

# Department of Radiation Oncology

## Monthly Research Update: September 2024

### NIH Debuts New Grants & Funding Website

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently launched its new [NIH Grants and Funding](#) website. In addition to a modernized interface, the site links users to a wider range of resources with simplified language, information, and instructions. Of special interest is the redesign of the [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#) pages and related [funding information](#). The new site also includes improved [grants process](#) information, with a visual process flow that walks the user from proposal preparation to application through postaward monitoring and reporting. The process flow is outlined at [How to Apply – Application Guide](#). In an associated press release, NIH noted that the site reflects the input of thousands of individuals who have provided survey feedback, as well as extensive user testing during development. It is important to note that many of the NIH grants and funding URLs have changed with this redesign. Although URLs for individual funding opportunities and notices have not changed, the links for the “Save Results” feature of the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts are new, and users are encouraged to update saved searches.

### SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS

<b>Clinical trials</b>	
Total enrolled	45
GCC, other	12
NRG, NCI, co-ops	7
PCG, other registries	26
<b>Grants and contracts</b>	
New awards	1
Submitted	5
<b>Articles published</b>	7

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](mailto: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](mailto:nknight@umm.edu)

### Clinical Trial Enrollment

- 26 patients at MPTC on the **Proton Collaborative Group Registry**
- 2 patients enrolled at MPTC on the **DTT HUD**
- 1 patient at UMMC on **GCC 2380**: A single arm phase II trial evaluating selective adjuvant therapy for HPV-mediated oropharynx SCCs based on residual circulating tumor DNA levels (SAVAL)
- 1 patient at Eastern Shore and 1 at BWMC on **NRG GU010**: Parallel phase III randomized trials of genomic risk stratified unfavorable intermediate risk prostate cancer: De-intensification and intensification clinical trial evaluation (Guidance)
- 3 patients at UMMC on **GCC 2384**: Evaluation of improved onboard patient imaging with the Varian HyperSight platform on Truebeam 4.1
- 1 patient at Eastern Shore, 1 at BWMC, and 1 at MPTC on **NRG GU009**: Parallel phase III randomized trials for high-risk prostate cancer evaluating de-intensification for lower genomic risk and intensification of concurrent therapy for higher genomic risk with radiation (Predict-R\*)
- 1 patient at UMMC on **EA3191 A**: Phase II randomized trial of adjuvant therapy with pembrolizumab after resection of recurrent/second primary head and neck squamous cell carcinoma with high-risk features
- 1 patient at BWMC on **GCC 1944**: A randomized phase III trial of two standard dose fractionation regimens for adjuvant vaginal brachytherapy in early-stage endometrial cancer
- 1 patient at Eastern Shore enrolled on **CCTG MA.39**: TAILOR RT: A randomized trial of regional radiotherapy in biomarker low-risk node positive and T3N0 breast cancer
- 1 patient enrolled at MPTC on **GCC 1886**: Phase I study of concurrent nab-paclitaxel + gemcitabine with hypofractionated, ablative proton therapy for locally advanced pancreatic cancer
- 1 patient enrolled at MPTC on **GCC 19140**: Pilot study of laser interstitial thermal therapy followed by hypofractionated radiation therapy for recurrent high-grade gliomas
- 1 patient enrolled at MPTC on **GCC 21136**: Phase 2 randomized total eradication of metastatic lesions following definitive radiation to the prostate in de novo oligometastatic prostate cancer (TERPS) trial; also 1 patient enrolled at Bon Secours
- 1 patient enrolled at MPTC on **GCC 2242**: Hybrid Virtual MRI/CBCT for image guidance in liver radiation therapy

## Grants and Contracts

### Awarded

- **Sina Mossahebi, PhD**, PI, from Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc., for “Therapy planning DECT clinical CTRO” (\$109,788) (/2024-08/2027).

### Submitted

- **Dario Rodrigues, PhD**, PI. Subaward with MAE Group LLC. on NIH/CDC STTR/SBIR [R43/R44] for “Tumor bed implant for simultaneous heat and radiation of resectable brain tumors” (\$120,000).
- **France Carrier, PhD, and Erika Davies, PhD**, MPIs. Subaward with CMTx Biotech Inc. on NIH STTR[R41/R42] for “A novel host-directed medical countermeasure for the treatment of radiation-induced lung injury” (\$358,428).
- **Lei Ren, PhD**, MPI. Subaward with SUNY–Upstate Medical Center (lead) on NIH/NCI R01 PAR-23-034 for “Enhancing clinical decision-making with generative machine learning by integrating large-scale multimodal healthcare data” (\$559,800).
- **Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD**, PI. Subaward with Rutgers University (Deek) to the American Cancer Society for “ARP inhibition with SABR for high-risk mutation castration-sensitive prostate cancer oligometastatic disease” (\$315,332).
- **Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD**, PI. Subaward with Rutgers University (Deek), on NIH R01 for “Ascertaining multilevel drivers of head and neck cancer disparities (AMEND)” (\$777,500).

## Articles Published

*Entered into PubMed September 12–October 10. Titles link to PubMed abstracts, many of which contain full-text links.*

1. **Cherng HR, Sun K, Bentzen SM, Mishra MV**. [An exploratory analysis of the conditional neurocognitive function failure risk in patients receiving whole brain radiotherapy for brain metastases on NRG Oncology CC001: Conditional neurocognitive toxicity risk](#). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. 2024 Sep 25:S0360-3016(24)03400-X. Online ahead of print.
2. Esteller M, Dawson MA, Kadoch C, **Rassool FV**, Jones PA, Baylin SB. [The epigenetic hallmarks of cancer](#). *Cancer Discov*. 2024 Oct 4;14(10):1783–1809.
3. Jiang C, Kim M, Han X, Chelius M, **Hoover T**, Kersun L, Reilly AF, Hubbeling H, Cummings E, Kurtz G, Hill-Kayser C, Plastaras JP, LaRiviere MJ. [Outcomes of proton therapy to infradiaphragmatic sites in pediatric patients with Hodgkin lymphoma](#). *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2024 Sep 12:e31290. Online ahead of print.
4. **Modiri A, Mossahebi S, Sawant A, Chen S, Zhang B, Yi B**. [Sectorized single-energy volumetric-modulated proton arc therapy \(VPAT\): A preliminary multi-disease-site concept study](#). *Phys Med*. 2024 Oct 4;127:104829.
5. Oppermann A, James S, Minotti MM, Schotz KM, **Francis ME**, Kleckner IR, **Vyfhuis MAL, Ferris MJ**, Baguley BJ, Kleckner AS. [Dietary counseling interventions during radiation therapy: A systematic review of feasibility, safety, and efficacy](#). *Nutr Cancer*. 2024 Sep 28:1-25. Online ahead of print.
6. Spratt DE, Liu VYT, Michalski J, Davicioni E, Berlin A, Simko JP, Efstathiou JA, **Tran PT**, Sandler HM, Hall WA, Thompson DJS, Parliament MB, Dayes IS, Correa RJM, Robertson JM, Gore EM, Doncals DE, Vigneault E, Souhami L, Karrison TG, Feng FY. [Erratum](#). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. 2024 Sep 23:S0360-3016(24)03323-6. Online ahead of print.
7. **Tran PT**. [Management of oligometastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer](#). *Clin Adv Hematol Oncol*. 2024 Oct;22(8):370–373.

## 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](mailto: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 Nov 5	10/23/2024	10/25/2024	10/29/2024
R21 Resub Nov 16	11/05/2024	11/07/2024	11/11/2024
R01/U01 New Feb 05 25	01/22/2025	01/24/2025	01/29/2025
R21 New Feb 16 25	02/05/2025	02/07/2025	02/09/2025