



7 December 2023

Growing number of MPs add their support in Westminster for a specific research project into lobular breast cancer.

A growing number of MPs across the UK, now recognise that lobular breast cancer needs more research funding to understand the distinct biology of the disease – a vital step in getting the 2nd most common type of breast cancer the specific treatment it needs. Although lobular breast cancer behaves very differently to the main type of breast cancer, known as ‘ductal’, it is currently treated the same.

Lobular is more common than ovarian, skin kidney, brain, liver or pancreatic cancer and yet has received minimal research funding compared to other types of breast cancer.

The growing support in parliament, is potentially a pivotal moment in Westminster for the Lobular Moon Shot Project (LMSP) which was only launched in May 2023, and is run entirely by volunteers nationally, all of whom have lobular breast cancer and their supporters.

The LMSP aims to get the UK£20 million needed by the world-famous Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), to do a 5-year research study to fully understand the biology of the disease. This would lead to a specific treatment for the cancer which 1,000 people a day globally are being diagnosed with. This equates to under £240 per person in the UK for those who will be diagnosed with the disease in the next 10 years. This would save the NHS significant cost in the long term and provide better outcomes for those diagnosed with the disease.

LMSP and its volunteers have written to most MPs in the United Kingdom and asked them to support the project. On 13th December 2023, in Westminster (Portcullis House), the **MP Dehenna Davison**, who has shown exemplary leadership in supporting the project, is holding a 'Drop In' event to enable MPs

to meet their constituents who have lobular breast cancer and pledge their support to get the Government to fund the research at ICR.

The Lobular Moon Shot Project was founded in Sussex and is headed up by Dr Susan Michaelis who has stage 4 lobular breast cancer and who was first diagnosed in 2013. Susan stated,

"The reason why we need the Government to take the initiative here, is because charities like Cancer Research UK and Breast Cancer Now, two massive charities that have done a lot in so many ways for cancer generally, sadly are not dealing with lobular breast cancer as they should. Cancer Research are currently not funding any research into lobular breast cancer and Breast Cancer Now (BCN), Britain's largest breast cancer charity, with UK£60 million + income per annum, has to date, invested around £284 million into peer reviewed breast cancer research, yet it has only funded some £2.5 million into research looking specifically at lobular breast cancer. This equates to under 1% of all their research funding going to lobular breast cancer research. This is not acceptable to those of us diagnosed with lobular breast cancer. I have written to the Trustees and leadership team at BCN and hope they will make lobular the research priority it deserves to be."

Lobular is also very hard to see on mammograms leading to many people being missed and diagnosed late. In the 2023, Fact Not Fiction Films documentary 'My Journey With Lobular', Consultant Breast & Melonoma Surgeon, Mr. Mark Kissin states: "We know when the screening of breast cancers was introduced in this country, mammogram is the gold standard because it works in the majority of cases. One of the cases, one of the areas it doesn't work quite so well is in lobular cancer. Lobular cancer, it's the creepy one. It creeps through tissues. It doesn't necessarily present as a woman finding a lump in her breast. It causes distortions, it causes shape change. Some women have said to me, "You know what? My breast just doesn't quite feel right." That's when the alarm bells go and you start saying to yourself, this is going to be lobular cancer, the trickster. It doesn't show. It doesn't reveal itself."

Also in the documentary, Professor Christopher Lord at ICR is asked a key question by Dr Susan Michaelis: "If more resources were put into lobular breast cancer, could you do the same and find solutions for this?" Professor Lord replied: "Yes, it is achievable. We've seen this happen in other types of cancer, and I see no reason why we couldn't solve this for lobular as well. Having some kind of Moon Shot approach for coming up with new treatments

for the disease, I think is appropriate. I think it's doable. I think it would be achievable and successful. When the scientific community needed it to move extremely fast, with the development of Covid vaccines in the clinical trials, we moved incredibly fast. We need to have that similar kind of approach in terms of philosophy around lobular breast cancer.”

For further information about lobular breast cancer, to watch the documentary film or the Lobular Moon Shot project please visit www.lobularmoonshot.org

Captain Tristan Loraine BCAi

Project Manager - Lobular Moon Shot Project

07968 213862