

# Department of Radiation Oncology

## Monthly Research Update: February 2026

### Near-Term Research Funding Opportunities

#### FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE TOTALS

##### Clinical trials

Total enrolled	25
GCC, other	4
NRG, co-ops	6
PCG, other registries	15

##### Grants and contracts

New awards	0
Submitted	2

Articles published 12

Applications are currently being accepted for 2 promising sources of research funding:

- **The Department of Radiation Oncology Seed Grant Program**, which supports collaborative research within our department and outside collaborations that provide preliminary and other data to enhance the pursuit of external funding. Eligible applicants include full-time faculty or resident members of the department. Award amounts range from \$2,500 to \$50,000, and criteria include: feasibility, novelty, and overall scientific merit of the research proposed; translational nature of the research and/or likelihood of near-term extension to patient benefit; and likelihood that the proposed studies will lead to extramural funding. Resident applicants must partner with a mentor faculty member from the department. Applications are due on April 17. Additional information on application format and contents is available from [Amit Sawant, PhD](#), or [Nancy Knight, PhD](#).
- **UMB PIVOT Strategic Investment Initiative**: Among other goals, this one-time mechanism targets (1) the creation of programmatic initiatives from departments, institutes, and centers across UMB as they pivot toward meritorious research ideas that align with current federal government research and development priorities or enable competition for nonfederal funding sponsors; and (2) projects that will strengthen infrastructure capabilities within UMB to allow investigators to compete for new and diverse sources of funding. Additional information is available at <https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/research-funding-response/>. Submissions are on a rolling basis. Of special note: All proposals must go through a review and selection process before submission **only** through department chairs. If you plan a submission, please contact [Amit Sawant, PhD](#), or [Nancy Knight, PhD](#).

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.

### Clinical Trial Enrollment

- 14 patients at MPTC on the **Proton Collaborative Group Registry**
- 1 patient at MPTC on the **Deep Thermal Therapy HUD**
- 1 patient at BWMC and 1 at Shore 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 Cap Region and 1 at MPTC on **NRG GU013**: The phase III 'High Five Trial' five fraction radiation for high-risk prostate cancer
- 1 patient 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)
- 2 patients at BWMC and 1 at UCH on **NRG CC014**: Radiation therapy for high-risk asymptomatic bone metastases: A pragmatic multicenter randomized phase 3 clinical trial (PREEMPT)
- 1 patient at MPTC on **GCC 23100**: A randomized trial of high-risk metachronous oligometastatic prostate cancer with high-risk mutations treated with metastasis directed therapy and niraparib/abiraterone acetate and prednisone (KNIGHTS)
- 1 patient at UCH 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)

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)

## Grants and Contracts

### Submitted:

- **Erika Davies, PhD**, to the Food and Drug Administration for Broad Agency Announcement for the Advanced Research and Development of Regulatory Science (FDABAA-26-00123) for “A New Zealand white rabbit model of acute radiation syndrome hematologic dysfunction” (\$11,350,316).
- **Robabeh Rahimi, PhD**, and **Arezoo Modiri, PhD**, to NIH for an Exploratory/Developmental Research Project Grant (R21) for “Quantum-assisted online adaptive proton radiation therapy in head and neck cancer” (\$427,600).

## Articles Published

Entered into PubMed February 12 through March 11. Titles link to PubMed abstracts.

1. **Allen AJ, Savla B, Datnow-Martinez C, Mendes W**, Kamran SC, Ambis S, **Keepers Z, Eggleston C**, Baker K, **Molitoris JK, Ferris MJ, Patel AN, Rana ZH, Kunaprayoon D, Hong JJ, Benda RK, Citron WK**, Davicioni E, **Mishra MV, Bentzen SM**, Owonikoko TK, **Regine WF, Kwok Y, Tran PT, Vyfhuus MAL**. [Impact of a precision medicine navigator on genomic test utilization in black patients with prostate cancer](#). *JCO Oncol Pract*. 2026 Mar 3:OP2500983. Ahead of print.
2. **Bentzen SM**, Gupta T, Jacinto AA,...Abdel-Wahab M. [Hypofractionated versus normofractionated accelerated radiation therapy with or without cisplatin for locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma \(HYPNO\): A randomized, open-label, phase 3, noninferiority trial](#). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. 2026 Feb 18:S0360-3016(26)00020-9. Ahead of print.
3. Elati AH, **Davies EW, Mishra MV**, Winkles JA, Woodworth GF, Kim AJ. [Platinum-based therapeutics as emerging multi-modal radiosensitizers in glioblastoma treatment](#). *Adv Drug Deliv Rev*. 2026 Feb 13;232:115811. Ahead of print.
4. **Hamad GM, Poirier Y, Mossahebi S, Sawant A**. [Combining proton FLASH and spatially fractionated radiotherapy: experimental and simulation-based dosimetric characterization](#). *Phys Med Biol*. 2026 Feb 19. Online ahead of print.
5. McKay RR, ...**Tran PT**, Dorff T. [Evolving strategies in prostate cancer: Emerging approaches and unmet needs from the Bridging the Gaps in Prostate Cancer expert panel](#). *Cancer*. 2026 Feb 15;132(4):e70304.
6. **Singh A, Mendes WS, Oh SB**, Guler OC, Elmali A, Demirhan B, **Sawant A, Tran P**, Onal C, **Ren L**. [Prediction of metastasis-free survival in patients with localized prostate adenocarcinoma using delta radiomics from pre-treatment PSMA-PET/CT scans and dosiomics](#). *Cancers (Basel)*. 2026 Feb 19;18(4):677.
7. **Soomro MH**, Liang X, Roys S, **Xu J, Lamichhane N**, Zhuo J, Ernst T, Gullapalli RP, Nevo E, **Sawant A**. [Surface tracking-assisted multi-cycle 4D MRI motion modeling for lung radiotherapy: a preliminary validation study](#). *Biomed Phys Eng Express*. 2026 Feb 25;12(2).
8. Sun L, Bjegovic K, Rodriguez-Gonzalez L, Xu Y, Yan Y, Gonzalez G, Whitmore L, Connell L, **Lang Y**, Pandey P, **Ren L**, Sch Ler E, Chen Y, Xiang S. [A physics-informed neural network for in vivo dosimetry using quantitative radiacoustic imaging](#). *Res Sq [Preprint]*. 2026 Jan 20:rs.3.rs-8503498. Preprint.
9. Wakisaka Y, Tominaga Y, Li X, Bamberger C, Castro J, Chen KL, D'Souza M, **Rahimi R**. [Enhancing proton therapy for superficial lesions using patient-specific bolus and multi-leaf collimator](#). *Radiol Phys Technol*. 2026 Feb 18. Ahead of print.
10. Wakisaka Y, Tominaga Y, Miyasaka Y, **Rahimi R**, Furutani KM, Nakata M, Iwai T, Nishio T. [Enhancing dose conformity in head and neck intensity-modulated proton therapy using a novel dynamic multi-leaf collimator strategy](#). *Med Phys*. 2026 Feb;53(2):e70355.
11. **Yang C, Keepers Z, Shukla HD, Ren L**. [Tumor organoids modeling reveals timed responses and interplay of radiotherapy and chemotherapy in pancreatic cancer](#). *Radiother Oncol*. 2026 Mar 3;218:111470. Ahead of print.
12. **Yi B, Rahman SU, Chen S, Zhang B**. [Checklist and quality assurance tools for integration of two radiation oncology information systems \(ROISs\)](#). *J Appl Clin Med Phys*. 2026 Feb;27(2):e70435.

## Important Dates for Upcoming Funding Submissions

Below is an updated calendar for remaining **near-term 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](mailto:msegers@som.umaryland.edu)) ASAP if you plan to submit a proposal, regardless of funder.

NIH deadline <sup>4</sup>	DORA deadline <sup>1</sup>	ORA deadline <sup>2</sup>	SPA deadline <sup>3</sup>
R01 Jun 5 (new)	05/22/2026	05/27/2026	05/29/2026
*R21 Jun 16 (new)	06/03/2026	06/05/2026	06/09/2026

<sup>1</sup>DORA 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. <sup>2</sup>ORA deadline: Personnel, effort, budget materials, performance site, and compliance forms routed in final form, 7 business days prior to NIH deadline. <sup>3</sup>SPA 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.