



Creative Arts Therapies (CAT) SIG Terms of Reference

Date of approval: January 15, 2026

1. Role

The role of SIO's Creative Arts Therapies (CAT) SIG is to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure that the creative arts therapies community's voice is part of the ongoing mission, vision, and strategy for SIO. The CAT SIG will serve as a dedicated space to elevate the role of the creative arts in integrative cancer care across the continuum.

2. Purpose

1. The purpose of the CAT SIG is to:
 - Provide a networking venue for SIO members identifying as practitioners, researchers, artists and advocates working at the intersection of oncology and creative arts therapies. This CAT SIG will include but not limited to professionals in art therapy, dance/movement therapy, drama therapy, music therapy, and poetry/bibliotherapy who work across the lifespan of cancer care including, pediatrics, AYA, and adult, as well as a wide range of cancer diagnoses
 - Advocate for the role of Creative Arts Therapies in integrative oncology care (i.e., in media, communications, healthcare systems, government agencies, health policy, community art centers and venues and others identified by SIO and the Committee/SIG).
 - Create space for collaboration across disciplines to support patient-centered, culturally responsive, and innovative integrative oncology practices.
 - Provide opportunities for networking to foster community, mentorship, collaborative research discussions and professional development among creative arts therapists and integrative oncology professionals.
 - Educate providers, patients, and institutions about the evidence base, safety, and implementation of creative arts therapies.
 - Support research to generate and disseminate high-quality evidence on the effectiveness and mechanisms of creative arts therapies in oncology as well as the broader intersection of arts and health initiatives.
2. The CAT SIG may accept assignments from the SIO Executive Committee as they arise and are agreed upon by the Committee/SIG.

3. Membership

1. The CAT SIG leadership will be composed of a chair and a co-chair. The co-chair will assume the role of chair after the chair's term is completed.
2. The CAT SIG will be composed of any number of members who are eligible and express interest in the objectives and goals of the CAT SIG.
3. Terms of service for the committee chair and co-chair will be for one (1) 2-year period, with the possibility of renewal for an additional term, if approved by a simple majority (51%) of the CAT SIG membership.

4. Qualifications for committee members include specialization (e.g., clinical practice, research, artistic practices in health-related settings) in one of the CAT modalities and willingness to attend meetings and assist in achieving CAT SIG objectives.
5. Members are expected to attend [no less than 75% of all meetings unless excused (e.g., unavoidable conflict)] and actively participate in CAT SIG meetings, which are generally held via videoconferencing; volunteer and participate in CAT SIG projects; keep up to date on CAT SIG proceedings and projects.

4. Meetings

1. The CAT SIG leadership will meet approximately on a monthly basis throughout the year, with 10-12 meetings held annually.
2. The CAT SIG will meet quarterly (approximately 4 times per year) online to share updates, spotlight member projects, discuss current research, and build community. Additionally, there will be one in-person meeting held annually at the SIO Annual Conference.
3. The CAT SIG meetings will be held via videoconferencing (Zoom) with up to one in-person meeting typically held at the annual SIO conference.
4. Meetings will be 1 to 2 hours in duration.
5. Agendas for each meeting will be circulated to members in advance of the meeting, and minutes taken and circulated within one week to the members following each meeting.
6. CAT SIG minutes will be available on the SIO Google Drive after each SIG meeting.

5. Reporting and Evaluation

1. CAT SIG annual goals and activities plan will be submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the SIO Board Retreat, held in conjunction with the SIO annual conference.
2. One or both CAT SIG co-chairs will attend the SIO Board Retreat and present an annual summary of CAT SIG activities, as well as the plan for the year ahead.
3. CAT SIG evaluation will be based on tracking SIG defined goals.

6. Amendments and Revisions

These Terms of Reference may be amended or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by the CAT SIG. It will be reviewed annually at the CAT SIG meeting prior to SIO's Annual Meeting. The date of approval and last reviewed date shall be maintained on this document.

Date of last review: 12/23/2025