

Department of Radiation Oncology

Monthly Research Update: December 2025

New Year, Additional NIH Changes

The November issue of this *Monthly Research Update* outlined significant upcoming changes to [NIH requirements for biographical sketches](#) in funding applications, effective January 25. This is among a number of changes affecting the NIH grants process, including implementation of new initiatives and policies. NIH has posted a [summary site previewing new policies](#), including but not limited to:

- [Removal of requirements for letters of intent and unsolicited applications requesting \\$500,000 or more in direct costs](#)
- [Updates related to NIH-funded international collaborations](#)
- [Issues addressing "fairness and originality" in NIH research applications](#), including the use of AI in application creation and a limit on the number (6) of new, renewal, resubmission, or revision applications per calendar year
- [Revision of policy and guidelines on inclusion of women and minorities as subjects in clinical research](#)
- [Requirement to train senior/key personnel on disclosure of other support](#)
- [Simplification of the research project grant application process](#), as well as [guidance for applicants under these changes](#).

The Radiation Oncology Department Office of Research Administration (DORA) urges all active and prospective research faculty and other potential applicants to be familiar with these changes and alert to upcoming compliance dates. The biosketch process, in particular, is entirely different, not only with content changes but in online registration and completion through My NCBI and SciENcv.

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS

Clinical trials

Total enrolled	27
GCC, other	5
NRG, co-ops	5
PCG, other registries	17

Grants and contracts

New awards	0
Submitted	1

Articles published	5
--------------------	---

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

- 14 patients at MPTC on the **Proton Collaborative Group Registry**
- 1 patient at MPTC on **GCC 1669**: PPCR Registry Trial: Multi center registry of pediatric patients treated with proton radiation therapy
- 2 patients at MPTC on the **Deep Thermal Therapy HUD**
- 1 patient at UCH 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
- 1 patient at CMRO and 1 at Cap Region on **NRG GU013**: The phase III 'High Five Trial' five fraction radiation for high-risk prostate cancer
- 1 patient at UCH on **GCC 1926**: A phase I dose escalation study of single fraction pre-operative partial breast S-PBI for early-stage breast cancer
- 2 patients at UMMC on **GCC 2380**: A single arm phase I-II trial evaluating selective adjuvant therapy for HPV-mediated oropharynx SCCs based on residual circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) levels (SAVAL)
- 1 patient at UMMC and 1 at Cap Region on **NRG BN013**: Phase III trial of single fraction stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) versus fractionated SRS (FSRS) for intact brain metastases
- 1 patient at Cap Region on **NRG CC014**: Radiation therapy for high-risk asymptomatic bone metastases: A pragmatic multicenter randomized phase 3 clinical trial (PREEMPT)
- 1 patient at Cap Region on **GCC 2497**: A phase 1 single-arm single-institution study evaluating neoadjuvant chemoimmunotherapy with immuno-sensitizing radiation for borderline resectable non-small cell lung cancer (NeoRADjuvant Trial)

Grants and Contracts

Submitted:

- **Erika Davies, PhD**, to Zydus Therapeutics, Inc., for “Proposal to conduct preclinical studies to support development of treatments for acute radiation syndrome” (\$345,023).

Articles Published

Entered into PubMed December 13 through January 7. Titles link to PubMed abstracts.

1. Chang CW, Wang T, Qiu RLJ, **Cammin J**, Yang K, Buchsbaum J, Li X, Hu YH, **Ren L**, Xia P, **Sawant A**, Scott JG, Yang X. [Patient outcome prognosis for external beam radiation therapy using CBCT-based radiomics: A systematic review](#). *Biomed Phys Eng Express*. 2025 Dec 23. Online ahead of print.
2. Charyyev S, Maradia V, Chang CW, Lin L, Dong L, Li H, Schuermann J, Shen J, Kang M, Taylor P, Zhang Y, Tang S, Wang P, Freund D, Zhang H, Zhao T, Chang C, Chen CC, Pankuch M, Gao M, Yu F, Lin H, Li Z, Wong T, Regmi R, Poels K, Depuydt T, Liu H, Broekhoven BL, **Mossahebi S**, **Yi B**, Paxton AB, Matsuura T, Wang Z, Vilches-Freixas G, Lin Y, Kurucz S, Ding X. [Multiinstitutional survey of source modeling parameters for proton pencil beam scanning treatment planning system commissioning](#). *Med Phys*. 2025 Dec;52(12):e70199.
3. Frank SJ, Busse PM, Lee JJ, Rosenthal DI, Hernandez M, Swanson DM, Garden AS, Gunn GB, Patel SH, Snider JW, Ma DJ, **Molitoris JK**, Lee NY, Parvathaneni U, McDonald MW, Kalman NS, Lin A, Mohammed N, Henson C, Hyde C, Bajaj GK, Katz SR, Dagan R, Morrison WH, Reddy JP, Fuller CD, Shah SJ, Phan J, Chronowski GM, Mayo L, Sturgis EM, Ferrarotto R, Zhu XR, Zhang X, Wang L, Hutcheson KA, El-Naggar AK, Moreno AC, Lee A, Spiotto MT, Gross ND, Lai SY, Liao JJ, Paly J, Liao Z, Foote RL; University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Clinical Trial Consortium. [Proton versus photon radiotherapy for patients with oropharyngeal cancer in the USA: A multicentre, randomised, open-label, non-inferiority phase 3 trial](#). *Lancet*. 2025 Dec 11:S0140-6736(25)01962-2. Online ahead of print.
4. Morgan TM, Ren Y, Tang S, Zwerink W, Chen E, Mitani A, Huang HC, Simko JP, DeVries S, Pollack A, Wilke D, Martin AG, Balogh AG, Michalski JM, Greenberg MJ, Efstathiou JA, Bahary JP, Ross AE, Esteva A, Royce TJ, Nguyen PL, Hoffman KE, Sandler HM, **Tran PT**, Pugh SL, Feng FY, Spratt DE. [Development and validation of a multimodal artificial intelligence-derived digital pathology-based biomarker predicting metastasis among patients with biochemical recurrence after radical prostatectomy in NRG/RTOG trials](#). *Eur Urol*. 2025 Dec 22:S0302-2838(25)04859-6. Online ahead of print.
5. **Rahimi R**, SaiToh A, **Modiri A**, Nakano Y, Okada KN, Tsukano S, **Zhang B**, Fujii K, Kitagawa M, **Sawant A**. [Quantum computing for radiation therapy optimization](#). *Med Phys*. 2026 Jan;53(1):e70269.

Important Dates for Upcoming Funding Submissions

Below is an updated calendar for **Cycle 1 NIH Submission Deadlines for 2026**, with firm due dates for 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 a proposal, regardless of funder.

NIH deadline ⁴	DORA deadline ¹	ORA deadline ²	SPA deadline ³
R01 Feb 5 (new)	01/23/2026	01/27/2026	01/29/2026
*R21 Feb 16 (resub)	02/03/2026	02/05/2026	02/09/2026
R01 Mar 5 (new)	02/20/2026	02/24/2026	02/26/2026
*R21 Mar 16 (resub)	03/03/2026	03/05/2026	03/09/2026

¹DORA deadline: All forms to be included in proposal, known or in draft, budget final, subcontractor budgets and information final in final form, 9 business day prior to NIH deadline. ²ORA deadline: Personnel, effort, budget materials, performance site, and compliance forms routed in final form, 7 business days prior to NIH deadline. ³SPA deadline: All proposal materials routed in FINAL form by 5 pm, 5 business days prior to NIH deadline. No more corrections allowed, unless indicated after review by SPA. *R21 deadline is also for R03, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36, U34, UH2, UH3, and UH2/UH3 submissions.