



### **COSECSA- SSO ICDE Collaboration**

Dear COSECSA Fellows, Faculty and Senior Trainees (FCS Level)

COSECSA in Collaboration with SSO are pleased to offer one spot to COSECSA Fellows, Senior Residents and Faculty who are interested in Surgical Oncology. Kindly review the information below and submit the following to the secretariat through the Education Assistant:

- 1. Letter of Intent**
- 2. Brief CV no more than 3 pages highlighting clinical work or research in Surgical Oncology.**
- 3. Letter of support from Home Institution**

Please send application packet addressed to Dr Michael Mwachiro, Chair ESRC via [education\\_asst@cosecsa.org](mailto:education_asst@cosecsa.org)

Deadline for application submission is **30<sup>th</sup> August 31 2025 5pm Central African Time.**

Notifications will be made **30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 5pm Central African Time.**

### **2026 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 2026 in Phoenix, AZ 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.
- SSO-sponsored participants must be an SSO Active International member in good standing (2025 dues must be paid) to apply.
- Cannot have previously received an ICDE grant.
- Cannot have previously participated in the Career Catalyst Mentorship Program.
- Cannot have attended more than one SSO Annual Meeting in the past three (3) years (SSO 2025, SSO 2024, SSO 2023).
- 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 may 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 any follow-ups requested by SSO.
- 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 2026 via electronic means. No checks or cash will be issued.
- Complimentary registration to SSO 2026.
- 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. 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.

### **Mentor Obligations**

SSO Member Mentors are an integral part of this program, serving as long-term professional contacts for participants. Mentors will be asked to:

- Assist their mentee with any institutional requirements and answer any questions they may have about housing, travel, transportation, or anything else related to the city, institution, or observership.
- Meet their mentee at SSO 2026.
- Host their mentee for a 5-day observership at their institution
- Serve as a long-term professional contact for their mentee.