



2026 PUBLICATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Through the Publication Excellence Awards, Speed of Light – The ASTRO Foundation recognizes early career investigators who have recently published results of exceptional research that is accelerating innovation in radiation therapy and has the potential to powerfully transform outcomes for patients. Nominations of clinical, biology, and physics research from investigators in academia, community practice, and other practice settings are encouraged.

RECOGNITION

Each year, Speed of Light – The ASTRO Foundation will honor up to three Publication Excellence Award winners. Recognition will include:

- A \$1,500 cash award.*
- Presentation of a glass trophy at the 2026 ASTRO Annual Meeting.
- Being featured in a variety of Speed of Light promotional materials before and during the ASTRO Annual Meeting, including the Foundation's quarterly e-newsletter, SpeedOfLightFoundation.org, presentations by Speed of Light leaders, and social media.

ELIGIBILITY

The nominee must be:

- Named either first or last in the list of authors of the manuscript.
- A resident, clinical fellow, postdoctoral fellow, or physician, physicist, research faculty, dosimetrist, radiation therapist, nurse, or other allied health professional that works in radiation oncology and is within 8 years of completing their terminal training program when the manuscript was published.

The work authored by the nominee:

- Must be a single manuscript about an innovative breakthrough in radiation therapy that clearly demonstrates potential to transform patient outcomes.
- Must have been published in a peer-reviewed journal and first made publicly available by the journal between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.
- Can use either qualitative or quantitative techniques to present, analyze and comment on new data, or to synthesize and analyze data that were previously collected.

An individual can be nominated for a maximum of two manuscripts per year. Each article must be nominated separately.

** This award will be paid directly to the winner. The award is considered taxable income and winners will be issued a 1099.*

SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations for the Speed of Light Publication Excellence Award will be evaluated on several criteria based on scientific and technical merit.

- Does the research address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in radiation oncology (including functional radiation medicine)?
- Does the research accelerate innovation in radiation oncology, produce new insights and/or have the potential to change current thinking?
- How likely is it that the research would powerfully transform outcomes for patients?
- Is the research scientifically rigorous?

HOW TO APPLY

- Complete the online nomination form by **July 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern** on ProposalCentral.
- Nominations must include a copy of the article.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- A brief statement (up to one page) supporting the nomination is required. The statement:
 - Must describe the impact that the research findings will have on the field of radiation oncology as a whole.
 - Must clearly state how the research published in the manuscript is accelerating innovation in radiation therapy and has the potential to powerfully transform outcomes for patients.
 - Can reference work in the same line of inquiry as the nominated manuscript and list related articles.
- One letter of support can be submitted in addition to the nominator's statement.

AWARD SELECTION

- **Only one nomination will be evaluated and scored for each manuscript.** If more than one nomination is received for the same manuscript, Speed of Light will select which nomination is reviewed, giving priority to the self-nomination or the nomination submitted first if no self-nomination was submitted. Reviewers will have access to the other nominations, but they will not be scored.
- Each nomination will be evaluated and scored by at least two qualified reviewers and then considered by the Speed of Light Science and Research Steering Committee and Board of Trustees to determine the Publication Excellence Award Winner(s).
- No individual who is an author on a manuscript submitted for consideration may participate in the selection process for determining the Speed of Light Publication Excellence Award(s).
- Reviewers and members of the Speed of Light Board of Trustees and Science and Research Steering Committee will not evaluate nominations from their own institution or organization.
- An individual can win only one publication award each year. This applies but is not limited to:
 - A manuscript that is nominated for both the Speed of Light Publication Excellence Award and the ARRO Publication Award.
 - An individual nominated for more than one manuscript.



ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY

2026 Call for Nominations

The Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology (ARRO) is excited to offer this award in partnership with Speed of Light – the ASTRO Foundation to recognize trainee investigators who have recently published on topics related to health care access.

Recognition

Each year, ARRO will honor one Health Care Access Publication Award winner. Recognition will include:

- A \$1,500 cash award.
- Presentation of a plaque at the 2026 ARRO Day (ARRO Annual Seminar) during the 2026 ASTRO Annual Meeting.
- Recognition in a variety of ARRO communications, including the ARROgram newsletter, ARRO website, and ARRO social media.
- Recognition on digital signage throughout the convention center during the ASTRO Annual Meeting.

Eligibility

The nominee must be:

- Named either first or last in the list of authors of the manuscript.
- A resident or medical student during the 2025-2026 academic calendar (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).
- A member of ASTRO.

The work authored by the nominee:

- Must be a single manuscript addressing a topic related to health care access.

- Must have been published in a peer-reviewed journal and first made publicly available by the journal between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.
- Only one entry may be submitted per nominee for the ARRO Health Care Access Publication Award.
- Favor will be given to original investigations that use either qualitative or quantitative techniques to present, analyze and comment on new data, or to synthesize and analyze data that were previously collected.
- Editorials may apply with compelling evidence per selection criteria below.

Selection Criteria

Nominations for the ARRO Health Care Access Publication Award will be evaluated on several criteria based on scientific and technical merit:

- Does the research address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in radiation oncology?
- Does the research advance knowledge in radiation oncology, produce new insights and/or have the potential to change current thinking?
- Is the research scientifically rigorous?
- How well does the research address the priority of advancing health care access?

How to Apply

- Complete the online nomination form **by July 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time** using the Speed of Light portal on ProposalCentral.
- Nomination must include a copy of the article.
- Nominators must be a member of ASTRO. Self-nominations are accepted.
- A brief statement (up to one page) supporting the nomination is required. Be sure to:
 - Describe the impact that the research findings will have on the field of radiation oncology.
 - Emphasize how the research aligns with the priority of advancing health care access.

Award Selection

- Each nomination will be evaluated by at least two qualified reviewers from Speed of Light or ASTRO Health Access and Community Engagement (HACE) Council and then considered by a joint panel of Speed of Light and HACE members to determine the ARRO Health Care Access Publication Award winner.
- Members of Speed of Light and HACE will not evaluate nominations from their own institution / organization nor if they are a listed co-author on a manuscript.