

Position Description: Development Officer

Executive Council Position – 3-Year Term starting May 2026, with opportunity to begin immediately

Why This Role Matters

SSTAR's ability to provide high-quality programs, continuing education, and opportunities for members depends on strong and sustainable financial support. Membership dues and meeting registrations provide essential support for SSTAR, but we rely on partnerships, sponsorships, and external funding to expand access, innovate programming, and remain responsive to the evolving needs of the field.

The Development Officer plays a vital leadership role in this work by building relationships, championing SSTAR's mission, and connecting shared values with meaningful support. This role ensures that SSTAR has the resources needed to advance sex therapy and research, support continuing education, and remain resilient in a complex and often challenging sociopolitical landscape.

At a time when sexual health organizations may face conflicts, reduced funding, or increased scrutiny, the Development Officer helps champion SSTAR's value, impact, and integrity. For those who want to contribute to meaningful change, this role offers a direct and impactful way to support the profession and the community it serves.

This leadership position is an opportunity to:

- Shape SSTAR's future as a voting member of the Executive Council
- Build partnerships that sustain and expand SSTAR's impact
- Support innovative educational and professional programs for members
- Strengthen SSTAR's visibility, stability and long-term sustainability
- Advocate for the importance of sex therapy and research

Overview

The Development Officer serves as a member of SSTAR's Executive Council (EC) and leads efforts to secure financial support beyond membership dues and registration fees. This includes cultivating sponsorships, partnerships, grants, and other mission-aligned funding sources that support SSTAR programs.

This role requires ethical stewardship and values-based development, ensuring that all funding relationships align with SSTAR's Vision, Mission, and Values. This includes:

- Avoiding any real or perceived conflict of interest in securing and managing funding.
 - Ensuring that principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) are embedded throughout development activities.
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Responsibilities

- Serve as a voting member of the Executive Council and contribute to SSTAR's overall leadership and direction.
 - Lead development efforts aligned with SSTAR's priorities, values, and strategic goals.
 - Identify and cultivate funding opportunities beyond dues and registrations (e.g., sponsorships, grants, partnerships).
 - Build and maintain relationships with mission-aligned funders and partner organizations.
 - Support SSTAR programs—particularly continuing education—by helping secure sustainable financial resources.
 - Collaborate with the Program Chair and Executive Council to identify funding needs and opportunities.
 - Ensure all development activities reflect SSTAR's values, transparency, and ethical standards, and provide regular updates to the EC.
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Skills & Qualifications

The Development Officer should bring:

- A commitment to SSTAR's Vision, Mission, and Values, with particular attention to embedding DEIA in all development work.
- Experience with or interest in fundraising, grant-writing, sponsorship development, or partnership building (formal or informal).
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with an ability to build trust and shared purpose.
- Comfort communicating the value and impact of sex therapy and sex research in professional contexts.
- Awareness of conflicts-of-interest considerations and a commitment to transparency and ethical practice.
- Organizational and project management skills.
- A collaborative leadership style and comfort working across SSTAR committees and teams.

Scope of Involvement

- Approx. 6–8 hours per month, on average
- Three-year term (formally beginning May 2026, with flexibility for an earlier start)
- Monthly Executive Council meetings (typically one hour)
- Participation in the SSTAR Annual Meeting (April/May), including in-person EC meetings
- Chairing and coordinating a Development Committee, if established

Thank you for your interest! Please reach out to the Nominations Committee Chair, Dr. Morag Yule, at moragy@gmail.com with any questions.