

**MEDIA RELEASE**



**Tuesday 19 November 2024**

## **Research into Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer boosted by new partnership**

The Lobular Moon Shot Project is to partner with the Manchester Breast Centre to help expedite urgent research into Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer (ILC).

The research will be headed up by Professor Rob Clarke, Professor of Breast Biology at the University of Manchester and Director of Manchester Breast Centre (MBC), with collaboration at its heart, by working in partnership with research organisations both national and global. The partnership plans to bring together world-class researchers, scientists and ILC advocates, all with a specific interest in lobular breast cancer, who wish to move forward ILC research at a much greater pace to improve patient outcomes.

Through the partnership, the Lobular Moon Shot Project (LMSP) will campaign for the necessary funding for the MBC to undertake specific research into lobular breast cancer that will hopefully lead to specific treatment and better outcomes for people with ILC.

Susan Michaelis, who founded the Lobular Moon Shot Project in 2023 stated:

*"We are so delighted to be working with the Manchester Breast Centre (MBC). We founded the LMSP to get Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer the research funding needed, so that the biology of the disease can be much better understood. This partnership with MBC WILL be a vital next step to getting the specific treatment needed for ILC to improve patient outcomes."*

*"We should think of ILC as 'Invest in Lobular Cancer'. To get people better outcomes we need specific treatments and that will only come from specific research into ILC. The Manchester Breast Centre can get this research done but they need the funding to do it. I believe the majority of MPs want this research funded and we need to get going ASAP."*

Professor Rob Clarke, Professor of Breast Biology at the University of Manchester and the Director of Manchester Breast Centre stated:

*"This partnership of the MBC and LMSP will work to identify the current gaps in ILC research and will establish a 'team science' approach to research the most important questions. We will deliver novel approaches to learn more about this distinct type of breast cancer so that detection and treatment of ILC can be improved."*

The Lobular Moon Shot Project believes:

*"There are pockets of research going on globally into ILC but what is needed is a major research project (a Moonshot approach) estimated to cost UK£20 million over 5 years. This equates to less than £240 per person for those who will be diagnosed in the UK alone over the next 10 years. ILC has not*

*been prioritised as it should have been in the past, especially considering 1000 people a day (22 a day in the UK) are diagnosed with the disease.”*

Under the previous government, more than 50% of eligible MPs supported the LMSP call for research funding and the 2024 Women’s health strategy called for “more research into under-researched women’s health issues such as lobular breast cancer.”

Since the recent election, 150 MPs of all political parties have already pledged their support to the Lobular Moon Shot Project to ensure vital research funding is made available specifically for ILC, and that number is growing. A full list of supporting MPs is available at: [Supporters | Lobular Moon Shot](#)

## **Notes to editors**

### **About the Lobular Moon Shot Project**

The Lobular Moon Shot Project was set up in 2023 by former Australian pilot [Dr. Susan Michaelis](#) to raise urgently needed research funding. It is a volunteer organisation run by a growing number of women diagnosed with ILC and their families.

Susan was first diagnosed in 2013 with ILBC and was then diagnosed with stage four metastatic breast cancer in 2021. Her story is the basis of the award-winning short film called [Eve Groves](#).

### **About the Manchester Breast Centre**

Established in 2005, based at the University of Manchester, the mission of the [Manchester Breast Centre](#) is to create a world-class centre for basic and translational breast cancer research, leading to effective detection and treatment of women at risk, and ultimately elimination of the disease.

### **About Lobular Breast Cancer**

Lobular breast cancer (ILC) is the 2nd most common type of breast cancer, and is very different to the other type, which is called ductal breast cancer. Globally, 3.75 million people will be diagnosed with ILC in the next 10 years yet there is currently no specific, effective treatment. Another factor is that it behaves very differently to the more common ductal type of breast cancer and is often more difficult to detect using standard imaging.

**Patient representatives are available for interview.**

**Photos are available on request.**

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Founder

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