

Department of Radiation Oncology

Monthly Research Update: November 2025

New Forms, Policies for NIH Submissions

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS

Clinical trials

Total enrolled	25
GCC, other	9
NRG, co-ops	1
PCG, other registries	15

Grants and contracts

New awards	0
Submitted	4

Articles published	10
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Per 2024 [policy](#) issued by the White House Office of Science and Technology, NIH will require that the [Common Forms Biosketch and Current and Pending Support](#) pages be included in all funding applications on or after January 25, 2026. The Biographical Sketch Common Form provides instructions for submission of a formatted resume by each individual identified as a PI or senior/key person and is used to assess how qualified the individual, team, or organization is to conduct the proposed activities. The Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form is used to assess the potential for conflicts of commitment that may impact the research effort. The information also helps assess any potential scientific and budgetary overlap/duplication.

The Common Forms Biosketch has a number of significant differences from previous NIH biosketch formats, both in content and requirements for an active ORCID account linked to the applicant's eRA Commons profile and the use of SciENcv to generate the document. NIH has provided [preliminary information](#), as well as FAQs and useful instructions on preparation for the changes. Note that both forms are complex and that individuals planning to submit federal proposals on or after January 25 should begin well in advance to prepare the documentation and ensure that they are adequately registered/enrolled in the supporting systems.

Direct links to the forms themselves are not provided here, because the most recent updates indicate that "NIH anticipates finalizing the templates in SciENcv for Common Forms, the NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement, and associated instructions the week of December 15, 2025." The Radiation Oncology Department Office of Research Administration will keep faculty and other researchers updated.

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.

Please note: The UMB/UMSOM institutional offices that manage grants and contracts are closed in late December and early January. If you are planning to file for any extramural funding in January or February, please contact [DORA staff](#) ASAP to establish a timeline that will ensure your timely and fully compliant submission.

Clinical Trial Enrollment

- 14 patients at MPTC on the **Proton Collaborative Group Registry**
- 1 patient at MPTC on the **Deep Thermal Therapy HUD**
- 6 patients 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 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 UCH on **NRG GU013**: The phase III 'High Five Trial' five fraction radiation for high-risk prostate cancer
- 1 patient at UMMC on **GCC 1926**: A phase I dose escalation study of single fraction pre-operative partial breast S-PBI for early stage breast 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)

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:

- **Dario Rodrigues, PhD, Lei Ren, PhD** (MPI) to NIH PAR-25-338 Academic-Industrial Partnerships for Translation of Technologies for Diagnosis and Treatment (R01) for “A non-invasive MR-compatible hyperthermia system for brain tumor treatment” (\$2,494,833).
- **Arezoo Modiri, PhD**, PI, for an American Cancer Society Research Scholar Grant for “Evaluating a novel imaging biomarker for cardiotoxicity mitigation and surveillance in patients receiving thoracic radiotherapy” (\$944,667).
- **Robabeh Rahimi, PhD**, PI, to the American Cancer Society Research Scholar Grant for “Quantum-assisted optimization to improve treatment planning for head and neck cancer” (\$953,120).
- **Hem Shukla, PhD**, PI, to the American Cancer Society Research Scholar Grant for “Patient-derived pancreatic tumor organoids as a personalized clinical model to understand therapy resistance” (\$943,400).

Articles Published

Entered into PubMed November 13 through December 12. Titles link to PubMed abstracts.

1. Bjegovic K, **Ren L**, Chen Y, Schöler E, Xing L, Xiang SL. [Seeing the invisible: In vivo dosimetry in radiotherapy with radiacoustic IMAGING](#). *Med Phys*. 2025 Dec;52(12):e70165.
2. Darafsheh A, Hao Y, Bey A, Kim MM, Diffenderfer ES, Yin L, Chen CC, Xiao Z, Goddu SM, Zorloni G, Grignani P, Parodi K, Davidson K, Zhang T, Perkins S, Sobotka LG, **Mossahebi S**. [First multi-institutional systematic comparison of the neutron ambient dose equivalent produced by proton therapy systems](#). *Phys Med Biol*. 2025 Nov 26;70(23).
3. James S, Clingan CL, Adesanya IA, Zhu S, Francis ME, Rosenblatt PY, **Molitoris JK**, Deighton DC, Winder AT, Desrochers PC, McGeorge NM, Kleckner IR, Kleckner AS. [Leveraging technology to address POST-Treatment Health Outcomes of Cancer Survivors \(POSTHOC\): A phase I/II randomized controlled trial of a survivorship care plan mobile application](#). *J Cancer Surviv*. 2025 Nov 27. Online ahead of print.
4. Laakso I, Paulides MM, Kodera S,...**Rodrigues D**, Sasaki K, Sakamoto T, Taylor Z, Visser H, Yeo DTB, Hirata A. [Roadmap towards personalized approaches and safety considerations in non-ionizing radiation: from dosimetry to therapeutic and diagnostic applications](#). *Phys Med Biol*. 2025 Nov 21. Online ahead of print.
5. Li X, Su FC, Li Q, Fan J, Chawla A, Miner A, **Rahimi R**. [Radiation incident learning in multi-site centers](#). *J Appl Clin Med Phys*. 2025 Dec;26(12):e70369.
6. Onal C, Guler OC, Torun N, Demirhan B, Elmali A, Hurmuz P, Yavuz M, Deek MP, **Tran PT**, Reyhan M, Murthy V. [Gallium-68-labeled prostate-specific membrane antigen positron emission tomography/computed tomography response in pelvic node-positive prostate cancer after definitive radiation therapy: Prognostic implications](#). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. 2025 Dec 1;123(5):1259-1268.
7. Peters S, O'Donovan A, Bellini M, Caissie A, Coffey M, Dabach A, Delaney GP, Fischer PE, Frenken G, Liszewski B, Maingon P, Messens E, Perryck S, **Zhang B**, Reijnders-Thijssen P. [ESTRO framework for radiation oncology departments to mitigate against cyberattacks](#). *Radiother Oncol*. 2025 Nov 24;214:111305. Online ahead of print.
8. Singh A, Mendes WS, Oh SB, Guler OC, Elmali A, Demirhan B, Sawant A, **Tran P**, Onal C, **Ren L**. [Response letter to the commentary "Peri-Tumoral ring radiomics: Vein-contaminated voxels inflate MFS scores"](#). *Radiother Oncol*. 2025 Nov 13;111273. Online ahead of print.
9. Stoyanova T, Priceman SJ, Ross AE, **Tran PT**, McKay RR, Pienta KJ, Soule HR, Miyahira AK. [Deciphering resistance: Beyond the androgen paradigm; Report from the 2025 Coffey-Holden Prostate Cancer Academy meeting](#). *Prostate*. 2025 Dec 7. Online ahead of print.
10. Tong JY, Bzhilyanskaya V, **Molitoris JK**, **Ferris MJ**, Hatten KM. [Disparities in proton radiation utilization for HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancer following TORS](#). *Head Neck*. 2025 Dec 4. Online ahead of print.

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. ⁴R21 deadline is also for R03, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36, U34, UH2, UH3, and UH2/UH3 submissions.