

Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Program and Clinic

The Nellie B. Connally
Breast Center



I B C

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER

Making Cancer History®

What is inflammatory breast cancer?

Inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) is a very aggressive (fast-growing) and deadly form of breast cancer. Because of its aggressive nature and its difficulty to diagnose, it can be easily misdiagnosed or treated incorrectly, compared to more common breast cancers. The disease is typically treated using a combination of therapies which include chemotherapy, surgery and radiation treatment.

What are the signs and symptoms of IBC?

Symptoms of IBC include:

- Increase in breast size
- Redness, rash or blotchiness involving the breast
- Pain and/or soreness of the breast
- Lump, or thickening or dimpling of the skin of the breast
- Warmth or tenderness of the breast
- Lymph node swelling under the arm
- Flattening of the nipple or discharge from the nipple



What is the mission of the Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Program and Clinic?

Our mission is to provide comprehensive care for patients with IBC. Our multidisciplinary team of investigators will combine their expertise to improve the current approach to managing IBC, and will research new methods for early diagnosis and treatment of IBC. This approach also reflects the mission of our institution.

How will we accomplish our mission?

We have identified several objectives for accomplishing our mission. Our objectives are to:

- Define and understand the underlying cause of IBC
- Improve clinical and diagnostic criteria through the development of tissue banks
- Investigate the most valuable use of imaging for IBC
- Develop new therapies for treating IBC
- Develop patient education resources that will inform our patients, families and caregivers about IBC



Morgan Welch was one of Dr. Cristofanilli's youngest patients with IBC. Diagnosed with metastatic IBC at the age of 24, just one month after she got married, Morgan became a symbol of courage and sacrifice, and was an inspiration to those that had the chance to know her. Dr. Cristofanilli cared for Morgan for 18 months, and although her life could not be saved, her spirit still shines and remains an inspiration to all.

**Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer
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*This brochure was made possible by funding from
Marathon Oil Corporation.*