

Department of Radiation Oncology

Monthly Research Update: March 2026

NIH Updates Spring 2026

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) on March 31 released significant changes to the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#) for federal year 2026, which includes “new and modified requirements, clarifies certain policies, and implements changes in statutes, regulations, and policies that have been implemented through appropriate legal and/or policy processes since the previous version of the NIHGPS dated April 2024.” The extensive list of changes, as [summarized](#) by NIH, affect all aspects of proposal preparation and submission, as well as funding management and reporting. Our Department of Office Research Administration staff are reviewing these, and all current and prospective NIH awardees are urged to become familiar and move toward compliance with these policy changes.

In addition, a March 31 [notice](#) from NIH announced the end of the Continuous Submission Policy (which allowed applications from PD/PIs providing review service to be submitted at any time) and the updating of the Late Application Submission Policy to designate participation in a recent review or advisory group meeting as an acceptable reason for late submission. The notice also contains useful information on the limited circumstances in which other applicants may submit late proposals and the processes for doing so.

Clinical Trial Enrollment

- 16 patients at MPTC on the **Proton Collaborative Group Registry**
- 1 patient at MPTC on the **Deep Thermal Therapy HUD**
- 1 patient 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
- 2 patients at MPTC, 1 at Cap Region, and 1 at BWMC on **NRG GU013**: The phase III 'High Five Trial' five fraction radiation for high-risk prostate 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 UCH on **NRG CC014**: Radiation therapy for high-risk asymptomatic bone metastases: A pragmatic multicenter randomized phase 3 clinical trial (PREEMPT)
- 1 patient at UMMC on **GCC 2422**: Phase I feasibility and pilot RCT of serious illness conversation guide in patient and intimate partner dyads living with advanced lung cancer
- 1 patient at UMMC on **GCC 2494**: Practical clinical interventions to help improve cancer care for patients who live in food priority areas (FPAs) or food deserts.
- 1 patient at MPTC 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)
- 3 patients at MPTC on **GCC 2563/PCG BRE009**: Phase III randomized trial of conventionally fractionated vs. hypo fractionated comprehensive nodal irradiation for breast cancer using pencil beam scanning protons therapy (COMPRO)
- 1 patient at MPTC, 1 at UCH, and 3 at St. Joe's on **NRG CC015**: Harnessing E-mindfulness approaches for living after breast cancer (HEAL-ABC)
- 1 patient at UCH on **NRG BR007**: A phase III clinical trial evaluating de-escalation of breast radiation for conservative treatment of stage I, hormone sensitive, HER-2 negative, oncotype recurrence score ≤ 18 breast cancer

MARCH AT A GLANCE TOTALS

Clinical trials

Total enrolled	37
GCC, other	6
NRG, co-ops	14
PCG, other registries	17

Grants and contracts

New awards	0
Submitted	0

Articles published	9
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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.

Grants and Contracts

Submitted/Award:

None

Articles Published

Entered into PubMed March 12 through April 8. Titles link to PubMed abstracts.

1. Asiedu EB, Kumar A, Choi A, Luciano DO, Lo K, Sharma D, Ma T, **Rassool F**, Sodhi A, Montaner S. Targeting the ANGPTL4/NRP1/ABL1/RAD51 axis reverses cisplatin resistance by impairing DNA damage repair in head and neck cancer. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2026 Mar 31;123(13):e2510265123.
2. Baniel CC, Klebaner D, Waeldner K, Wang K, **Huang K**, Corriher T, Saripalli A, Ponce SB, Bhatia R, Schuster J, Paradis KC. Project PARENT: A family leave database for US radiation oncology and medical physics residency programs. *Pract Radiat Oncol*. 2026 Mar 12:S1879-8500(26)00068-8. Online ahead of print.
3. **Brown MH, Cherng HR, Assif JW, Sun K, Mishra MV**. Conditional survival estimates for malignant glioma Patients: Secondary analysis of RTOG 9006. *Am J Clin Oncol*. 2026 Mar 19. Online ahead of print.
4. Czerwinski T, Bischof L, Böhringer D, Kara S, **Strissel PL**, Strick R, Huhn N, Winterl A, Gerum R, Wittmann E, Schneider M, Beckmann MW, Nusser G, Wiesinger M, Budday S, Lux A, Voskens C, Fabry B, Mark C. Immune cells employ intermittent integrin-mediated traction forces for 3D migration. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2026 Mar 17;123(11):e2524427123.
5. Gregucci F, Lee-Poturski C, Dirrim M, **Stewart J**, Caruthers D, Stiles CD, Hentrich K, Cardenas J, Chan TA, Yu DS, **Tran P**, Simone N, **Sawant A**, Schwarz J, Robinson C, Haas-Kogan D, Michor F, Vanpouille-Box C, Ng J, Hasan Y, Yu J, **Ren L**, Marchionni L, Hugo G, Berbeco R, Nakamura JL, Lindsay J, Yang X, Deasy JO, Weichselbaum RR, Formenti SC. Radiation Oncology-Biology Integration Network (ROBIN): Bridging the gap between biological research and clinical practice. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2026 Apr 6. Online ahead of print.
6. Jiang C, **Hoover T**, Baron J, Han X, Li B, Gao Y, Kim M, Hubbeling H, Chong EA, Carter J, Svoboda J, Schuster SJ, Landsburg DJ, Nasta SD, Plastaras J, LaRiviere M. long term results of proton therapy in adult infradiaphragmatic lymphoma. *Int J Part Ther*. 2026 Feb 7;19:101304. doi: 10.1016/j.ijpt.2026.101304. eCollection 2026 Mar.
7. Snider JW, Sabouri P, **Mossahebi S**, Chhabra AM, **Molitoris JK**, Diwanji T, Langen KM, **Regine WF**, Zhu M, Simone CB. Novel use of peak optimized particle therapy for the delivery of three-dimensional spatially fractionated radiotherapy. *Front Oncol*. 2026 Mar 11;16:1736260.
8. Tu KJ, **Roy SK**, Kingsbury TJ, **Shukla HD**. HIF1 α mediates resistance to radiation and to KRAS inhibitors in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. *PLoS One*. 2026 Mar 26;21(3):e0341912.
9. Wakisaka Y, Tominaga Y, Nakata M, **Rahimi R**, Miyasaka Y, Higashikawa T, Nishio T, Yamamoto M. Defining clinically relevant residual motion for respiratory-gated scanning proton therapy of liver cancer: A patient-derived 4D dynamic dose analysis. *Phys Med*. 2026 Mar 30;145:105800. Online ahead of print.

Important Dates for Upcoming Funding Submissions

Below is an updated calendar for **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) ASAP if you plan to submit a proposal, regardless of funder.

NIH deadline ⁴	DORA deadline ¹	ORA deadline ²	SPA deadline ³
R01 June 5 (new)	05/22/2026	05/27/2026	05/29/2026
*R21 June 16 (new)	06/03/2026	06/05/2026	06/09/2026
R01 July 6 (Resub)	06/23/2026	06/25/2026	06/29/2026
*R21 July 16 (Resub)	07/03/2026	07/07/2026	07/09/2026

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.