

Department of Radiation Oncology

Monthly Research Update: January 2025

Changes in NIH Grant Requirements

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) have announced a new [policy](#) capping the Facilities and Administrative (F&A; also called indirect cost recovery) rate for all NIH grants at 15%, effective Monday, February 10. This change applies to both new and existing grants at all institutions of higher education and could significantly impact research funding nationwide. F&A costs are vital for supporting essential research infrastructure, covering lab facilities, equipment, data security, and enabling groundbreaking medical advances. We are concerned about the potential effects on the University of Maryland and the broader scientific community. On a departmental level, F&A funds are a small component of our bottom-line finances.

.....As with many of the new changes from the federal government, I ask you all to remain calm and continue with your very important work contributing to the betterment of the lives of our patients. Given the rapidly evolving federal landscape, we are actively engaging with key partners in academic leadership on ways to [respond](#) to this and other developments from an institutional level.

.....If you are a current federal grant holder or plan to apply for such a grant or contract within the next 3 months, I urge you to stay in close contact with [Miek Segers](#), Research Program Administrator, for necessary actions relative to your budgets and expenditures and to interim changes in requirements.

.....We will continue to keep you informed as we navigate this challenge together. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Dr. Regine for concerns.

*Phuoc T. Tran, MD, PhD
Professor of Radiation Oncology
Senior Vice Chair for Research*

Grants and Contracts

Submitted

- **Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD**, PI/PD, on subaward with prime applicant NRG Oncology to NCI National Clinical Trials Network (RFA-CA-24-033) as Committee Vice Chair for NRG Oncology (\$90,000).
- **Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD**, PI/PD, on subaward with prime applicant University of Arkansas to NCI National Clinical Trials Network (RFA-CA-24-033) for "Pilot study: Validation of a Multimodal Artificial Intelligence Biomarker in the NRG GU006 Trial in Post-Operative Prostate Cancer" (\$777,500).
- **Yannick Poirier, PhD**, PI, to BARDA (RFP 75A50125R00001) for "Radiation dosimetry standardization for nonclinical animal models" (\$3,926,477).
- **Hem Shukla, PhD**, PI, resubmission to Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund FY25 Launch Program for "Hypoxia-induced dysregulation of OCT4 and SOX2 in pancreatic stem cells and organoids" (\$349,186).
- **Lei Ren, PhD**, project 2 lead (overall GCCC SPORE submission), to NCI/NIDCR P50 SPORE (PAR-23-284) for project titled "Identifying imaging biomarkers and developing temporally adaptive multiomics AI models to predict outcomes and disparities in oral cancer" (\$1,525,663).
- **Byong Yi, PhD**, PI/PD, on subaward with prime applicant Wearabledose, Inc. to NIH STTR program (PA-24-247) for "Development of wearable radiation detector: Towards real-time monitoring of stereotactic radiotherapy" (\$64,327).

JANUARY AT A GLANCE TOTALS

Clinical trials

Total enrolled	27
GCC, other	8
NRG, NCI, co-ops	0
PCG, other registries	19

Grants and contracts

New awards	0
Submitted	6

Articles published	6
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Information for this monthly update should be provided no later than the second Wednesday of each month to Miek Segers at msegers@som.umaryland.edu. The update will be published on the second Friday of each month.

Have questions about identifying a funding source? Finding research partners across the UMB/UM campuses or at another university? Defining future research strategies? Or organizing your thoughts on (virtual) paper? Contact Nancy Knight, PhD, Director of Academic and Professional Development for the department, at nknight@umm.edu

Clinical Trial Enrollment

- 19 patients at MPTC on the **Proton Collaborative Group Registry**
- 2 patients enrolled at MPTC on **GCC 2032**: Feasibility of strength training with androgen deprivation and proton therapy for high-risk prostate cancer
- 1 patient enrolled at BWMC on **GCC 21136**: Parallel phase III randomized trials for high risk prostate cancer evaluating de-intensification for lower genomic risk and intensification of concurrent therapy for higher risk genomic risk with radiation (PREDICT-RT)
- 5 patients enrolled at UMMC on **GCC 2384**: Evaluation of improved onboard patient imaging with the HyperSight platform on TrueBeam 4.1.

Articles Published

Entered into PubMed January 10–February 11. Titles link to PubMed abstracts, many of which contain full-text links.

1. Moradmand H, **Ren L**. [Multistage deep learning methods for automating radiographic sharp score prediction in rheumatoid arthritis](#). *Sci Rep*. 2025 Jan 27;15(1):3391. doi: 10.1038/s41598-025-86073-0.PMID.
2. Naseer QA, Xuexian C, Yimai D, **Khan MA**, Chen S. [Fragment-based drug discovery of KIF11 inhibitors for glioblastoma treatment: Molecular insights and therapeutic potential](#). *Drug Res (Stuttg)*. 2025 Jan 22. Online ahead of print.
3. Patel KR, Spratt DE, **Tran PT**, Krauss DJ, D'Amico AV, Nguyen PL. [The benefit of short-term androgen deprivation therapy with radiotherapy for intermediate-risk prostate cancer](#). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. 2025 Feb 6:S0360-3016(25)00086-0. Online ahead of print.
4. Stojanovic L, **Abbotts R**, Tripathi K, Coon CM, Rajendran S, Abbasi Farid E, Hostetter G, Guarnieri JW, Wallace DC, Liu S, Wan J, Calendo G, Marker R, Gohari Z, Inayatullah MMA, Tiwari VK, Kader T, Santagata S, Drapkin R, Kommoss S, Pfisterer J, Konecny GE, Coopergard R, Issa JJ, Winterhoff BJN, Topper MJ, Sandusky GE, Miller KD, Baylin SB, Nephew KP, **Rassool FV**. [ZNFX1 functions as a master regulator of epigenetically induced pathogen mimicry and inflammasome signaling in cancer](#). *Cancer Res*. 2025 Jan 13. Online ahead of print.
5. Tong JY, Bzhilyanskaya V, **Ferris MJ**, **Molitoris JK**, Hatten KM. [Adjuvant proton radiation following transoral robotic surgery for HPV-positive oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma](#). *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2025 Jan 31. Online ahead of print.
6. Wang JH, Shi X, **Tran PT**, Sutera P. [Integrating prostate surface membrane antigen-PET into clinical practice for prostate cancer](#). *PET Clin*. 2025 Feb 8:S1556-8598(25)00001-X. Online ahead of print.

Important Dates for Upcoming Funding Submissions

Below is an updated calendar with firm due dates for upcoming major standard NIH deadlines (RFA/PA dates may differ). Contact the Department Office of Research Administration (msegers@som.umaryland.edu) ASAP if you plan to submit any funding proposal, regardless of funder.

NIH deadline	DORA budget, prelim materials	Dean/SOM prelim materials	FINAL Dean/SOM/SPA
R01/U01 Resub March 5	02/20/2025	2/24/2025	2/26/2025
R21 Resub March 16	03/04/2025	03/06/2025	3/10/2025

Note: The following message re: grants and funding was sent on February 10 from UMB:

If you receive a stop work order, suspension notice, or equivalent directive from an authorized official of a Sponsor—either a United States Government (USG) Sponsor or Pass-Through-Entity (PTE)—send it immediately by email to [Jill Frankenfield](#), MSL, MS, associate vice president, Sponsored Programs Administration, and [Laura Scarantino](#), MSF, CPA, assistant vice president, Office of Sponsored Projects Accounting and Compliance, copying your department chair and school dean. They will, with guidance from the Office of University Counsel, review the contents, determine its applicability, and provide guidance on how to proceed.