

## M. D. Anderson Opens World's First IBC Clinic

In October 2006 the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center made history by opening the first-ever clinic devoted solely to the treatment and the study of inflammatory breast cancer. The clinic is co-directed by Dr. Massimo Cristofanilli, associate professor in M. D. Anderson's Department of Breast Medical Oncology, and Dr. Thomas Buchholz, professor in M. D. Anderson's Department of Radiation Oncology.

Asked about the motivation for opening the clinic, Dr. Cristofanilli explains, "This clinic is dedicated to my youngest patient with inflammatory breast cancer, Morgan Welch. She was 24 when she died of inflammatory disease, and she got her disease a month after she got married. She was already metastatic."

The clinic combines state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment with intensive research. "By the time we reach our one-year anniversary," Dr. Cristofanilli says, "we should have three or four clinical trials open." Preclinical research is also an important focus, and work based on cell lines and animal models will help the clinic's researchers identify promising new approaches to treatment.

The clinic is open to women regardless of where they live. For women coming from other parts of the country, a visit soon after diagnosis will allow physicians at the clinic to develop a treatment plan. It may then be possible to implement the treatment plan closer to the woman's home. Women who receive care at the clinic will also be making important contributions to research into this disease. The tissue and blood samples collected from patients are used to explore clues to the development of IBC.

For more information about the M. D. Anderson Inflammatory Breast Cancer Clinic, visit [www.mdanderson.org/care\\_centers/breastcenter](http://www.mdanderson.org/care_centers/breastcenter) or call (877) MDA-6789 [877-632-6789].