



# ROBIN OligoMET Center

## Quarterly Update

November 2024

### News

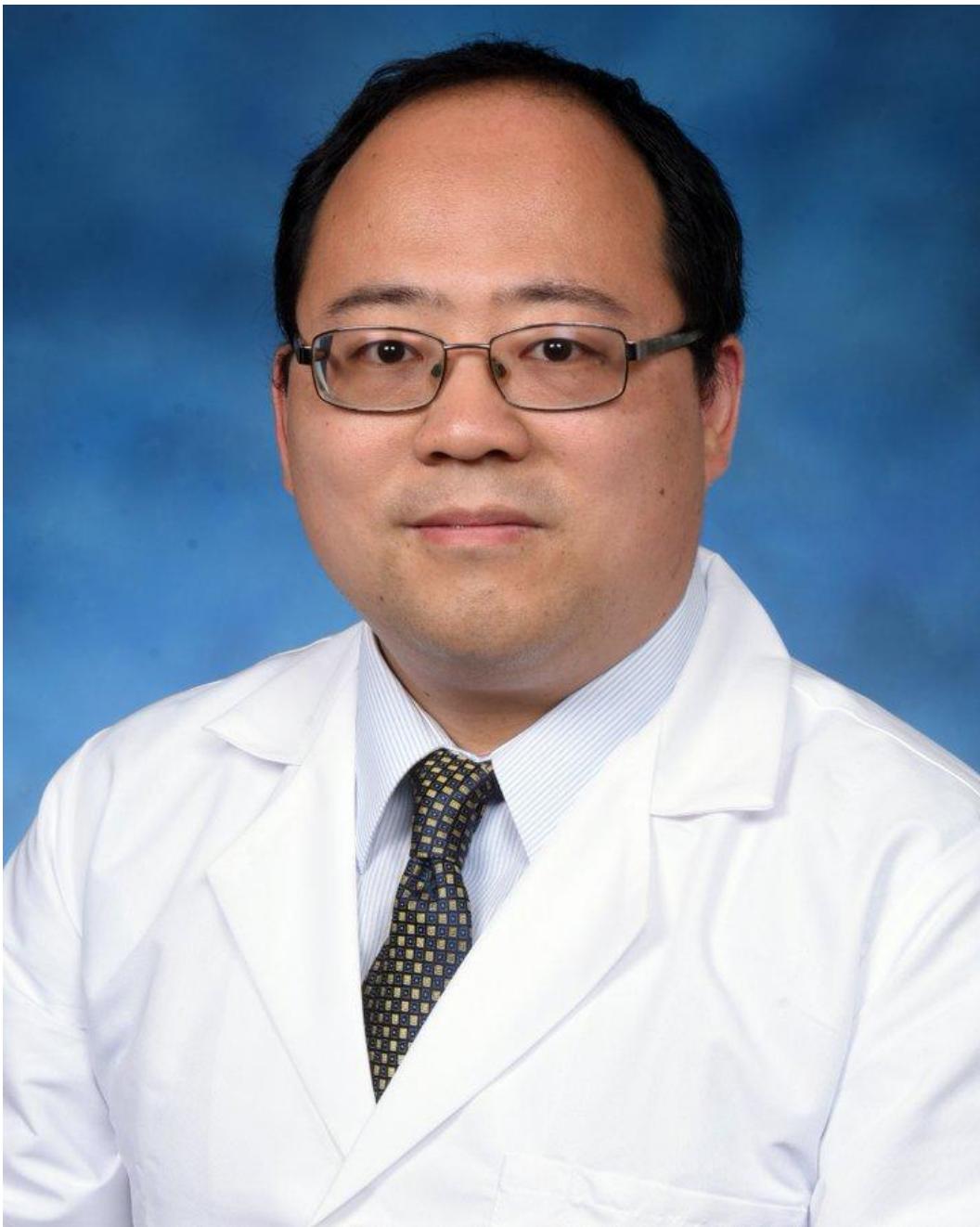
- Dr. Lei Ren Awarded Two Major Grants
- Radiation Oncology Nursing Monthly Lecture Series Featuring Dr. Phuoc Tran
- Thomas Jefferson University: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Radiation Oncology Research Symposium
- Dr. Søren Bentzen's Retirement
- GenRad Luminary Lecture Series
- iHeart Podcast Featuring Dr. Phuoc Tran
- Promotion to Senior Vice Chair: Dr. Phuoc Tran
- Promotion to Vice Chair for Clinical Research: Dr. Mark Mishra
- ASTRO 2024
  - Presidential Symposium III: Presentations
- University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCC) Cancer Research Day
- Baltimore Magazine's "Top Docs" in Radiation Oncology
- WBFF-TV Interview with Dr. Phuoc Tran

### New Hires and Farewells

### Monthly Research Updates

## News

### Dr. Lei Ren Awarded Two Major Grants



Congratulations to Dr. Ren who was recently awarded two major research grants! For the first award, he is a Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 grant for over \$3 million. This grant will focus on AI approaches to help treat oral carcinoma. For the second award, he is the Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) on a 5-year NIH/NCI U01 grant for ~\$1 million. This grant is titled, “3D *in vivo* dosimetry for FLASH proton therapy” and will aim to develop a proton acoustic imaging technique for FLASH proton therapy dose verification.

# Radiation Oncology Nursing Monthly Lecture Series

## Featuring Dr. Phuoc Tran



# Radiation Oncology Nursing Monthly Lecture Series

## It's all about the WHY!!!



**Topic: Prostate Cancer**  
Presented by Phuoc Tran, MD  
**Monday, August 19, 2024**

**12:00-12:45 PM EST**

**WebEx Link:**

<https://umm.webex.com/umm/j.php?MTID=m0f03385ca2dc15a668fe7b580953f1b2>

**Topic: GYN and Breast Cancer**  
Presented by Sarah Mcavoy, MD  
**Monday, September 16, 2024**

**12:00-12:45 PM EST**

**WebEx Link:**

<https://umm.webex.com/umm/j.php?MTID=m9f03385ca2dc15a668fe7b580953f1b2>

**Topic: Head and Neck Cancer**  
Presented by Jason Molitoris, MD,PhD  
**Monday, October 7, 2024**

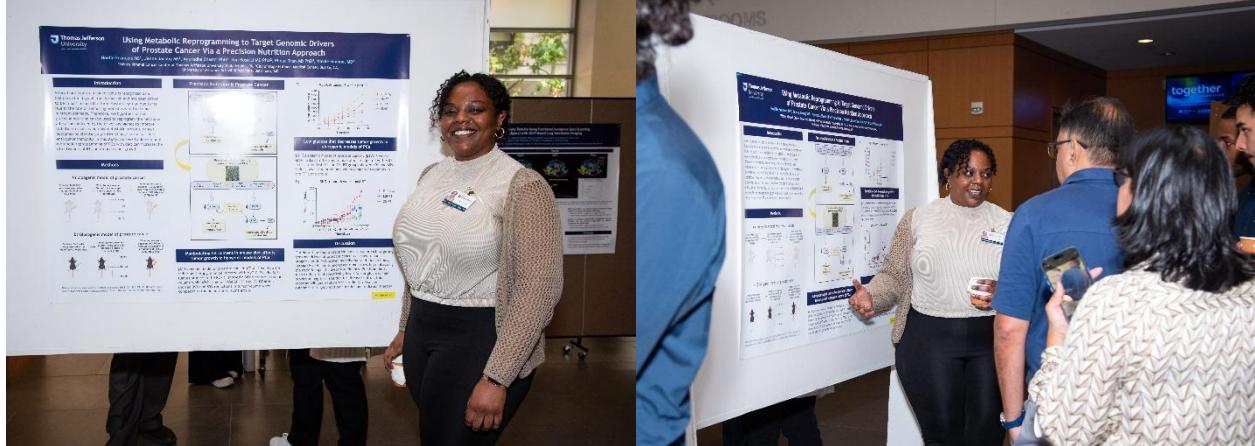
**12:00-12:45 PM EST**

**WebEx Link:**

<https://umm.webex.com/umm/j.php?MTID=m8be46e39489f16b4a8e84557a563d82>

In August, along with Drs. McAvoy and Molitoris, Dr. Tran presented on prostate cancer. There were many who participated in this talk and we look forward to many more of these presentations!

# Thomas Jefferson University: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Radiation Oncology Research Symposium



The first photo includes everyone who participated in the research symposium. The second and third photos include Noëlle François, MS, presenting her poster on, "Using Metabolic Reprogramming to Target Genomic Drivers of Prostate Cancer Via a Precision Nutrition Approach." There were 9 faculty members who served in this symposium and 40 posters!

## Dr. Søren Bentzen's Retirement



After 10 years serving as biostatistics subject-matter expert at the University of Maryland Baltimore in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Dr. Bentzen retired in late September 2024. Since 2013, he has co-authored 200+ peer-reviewed papers with ~96% related to cancer and/or radiation therapy and have presented nearly 400 invited talks. We wish him all the best as he enjoys the next chapter of his life in retirement!

## GenRad Luminary Lecture Series

# GenRad

## Luminary Lecture Series



**Felix Feng, MD**  
Radiation Oncology  
UCSF  
September 2023



**Quynh-Thu Le, MD**  
Radiation Oncology  
Stanford Medicine  
December 2023



**Aadel Chaudhuri,  
MD, PhD**  
Radiation Oncology  
Mayo Clinic  
June 2024



**Phuoc Tran,  
MD, PhD**  
Radiation Oncology  
U of Maryland-Baltimore  
October 2024



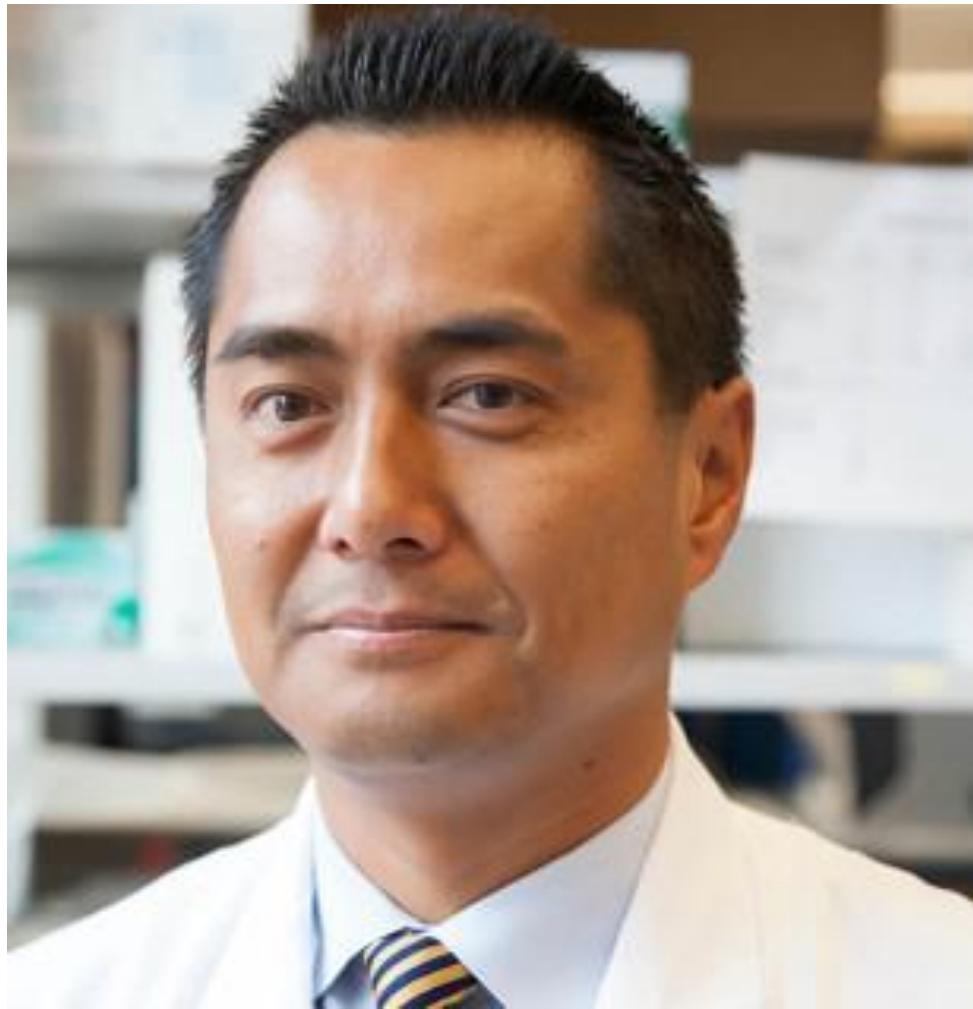
**Moran Amit,  
MD, PhD**  
Head & Neck Surgery  
MD Anderson  
November 2024



**Daphne Haas-Kogan, MD**  
Radiation Oncology  
MGH  
March 2025

The GenRad Emory/Winship Cancer Institute Grand Rounds included Dr. Tran (photo on bottom, left). This was taken place in late October where he gave a talk on, “The Space-Time Continuum in Metastatic Castration-Sensitive Prostate Cancer: The Final Frontier?”

## iHeart Podcast Featuring Dr. Phuoc Tran



iHeart heart icon  
**CANCER, One word no one wants to hear, but if you do, Meet Dr Tran of The Proton Treatment Center - Michael J...**  
Michael J Pod

▶ [audio waveform] i u [podcast icon]

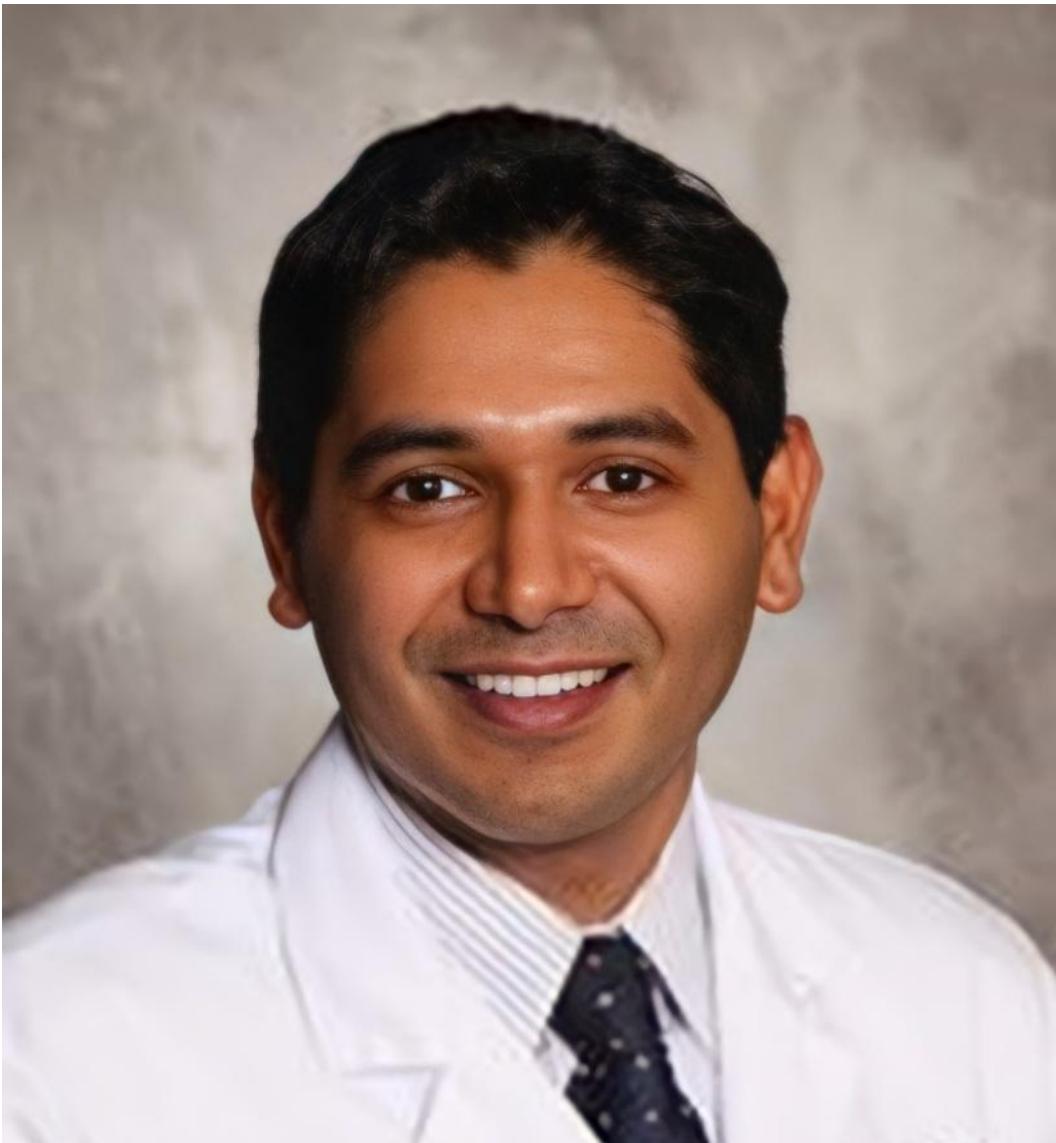
In late October, Dr. Tran was featured on 93.1 WPOC-FM iHeart Podcast. He discussed how proton therapy can be used as treatment for those with prostate cancer and so much more. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

## Promotion to Senior Vice Chair for Research: Dr. Phuoc Tran



Congratulations to Dr. Tran on being promoted to Senior Vice Chair (previously Vice Chair) for Research in mid-September! In this role, he will be responsible for providing oversight in all research related matters in basic, translational, and clinical efforts. We look forward to his continued guidance and leadership!

## Promotion to Vice Chair for Clinical Research: Dr. Mark Mishra



Congratulations to Dr. Mishra on being promoted to Vice Chair for Clinical Research in mid-September! He has successfully served as Director of Clinical Research over the past 7 years with much success. We look forward to his continued leadership!

**University of Maryland  
Department of Radiation Oncology**

**Schedule of  
Presentations and Activities**



**2024 Annual Meeting  
Washington, DC  
September 29–October 2**

The following ROBIN OligoMET Center members listed below include those who participated in the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) during the 2024 annual meeting on September 29–October 2.

**University of Maryland Baltimore:**

Amit Sawant, PhD

Lei Ren, PhD

Mark Mishra, MD

Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD

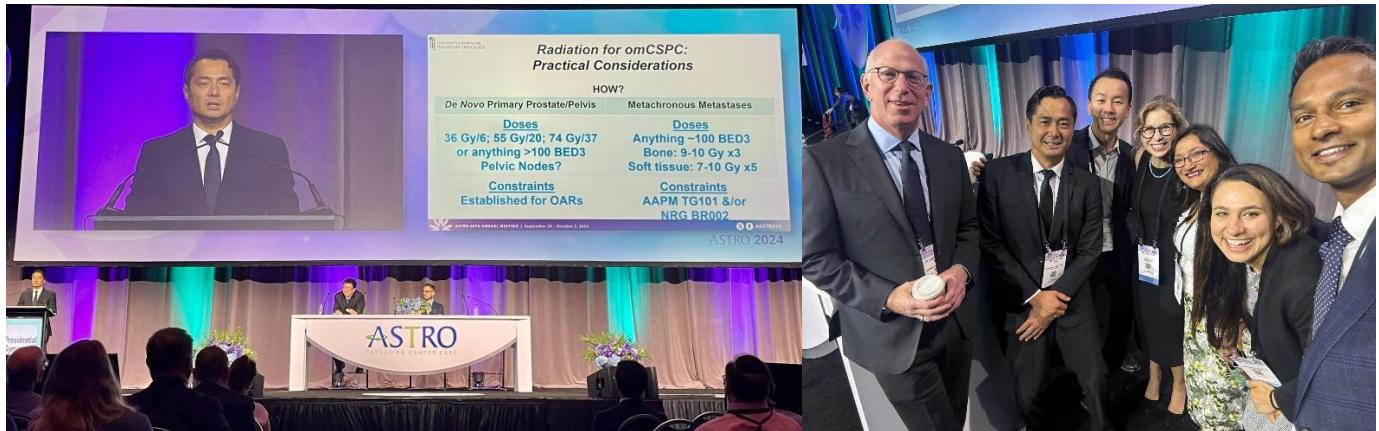
Soren Bentzen, PhD, DMSc

Zaker Rana, MD

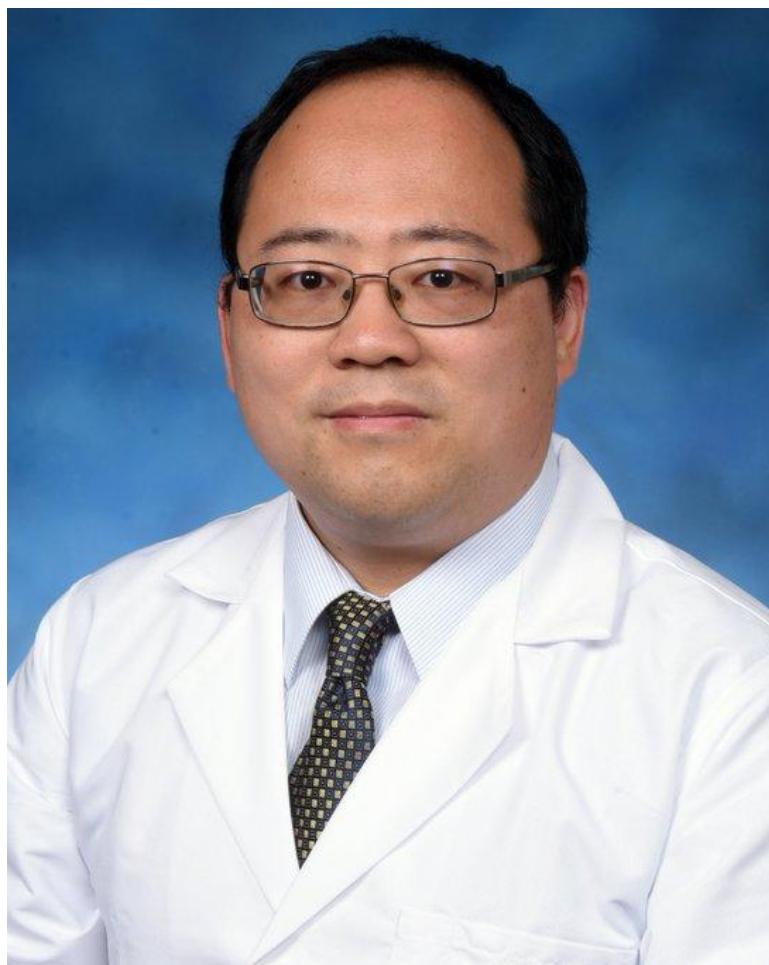
**Thomas Jefferson University:**

Nicole Simone, MD

## Presidential Symposium III: Presentations



Dr. Phuoc Tran's talk focused on practical considerations in treating oligometastatic prostate cancer. He also presented on, "The space-time continuum in metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer: The final frontier?" Read it [here](#).



Dr. Lei Ren's presentation was on, "Interpretable AI: Advancements, challenges and paths ahead" highlighting the current progress as well as ongoing difficulties and future directions for research and development.

**University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center  
(UMGCC) Cancer Research Day**



Congratulations to, Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Khan, for receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> place in poster award! His poster was on, "Modeling Twist1 Overexpression in a Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Mouse Model."

## Baltimore Magazine's "Top Docs" in Radiation Oncology



In October, Dr. Mark Mishra was recognized as one of "Top Doctors" in the Baltimore Magazine November 2024 issue. The "Top Doctors" results are based on the magazine's annual survey of thousands of physicians in the Baltimore location. The list covers 130 specialties and subspecialties and more than 635 physicians who received the highest number of recommendations.

## WBFF-TV Interview with Dr. Phuoc Tran



In late October, Dr. Tran joined Lady T on WBFF-TV to discuss proton therapy as an option for non-invasive treatment for prostate cancer patients. Watch [here](#).

### New Hires and Farewells



Dr. Apurva Singh, postdoctoral fellow, joined Dr. Lei Ren's lab in June 2024.

## Monthly Research Updates

AUGUST AT A GLANCE TOTALS		SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS		OCTOBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS	
Publications	10	Publications	8	Publications	9
Grants and contracts		Grants and contracts		Grants and contracts	
New awards	2	New awards	0	New awards	2
Submitted	1	Submitted	4	Submitted	1
Oral Presentations	2	Oral Presentations	2	Oral Presentations	1
Abstracts	0	Abstracts	0	Abstracts	15
Clinical trials		Clinical trials		Clinical trials	
TERPS	1	TERPS	2	TERPS	2
Awards/Honors	0	Awards/Honors	0	Awards/Honors	0