



ROBIN OligoMET Center

Quarterly Update

Nov 2023

News

- Dr. Amit Sawant's Talk on Quantum Computing Applications in Radiation Oncology at American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) Highlighted in Physics World
- Dr. Phuoc Tran's Previous Graduate Student Featured in American Board of Radiology's (ABR) Blog
- Dr. Mark Mishra Promoted from Associate Professor to Professor
- Inaugural Recipient of Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) and the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) Cancer Research Group Edith Peterson Mitchell, MD Health Equity Travel Scholarship: Noëlle François
- ASTRO
 - Dr. Søren Bentzen's Study on Head and Neck Cancer Radiation Therapy Highlighted at the ASTRO Annual Meeting Press Program
 - American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) 2023 Mentorship Award Given to Dr. Phuoc Tran

New Hires and Farewells:

- No New Hires and Farewells

Monthly Research Updates

News

Dr. Amit Sawant's Talk on Quantum Computing Applications in Radiation Oncology at American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) Highlighted in Physics World

physicsworld



Audio and video ▼ | Latest ▼ | Magazine | Physics Work

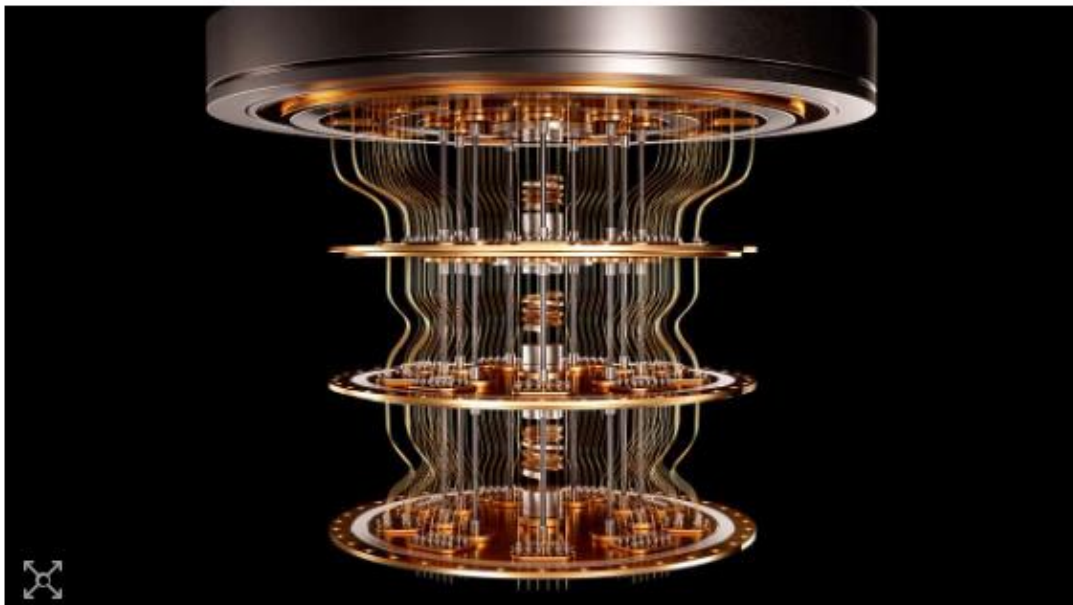
radiotherapy

RADIOTHERAPY | ANALYSIS

Quantum computing could tackle radiotherapy's intractable problems

10 Aug 2023 Tami Freeman

Attendees at the recent AAPM Annual Meeting learnt how quantum computers could potentially be employed to enhance radiation therapy



Processing power Radiation oncology could exploit two key properties of quantum computers: their vast storage capabilities and their ability to perform operations on multiple datasets simultaneously. (Courtesy: Shutterstock/Bartłomiej K Wroblewski)

Read Dr. Sawant's recent August article highlighted by Physics World (Institute of Physics Publishing) [here](#).

Dr. Phuoc Tran's Previous Graduate Student Featured in American Board of Radiology's (ABR) Blog

BLOG August 15, 2023

Resident's Goal is to Help His Native Hawai'i

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders suffer from among the highest rates of heart disease, hypertension, asthma, cancer, and diabetes compared with other ethnicities.

The NIH reports that the population also continuously experiences obstacles to accessing healthcare, including lack of insurance coverage, language barriers, and living in less-populated areas.

A Native Hawaiian, [Kekoa Taparra, MD, PhD](#), says 10 members of his family have contracted cancer and encountered hurdles when seeking treatment. Outside of Honolulu, specialized care is hard to find.

"I've had family members who couldn't get care even when they were diagnosed with widely metastatic disease and really struggling with pain," said Dr. Taparra, who's a fourth-year radiation oncology resident at Stanford University. "They couldn't fly to O'ahu because of cost, time, or ability to get on a plane."

Twenty years ago, his 4-year-old cousin Kaleo was diagnosed with a form of neuroblastoma. Dr. Taparra was 13 at the time.

"I remember he was healthier before and just paler when I saw him," Dr. Taparra said.

Kaleo's parents made the difficult decision to relocate from Kaua'i to Portland,



Kekoa Taparra, MD, PhD

Read recent August blog post by American Board of Radiology (ABR) about Dr. Phuoc Tran's previous graduate student and now Stanford resident, Dr. Kekoa Taparra, whose goal is to help his native Hawai'i [here](#).

Dr. Mark Mishra Promoted from Associate Professor to Professor



Congratulations to Dr. Mark Mishra for being promoted from Associate Professor to Professor in August. Dr. Mishra and four other faculty members were unanimously approved by the Departmental APT Committee, the School of Medicine (SOM) APT Committee and SOM Executive Committee.

**Inaugural Recipient of Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) and the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) Cancer Research Group Edith Peterson Mitchell, MD Health Equity Travel Scholarship:
Noëlle François**



Noëlle François

**Inaugural ECOG-ACRIN
Edith Peterson Mitchell, MD Health Equity
Travel Scholarship Awardee**

**“Calorie restriction to augment radiation response
in models of Black women with breast cancer”**

**Simone Lab/Cancer Risk & Control Program – Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center
MS Candidate, Biomedical Science – Thomas Jefferson University**



SIDNEY KIMMEL CANCER CENTER RESEARCH CONSORTIUM



Congratulations to Noëlle François, inaugural recipient of ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group Edith Peterson Mitchell, MD Health Equity Travel Scholarship! She’s currently a master’s student in Dr. Nicole Simone’s lab and plans on presenting her research at the October ECOG-ACRIN meeting.

ASTRO

University of Maryland
Department of Radiation Oncology

Schedule of
Presentations and Activities



2023 Annual Meeting
San Diego, California
October 1-4

The following ROBIN OligoMET Center members listed below include those who participated in the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) during the 2023 annual meeting on October 1-4.

University of Maryland Baltimore:

Lei Ren, PhD (Presenter, Moderator)

Mark Mishra, MD (Presenter)

Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD (Presenter)

Soren Bentzen, PhD, DMSc (Presenter)

Yufeng Cao, PhD (Presenter)

Zaker Rana, MD (Presenter)

Thomas Jefferson University:

Nicole Simone, MD (Chair)

Dr. Søren Bentzen's Study on Head and Neck Cancer Radiation Therapy Highlighted at the ASTRO Annual Meeting Press Program



Dr. Søren Bentzen, PhD, DMSc, FASTRO, presents on, "Randomized controlled trial of hypofractionated vs. normo-fractionated accelerated radiation therapy with or without cisplatin for locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HYPNO)."

American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) 2023 Mentorship Award Given to Dr. Phuoc Tran



Congratulations again to Dr. Phuoc Tran for being awarded the ASTRO 2023 Mentorship award! Click [here](#) for the ASTRO article on his sharing the importance of mentorship.

New Hires and Farewells

No new hires and farewells

Monthly Research Updates

AUGUST AT A GLANCE TOTALS	SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS	OCTOBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS
Publications 8	Publications 4	Publications 4
Grants and contracts	Grants and contracts	Grants and contracts
New awards 1	New awards 1	New awards 1
Submitted 0	Submitted 4	Submitted 1
Oral Presentations 1	Oral Presentations 4	Oral Presentations 2
Abstracts 0	Abstracts 1	Abstracts 17
Clinical trials	Clinical trials	Clinical trials
TERPS 1	TERPS 1	TERPS 3
Awards/Honors 1	Awards/Honors 0	Awards/Honors 1