



Society of Gynecologic Oncology

## **SGO Congressional Ambassador Program**

The SGO Congressional Ambassadors Program provides tools and assignments for SGO Members to reach out to Congressional offices in their states regarding issues of interest for the gynecologic oncology community. By joining and participating in the Congressional Ambassadors Program, you empower the SGO to have a louder voice and greater impact on Congressional activities regarding issues that matter to SGO Members.

In 2015 and 2016, the initial focus of the SGO Ambassadors has been to contact Congress Members on the Appropriations Committees to support of the annual funding for ovarian cancer research programs at the Department of Defense (DoD). Our efforts were successful in securing \$20 million for the program in the FY 2016 Federal budget and we are continuing our outreach to ensure the funding will remain in next year's budget.

Additional issues the SGO Congressional Ambassadors may address in the future:

- Including our voice in the implementation of policies regarding the future of Medicare Physician Payment
- Calling for Federal support for gyn oncology clinical trials
- Identify and recommend solutions for the high costs of cancer drugs

Activities include:

- Outreach via email and/or phone calls to the staffer in the Members of Congress' office to educate them on the need to support Federal funding for ovarian cancer research at the DoD. SGO provides email templates, instructions and deadlines for these messages several times throughout the year.
- Work with your institution/practice to invite the Member of Congress to your facility for a tour or visit or schedule a local visit with your Member of Congress in their district office during a recess period.
- Travel to Washington, DC to visit with your Members of Congress in their Washington offices, resources permitting.
- Attend conference calls, as needed, to stay educated on the issues surrounding the challenges for Federal research funding.
- Provide examples and data regarding the need for ovarian cancer research funding in your state, when asked.

To join or learn more about the SGO Congressional Ambassadors Program, please contact SGO's Government Relations Director, Jill Rathbun at [jill\\_rathbun@galileogrp.com](mailto:jill_rathbun@galileogrp.com).