



**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
RADIATION ONCOLOGY



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HEALTH IS ALL WE DO

# **ROBIN OligoMET Center**

## **Quarterly Update**

**May 2023**

### **News**

- **Account of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Genitourinary Cancers (GU) Symposium**
- **Dr. Zaker Rana Elected as Faculty member of the University of Maryland Medical School Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (Beta Chapter)**
- **ASCO GU Symposium: Dr. Phuoc Tran's Interview**
- **Proton Therapy Presentation at the Medical Society of NOVA**
- **George Washington Cancer Center MidAtlantic Radiation Oncology Consortium**
- **University of Maryland Baltimore: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Radiation Oncology Research Symposium**
- **Dr. Søren Bentzen Presented with the British Institute of Radiology (BIR) Medal**
- **Dr. Phuoc Tran Appointed as Chair at AACR-Novocure Tumor Treating Fields Research Grants Scientific Review Committee**

### **New Hires and Additions:**

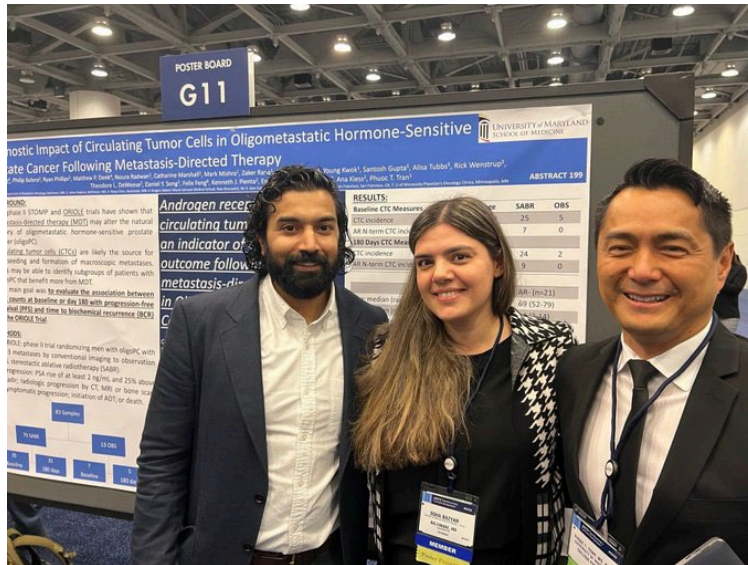
**Meet Dr. Nicole Simone's Team Members**

**Meet Dr. Lei Ren's Team Member**

### **Monthly Research Updates**

## News

### Account of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Genitourinary Cancers (GU) Symposium



In February, Drs. Zaker Rana (left) and Phuoc Tran (right) presented on how metastasis directed therapy (MDT) can alter the natural history of oligometastatic disease in prostate cancer.

### Dr. Zaker Rana Elected as Faculty member of the University of Maryland Medical School Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (Beta Chapter)



Congratulations to Dr. Zaker Rana for being elected as faculty member of the University of Maryland Medical School Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (Beta Chapter) in February.

## ASCO GU Symposium: Dr. Phuoc Tran's Interview



In mid-February, Dr. Phuoc Tran discussed the challenges to accurate and effective risk stratification for newly diagnosed localized prostate cancer and spoke on novel approaches for risk stratification tools. To view the full interview, click [here](#).

## Proton Therapy Presentation at the Medical Society of NOVA



In early March, Dr. Phuoc Tran gave a talk on the treatment of prostate cancer titled, “Proton Therapy: A Powerful Tool in the Cancer-Fighting Toolbox.”

## George Washington Cancer Center MidAtlantic Radiation Oncology Consortium



In mid-March, Dr. Phuoc Tran presented at the GWCC on “Radiation Therapy in Oligometastatic Prostate Cancer: Why, When & How?”

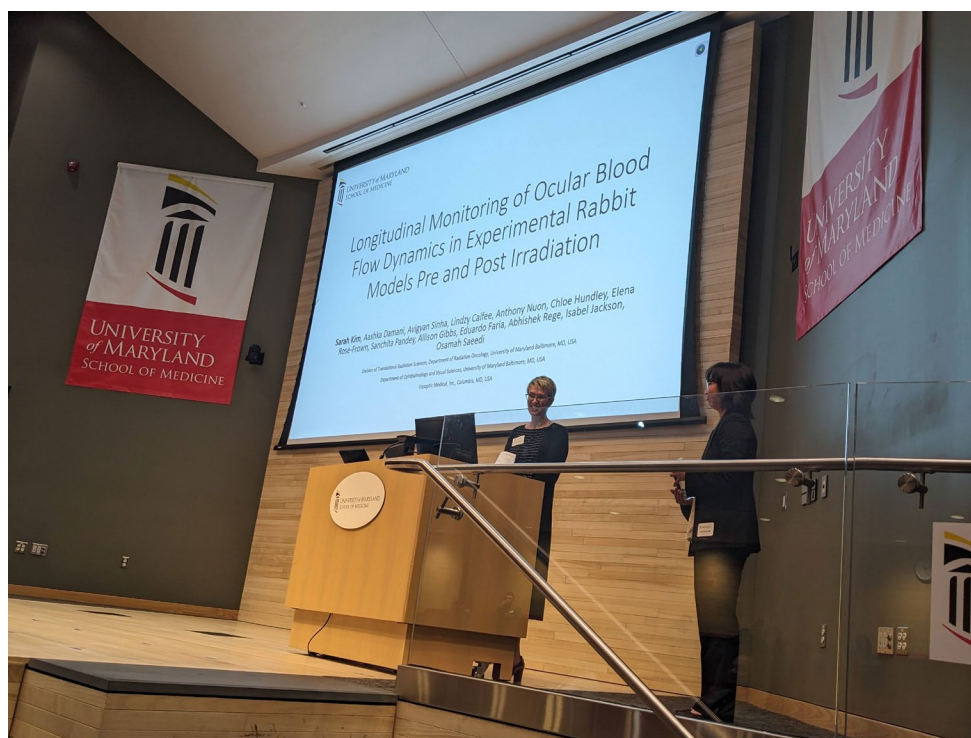


From left to right include Dr. Phuoc Tran’s lab members Triet Nguyen, Jin Hee Chang, and Dipanwita Chowdhury who participated in the GWCC consortium.

# University of Maryland Baltimore: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Radiation Oncology Research Symposium



In this photo, Dr. Phuoc Tran welcomes everyone attending the first annual Radiation Oncology Research Symposium.



In this photo, Dr. Erika Davies introduces speaker, Sarah Kim, to present on the “Longitudinal Monitoring of Ocular Blood Flow Dynamics in Experimental Rabbit Models Pre and Post Irradiation.”



Dr. Lei Ren announces the names of the top 3 best abstracts winners.



Dr. Amit Sawant announces the winners' names of the top 3 best speakers.



This photo includes ROBIN members, Miek Segers (left) and Jadyn Stewart (3<sup>rd</sup> person in the center) together with the Department Office of Research Administration (DORA) team members.



This photo includes Dr. Mark Mishra (left) and Dr. Zaker Rana (right) and was taken during the reception.



Thank you to all ROBIN OligoMET Center's staff and faculty members who supported this event held on March 31<sup>st</sup>! There were over 100 attendees, and the symposium was a huge success. More photos can be found in the [Department of Radiation Oncology Research Symposium](#) website.

## **Dr. Søren Bentzen Presented with the British Institute of Radiology (BIR) Medal**



Dr. Søren Bentzen (left) was presented with the BIR Medal for Outstanding International Achievement by President at the BIR Radiotherapy and Oncology, Stephen Keevil (right). To read more about this, click [here](#).



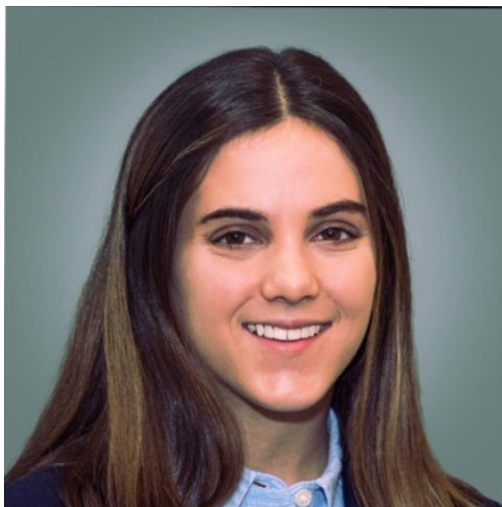
## **Dr. Phuoc Tran Appointed as Chair at AACR-Novocure Tumor Treating Fields Research Grants Scientific Review Committee**



Congratulations to Dr. Phuoc Tran who was appointed as Chair at AACR-Novocure Tumor Treating Fields Research Grants Scientific Review Committee.

### **New Hires and Additions:**

#### **Meet Dr. Nicole Simone's Team Members**



Meet Sarah Burke. After graduating from Dickinson College, Sara obtained her MPH in epidemiology from Temple University. In the lab, she works as a clinical research coordinator and helps to oversee studies that are being conducted. She also helps to manage and organize ongoing projects. She joined the team in March.



Rupali Panwar works as a post doctorate research fellow. She obtained her MS and PhD from Panjab University in Chandigarh, India. Her research interests include understanding cancer disparities among minority populations. In the lab, she works on various cancer research projects. Rupali helps to conduct research that aims to understand the molecular theories of inequalities among different cancer patients. She joined Dr. Simone's team in January.



Noelle Francois is a graduate student who helps to conduct numerous research projects. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Drexel University. Noelle is now a graduate student at Thomas Jefferson University and is in the process of receiving her master's degree in biomedical sciences. Her research interests include understanding how health disparities impact cancer rates and treatments. She joined the team in September last year.



Ali Calderon Aparicio works as a post-doctorate research fellow in the lab. Ali obtained his Ph.D. in biochemistry from the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research. After obtaining his Ph.D., Ali moved to the United States and worked at multiple universities and hospitals before working at Jefferson. Currently, Ali helps to conduct multiple research projects in the lab. His research interests include studying the role of different proteins in tumor promotion. He joined the team last year in December.

### **Meet Dr. Lei Ren's Team Member**



Yufeng Cao, PhD, is a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Lei Ren's lab. He received his Ph.D. in 2019 at Washington State University, with a major in mathematics and computer science. His interest is in medical imaging segmentation, clinical decision-making, and outcomes predictions by using deep learning and machine learning. He joined the ROBIN OligoMET Center in January this year.

## Monthly Research Updates

| FEBRUARY<br>AT A GLANCE<br>TOTALS |   | MARCH<br>AT A GLANCE<br>TOTALS |   | APRIL<br>AT A GLANCE<br>TOTALS |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Publications                      | 6 | Publications                   | 3 | Publications                   | 6 |
| Grants and contracts              |   | Grants and contracts           |   | Grants and contracts           |   |
| New awards                        | 0 | New awards                     | 2 | New awards                     | 1 |
| Submitted                         | 2 | Submitted                      | 3 | Submitted                      | 0 |
| Oral Presentations                | 1 | Oral Presentations             | 5 | Oral Presentations             | 1 |
| Abstracts                         | 6 | Abstracts                      | 0 | Abstracts                      | 2 |
| Clinical trials                   |   | Clinical trials                |   | Clinical trials                |   |
| TERPS                             | 0 | TERPS                          | 1 | TERPS                          | 1 |
| Awards/Honors                     | 0 | Awards/Honors                  | 3 | Awards/Honors                  | 3 |