

Department of Radiation Oncology

Monthly Research Update: May 2026

Ethics of Authorship in Scientific Publishing

A virtual seminar on “Ethical Considerations in Determining Authorship,” organized by the UM SOM Center for Advanced Research Training and Innovation (CARTI), was held on June 4, featuring Adam Puche, PhD, a professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. After reviewing historic and current scientific trends (including exponential growth in journals and articles published), he summarized the UM SOM Authorship Policy (2016), which states that a manuscript author must meet specific criteria, including: (1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, analysis, or interpretation of data; and/or (2) substantial contributions to drafting, reviewing, and or revising the content of the publication for important intellectual content; and (3) each author must consent to being an author on the manuscript and provide final approval of the version to be published. The policy also notes that decisions about inclusion and order of authors should be determined by the lead author in consultation with other authors, preferably as early as possible in the research and/or manuscript preparation process. The seminar included: examples of who should or should not be included as authors; the use of AI in authorship and writing; and (of special interest because less frequently discussed) the challenges of “author abuse” and disagreement. A [recording of the virtual meeting](#) was made available by CARTI and is highly recommended to all faculty, trainees, and other contributors to peer-reviewed publications in our department.

MAY AT A GLANCE TOTALS

Clinical trials	
Total enrolled	31
GCC, other	10
NRG, co-ops	6
PCG, other registries	15
Grants and contracts	
New awards	3
Submitted	1
Articles published	6

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 the **DTT**
- 1 patient at UCH, 1 at BWMC, and 1 at Cap Region on **NRG GU013**: The phase III 'High Five Trial' five fraction radiation for high-risk prostate cancer
- 3 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 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 UCH 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 on **GCC 2431**: A pilot study of systemic immune-based therapy combined with hyperthermia and spatially fractionated radiotherapy in advanced biliary tract cancer and hepatocellular carcinoma
- 2 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 at UMMC 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)
- 2 at MPTC and 1 at UCH on **NRG CC015**: Harnessing E-mindfulness approaches for living after breast cancer (HEAL-ABC)
- 1 at MPTC on **GCC 1886**: Phase I study of concurrent nab-paclitaxel + gemcitabine with hypofractionated, ablative proton therapy for locally advanced pancreatic cancer

Grants and Contracts

Funded

- **Erika Davies, PhD**, PI, from Hollow Labs, LLC, for “Pilot study to evaluate blood markers of endothelial damage following exposure to lethal doses of X-rays” (\$31,985).
- **France Carrier, PhD**, PI, from NIH 1S10-OD040100 Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG) Program, for “X-RAD 320 with OptiMax” (\$418,255).
- **Amit Sawant, PhD**, MPI Lead, from NIH/NCI, 2R01-CA20261, for “The INSPIRE trial: Integrating serial and parallel interconnected respiratory elements for sparing post-radiotherapy pulmonary function” (\$3,233,734).

Submitted

- **Amit Sawant, PhD, MPI Lead, with France Carrier, PhD**, MPI, to ARPA-H, One Comprehensive Universal Radiotherapy for Everyone (1-CURE) ARPA-H-SOL-26-147, for “FLASH-induced guided nanoparticle-integrated therapeutic engine (FLASH-IGNITE)” (\$113,675,879).

Articles Published

Entered into PubMed May 6 through June 10. Titles link to PubMed abstracts.

1. Bentzen SM, Paradis KC. [In reply to Delaney.](#) *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2026 Jun 1;125(2):671–672.
2. Brown MH, Mendes WS, Song Y, Shetty AC, Witek ME, Mehra R, Hatten KM, Taylor RJ, Moyer KF, Wolf JS, Tyer TN, Steacy KJ, Eggleston C, Datnow C, Gaykalova DA, Regine WF, Ren L, Tran PT, Ferris MJ, Molitoris JK. [High frequency of RB1 mutations p16 positive early stage oropharyngeal carcinoma: A genomic and transcriptomic analysis.](#) *Oral Oncol.* 2026 May 16;179:108002. Online ahead of print.
3. Iftesum M, Sahoo GR, Sheikh E, Srivastava M, Roy S, Shukla HD, Biswal NC, Gartia MR. [Machine learning-integrated Raman spectroscopy identifies race-associated biochemical signatures in prostate cancer.](#) *J Biophotonics.* 2026;19(6):e70293.
4. Khan MA, Chang J, Song Y, Shetty AC, Nguyen T, Waters DN, Chowdhury DD, Simms E, Chan A, Tseng HW, Lam C, Patel P, Tran LT, Chen J, Wang JH, Nugent K, Ballew M, Lemtiri-Chlieh G, Carrieri FA, Malek R, Wang H, Thielman NRJ, Li K, Park RJ, Hwang WL, Zheng L, Gabrielson K, Tran PT, Lafargue A. [Twist1 overexpression models an aggressive subtype of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma in vivo.](#) *Lab Anim (NY).* 2026 May 22. Online ahead of print.
5. Tong JY, Amin N, Cruess C, Ludeman E, Moyer K, Wolf J, Taylor R, Molitoris JK, Ferris MJ, Mehra R, Hatten KM. [Effect of smoking in oropharyngeal cancer treated with TORS: Systematic review and meta-analysis.](#) *Laryngoscope.* 2026 May 8. Online ahead of print.
6. Vicini FA, Winter K, Freedman GM, Arthur DW, Rosenstein BS, Bentzen SM, Li XA, Halyard MY, Woodward WA, Bleicher RJ, Taghian A, Lyons J, Tomberlin JK, Seaward SA, Cheston SB, Hoover AC, Anderson BM, Perera FE, Poppe MM, Petersen IA, Jhawar S, Hijal T, Moughan J, Movsas B, White JR. [Concurrent versus sequential radiation dose escalation to the surgical cavity for conservative treatment of high-risk early breast cancer: NRG/RTOG 1005 phase III trial.](#) *J Clin Oncol.* 2026 May 11;JCO2502465. 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 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
R01 Oct 5 (new)	09/21/2026	09/24/2026	09/28/2026
*R21 Oct 16 (new)	10/02/2026	10/07/2026	10/09/2026

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.