Issue 4: March 2015

IlluminatingHope
a quarterly newsletter for patients, patient advocates, doctors, staff, friends

Philanthropy Updates

We are grateful for the generous philanthropy continuously bestowed upon the MD Anderson Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Program and Clinic. We have received generous gifts from individuals, families, patient advocate groups and countless others. Each donation enables our program to further its reach by providing funds for research, outreach and staff. The Morgan Welch IBC Program would not be what it is today without our supporters. Below, we highlight a few events that taken place within the last quarter.

Alligator's Hunt for Hope Adventure

The Inflammatory Breast Cancer Network Foundation, and the family of Carter Lee, joined together and hosted the Alligator's Hunt for Hope Adventure on Sunday, February 22nd in the West University area of Houston. The event was attended by over 250 people, including many MD Anderson doctors, researchers and representatives.

Members of the MD Anderson Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Program and Clinic had a blast participating in the Alligator's Hunt for Hope Adventure.

Dozens of Hunt for Hope teams spread out over Houston to find scavenger hunt items and spread the word about IBC. The pictures from the Hunt for Hope demonstrate the joy of the event, and also, all the participants' creativity. The mission for the Hunt for Hope was to raise money for the Axl project, envisioned by MD Anderson researcher Xiaoping (Maggie) Wang. It was their goal to raise $48,000 to fund the Axl research project and we are happy to report that they will be able to provide that money to the MD Anderson Morgan Welch Clinic. And incredibly, they have received over $78,000 in Hunt for Hope contributions to date!

We are thrilled with the incredible success of the Alligator's Hunt for Hope! Given the overwhelming response received, the Lee family is meeting with our IBC team to determine how to best direct the excess funds raised. Check out the Hunt for Hope Houston website for updates!

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Impact Award Luncheon

The Inflammatory Breast Cancer Foundation, under the direction of the Foundation President and luncheon chairwoman, Jenee Bobbora, hosted the Inaugural Impact Award Luncheon honoring Dr. Thomas Buchholz, MD and benefiting the MD Anderson Center for Radiation Oncology Research on Monday, March 2, 2015. The Impact Award was established to recognize individuals who have been dedicated to the cause of improving the lives and outcomes of people with Inflammatory Breast Cancer. Congratulations to Dr. Buchholz for being the first recipient of the Impact Award!

Jenee Bobbora, President of the IBC Foundation and chairman of the Impact Award Luncheon pictured with a few members of the Radiation Oncology team including Dr. Tom Buchholz (center).

During the luncheon, Dr. Buchholz presented an overview of the research being conducted by the Center for Radiation Oncology Research (CROR), and the importance of research by conducting a team science approach. The Center for Radiation Oncology Research (CROR) will focus on four critical areas: the study of how targeted therapies and biomarkers can be coupled with radiation therapy to more effectively treat cancer, the development on image-guided radiotherapy (X-rays, CAT scans, MRIs) to more precisely detect and track tumors, the creation and use of nanoparticles (microscopic particle) to enhance effectiveness of radiation therapy, and the investigation of potential disparities in radiation care across the nation.

Funds were raised for CROR through various avenues, including a silent auction with fabulous items. We are honored to have been a part of this celebration, and delighted with the success of the luncheon!

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Zeta Tau Alpha Houston Alumnae Association Check Presentation

The Zeta Tau Alpha Houston Alumnae Association, in addition to their already established endowment fund, made a gift in direct support of IBC research. The First Annual Zeta Tau Alpha Houston Alumnae Association Fellowship in Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research, started in 2012, was a huge success, and The Zeta Tau Alpha team agreed to make it an annual award. The award has been continued for 2013 and 2014. In addition to the Annual Fellowship award, the Zeta Tau Alpha Houston Alumnae Association has given generously toward clinical trials designed to support targeted therapy for our IBC patients, and immediate research needs.

Members of the Zeta Tau Alpha Houston Alumnae Association and
MD Anderson Morgan Welch IBC Program at the March 2015 check presentation.

The call for abstracts, eligibility requirements and judging criteria were designed by the Morgan Welch IBC Program Executive Committee. The goal of the awards is to honor and recognize efforts with exceptional quality of IBC research and high impact (or potential impact) for our IBC patients. Further, the monetary award will provide a means for the individual to travel to a national or international meeting to present their unique research and share their knowledge of IBC. The commitment from Zeta Tau Alpha Houston Alumnae Association has made this legacy award possible and we are ever grateful for the continued generosity and support.

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Recent Program Awards

Xuemei Xie, PhD has received the Golfer's Against Cancer Research Award for her project titled, "Targeting JNK signaling for controlling metastasis in triple-negative breast cancer". Golfer's Against Cancer (GAC), is an all-volunteer charitable organization. They raise funds by conducting golf tournaments and hosting dinners to support research seeking cures to various cancers. Grant applications are reviewed and ranked by members of the GAC Beneficiary Committee.

Since 1997, GAC has awarded cancer research grants on an annual basis to Houston institutions. On February 27, 2015, the GAC committee hosted the 18th Beneficiary Luncheon at Trevisio's at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas. At the 18th Beneficiary Luncheon, the GAC committee gave out awards to 12 researchers from Houston Methodist Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital Foundation, MD Anderson, University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, and Prostate Cancer Foundation. Meanwhile, each awardee gave a brief update on his/her research project that are funded by the GAC funds in 2015. Xuemei competed with many other investigators in the medical center for this award, many of them senior investigators, she was the only trainee!

Bisrat Debeb, PhD, Assistant Professor in Radiation Oncology, has received the 2015 AACR Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award for his abstract titled, "MicroRNA 141: A novel regulator of brain metastasis from breast cancer".

Michael Stauder, MD, Assistant Professor in Radiation Oncology, was the recipient of the 2014 AACR Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award for participation in the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium held in December, 2014. His abstract submitted was, "Gamma-ray induced mutagen sensitivity and overall survival in young women with breast cancer".

The AACR Minority Scholar Awards are designed to promote the education and professional development of early-career scientists who are actively pursuing research. These awards are offered to eligible minority scientists wishing to participate in Annual Meetings and special conferences of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

Congratulations, to all!

arterly Oral Presentations

Brain metastases preclinical models and regulators
Bisrat Debeb, PhD
Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology

Prophylactic cranial irradiation reduces the incidence of brain metastasis in mouse model of metastatic HER2+ IBC
Daniel Smith
Graduate Research Assistant, Radiation Oncology

Phase II study of panitumumab, nab-paclitaxel, and carboplatin followed by FEC neoadjuvant chemotherapy for patients with primary HER-2 negative IBC
Naoko Matsuda, MD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Breast Medical Oncology

Mir-19a in the tumor microenvironment: role in anti-tumor immunity and implication in tumor progression
Simone Anfossi, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Hematopathology

Recent Publications

Should Surgery Referral be Standard Practice in Metastatic Inflammatory Breast Cancer?
Wendy Woodward, MD, PhD
Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology
View article here: http://bit.ly/1IqpDyY

High Density and Very Low Density Lipoprotein Have Opposing Roles in Regulating Tumor Initiating Cells and Sensitivity to Radiation in Inflammatory Breast Cancer
Adam Wolfe
Graduate Student, Radiation Oncology
View article here: http://bit.ly/1Hzubpc

Mesenchymal Stem Cells Mediate the Clinical Phenotype of Inflammatory Breast Cancer in Pre-Clinical Model
Lara Landry, PhD
View article here: http://bit.ly/1xv24Ek

Current Clinical Trials

2006-1072	**IBC Registry**
2008-0372	**Phase II Panitumumab, Nab-paclitaxel, and carboplatin HER2- IBC**
2010-0842	**A phase I Entinostat and Lapatinib + Herceptin HER2+ MBC failed Herceptin**
2011-0930	**Randomized phase II double blind study of VPA vs. placebo to shorten time of indwelling pleural catheter *(Currently on hold)***
2013-0007	**Phase II study of denosumab to define the role of bone related biomarkers in patients with breast cancer and bone metastasis**
2014-0464	**A Phase II Study of BIBF 1120 (Nintedanib) for patients with HER2 Normal Metastatic Inflammatory Breast Cancer *(Pending activation)***
2014-0533	**A phase II study of anti-PD-1 (MK-3475) therapy in patients with metastatic inflammatory breast cancer who have received prior chemotherapy with clinical response *(Pending activation)***

Current Lab Studies

PA12-0453	**EpCAM-Independent Isolation of Breast Cancer Circulating Tumor Cells and Analysis of EMT Markers**
PA12-0728	**Expansion and Characterization of tumor infiltrating and tumor-associated T cells from primary and metastatic triple-negative breast cancer and inflammatory breast cancer.**
PA12-0860	**Assessing feasibility of sentinel lymph node increase dissection in IBC**
PA12-0097	**Prognostic Utility of CTCs Assessed by Adnagen Technology and Clinical Outcome of Patients with Stage III Breast Cancer**
PA14-0772	**Derivation of Pt derived xenograft tumor models from isolated CTC from breast cancer patients (IBC/TNBC)**
PA04-0778	**Gene profiles in androgen receptor-positive CTC in patient with metastatic breast cancer**

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 lab studies.