CALL TO ACTION!

"SPAGN Advocacy in Action Award 2026" and "Paola Gonzato Memory Award"

for best projects in sarcoma patient advocacy

Dear SPAGN Member Groups!

In 2017, we announced the **"Advocacy in Action Award"** for the first time and were amazed to receive such high-quality, outstanding and interesting submissions during the last years. Reason enough for us to continue to make some noise about the projects and initiatives that are being implemented each day, each month or each year in various countries.

We therefore invite you to participate in the "SPAGN Advocacy in Action Award 2026"!

In addition, we have a special treat once again for Bone Sarcoma Groups for 2026: We are pleased to introduce the **Paola Gonzato Memory Award, sponsored by the Fondazione Paola Gonzato Rete Sarcoma ETS, Italy**. Find out more about it below.

About the Advocacy in Action Award

As usual, the 2026 Advocacy in Action Awards will be granted to three projects.

The winning projects will receive:

- **1st Prize 2,000 €**
- **2nd Prize 1,500 €**
- **3rd Prize 1,000 €**

We are looking for new projects, initiatives, campaigns fulfilling the following eligibility criteria:

Participants:	All SPAGN member groups
Type of projects:	Should be sarcoma specific, excluding bone sarcomas (please see below "Paola Gonzato Memory Award" for bone sarcomas) • For a single entity or for several diseases • Already completed or ongoing projects (not ideas or planned projects!) • Have not been submitted for a SPAGN AIAA in previous years
Thematic areas:	Patient information & education Patient support Improving the quality of life Social media and digital communications Generating "real world evidence" (registries, survey, data mining etc.)

Sarcoma Advocacy In Action Award 2025

Sarcoma Patient Advocacy Global Network

Advocacy & lobbying the healthcare system
Being involved or driving sarcoma research

The projects are evaluated by a select committee made up of patient advocate leaders and experts in sarcoma care. The finalists are each given the opportunity to present their project at the SPAGN Annual Conference, and the winners are announced at a special awards dinner.

To apply, you will need to review these guidelines, then download and complete your application form here.

About the Paola Gonzato Memory Award

This award call invites SPAGN member organizations to submit impactful projects in the field of bone sarcomas. Projects should be developed by member organizations with regional or national reach and should demonstrate tangible outcomes in the advocacy or management of health services, or in improving patients' quality of life.

Key requirements:

- Projects must be submitted by SPAGN member organizations with regional or national representation.
- Entries should showcase completed, evidence-based advocacy work that has positively influenced healthcare services or enhanced patients' quality of life.
- Each organization may submit only one application.

One project will be awarded a prize of 3,000 EUR, to be granted to a single winning organization.

The winning projects/teams will receive 3.000 EUR.
The award will be granted to one winner only and is kindly sponsored by **the Fondazione Paola Gonzato Rete Sarcoma ETS, Italy**

The Application Process for both Awards

Complete the attached form and send it with attachments by email to **info@sarcoma-patients.org**
Deadline for submission is **February 28, 2026.**

Award Ceremony: During the SPAGN Annual Conference 2026, May 1-3 Stockholm/Schweden

Assessment Criteria

Success may come in many shapes, sizes and stories. Recognizing this, we have merely set up some guidelines in order to make projects comparable. Please be mindful when you are making your nomination to provide clear examples of success and avoid general statements.

Sarcoma
Advocacy In Action
Award 2025

Sarcoma
Patient Advocacy
Global Network

Sarcoma
Advocacy In Action
Award 2025

Sarcoma
Patient Advocacy
Global Network

Relevant for the assessment of projects:

- Impact on or for patients, caregivers and community (regionally, nationally, internationally)
- Patients reached
- Potential of adaption / reproducibility by other PAGs
- Sustainability
- Cost / Funding
- Grade of innovation

Please note: Not all criteria have to be fulfilled!

We are very much looking forward to receiving your applications and hearing about your successes in advocacy, because: "Working together, making a difference."

With kind regards

The SPAGN Board of Directors & Team and
Dr. Ornella Gonzato, Fondazione Paola Gonzato Rete Sarcoma ETS

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