Welcome to our Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) Program’s Spring 2023 newsletter!

Glad to see that the days are becoming brighter as we enter the first days of Spring! We are busy preparing for our 6th Annual Patient Forum coming up on Saturday, April 1. We hope you will be able to join us virtually and enjoy the topics and amazing speakers that we selected for you and your loved ones.

This year, we will launch our Jimmy Fund Walk fundraising effort with a new event: a virtual gallery where you will have the opportunity to appreciate, from the comfort of your home, beautiful photos of wildlife from the land and the sea, taken by two very special members of our program. I hope you will be able to join us for this magical evening.

In this issue, you can find more information about nutrition during cancer treatment, IBC Awareness Day, new clinical trials, recent studies from our group, and Susan Schumer, MD, an amazing medical oncologist who joined our program in 2022. We are extremely lucky to have her on our team.

I hope to see you soon, either at one of our upcoming virtual events or walking together on October 1 at the Jimmy Fund Walk! Thank you all, once again, for inspiring all of us to do more and better every day.

Sincerely,

Filipa Lynce, MD
Director, Inflammatory Breast Cancer Program

In This Issue

- Dana-Farber’s IBC Patient and Family Forum
- Virtual Gallery Fundraiser Event
- Jimmy Fund Walk: Join Our Team
- IBC FAQ: Nutrition
- IBC Awareness Day
- Research Update: Clinical Trials
- Introducing: Jimmy Fundraisers
- Staff Spotlight: Susan Schumer, MD
Inflammatory Breast Cancer Program

6th Annual Patient Forum
April 1, 2023

REGISTER HERE

Virtual Gallery Fundraiser for Inflammatory Breast Cancer at Dana-Farber

Join Us!
Virtual Gallery Event
May 4, 7:15 p.m.

• Wildlife Photography
  Jennifer Bellon, MD

• Ocean Wildlife Photography
  Stephanie LaFontaine

• Tickets $15
• Prizes Raffle
• Link to register and QR code

• All ticket sales will benefit Team IBC in their Jimmy Fund Walk fundraising efforts
Walk With Us on Sunday, Oct. 1!

Team IBC is walking for the sixth year in a row! Since 2017, we have raised nearly $178,000 in support of IBC research and patient care. Help us make it the best year yet.

All proceeds from our walk go toward Dana-Farber’s Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Fund. We can't succeed without your help!

- **Join our Team IBC Walk team** on the Boston Marathon® course or walk your way (virtually in your own community)! Register at our [Team IBC page](#).
- **Spread the word.** Support IBC by sharing our [fundraising page](#) with your friends, family, and social media networks.

For more information, including fundraising tips, walker stories, FAQs, and walk-day logistics, visit our [Walk team’s page](#) or email our team captain Mariesa Powell at DFCI_I BC@dfci.harvard.edu.

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**IBC FAQ: Nutrition**

**Why Is Nutrition an Important Part of Your Cancer Care?**

Side effects from cancer treatment can make eating well and maintaining a healthy weight difficult. Cancer therapies can also affect the way your body tolerates certain foods and uses nutrients.

During cancer treatment you might need to change your diet to help build up your strength and withstand the effects of the cancer and its treatment. This may mean eating things that aren’t normally recommended when you are in good health. For instance, you might need high-protein, high-calorie foods to keep up your weight, or foods like ice cream or milkshakes because sores in your mouth and throat are making it hard to eat anything. The nutrition needs of people with cancer vary from person to person.

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Nutrition Resources at Dana-Farber

At Dana-Farber, our registered and licensed nutritionists give one-to-one consults and programs for people with cancer. They are experts in cancer nutrition and can help you make healthy eating choices based on your needs. They can also help you address side effects that can affect healthy eating, such as nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, and taste changes. You may want to meet with a nutritionist to discuss food allergies or sensitivities, vitamins and supplements, and whole food or plant-based diets.

Make an Appointment

To meet with a nutritionist, ask your cancer care team for a referral or use one of the numbers listed here to call nutritionists at your preferred Dana-Farber location:

- Longwood and Chestnut Hill: 617-632-3006
- South Shore: 781-624-5000
- Milford: 508-488-3700
- Londonderry, NH: 603-552-9100
- Merrimack Valley: 978-620-2020
- St. Elizabeth’s: 617-789-3249
- Foxborough: 508-543-1700

For recipe ideas and more, visit www.dana-farber.org/nutrition.

Massachusetts Approves IBC Awareness Day

In January, the Massachusetts legislature passed a bill permanently establishing the second Tuesday in October as IBC Awareness Day. Governor Charlie Baker signed the bill into law on his final day in office. The nonprofit Inflammatory Breast Cancer New England Region initiated this proposal to offer hope and support to patients living with IBC and promote IBC awareness among the general public. This new annual designation in Massachusetts is a major step toward the awareness and advocacy needed to make breakthroughs in the fight against IBC.
Research Updates: Clinical Trials

Polo-like kinase 1 (PLK1) inhibition in metastatic triple negative breast cancer

Principal Investigator: Antonio Giordano MD, PhD

Dr. Giordano has spent several years in the laboratory to seek to identify new therapies for the most aggressive and difficult to treat metastatic breast cancers, triple-negative inflammatory breast cancer (IBC). They were able to identify a protein called polo-like kinase 1 (PLK1) with an important role for growth and survival of IBC cell lines with mutations in the TP53 gene. In this clinical trial, we are testing in humans for the first time the safety and preliminary efficacy of onvansertib in combination with paclitaxel in patients with HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer, including patients with IBC. Onvansertib (also known as PCM-075 and NMS-1286937, and produced by Trovagene Oncology, San Diego, CA) is a PLK1 inhibitor that can be administered by mouth.

The primary goal of this study is to define the safety and tolerability of different doses of onvansertib used in combination with intravenous paclitaxel and to determine the optimal dose of the combination in patients with metastatic HER2-negative breast cancer.

The study is being conducted at Dana-Farber and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Recent published studies from our IBC doctors and researchers

ASO Visual Abstract: Inflammatory Breast Cancer-Is There a Role for De-escalation of Surgery?

HER2-low inflammatory breast cancer: Clinicopathologic features and prognostic implications

JAK-STAT Signaling in Inflammatory Breast Cancer Enables Chemotherapy-Resistant Cell States.
Introducing: Jimmy Fundraisers

Jimmy FundRaisers are a generous group of grassroots supporters who host fundraising events on behalf of Dana-Farber. You’re invited to take your passion or hobby and create a fundraiser to support cancer care and research. No matter how big or small your fundraiser, it all adds up to make a difference! You can direct all proceeds from your fundraiser to go directly to the Dana-Farber Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Fund to exclusively support IBC Research.

Interested in learning more or getting started? Contact the Jimmy FundRaiser staff at 617-632-3190 or JimmyFundEvents@dfci.harvard.edu

Read about past community fundraisers.

Staff Spotlight: Susan Schumer, MD

Dr. Schumer joined our Inflammatory Breast Cancer Program in early 2022, although she has been a part of the Boston medical community since completing medical school at Tufts University. She completed her fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and is now proudly serving as a women’s cancers Senior Physician at Dana-Farber.

Dr. Schumer takes great care of her patients and focuses on treating the whole person, not just the disease. She sees herself as part of her patients’ team and makes informed decisions with patients as they battle through the cancer journey together. Dr. Schumer understands that support for patients facing a diagnosis of inflammatory breast cancer is vital and she goes the extra mile to make sure that her patients have the resources they need to be physically and mentally strong throughout their treatment. Visit Dr. Schumer’s Dana-Farber doctor profile to learn more and watch a short video about her approach to care.

Stay in touch!
We welcome your feedback, questions, or suggestions of topics you would like to learn more about. Contact us at DFCI_IBC@dfci.harvard.edu or 617-632-2311 or visit our web page.