

Department of Radiation Oncology

Monthly Research Update: November 2022

NIH UNITE Project Addresses Structural Racism

In late October, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released the first [UNITE Progress Report](#) (2021–2022), describing actions to identify and address structural racism within NIH and the larger national biomedical and behavioral research enterprises it supports. The report details UNITE's initial efforts across 4 focus areas intended to: elevate health disparities and minority health research across institutes and centers (ICs); promote equity in the NIH-supported biomedical and behavioral research ecosystem; promote equity in the internal NIH workforce; and improve accuracy and transparency of racial and ethnic equity data related to these efforts. UNITE was [launched](#) in February 2021 and is now a working group with 5 committees staffed by more than 80 volunteers from all 27 NIH ICs and the NIH Office of the Director. UNITE reports to the NIH Steering Committee and acts as a think tank to promote equity, generate new ideas, and initiate actions to identify and address any structural racism that may exist within NIH and the greater scientific community. Initial achievements cited in the report include: facilitating support for funding opportunities on the [impact of structural racism on minority health](#) and transformative research to address [health disparities](#); launching the [Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation \(FIRST\) program](#) through the NIH Common Fund to enhance and maintain scientific environments that cultivate and benefit from a full range of talent; and harnessing the power of inclusive imagery with [The Power of an Inclusive Workplace Recognition Project](#) so that more NIH staff see themselves reflected in internal and public-facing efforts.

The activities and findings of the [NIH UNITE project](#) are likely to be reflected in conforming programs in academic and research institutions over the coming year.

Clinical Trial Enrollment

- 25 patients were enrolled at MPTC on the **PCG Registry**
- 2 patients were enrolled at MPTC on the **Deep Thermal Therapy HUD**
- 3 patients were enrolled at MPTC on **GCC 19146**: Comparison and verification of radiation planning for pencil beam scanning proton therapy using single energy and dual energy computed tomography simulation methods
- 1 patient was 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 was enrolled at BWMC and 1 at UCH on **GCC 15100**: Pragmatic phase III randomized trial of proton vs. photon therapy for patients with non-metastatic breast cancer: A Radiotherapy Comparative Effectiveness (Radcomp) Consortium trial
- 1 patient was enrolled at BWMC 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 was enrolled at BWMC on **NRG BR007**: A phase III clinical trial evaluating de-escalation of breast radiation (DEBRA) for conservative treatment of stage I, hormone-sensitive, HER2-negative, Oncotype Recurrence Score ≤ 18 breast cancer
- 1 patient was enrolled at Eastern Shore and 1 at MPTC on **GCC 20110**: A single-arm, single-stage phase II trial of selective avoidance of nodal volumes at minimal Risk (SAVER) in the contralateral neck of patients with p16-positive oropharynx cancer
- 2 patients were enrolled at MPTC on **GCC 2032**: Feasibility of strength training with androgen deprivation and proton therapy for high-risk prostate cancer

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS

Clinical trials

Total enrolled	39
GCC, other	13
NRG, NCI, co-ops	1
PCG Registry	25

Grants and contracts

New awards	0
Submitted	0

Articles published	6
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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

Funded:

None reported

Submitted:

None reported

Articles Published

Entered into PubMed November 10–December 7. Titles link to PubMed abstracts, with full-text links.

1. Burr A, Harari P, Wieland A, Kimple R, Hartig G, **Witek M**. [Patterns of failure for hypopharynx cancer patients treated with limited high-dose radiotherapy treatment volumes](#). *Radiat Oncol J*. 2022 Dec 2. Online ahead of print.
2. **Francis MR, Mohindra P**, Mooney-Doyle K. [Exploring dyad-based communication during cancer: A pilot study](#). *Cancer Nurs*. 2022 Dec 1. Online ahead of print.
3. Mena E, Shih J, Chung JY, Jones J, Rabiee A, Monge C, Turkbey B, Lindenberg L, Salerno KE, Kassin M, Wood B, Hernandez J, Maass-Moreno R, Saboury B, Jakhete N, **Molitoris JK**, Unger KR, Choyke PL, Escorcía FE. [Functional Imaging of Liver Cancer \(FLIC\): Study protocol of a phase 2 trial of ¹⁸F-DCFPyL PET/CT imaging for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma](#). *PLoS One*. 2022 Nov 11;17(11):e0277407.
4. Pati S, Baid U, Edwards B,...**Alexander GS**,... Menze B, Barnholtz-Sloan JS, Martin J, Bakas S. [Federated learning enables big data for rare cancer boundary detection](#). *Nat Commun*. 2022 Dec 5;13(1):7346.
5. Sheng JY, Snyder CF, Smith KC, DeSanto J, Mayonado N, Rall S, White S, Blackford AL, Johnston FM, Joyner RL Jr, Mischtschuk J, Peairs KS, Thorner E, **Tran PT**, Wolff AC, Choi Y. [Evaluating potential overuse of surveillance care in cancer survivors](#). *Cancer Med*. 2022 Nov 11. Online ahead of print.
6. **Tran PT**, Lowe K, Tsai HL, Song DY, Hung AY, Hearn JWD, Miller S, Proudfoot JA, Deek MP, Phillips R, Lotan T, Paller CJ, Marshall CH, Markowski M, Dipasquale S, Denmeade S, Carducci M, Eisenberger M, DeWeese TL, Orton M, Deville C, Davicioni E, Liauw SL, Heath EI, Greco S, Desai NB, Spratt DE, Feng F, Wang H, Beer TM, Antonarakis ES. [Phase II randomized study of salvage radiation therapy plus enzalutamide or placebo for high-risk prostate-specific antigen recurrent prostate cancer after radical prostatectomy: The SALV-ENZA Trial](#). *J Clin Oncol*. 2022 Nov 11:JCO2201662. Online ahead of print.

Important Dates for Upcoming Funding Submissions

Below is an updated calendar with firm due dates for upcoming major NIH deadlines (individual RFA/PA dates may differ). Contact the Department Office of Research Administration (DORA) (msegers@som.umaryland.edu) ASAP if you plan to submit any funding proposal, regardless of funder. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in delaying your submission until the next cycle (if available).

NIH deadline	DORA budget, prelim materials	Dean/SOM prelim materials	FINAL Dean/SOM/SPA
R01 new sub. 02/06/23	01/23/23	01/26/23	01/30/23
R21 new sub. 02/16/23	02/02/23	02/06/23	02/09/23
R01 Resub. 03/05/23	02/21/23	02/23/23	02/27/23
R21 Resub. 03/16/23	03/03/23	03/07/23	03/09/23