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SAN ANTONIO BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM 2025

Embazoned across the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium SABCS Website are the words, “Advancing the frontiers of Breast Cancer Science and Medicine.” This scientific conference delivered a wide cross section of experts and opportunity to learn more about the most recent research and clinical developments in the world of Breast Cancer.

SAN ANTONIO BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM SABCS AND THE PATIENT ADVOCATES

Attending the SABCS with more than 11,600 Medical Professionals, Researchers, Industry Organizations and Advocates was incredibly inspiring. Focused on the global mission to cure breast cancer this symposium is a must attend event. Participating as one of the 400 Patient Advocates present, highlighted the valuable contributions made by individuals and teams internationally to improve opportunity for breast cancer

survivorship and quality of life. The landscape of Oncology is changing with focus on less invasive testing, earlier diagnosis, targeted and more personalized treatment protocols.

The valued partnership between Scientists and Patient Advocates was evident in the inclusion of the patients perspective in research and in presentations. This collaborative process is so critical to the success of ground breaking research. We are all working collectively to translate research to the bedside with new drugs and updated breast treatment protocols. Patient advocacy is being recognized as a foundational part of how research is translated into improved care and how policy changes can be made.

To listen to the voices of the medical research community in support of our breast cancer advocacy work is empowering. The Exhibition Hall and Advocacy Pavilion were filled with opportunity to discuss any and all cancer related questions with exhibitors. This included global Pharmaceutical Companies, new researchers, hospital systems and advocacy groups. This was a great opportunity to build relationships and enhance networks of support for advocacy and research.

LOBULAR BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE LBCA

Self advocacy was how my journey with the LBCA began. At diagnosis Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer was a subtype of Breast Cancer I was unfamiliar with. Initially online searches to ensure I understood the mechanism of this cancer were filled with frustrating complexity. Making informed decisions with my healthcare team about my future with ILC led me to the LBCA Advocacy and five exhilarating years of survival. Mason Mitchell Daniels, Laurie Burgess and Melissa Smicker were my first points of contact and provided the easy to understand lay language education to help guide my cancer journey as a patient. My gratitude runs so deep to LBCA for their fierce determination, their ability to gut out the heartbreaking losses and most importantly for their mission to ensure Lobular Breast Cancer is understood, researched and globally integrated in clinical practice. LBCA's transparency and willingness to share every opportunity to grow knowledge of Lobular Breast Cancer is the type of leadership and integrity that saves lives.

RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION

The global nature of Oncology Research and Education was on full display at SABCS with more than 100 countries represented. Lobular Breast Cancer was specifically identified in 121 abstracts. This increase in visibility and research interest in Lobular Breast Cancer has doubled since 2025. Let's work together to keep this momentum.

The SABCS schedule is filled with opportunity to listen and learn from leading experts in the fields of oncology, clinical research and leadership. Conference registration includes online access and session summaries of the presentations if advocates were unable to attend in person. Most encouraging were the scientists and clinicians presenting the results of studies they have worked on for years. The many changes happening in the field of breast oncology give patients hope. The bulleted points below are a a tiny sample of concepts and studies discussed at SABCS sessions.

- Lobular Breast Cancer specific research discussed at the Poster Spotlight Sessions on December 9, 2025 included "Novel Biomarkers. With Clinical Implications" moderated by Christos Sotiriou, and "ILC specific trials-Lessons learned and future designs" moderated by Jules Bordet.
- BWELStudy NCT02750826t at Poster spotlight 8 on December 11, 2025. There was discussion about the potential role of GLP1 experimental therapies (Ozempic, Wegovy) in breast cancer treatment to improve therapy effectiveness and reduce risk in obese patients. Cancer can have a high level of rates of sugar metabolism and produce byproducts that can create resistance to chemotherapy drugs. GLP1 therapy blocks an enzyme called Glyoxolase 1 and may inhibit cell growth and enhance destruction of some types of breast cancer (not Lobular specific) New clinical research will be conducted and perhaps an opportunity to include ILC)
- New clinical trials are available for metastatic Stage 4 breast cancer. There are many resources available to search for clinical trials online. Clinical Trials are registered online by topic. clinicaltrials.org BreastCancerTrials.org has a Metastatic Trial Topics linked to what is new at the FDA: metastatictrialtalk.org

- Focus on “Personalized Medicine” and the idea there is ‘space for thoughtful clinical judgement” for use of Chemotherapy or fewer lymph node removed for optimal Breast Cancer treatment. This step back from the “more is better approach ” may provide better quality of life for some patients. The strategy of deescalation of cancer treatment may use specific biomarkers to identify which patients would benefit from reduced dose, intensity or duration of treatment
- FDA discussing the value of decentralizing Clinical Trials to provide better access and opportunity for improved equity. Many trials face recruitment challenges as distance to site makes participation impossible for most patients to travel out of district to fulfill protocol obligations. Awareness of issues like inequity are being addressed by acceleration of eligibility with changes to trial inclusion and exclusion criteria. The objective to improve patient trial participation will provide more powerful research results. Many databases exist to identify available clinical trials. Agencies focused on breast cancer can work with oncology centres and patient navigators to increase trial awareness and opportunities to participate in breast cancer research
- The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve clinical trials, create decision making tools through clinical data review and to predict treatment response was also openly discussed. AI has great potential to support the clinical decision makers in providing patients with the most advantageous clinical protocols. Review of existing data in areas in electronic medical records (EMR) like Histopathology and Radiology will provide valuable diagnostic opportunity. Reduction of variance in radiological interpretation also a potential benefit considered.
- Dr Mouabbi MD Anderson, LBCA Scientific Advisory Board Member at the LBCA advocate breakfast provided opportunities for the LBCA Advocates to ask specific questions about LBC and research. We learned how technology is improving with higher resolution imaging to detect what the human eye cannot see. AI has unlimited ability to analyze old imaging to identify when changes occur (precursor to cancer) then the use of biopsy to look at areas of concern. Dr Mouabbi also talked about IvoLoC Phase II Trial [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT07229417) NCT07229417. The study objective is to learn if Ivonescimab can help to control ER+HER2- and/or Triple Negative(TN) Metastatic Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer(mILC). Dr Mouabbi provided a warm perspective to clinical care and research as a Medical Oncologist.

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questions provide, educational materials and to build relationships. Volunteering at the LBCA booth was a great experience meeting incredible practitioners and patients and sharing experiences and opportunities. The relationship building aspect of the conference was one of the most valuable to me as a first time attendee. As a Patient Advocate I believe that we must collaborate instead of compete. To build successful policy change and new standards of care for all patients we can mentor, teach and educate one another to be the best advocates possible. As we endeavour to build partnerships ,the intrinsic value is the opportunity to save more lives.

THE VALUE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing to grow as a Patient Advocate is linked to my survival as a patient. My goal at SABCS was to learn how to become a more productive and integrated Patient Advocate. Understanding as much as I can about Lobular Breast Cancer has taught me the more I understand the more confident I am as a patient participating in my own care. As a patient, I am continuing to grow learn and advocate for myself and others. The inspiration I feel from meeting expert Advocates has led me take on more educational opportunities. There are so many Breast Cancer Agencies willing to support and develop patient advocates. To all of you at the conference you ignited a lot of excitement in the advocates with your generosity. The spirit of collaboration instead of competition will keep all of us growing together connected by the same mission.

The following links are some of my favourite educational and training opportunities: Get out there! Be bold and carry the inspiration we felt at the symposium forward!

- San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS): <https://sabcs.org/>
- Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance (LBCA) Lobular Breast Cancer Educational materials : <https://lobularbreastcancer.org/category/educational-webinars-and-podcasts/>

- LBCA Lobular Breast Cancer specific posters and presentations
<https://lobularbreastcancer.org/ilc-focused-posters-to-look-for-at-sabcs-2021/>
- Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation Advocate Program: alamobreastcancer.org
- Susan G Komen Patient Navigation Training: komen.org
- George Washington University New Patient Navigation Training: cme.smhs.gwu.edu
- ClinicalTrials.org and BreastCancerTrials.org

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

There is evidence that the field of Advocacy is growing and evolving and is also being recognized an integral part of ethical research. The question of how to push boundaries to create impact and expand advocacy to be part of policy decision making is on my mind. How do we all share valuable knowledge with the appropriate decision makers? How do we close the gap between outdated imaging and treatment modalities to implement delivery of nuanced and updated standards of care? How do we build patient advocacy and navigation practices in our community hospitals and share opportunities to improve our breast cancer outcomes? At this time these are big questions and I am working with new connections made at SABCS to develop and implement strategies for change. I will continue to use my voice and share the inspiration I felt at the SABCS. I am personally grateful to be part of the conversation to improve the lives of each patient I have the privilege of working with and working for.

HELLO ... THANK YOU... UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...

To all of the the LBCA staff and advocates to meet finally meet face to face after years of ZOOM meetings and emails was a joy. Each one of you brought so much to San Antonio and I left feeling connected to a group of advocates filled with purpose and integrity. I met a smiling bundle of energy who stepped up to the LBCA Booth. In this woman I saw the absolute power of fearlessly facing our diagnosis and the importance of seeking new purpose in connecting as advocates. Welcome and thank you for crossing the county days after finishing chemo to attend SABCS with LBCA. You are all extraordinary!

SABCS was filled with educational resources and I departed with a HUGE stack of new reading material. I am gleefully distributing LBCA pamphlets to local clinics, hospitals and government offices and offering my support. Thank you for choosing me to attend SABS as a scholarship recipient I am honoured. Simply so proud of all of you and so deeply grateful for your guidance and support

We carry personal memory of so many women lost to Lobular Breast Cancer and celebrate their lives. This cancer impacts not only the patient but includes families, friends, colleagues and the global healthcare community. To Dr John Doskis who opened his home to the LBCA advocates in memory of his wife Dr Deborah Mueller. Thank you for your grace and continued support of Lobular Cancer Advocacy. To our friends, family and healthcare providers thank you for standing up with us, and fighting for us, you are appreciated beyond words. To SABCS Conference Staff you were wonderful and essential to every success. To each and every attendee who shared their time and built careers in support of LBC we are here to support and encourage you with gratitude. This advocacy work we chose is valuable and this precious time we dedicate is part of a legacy that will provide support to those diagnosed with Lobular Breast Cancer. We truly are stronger together. Be well, and until we meet again, I hold each of you in my heart.