

We're back!

We have missed a few quarterly cycles of the newsletter, so with the goal of catching up on the exciting events and news from the program, we will publish a newsletter monthly for the next 3 months and then resume our regular schedule each quarter. We hope you'll enjoy reading about our updates since the last issue. This issue will cover the period of March-August 2019. Please let us know if there's any topics you wish for us to include in future newsletters.

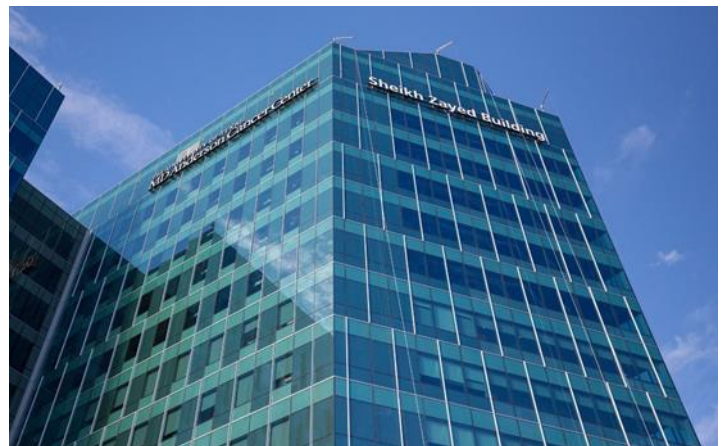
Open House for Basic & Translational Research Lab at the new state of art, MD Anderson Zayed Building August 19, 2019



Photo Courtesy: Larry Coffey

Breast Medical Oncology (BMO) and the Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) Program invited faculty, staff and industry experts to network on August 19, 2019, at the new Zayed lab space, overseeing the expansive Texas Medical Center. In spring 2019, the BMO labs relocated to the 12th floor of the Zayed building, a beautiful new space with an open-plan layout, fostering a more collaborative, multidisciplinary environment for basic and translational research. The new lab space allows our lab & physician-scientist teams to work side-by-side to understand the disease and translate research into new modalities of treatment, sharing equipment and resources more readily. One of the great achievements that our lab has accomplished is to create the world's largest bio-repository of tissue & serum samples through the IBC Registry.

The event was an excellent opportunity for faculty, staff from across the institution and pharmaceutical connects to collaborate and innovate-network with Principal Investigator (PI) teams, share research interests, and spark potential future collaborations. The open house allowed people to learn from each other's experiences to enhance research outcomes, share ideas with clinical research teams, and collaborate with industry peers and pharmaceutical leaders.



Updates on Advanced Breast Cancer Conference: Local Management and Other New Perspectives May 18, 2019



Photo Courtesy: Larry Coffey

The Advanced Breast Cancer (ABC) Conference is a CME conference instituted with the goal of outreach to physicians and other healthcare providers on the topic of Advanced Breast Cancer, which includes IBC. The conference goals included updates on standard of care management of IBC/ABC, clinical trials and ongoing research. Diagnosis and imaging both at diagnosis and during treatment were also covered, since misdiagnosis of IBC is common in the community. The overarching goal of the conference was to enhance collaboration between outside physicians and the MD Anderson specialists in order to increase appropriate referral of patients to clinical trials in light of existing standard therapies. During this conference, patients, caregivers, and advocates were allowed to attend for free, however the presentations were aimed at healthcare providers to complement their existing knowledge about breast cancer. Participants learned through lectures, case studies, audience response systems, interactive breakouts, pre/post-test, and live internet courses.

First IBC Patient Conference

On Saturday March 23, 2019 we held our first patient-only conference at the MD Anderson south campus conference center. We invited IBC patients/survivors and their caregivers/friends to attend the conference to become more empowered and knowledgeable about IBC. We had participants from as far away as Australia, as well as several other states along with local patients.

Three faculty members provided didactic talks which were streamed live on Facebook as follows: (a) Dr. Naoto Ueno began the morning with a talk about new IBC research including clinical trials; (b) Dr. Mark Schaverien discussed the specifics of reconstruction for IBC patients and the newly developing surgeries that can help with lymphedema (a devastating consequence of surgery and radiation for IBC), and (c) Dr. Randa El-Zein provided an update on what epidemiological discoveries are being made from the IBC registry that MD Anderson leads. We also provided time for informal networking over lunch and in roundtables after lunch that were led by Amber Potter APRN, Dr. Lim, Dr. Teshome and Dr. Ueno. A panel discussion was also held which allowed questions about other topics not already discussed.

All considered, this first conference was deemed a success and future conferences are being planned to build on this one. Participants found the research updates and lymphedema surgical options to be the highlights since this information was not well known in the patient community, and lymphedema is a widespread problem affecting quality of life for IBC patients. As a result of the knowledge gained at the conference, several attendees scheduled consults to discuss the procedures and some have already had these surgeries performed at MD Anderson.

Passing of Ileene Robinson



Ileene Robinson passed away on May 21, 2019, at the age of 74, following a long battle with cancer and illness. Ileene was a woman of strong will and character- a committed and tireless advocate for the IBC program and a wonderful human being who will be remembered for many years to come! Apart from playing a vital role in the foundation of the Inflammatory Breast Cancer Program and Clinic at MD Anderson, Ileene campaigned for a variety of causes, including Susan Komen and others ranging from support of longhorn cattle, and opera to schools for mental health care.

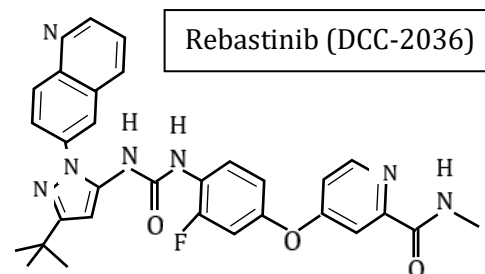
Ileene was a patient of Dr. Massimo Cristofanilli at MD Anderson and became aware of his efforts to start an IBC clinic, to research and provide advanced treatments to patients with this rare but severe disease. She not only believed and supported the cause wholeheartedly but also connected with her contacts. She had a strong network of friends and political connections to raise awareness, request support from the State of Texas legislature, and truly championed the cause to improve patient care and research at MD Anderson. Ileene worked with her contacts Jeannie Frazier and Dorothy Patterson to connect with Patricia and Timothy Jennings, who involved Linda Dewhurst and Mr. David Dewhurst, former Lt. Governor of Texas. The united efforts from our energetic volunteer and MD Anderson team led to funding approval and the foundation of the Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Program and Clinic in 2007. Ileene was very passionate about supporting the IBC program and continued to strengthen the program. She actively participated in the 'Acclamation of IBC day' at Austin and supported the IBC team's annual fundraiser Boot Walk Team IBC Wranglers. It was a great pleasure to know her, and we appreciate her tremendous contribution to our program. She will be missed very much.



Photo Courtesy: Harris County Republican Party

New IBC clinical trial

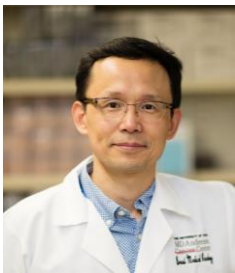
In July, we entered a collaboration with the Department of Investigational Cancer Therapeutics (also known as "phase 1") to collaborate on a Deciphera-sponsored study entitled "An open-label, multicenter, phase 1b/2 Study of Rebastinib (DCC-2036) in combination with paclitaxel to assess safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics in patients with advanced or metastatic solid tumors". We are leading the IBC specific cohort which aims to enroll 20 patients. Rebastinib is a TIE2 inhibitor which targets cancer-related blood vessels and immune cells like macrophages. Preclinical work from our program has elucidated that macrophages may be one of the reasons IBC is aggressive; hence we are looking into strategies to inhibit these cells with the goal of improving outcomes of patients. We are excited to note that as of May 2020 we have enrolled 8 IBC patients in the study which aims to find out its effectiveness in this population. For any questions about this study, please contact Dr. Naoto Ueno at nueno@mdanderson.org who is the BMO lead investigator.



Treatment News

The FDA has approved a new drug for breast cancer, and there is much hope that IBC patients will similarly benefit from these advancements. On March 8, 2019 - Atezolizumab (Tecentriq) with Abraxane for PD-L1-positive unresectable or metastatic TNBC. More information on the [FDA website](#). Of note, we have a clinical trial for recurrent/metastatic IBC using Atezolizumab along with Eribulin, another type of chemotherapy, which has been actively enrolling patients, prior to the temporary hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New IBC Program Faculty and Staff



Dr. Jangsoon Lee was appointed to Assistant Professor as of March 1st, 2019. He earned his Ph.D. degree in South Korea and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Breast Medical Oncology. Over the past eight years, he served as a team leader of the Enhanced Drug-development and Guidance and Evaluation (EDGE) Preclinical Solution. Dr. Lee's research focuses on conducting translational studies in the area of HER2, HER3, androgen receptor, HDAC, and cell cycle targeting in breast cancer.



On May 6th, 2019, the IBC program was happy to welcome our new director, Dr. Swetha Bopparaju MD MBA. She is a physician and completed her MBA at Rice University. Dr. Bopparaju joins us from CHI St Luke's Health, she most recently worked as a Senior Consultant focusing on strategic operations and performance improvement. Dr. Bopparaju worked extensively in clinical research and published academically prior to that. We are pleased she joined our team to provide strategic oversight for the IBC program and Translational Breast Cancer Research (TBCR) section.

Recent Awards and Grants

We congratulate the following individuals, recognized for their significant accomplishments in IBC research:

Omar Rahal abstract titled "Microenvironment-mediated Induction of Protein Kinase C – zeta in Breast Inflammatory Carcinoma Cells as a Possible Mediator of Radioresistance" was accepted by the **American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)**

Wintana Balema's Komen Fellowship was renewed, supporting her thesis project on Epidemiologic influences on IBC

Wendy Woodward's grant application titled "Geographic and treatment response variation in gut and breast skin microbiome among women with locally advanced breast cancer" was funded by the **Sister Institution Network Fund (SINF) at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.**

Recent Publications

Evaluation of 6-mercaptopurine in a cell culture model of adaptable triple-negative breast cancer with metastatic potential. Published online by Oncotarget. **Authors:** Balraj Singh, Vanessa N. Sarli, Hnna E. Kinne, Anna Shamsnia, and Anthony Lucci. <https://doi.org/10.18632/oncotarget.26978>

Elevated serum levels of sialyl Lewis X (sLeX) and inflammatory mediators in patients with breast cancer. Published in Breast Cancer Research and Treatment. **Authors:** Cohen EN, Fouad TM, Lee BN, Arun BK, Liu D, Tin S, Gutierrez Barrera AM, Miura T, Kiyokawa I, Yamashita J, Alvarez RH, Valero V, Woodward WA, Shen Y, Ueno NT, Cristofanilli M, Reuben JM. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10549-019-05258-0>

IBC Program Presentations (May 2019 – August 2019)

Identifying Mechanisms of Tumorigenesis and Brain Metastasis in Aggressive Breast Cancers

Emily Schlee Villodre, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Breast Medical Oncology

Pathology related issues of Immuno-Oncology and Breast Cancer

Savitri Krishnamurthy, M.D.

Professor, Department of Pathology

Genetic Instability in IBC and more...

Randa El-Zein, MBChB, Ph.D.

Professor of Radiology, Houston Methodist

Imaging of Inflammatory Breast Cancer: Overview and Potential Collaboration

H. Carissa Le-Petross, M.D.

Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology

Role of Decorin in Inflammatory breast cancer progression and metastasis

Xiao Ding Hu, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Breast Medical Oncology

Presentation at ASCO 2019

Circulating cell-free DNA (ctDNA) assessments before, during, and after neoadjuvant therapy (NAC) in nonmetastatic inflammatory breast cancer (IBC)., Carolyn S. Hall, Salyna Meas, Vanessa Nicole Sarli, Anthony Lucci. **Citation:** J Clin Oncol 37, 2019 (suppl; abstr e12113); DOI: 10.1200/JCO.20.19.37.15_suppl.e12113

Presentations at AACR 2019

Humanized anti-EGFR antibody panitumumab inhibits tumor growth of inflammatory breast cancer by inducing antitumor immunity Xiaoping Wang, Shan Shao, Takashi Semba, Troy Pearson, James M. Reuben, Debu Tripathy and Naoto Ueno. **Citation:** Cancer Res July 1 2019 79 (13 Suppl) 4492-4492; DOI:10.1158/1538-7445.AM2019-4492

Evaluation of 6-mercaptopurine in a cell culture model of adaptable triple-negative breast cancer with metastatic potential Balraj Singh, Vanessa N. Sarli, and Anthony Lucci. **Citation:** Cancer Res July 2019 79(13 Suppl); DOI: 10.1158/1538-7445.AM2019-2003



Current Clinical IBC Trials Open for New Patient Enrollment

Neoadjuvant (newly diagnosed):

2016-0177 - A randomized phase II study of neoadjuvant Carboplatin/Paclitaxel (CT) versus Panitumumab/Carboplatin/Paclitaxel (PaCT) Followed by anthracycline-containing regimen for newly diagnosed primary triple-negative inflammatory breast cancer

2016-0537 - A phase 1b study of neratinib, pertuzumab and trastuzumab with taxol (3HT) in metastatic and locally advanced breast cancer, and phase II study of 3HT followed by AC in HER2 + primary IBC, and neratinib with taxol (NT) followed by AC in HR+ /HER2- primary IBC

2018-0002 - Phase II study of combination ruxolitinib (INCBO18424) with preoperative chemotherapy for triple-negative inflammatory breast cancer

Adjuvant (after surgery and radiation):

2016-0096 - A phase II study of anti-PD1 (Pembrolizumab) in combination with hormonal therapy in patients with hormone-receptor (HR)-positive localized inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) who did not achieve a pathological complete response (pCR) to neoadjuvant chemotherapy

2018-0550 - Atorvastatin in triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) patients who did not achieve a pathologic complete response (pCR) after receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy, a multicenter pilot study

Radiation:

SWOG1706 - A phase II randomized trial of olaparib administered concurrently with RT vs. RT alone for inflammatory breast cancer

Metastatic IBC:

2014-0034 - A phase II study using T-VEC for inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) or non-IBC patients with inoperable local recurrence

2014-0533 - A phase II study of anti-PD1 (MK-3475) therapy in patients with metastatic inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) or non-IBC triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) who have achieved clinical response or stable disease to prior chemotherapy.

2016-1096 - A Phase I Study of OTS167PO, a MELK inhibitor, to Evaluate Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacokinetics in Patients with Advanced Breast Cancer and Dose-Expansion Study in Patients with Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

2016-0890 - A phase II study of triple combination of Atezolizumab, Cobimetinib, and Eribulin (ACE) in patients with chemotherapy-resistant metastatic inflammatory breast cancer

2018-0493 - An open-label, multicenter, phase 1b/2 Study of Rebastinib (DCC-2036) in combination with paclitaxel to assess safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics in patients with advanced or metastatic solid tumors * (new)

Current Clinical IBC Lab Studies:

Currently, we have 10 open clinical IBC laboratory studies which collect blood and tissue for analysis of host and tumor biology and clinical correlates.

If you are interested in learning more about our clinical trials, or lab studies, please email the Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Program and Clinic directly at ibcp@mdanderson.org. We are happy to provide general information and eligibility guidelines for our clinical trials and laboratory studies.

Facebook Live

Monthly live chats with Drs Naoto Ueno and Angela Alexander are informal opportunities to learn about new discoveries, treatments and ongoing research that relates to IBC and metastatic breast cancer. Questions received beforehand or during the video are addressed by the panelists. Follow our facebook page for event notifications, and/or contact us at ibcp@mdanderson.org to receive an email notification.

 Facebook: www.facebook.com/InflammatoryBreastCancer  Twitter: www.twitter.com/InflammatoryBCa

Newsletter Committee

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