

Department of Radiation Oncology

Monthly Research Update: September 2026

UM RadOnc at ASTRO 2026

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE TOTALS

Clinical trials

Total enrolled	33
GCC, other	7
NRG, co-ops	6
PCG, other registries	20

Grants and contracts

New awards	1
Submitted	2

Articles published

7

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.

The 68th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) was held September 26–30 in Boston, MA. The theme of this year's meeting was "Data to Dialogue: Communicating Radiotherapy's Value to Advanced Care." Faculty members, residents, postdoctoral students, and others from the Maryland Department of Radiation Oncology participated in 40 presentations, including multiple oral and Quick-Pitch talks and as coauthors in 3 plenary sessions (complete brochure attached; all abstracts are available in the October 2026 [supplement](#) to the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*). These presentations included reports of scientific research, as well as invited lectures and service as session moderators and on discussion panels. A highlight of the meeting was the department's Welcome Dinner and Reception for current members and alumni, held at Davio's Boston Seaport restaurant on the evening of September 27. The 2027 ASTRO meeting will be held in Chicago, IL.

Important Dates for Upcoming Funding Submissions

Updated calendar for **near-term NIH submission deadlines**, with firm due dates for major 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	DORA deadline ¹	ORA deadline ²	SPA deadline ³
R01 11/05 (resub)	10/23/2026	10/25/2026	10/29/2026
*R21 11/16 (resub)	11/03/2026	11/07/2026	11/09/2026
R01 2/05 (new)	01/22/2027	01/27/2027	01/29/2027
*R21 2/16 (new)	02/02/2027	02/05/2027	02/09/2027

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, UH2, UH3, and UH2/UH3 submissions

Clinical Trial Enrollment

- 20 patients at MPTC on the **Proton Collaborative Group Registry**
- 4 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 MPTC on **NRG GU013**: The phase III 'High Five Trial' five fraction radiation for high-risk prostate cancer
- 1 patient at UMMC on **GCC 2415**: REMASter: recurrent brain metastases after SRS trial
- 1 patient at UMMC and 1 at Cap Region on **GCC 2494**: Practical clinical interventions to help improve cancer care for patients who live in food priority areas (FPAs) or food deserts.
- 2 patients at MPTC and 3 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)

Grants and Contracts

Awards:

- **Yannick Poirier, PhD**, PI, Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL) op. Battelle Memorial Institute/Department of Energy (contract number 861489) for “Cesium irradiator replacement project (CIRP)” for \$446,103 (8/27/2026–8/31/2028).

Submissions:

- **Erika Davies, PhD**, subrecipient PI with Synedgen Inc., to BARDA for “Pre-clinical studies in support of MIIST305 advancement” (\$27,956,302).
- **Sina Mossahebi, PhD**, subrecipient PI with Northwestern University to NIH (5R01CA279013-04) for “3-dimensional prompt gamma imaging for online proton beam dose verification” (\$95,049).

Articles Published

Entered into PubMed September 10 through October 7. Titles link to PubMed abstracts. Note that this list includes all authors who list their affiliation as our department at UM SOM, regardless of current affiliation.

1. Aslanabadi A, Karimi M, Powell L, Schumaker L, Shutt A, Hojabri M, Abbasi R, Bentzen SM, Cullen KJ, Crowell TA, Nowak RG, Sajadi MM. [Preliminary development and assessment of a multiplex assay for human papillomavirus antibody detection using commercial L1 proteins](#). *J Clin Lab Anal*. 2026 Sep 1:e70343. Online ahead of print.
2. Allen AJ, Simone CB 2nd, Sun K, Alicia DF, Banskota A, Bajaj GK, Chang JH, Gray JR, Grover RS, Hyde CC, Jatczak JB, Lehman KE, McDonald MW, Mihalcik SA, Mossahebi S, Mundis Myers MR, Okbamichael YG, Perkins SM, Press RH, Rana ZH, Rosen LR, Rotondo RL, Sinesi CC, Tsai HK, Urbanic JJ, Vargas CE, Yu NY, Zeng J, Ferris MJ. [Hypofractionated and stereotactic body proton radiotherapy for a high-risk lung cancer cohort: A multi-institutional experience from the proton collaborative group prospective registry](#). *Clin Transl Radiat Oncol*. 2026 Sep 15;62:101291.
3. Deng W, Houser T, Jatczak J, Kusmaul E, Ferris M, Chen S, Yi B, Biswal NC. [Optimum elevation between the skin surface and skin markers for proton therapy CT simulation](#). *Pract Radiat Oncol*. 2026 Sep 21:S1879-8500(26)00289-4. Online ahead of print.
4. Gomez C, Eggleston C, Ferris M, Molitoris J, Rana Z, McAvoy S, Nichols E, Regine W, Citron W, Bentzen SM, Vyfhuis MAL. [Centering black voices: Factors influencing a cancer patient's decision to join a clinical trial](#). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. 2026 Sep 25:S0360-3016(26)04309-9. Online ahead of print.
5. Inayatullah M, Demirdizen E, Keepers Z, Correia CM, Hashemi SM, Tripathi K, Sadhukhan S, Bardhan I, Mahesh A, Rassool FV, Terp MG, Shukla HD, Tiwari VK. [Uncovering pan-cancer signatures of chemoresistance](#). *Genome Med*. 2026 Sep 16;18(1):141.
6. Kalavagunta C, Simonson D, Guerrero M. [A centralized hybrid model for regulatory inspection readiness in a multi-site radiation oncology system](#). *J Appl Clin Med Phys*. 2026 Sep;27(9):e70791.
7. Thompson AD, Escobal LHD, Mathai M, Singh G, Koduri S, Ferris MJ, Cheston S, Patel A, McAvoy S, Nichols E, Citron W, Dudley S, Bentzen SM, Kleckner AS, Vyfhuis MAL. [Food insecurity and overall survival in locally advanced breast cancer patients receiving comprehensive nodal irradiation: The food insecurity-obesity paradox](#). *Adv Radiat Oncol*. 2026 Aug 18;11(12):102179.