answers to members' most common application / nomination and election queries:

Which Board positions will be filled?

There are eight (8) open seats on the 2025-2026 SGO Board of Directors. SGO is seeking applications and nominations for the following:

- President-Elect II (one-year term; total time commitment of four years, one open position)
- Community Practice based Board Member (three-year term, one open position)
- Early Career Board Member: within five years of completing terminal training (three-year term, one open position)
- International Board Member (three-year term, one open position)
- Medical/Radiation Oncologist Board Member (three-year term, one open position)
- Member-at-large position (three-year term, two open positions)
- Fellow-in-Training (FIT) Representative (one-year term, one open position)

Who is eligible to serve?

- Any Full Member in good standing is eligible to serve as President-Elect II, Secretary-Treasurer Elect, or Board Member, unless otherwise noted in [Article III, Section 3.1A of the SGO Bylaws](#).
- Any Fellow-in-Training Member (with an SGO Trainee Membership) in good standing is eligible to serve as a Fellow-in-Training Representative. The individual must be enrolled in a fellowship program for the entirety of their term.
- Any current board member whose current term ends at the 2025 Annual Meeting and a new term would begin after the 2025 Annual Meeting. They may not succeed to the same office.

What criteria will the Nominating Subcommittee use to select candidates?

Once membership requirements are verified, the Nominating Subcommittee will evaluate candidates based on their professional background, including credentials, leadership experience, skills that will complement their commitment to the SGO's mission and vision, including past involvement in SGO or other committees and programs; and personal characteristics, including communication skills, commitment to diversity and leadership style*.

The following are guiding principles:

- Professional background: Do you have previous Board experience? Do you have special interests or skills/strategic relationships that align with the SGO?
- Personal characteristics: Are you easy to approach, collaborative and inclusive? Are you visionary and strategic? Since part of your responsibility as a Board member is to be a role model, leadership qualities are essential.
- Your commitment to active participation and leadership: Do your other professional activities permit you to commit adequate time and attention to the duties required of an SGO Officer or Board Member?

**The Nominating Subcommittee understands that Fellow-in-Training members may not have previous committee or leadership experience due to the stage of their career. Prior service is not required of the Fellow-in-Training Representative.*

What do Board Members do?

You lead...think...plan...set goals...and monitor progress. Your focus is SGO's mission, vision, and strategic plan, which sets the foundation for the needs of professionals dedicated to gynecologic cancer research, training, prevention, and treatment of patients. Board members bring different viewpoints and expertise to the table which, when blended with the knowledge and skillset of the SGO professionals, ensures continued success of the organization.

How much time does Board service require?

All board members must be willing to invest time in preparing for and thoughtfully participating in Board meetings. The Board meets face-to-face two to three times a year for up to a full day and participates in virtual meetings on a regular basis. Board members are also expected to attend the SGO Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer.

What is included in a board meeting agenda?

Board meeting agendas include a variety of topics. The board spends time reviewing requests, focusing on strategic discussions and decisions. Examples of board agenda items include:

- Finance: Annual budget & audit approval
- Committees: Requests for approval of a new initiative
- Organizational: Review and approve requests for new member educational opportunities.
- Strategy: Strategic Plan (every three years), committee leadership presentations and discussion
- Board Education: Core competency topics

May I nominate myself?

Yes. The Nominating Subcommittee accepts self-nominated applicants.

May I nominate a fellow SGO member?

Yes. The Nominating Subcommittee accepts nominations from members.

How do I apply?

Complete the [online application form](#). This includes submission of a 1-minute video and personal statement. Fellow-in-Training applicants must also submit a letter of support from their program director by uploading their letter via the online form.

How do I nominate a fellow SGO member?

Complete the [online nomination form](#).

Do I need a letter of support to be considered?

Only applicants for the Fellow-in-Training Member representative position must obtain a letter of recommendation from their program director to be considered. Applicants for all other positions should not submit letters of recommendation.

When are applications due?

Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. CST on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted.

What is the nomination and election process?

SGO's Nominating Subcommittee will accept nominations through Tuesday, September 17, 2024. The subcommittee then reviews all applications and chooses a slate of no more than two candidates for the President-Elect II position, no more than three candidates for the Community Practice Based, Early Career and Fellow-in-Training Representative positions and no more than nine individuals for the open Member-at-Large

board positions. The slate is then presented to the SGO Board of Directors for approval.

Once the slate is approved by the Board of Directors, the candidates' names, personal statements, and videos are presented to the membership-at-large for voting. Each eligible voting member will be notified by email or mail to cast their vote, choosing from the candidates presented on the slate. The election will occur between Nov. 22-Dec. 22, 2024. The candidate(s) with the most votes will be elected.

Who is eligible to vote in open elections?

- Associate Members in good standing are eligible to vote for the Associate Board Member and President-Elect II.
- Full Members in good standing are eligible to vote for the President-Elect II and Board Member positions.
- Fellow-in-Training Members (with an SGO Trainee Membership) in good standing are eligible to vote for the President-Elect II and Fellow-in-Training Member Representative.
- Senior Members in good standing are eligible to vote for the President-Elect II and Board Member positions.

Who can answer other questions that I have?

For more information about the nominations process or criteria, contact Nominating, Honors and Awards Committee Chair, [Angeles Alvarez Secord, MD, MHSc](#) or SGO's Senior Manager of Governance and Clinical Practice, [Traci Schwendner](#).