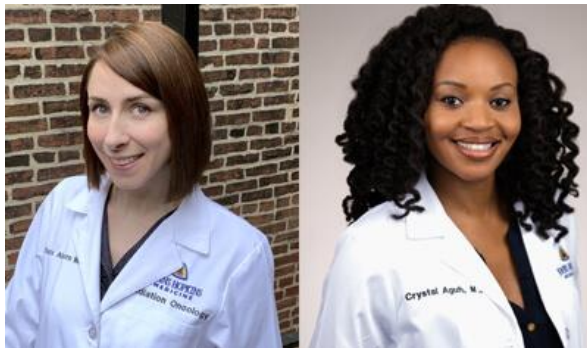




The Radiation Oncology Institute (ROI) is committed to enhancing diversity, inclusion, and health equity in the field through both our research awards and the make-up of our Board and committees.

- In response to numerous studies within radiation oncology that have documented persistent disparities for certain populations both in terms of patient care and representation in the workforce, the ROI issued the “Improving Diversity and Inclusion in Radiation Oncology” request for proposals (RFP) in September 2019.
- The forward-thinking ROI Research Committee saw the need for change in the field and developed the RFP to support projects that would improve health equity so that more patients will have access to high quality cancer care, including the lifesaving and quality-of-life benefits of radiation therapy.
- The ROI collaborated with ASTRO’s Committee on Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CHEDI) on developing the RFP and the proposal review process to ensure that the highest quality and most relevant projects were selected for funding.
- In June 2020, the Radiation Oncology Institute awarded four grants to enhance diversity, inclusion, and health equity in radiation oncology.

- Sara Alcorn, MD, PhD and Crystal Aguh, MD, of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine are developing a web-based tool that will objectively assess acute skin toxicity in patients with a wide range of skin tones who are receiving radiotherapy to treat breast cancer. The new tool will also incorporate patient reported outcomes directly into the grading system, increasing its potential impact on quality of life from the patient’s perspective.



- Malcolm Mattes, MD, of the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey is establishing a program to increase the number of African American and Latinx medical students choosing to pursue radiation oncology. The program will consist of extracurricular presentations by radiation oncologists, department tours, integration of radiation oncology concepts into medical school curricula, and mentorship to help students apply for summer research opportunities and eventually residency positions.



- Oluwadamilola Oladeru, MD, MA, of the Harvard Radiation Oncology Program at Massachusetts General Hospital is working to improve outcomes for cancer patients in the federal prison system. In a study at the Federal Medical Center, Butner North Carolina (FMC Butner) she is measuring the cancer incidence and mortality, characterizing the utilization of radiation treatment, describing patterns of disease presentation and disparities in access to care, and developing an integrated value-based model for cancer care delivery in the federal prison system, which can be adapted to state prisons. Dr. Oladeru is the first ever recipient of the *James D. Cox Resident Research Award*.



- G. Nic Rider, PhD, and Stephanie Terezakis, MD, of the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities are evaluating disparities in cancer care for patients who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or questioning (LGBTQ+). Their qualitative study will provide rich information about the training needs of various health care providers (e.g., resident/fellow, staff physician, nursing and clinical staff) to deliver more competent, quality care to LGBTQ+ patients with cancer.



- This year's group of award winners is the ROI's most diverse to date, and the ROI remains committed to supporting researchers who represent a broad range of perspectives within radiation oncology now and in the future.