

Patient-derived triple negative breast cancer organoids provide robust model systems that recapitulate tumor intrinsic characteristics

Sonam Bhatia¹, Melissa Kramer^{1#}, Suzanne Russo^{1#}, Payal Naik^{1#}, Gayatri Arun^{1\$}, Kyle Brophy¹, Peter Andrews¹, Cheng Fan², Charles M. Perou², Jonathan Preall¹, Taehoon Ha¹, Dennis Plenker^{1\$\$}, David A. Tuveson¹, Arvind Rishi³, John E. Wilkinson⁴, W. Richard McCombie¹, Karen Kostroff⁵ and David L. Spector^{1*}

¹Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724

²University of North Carolina, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Department of Genetics, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27599

³Northwell Health, Department of Pathology, Lake Success, NY 11042

⁴University of Michigan, Department of Pathology, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

⁵Northwell Health, Department of Surgical Oncology, Lake Success, NY 11042

Contributed equally

\$ Currently at: Envisagenics Inc.

\$\$ Currently at: Loxo Oncology at Eli Lilly

* Corresponding author: spector@cshl.edu

Conflict of Interest

C.M.P is an equity stock holder and consultant of BioClassifier LLC; C.M.P is also listed as an inventor on patent applications for the Breast PAM50 Subtyping assay.

Abstract

Triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) is an aggressive form of breast cancer with poor patient outcomes, and an unmet clinical need for targeted therapies and better model systems. Here, we developed and comprehensively characterized a diverse biobank of normal and breast cancer patient-derived organoids (PDOs) with a focus on TNBCs. PDOs recapitulated patient tumor intrinsic properties and a subset of PDOs can be propagated for long-term culture (LT-TNBCs). Single cell profiling of PDOs identified cell types and gene candidates affiliated with different aspects of cancer progression. The LT-TNBC organoids exhibit signatures of aggressive MYC-driven basal-like breast cancers and are largely comprised of luminal progenitor (LP)-like cells. The TNBC LP-like cells are distinct from normal LPs and exhibit hyperactivation of NOTCH and MYC signaling. Overall, our study validates TNBC PDOs as robust models for understanding breast cancer biology and progression, paving the way for personalized medicine and tailored treatment options.

Statement of Significance

A comprehensive analysis of TNBC patient-derived organoids is presented by genomic, transcriptomic, and *in-vivo* analyses, providing insights into cellular heterogeneity and mechanisms of tumorigenesis at the single cell level.

1 Introduction

2 Breast cancer is characterized into several histopathological subtypes based on
3 the expression of various receptors: estrogen (ER), progesterone (PR) and human
4 epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2/ERBB2). Molecular subtyping revealed
5 multiple subgroups based on gene expression patterns that have been refined overtime
6 and constitute luminal A, luminal B, HER2-enriched, basal-like, and normal-like breast
7 cancers (1–3). Luminal A (ER+/PR+/Her2-) is the most prevalent and constitutes ~70%
8 of all breast cancer cases, luminal B (ER+/PR+/HER2+) make up ~12% of cases,
9 HER2-amplified (ER-/PR-/HER2+) represents ~5% of total cases and the basal or triple
10 negative breast cancer (TNBC, ER-/PR-/HER2-) makes up ~12% of total breast cancer
11 cases (4). The majority of luminal breast cancers exhibit low proliferation rates while the
12 TNBCs are highly aggressive and proliferative in nature. Since TNBCs lack ER/PR and
13 HER2 receptors, patients are exempt from any targeted endocrine or HER2 therapies
14 resulting in non-specific cytotoxic chemotherapy as the standard of care. The majority,
15 but not all, TNBCs fall under the basal-like subgroup of breast cancer by gene
16 expression based PAM50 profiling and a small subset belong to the highly invasive
17 claudin-low subgroup (1,4–6). Further molecular characterization of TNBCs revealed
18 heterogeneity within this subset and at least 6 molecular subtypes have been identified
19 that can be used to design more targeted therapies (7,8). TNBCs are typically
20 presented as high-grade carcinomas (9) and show a significantly poor 5-year prognosis
21 compared to other subtypes (10–12). Therefore, there is an unmet clinical need to
22 better understand triple-negative disease progression and identify more precise
23 druggable targets, and specific therapies for this cohort of breast cancer patients.

24 3-D organoid models have gained traction over recent years as the next
25 generation of models for studying disease and development (reviewed in (13,14)). While
26 cell lines, spheroids and mouse model-derived organoids have been the primary *in vitro*
27 model systems for studying cancer biology; patient-derived organoid (PDO) models
28 have now been developed for a variety of cancers including those originating in the
29 colon (15), pancreas (16), ovary (17,18), prostate (19) and breast (20). Sachs et al.
30 developed a methodology for growing human breast tumors *ex vivo* as organoid models
31 that has now been expanded to the growth of organoids from normal mammary tissue
32 as well (21,22). While cancer cell lines have been a valuable resource for providing
33 insights into cancer biology and drug development (23–25), PDO models are not only
34 patient-specific but also provide a three-dimensional context which is closer to that of
35 the actual tumor microenvironment. PDOs, therefore, represent unique model systems
36 to study disease progression and for the identification and validation of better treatment
37 options. However, we do not yet fully understand the extent to which these models
38 recapitulate the cellular heterogeneity and complexities of triple negative disease.

39
40 Here, we developed a diverse breast cancer PDO biobank and performed
41 comprehensive genomic, transcriptomic and cellular characterization of organoids with
42 an emphasis on TNBCs. Using genomic assays we show that our organoid models
43 recapitulate pathogenic single nucleotide variants (SNVs) and copy number alterations
44 (CNAs) of breast cancers as portrayed in large scale breast cancer genomic datasets
45 (10,26–28) and reveal lesser studied cancer driver genes. Transcriptomically, our
46 biobank recapitulates the various subtypes and signatures of breast cancers, with a

47 subset of organoids exhibiting signature profiles associated with poor patient outcomes.
48 *In-vivo* transplants of these organoids highly recapitulated the patient-tumor
49 morphology, providing strong evidence of retention of individual tumor intrinsic
50 properties in long-term organoid cultures, even for models derived from rare BCs. In
51 addition, we find that while normal PDOs retain the major cell types found within the
52 mammary epithelium, the TNBC PDOs have lost this lineage specificity and are
53 predominantly enriched for luminal progenitor (LP)-like cells. Single cell RNA-
54 sequencing (scRNA-seq) of TNBC and normal PDOs identified differential signatures
55 between the tumor and normal LP cells, providing insights into putative mechanisms of
56 tumorigenesis. Lastly, we identified cells with various gene expression signatures in
57 TNBC organoids that can be used to model and perturb various aspects of cancer
58 biology, including tumorigenesis, hypoxia response, and EMT. Overall, our
59 comprehensive characterization of TNBC organoids identified them as valid cancer
60 models for studying cancer biology and for applications in precision medicine.

61

62 **Materials and Methods:**

63

64 **Patient Material**

65 Tumor resections from breast cancer patients along with the distal and adjacent normal
66 tissue were obtained from Northwell Health in accordance with Institutional Review
67 Board protocol IRB-03-012 and IRB 20-0150 and with written informed consent from the
68 patients. Specific information for all samples is available in Table S1. The collection of
69 genomic and phenotypic data was consistent with HHS 45 CFR Part 46 (Protection of
70 Human Subjects) and the NIH Genomic Data Sharing (GDS) Policy. Informed consent

71 ensured that the de-identified materials collected, the models created, and data
72 generated from them can be shared without exceptions with researchers in the scientific
73 community.

74
75 **Patient-derived organoid culture:** Patient-derived organoids were established and
76 propagated using a previously published protocol (20). In summary, the tissues were
77 manually cut into smaller pieces and treated with 2mg/ml collagenase IV in base media
78 (ADF+++; Advanced DMEM-F12 (Invitrogen 12634-034) with 1x Glutamax (Invitrogen
79 12634-034), 10mM HEPES (Invitrogen 15630-056), 100U/ml Pen-Strep (Invitrogen
80 15140-122)) at 37°C for 45-90mins with gentle agitation to break the tissue into small
81 clusters of cells. The suspension was intermittently resuspended by pipetting multiple
82 times to ensure proper digestion of the tissue. The cell suspension was centrifuged at
83 300g for 5mins and the pellet was treated with red blood cell lysis buffer (Cat #
84 11814389001, Sigma) for 5mins at room temperature if it appeared bloody. The
85 suspension was washed 2x with ADF+++ and plated in a matrigel (lot test for
86 concentration of 8-10mg/ml, Cat # 356231, Corning) dome on pre-warmed tissue
87 culture plates. The dome was incubated at 37°C for 15mins and supplemented with
88 completed medium: 10% R-Spondin1 conditioned medium, 5nM Neuregulin 1
89 (Peprotech 100-03), 5ng/ml FGF7 (Peprotech 100-19), 20ng/ml FGF10 (Peprotech 100-
90 26), 5ng/ml EGF (Peprotech AF-100-15), 100ng/ml Noggin (Peprotech 120-10C),
91 500nM A83-01 (Tocris 2939), 5uM Y-27632 (Abmole Y-27632), 1.2uM SB202190
92 (Sigma S7067), 1x B27 supplement (Gibco 17504-44), 1.25mM N-Acetylcysteine
93 (Sigma A9165), 5mM Nicotinamide (Sigma N0636), 50ug/ml Primocin (Invitrogen ant-
94 pm-1) in ADF+++. The organoids were passaged every 15-30 days using TrypLE™

95 (Thermo Fischer 12605028) to break down the organoids into smaller clusters of cells
96 and re-plating them in matrigel domes as described above. For tumor scrapings, the
97 tumor surface was shaved on multiple sides to collect material which was subsequently
98 manually broken down, treated with red blood cell lysis buffer and seeded in matrigel
99 followed by regular PDO culture.

100 Organoid models labelled with the prefix HCM-CSHL were acquired as part of
101 the Human Cancer Model Initiative (HCMI) <https://ocg.cancer.gov/programs/HCMI> and
102 a subset of those models are or will be available for access from ATCC. The data for
103 these models can be accessed here: dbGaP accession number phs001486. Organoid
104 nomenclature: prefixes LNS, NH, DS, HCM-CSHL are de-identified patient IDs and are
105 not distinct in any features other than protocols used for sample acquisition; prefix NM
106 designates true normal samples collected from patients undergoing reductive
107 mammoplasty (NM: Normal Mammoplasty); suffixes: T=tumor, N=normal, ND=normal
108 distal, NAdj=normal adjacent, and TSc= tumor scraping. Organoid freeze thaws are
109 indicated in parenthesis: (passage frozen down)passage after thaw eg. NH85TSc
110 (p4)p4.

111
112 **Organoid DNA and RNA extraction:** Organoid RNA was extracted using TRIzol®
113 (Thermo Fischer 15596018) RNA extraction protocol. DNA was extracted by removing
114 matrigel from organoids using ice cold PBS or TrypLE following by DNA extraction using
115 Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit (Qiagen 69504) with elution in nuclease free water
116 (Thermo Fischer/Ambion 4387936).

117

118 **Targeted gene panel sequencing:** We performed capture based targeted gene panel
119 sequencing (29) for a panel of potential cancer driver genes. Briefly, we used a panel of
120 143 cancer genes with a total of ~4000 probes for capture. The captured DNA was
121 paired-end sequenced with 150bp reads and a coverage of about 300-500x. Library
122 preparation and sequencing of the targeted gene panel was performed by the CSHL
123 Next Generation Sequencing Core Facility. We developed an analysis pipeline to
124 prioritize identification of driver mutations. The sequencing reads are aligned to the
125 hg19 reference genome using BWA (30), followed by conversion to BAM format and
126 sorting with Samtools (31), removal of PCR duplicates with Picard
127 (<https://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>), and filtering with Bamtools (32) for mapping
128 quality and proper read pairing. Coverage of the target regions is assessed for breadth
129 and depth using Picard HSMetrics to ensure adequate coverage for confident variant
130 detection. Variants are then called using VarScan2 (33) in somatic mode to stratify
131 germline versus somatic variants, and are annotated with Annovar (34) to cover a broad
132 range of variant assessment tools. We then select rare loss of function variants
133 (nonsense, frameshift, splice site) with frequency less than 1% in the Gnomad, ExAC,
134 EVS and 1000 Genomes databases. Missense and in-frame indel variants are selected
135 if they are noted as pathogenic by ClinVar (35), or if they are both rare (<1% in all
136 genome databases) and annotated as pathogenic by COSMIC (36), or if they are both
137 rare and found to be present in the TCGA cohorts. Finally, missense variants are
138 selected if they are annotated as potentially deleterious by the ensemble tools REVEL
139 (37) and MCAP (38). Variants that were deleterious by REVEL and MCAP but did not

140 have population level data were discarded from the final oncoplot. Oncoplots are
141 generated from these candidate variants using Maftools (39).

142

143 **RNA-seq:** All RNA samples were quality controlled using a nanodrop followed by a
144 bioanalyzer (RNA nano-kit Cat # 5067-1511) and only samples with RIN >7 were used
145 for RNA sequencing. 750ng of RNA was used to prepared un-stranded RNA-seq
146 libraries using Illumina TruSeq RNA Library prep kit v2 (RS-122-2001) and sequenced
147 as 75bp paired-end reads.

148

149 **RNA-seq analysis:** The sequencing fastq files were quality checked using fastQC to
150 make sure the reads were of consistent quality between different runs. The reads were
151 aligned using STAR-aligner STAR-2.5.3a (40) using the following parameters:

```
152 --outFilterMismatchNmax 8 --alignIntronMax 1000000 --alignMatesGapMax  
153 1000000 --outSAMstrandField intronMotif --outFilterIntronMotifs  
154 RemoveNoncanonicalUnannotated
```

155 against the gencode v27 gtf reference file. Any PCR duplicates were marked in the
156 aligned files using STAR with the following parameters:

```
157 --runMode inputAlignmentsFromBAM --bamRemoveDuplicatesType  
158 UniqueIdenticalNotMulti --runThreadN $thread --inputBAMfile $input_bam  
159 --outSAMtype BAM SortedByCoordinate
```

160

161 followed by removing duplicated reads using samtools view -bF 0x400. HTseq-
162 count was used to count the reads per gene using the gencode v27 gtf file. The counts
163 files were exported into R 4.1.0 and analyzed for differential expression using DeSeq2
164 1.32.0 (41). Concordance between technical replicates was ensured using PCA and
165 sample distance matrix before summing them together for downstream analysis.
166 Sample distance matrix was generated using euclidean distances between the samples

167 and hierarchical clustering was performed using “ward.D2” linkage method followed by
168 cutree with kmeans=6 with the R package “stats” (v4.1.0). For signature correlation, all
169 the samples were used and an unsupervised clustering was performed for 838
170 previously curated gene expression signatures (42–44) and visualized using Java
171 TreeView v1.2.0. For individual signature comparisons signature scores in experimental
172 groups were compared using Kruskal-Wallis test followed by pairwise comparisons
173 using Wilcoxon rank-sum test. Family-wise error rate was adjusted using Bonferroni-
174 Holm method.

175
176 **SMASH copy number:** SMASH was performed as per the published protocol (45)
177 starting with 750ng of genomic DNA. SMASH was performed in batches of 10 samples
178 and sequenced on a MiSeq PE150bp run. The SMASH analysis is based on
179 identification of Maximal Unique Matches (MUMs) to the human genome in all read
180 pairs (45). These MUMs were filtered to remove matches <20 bp, matches with <4 bp of
181 excess unique sequence, and matches on read 2 that are within 1000 bases of the
182 matches from read 1. Raw copy number profiles are then generated from the remaining
183 3–4 matches per read pair which are then added to empirically sized bins spanning the
184 genome. Regions with identical copy are expected to yield similar bin counts using
185 these empirical bins. We next perform GC correction by normalizing counts based on
186 LOWESS smoothing of count vs. GC content data in each bin. Final copy number
187 profiles are normalized so that the autosome has an average copy number of 2. Plots
188 were generated with G-Graph MUMdex software (<https://mumdex.com/>) and IGV
189 browser v2.9.2 (46).

190

191 **Organoid Histology:** Organoid domes in complete medium were scraped from the
192 tissue culture plate and collected in falcon tube precoated with BSA. The organoids
193 were collected and washed 1x with PBS by spinning at 300g for 5mins. Organoid
194 harvesting solution (Cat # 3700-100-01, Trevigen) was added to the organoids (3x the
195 volume of matrigel) and incubated at 4°C on ice for 30minutes to ensure that matrigel
196 was removed and the organoids were concentrated at the bottom. The organoids were
197 washed 1x with ample PBS and fixed with fresh 4% PFA at room temperature for
198 10minutes. 1:1 (v/v) BSA was added to the tube and spun at 300g for 5mins to remove
199 the PFA. The organoids were washed 2X with ample amounts of PBS and embedded in
200 2% agarose in dH2O). The agarose organoid molds were then paraffin embedded and
201 cut into 5um sections.

202

203 **Organoid Hematoxylin & Eosin (H&E) staining and Immunohistochemistry (IHC):**

204 H&E and IHC staining were performed at the CSHL Histology Core Facility. PFA fixed
205 organoids in agarose were processed in Thermo Excelsior ES processor and
206 embedded with Thermo HistoStar embedding system following manufacturer's
207 protocols. Paraffin blocks were cut into 5um sections and mounted onto positively
208 charged slides (VWR superfrost plus micro slide).

209 For H&E staining, slides were stained in a Leica Multistainer (ST5020). Briefly,
210 slides were deparaffinized and rehydrated and then stained in hematoxylin
211 (Hematoxylin 560 MX, Leica) for 1 min, followed by destaining in Define MX-aq (Leica)
212 for 30 sec, bluing in Blue Buffer 8 (Leica) for 1min and subsequently stained in eosin

213 (EOSIN 515 LT, Leica) for 30sec. After dehydration, coverslips were placed onto glass
214 slides using a robotic coversliper (Leica CV5030).

215 IHC slides were stained in Discovery Ultra automatic IHC stainer (Roche)
216 following standard protocols. Briefly, slides were subjected to antigen retrieval
217 (Benchmark Ultra CC1, Roche) at 96°C for 1hr; primary antibodies were incubated at
218 37°C for 1hr and Discovery multimer detection system (Discovery OmniMap HRP,
219 Discovery DAB and Purple, Roche) was used to detect and amplify immuno-signals.
220 Antibodies used: Ki67 (Spring Bioscience, #M3062, 1:500).

221

222 **Organoid formation assay:** Organoids were processed using TrypLE and 1500 single
223 cells per well of a 96 well plate were seeded in 10% matrigel + complete growth
224 medium. Cell viability was assessed using Cell Titre Glo 3D luminescence assay
225 (Promega G9683 CellTiter-Glo 3D Cell Viability Assay). Baseline cells were measured
226 using Cell Titre Glo 3D assay at 24 hrs (d1) post seeding and growth was measured at
227 6 days after seeding (d6). Each organoid line was evaluated for multiple passages n=2
228 or n=3 per PDO.

229 For MYCi and DAPT experiments: Organoids were processed to single cells
230 using TrypLE and seeded in 50ul matrigel domes as 10,000 cells per well of a 24 well-
231 plate. Complete medium or medium supplemented with DMSO, DAPT (Selleckchem
232 S2215 DAPT) and MYC-inhibitor (Selleckchem S8906 MYCi975) were added to the
233 respective wells. For normal PDOs, organoids were dissociated with tryPLE and live
234 cells were sorted using fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS) based on staining of
235 CD46f, EPCAM and 7AAD. Organoids were allowed to form for 12 days, images were

236 acquired using microscope and organoids were manually counted for each condition.
237 Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA test followed by pairwise
238 comparisons using two-sample t-test. Family-wise error rate was adjusted using
239 Bonferroni-Hold method.

240

241 **Organoid proliferation index analysis:** Paraffin embedded organoid sections were
242 IHC stained for Ki67. Slides were scanned and viewed using Aperio ImageScope
243 12.3.3. Images were analyzed in FIJI (47). Briefly, the images were deconvolved using
244 Colour Deconvolution for hematoxylin and DAB, converted to 8-bit binary images and
245 analyzed using the BioVoxel Toolbox plugin (<https://www.biovoxxel.de/#/>) to evaluate
246 %Ki67 positive cells per organoid. Multiple passages for each organoid line were
247 evaluated, n=2 or n=3 per PDO.

248 **Drug dose response assays:** Organoids were digested into single cells and seeded as
249 1500 cells/well of a 384 wp (USA-Scientific Cat # 5678-1976) as suspension cultures in
250 complete medium with 10% matrigel using a liquid handler. Organoids were incubated
251 at 37C for 24hrs and drugs were added using a drug dispenser Beckman Echo 650.
252 The organoids were incubated for 5 days at 37C and assayed using the CellTiter-Glo®
253 3D Cell Viability Assay (Promega Cat # G9681) and read for luminescence using the
254 EnVision 2105 plate reader. The data was analyzed using GraphPad Prism v9.0.0. The
255 screens were performed in 3 technical replicates with 2-4 experimental replicates per
256 organoid line. The raw reads were first normalized against untreated controls and a
257 non-linear model was fit for the mean, after removing any detected outliers, using the
258 log(inhibitor) vs normalized response with a variable slope.

259 **Animals:** Six-week-old female NOD scid mice (NOD.Cg-*Prkdc*^{scid}/J) were obtained from
260 the Jackson laboratory (JAX stock #001303) and acclimated at the Cold Spring Harbor
261 Laboratory Animal Shared Resource for a minimum of 1week. All animal experiments
262 were performed in accordance with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

263

264 ***In-vivo* transplant experiments:** TNBC organoids were harvested using the organoid
265 harvesting solution (Trevigen Cat# 3700-100-01) and manually counted. Organoids
266 were resuspended in a 1:1 mixture of PBS:matrigel and 50K organoids were injected
267 into the bilateral mammary fat pads by the fourth nipple of female NOD scid mice
268 (NOD.Cg-*Prkdc*^{scid}/J). Mice were anesthetized with 1.5-2% isoflurane and weighed
269 before the injections. The animals were regularly monitored for their weight, tumor size
270 and any other discrepancies. Mice were sacrificed when the tumors reached any of the
271 following end-points: 2cm tumors, ulceration, visible necrosis, blistering of tumors or
272 deteriorating health of the mice. At end-point, dissections were performed and the
273 tumors along with lungs, liver, lymph nodes and the femur were fixed in 4% PFA
274 overnight at 4°C. If the tumors were not observed the mammary fat pads were collected
275 instead. The transplant experiments were done with 2 independent passages of PDOs,
276 with 4-6 injections per PDO per passage.

277 Fixed tumors and tissues were processed for histology as above. Metastases
278 and micro-metastases were assessed using IHC with a human mitochondria antibody
279 (Millipore MAB1273 Anti-Mitochondria clone 113-1).

280

281 **Flow Cytometry:** Organoids were scraped in the culture medium and washed 1X with
282 PBS. TrypLE™ was used to fully digest the organoids into single cells. The cells were
283 counted, diluted to 200,000 cells/100ul and stained in 100ul of ADF+++ using anti-
284 Epcam (1:50), anti-CD49f (1:50), 7AAD (1:50). The following antibodies were used: PE
285 Mouse IgG2a, κ Isotype Control (BD 555574), APC Mouse IgG2b κ Isotype Control
286 RUO (BD 555745), Alexa Fluor® 647 anti-human CD326 (EpCAM) Antibody (Biolegend
287 324212), PE anti-human/mouse CD49f Antibody (Biolegend 313612). The cells were
288 read using a BD Fortessa and analyzed using the FACS DIVA and FlowJo v10
289 software.

290
291 **Single cell RNA-seq:** Organoids were digested into single cells using TrypLE™,
292 resuspended in 0.04% BSA in PBS as 1 million cells/ml. ~12,000 cells were loaded into
293 one well of a 10x Chromium microfluidics chip. Single cell barcoding and libraries were
294 prepared using the 10x Chromium v3 chemistry (Cat # V3 reagents 1000075, V3 chips -
295 1000153 or NextGEM reagents- 1000121, chips 1000120). Libraries were quality
296 checked using a Bioanalyzer HS kit for cDNA yield and final library size and qubit to
297 quantify.

298 Single cell analysis was performed in three different batches (Table S7). Batch 3
299 was a multiplexed pool of 4 samples, which were demultiplexed using a custom
300 genotype-aware pipeline. At the time of 10X Genomics library preparation, ~20,000
301 cells from each of the four organoids were set aside to prepare low-input bulk RNA-seq
302 libraries tagged with unique i7 barcodes. These bulk libraries share the same adapter
303 structure as 10X Genomics libraries, and were spiked into the Illumina NextSeq500 flow

304 cell at a 5% molar ratio to obtain ~5M reads per organoid. These barcoded bulk
305 libraries were then used to create reference VCF files using cellSNP v0.3.2 by
306 searching a list of 7.4M common human SNPs from the 1000 Genomes Project
307 (http://ufpr.dl.sourceforge.net/project/cellsnp/SNPlist/genome1K.phase3.SNP_AF5e2.chr1toX.hg38.vcf.gz). Genotype profiles were filtered to include only positions with < 10%
308 minor allele frequency and >20 UMI counts. In parallel, per-cell VCF files were
309 generated from the multiplexed single cell library using the cellSNP with the same
310 parameters. Cells from the single-cell pool were assigned to their respective donors
311 using Vireo v0.4.2 (48).
312

313 *Genotyping low-input bulk RNAseq library prep:*

314 RT Primer Design:

315 CTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTSSSSSSSSNNNNNNNNNNVVVVVTTTTTTTTT
316 TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTVN

317 where:

318 SSSSSSSS = 8bp sample barcode, with following multi-plexing key:

319 GACAGTGC=HCM-CSHL-0366-C50

320 GAGTTAGC=NH85TSc

321 GATGAATC=NH95T

322 GCCAAGAC=NH93T

323

324 NNNNNNNNNVVVVV = 15bp UMI with 5 non-T residues at 3' end

325 Template Switch Oligo: AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGTGAATrGrGrG

326 cDNA_amplification_Forward:
327 AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCG
328 cDNA_amplification_Reverse: AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGT

329

330 RT was performed using the SuperScript IV (Life Technologies #18091050) according
331 to the manufacturer's instructions except for the addition of 1uM Template Switch Oligo
332 during first strand synthesis. All custom oligos were synthesized by IDT. After cDNA
333 amplification, molar concentration was estimated using the Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100,
334 libraries were pooled at an equimolar ratio, and prepared for Illumina sequencing using
335 the Nextera XT DNA Library Prep Kit (Illumina) according to the manufacturer's
336 instructions. Final fragmented libraries were again checked and quantified by
337 Bioanalyzer prior to mixing at a 1:20 molar ratio with 10X Genomics libraries for
338 sequencing.

339 *Sequencing and Mapping:* The libraries were sequenced on Illumina NextSeq 500 High
340 Output 75 cycle kits using the read format: 8bp (i7 index) x 28bp (Read 1) x 56bp
341 (Read2). 10X Genomics libraries were mapped using Cell Ranger version 4.0.0 (10X
342 Genomics) with default settings and a custom genome reference based on the
343 comprehensive gene annotation set from Gencode Release 32 (GRCh38.p13)
344 ([http://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/databases/gencode/Gencode_human/release_32/gencode.v32.
345 annotation.gtf.gz](http://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/databases/gencode/Gencode_human/release_32/gencode.v32.annotation.gtf.gz)). For the multiplexed pool, sample identities for each cell were
346 assigned using Vireo as described above, such that each sample could be subset from
347 the pooled matrix during analysis.

348 Filtering, feature selection, clustering, and other secondary analyses were carried
349 out in R using Seurat v4.0.3 (<https://satijalab.org/seurat/>) (49,50). Gene set enrichment
350 analyses were performed using GSEA v4.1.0 (51). Following gene sets were used for
351 the various signature scores: adult human breast epithelium markers from (52),
352 Mammary epithelial lineage scores from (53), NOTCH signaling:
353 REACTOME_SIGNALING_BY_NOTCH, BMP2 targets: LEE_BMP2_TARGETS_UP,
354 MYC signature from (54), Hypoxia signature: HALLMARK_HYPOXIA, Basal mammary
355 stem cell signature from (53).

356

357 **Quantification and statistical analysis:** Statistical analyses were performed using R
358 (version 4.1.0) on RStudio and GraphPad Prism software (v9.1.2, GraphPad Software,
359 San Diego, California USA, www.graphpad.com). Specific tests are indicated in the
360 figure legends along with the statistical significance.

361

362 **Materials, data and code availability:** Organoid lines generated under the HCM1
363 project (starting with HCM) will be available for purchase from the American Type
364 Culture Collection (ATCC). All raw data will be available to download from dbGaP
365 (phs002722.v1.p1 and phs001486). Copy number segment file is available in Table S2,
366 transcriptome signature scores are in Table S4. Metadata for the different PDOs is
367 available in Table S1. All original code will be deposited at [https://github.com/bhatia-](https://github.com/bhatia-sonam/manuscript-v1)
368 [sonam/manuscript-v1](https://github.com/bhatia-sonam/manuscript-v1)

369

370 **Results:**

371 **Establishment and somatic variant profiling of a diverse patient-derived breast**
372 **cancer organoid biobank**

373 Breast cancer tissues along with paired normal breast tissues were acquired
374 from female patients and developed into 3-D organoids. In addition to breast cancer
375 tissues, we also collected normal reductive mammoplasty samples from 10 cancer-free
376 patients to generate normal PDOs for downstream analyses. The majority of tumor
377 samples were from patients with invasive ductal carcinomas (56/87, Fig. 1A), 11/87
378 were from invasive lobular carcinomas, 4/87 were from metastatic lymph nodes and a
379 small percentage from other categories (Fig 1A, Table S1). The majority of the tumor
380 samples (43/87) were luminal BC as defined by immunohistochemistry (ER/PR+/HER2-
381), 37/87 were from TNBCs (ER-PR-HER2-), 2/87 were from ER/PR+/HER2+ BCs, 2/87
382 were from ER-/PR-/HER2+ subtype, and 3/87 samples belonged to post-treatment
383 residual tissue with no visible carcinoma (NA) (Fig 1B). Samples were collected from
384 patients of various age groups (Fig 1C) and diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds (Fig
385 1D). An increased proportion of TNBC tumor samples was observed from black patients
386 with African or west-Indian heritage (Fig 1D, Table S1) which recapitulates the higher
387 incidence of TNBCs in the African-American community (55,56). Using a DNA-seq
388 panel of 143 cancer driver genes, we identified pathogenic single nucleotide variants
389 (SNVs) in 49 tumor organoid lines (Fig 1E); *PIK3CA* was mutated in 33% of the tumor
390 organoid lines, the majority of which were from patients with luminal breast cancer. 24%
391 of the organoid lines (45% of TNBC PDOs 10/22) had a pathogenic *TP53* mutation and
392 primarily represented the high grade TNBC cohort (Fig 1E). Two of the organoid lines
393 are derived from a patient with rare breast cancer showing adenoid cystic carcinoma

394 (AdCC) like morphology, NH87T (primary tumor) and HCM-CSHL-0655-C50 (lymph
395 node metastasis from the same patient) (Table S1). The AdCC organoids show a non-
396 traditional TNBC mutation profile with pathogenic mutations in *APC*, *KDM6A* and
397 *NOTCH1* (Fig 1E), which were previously observed in AdCCs of the breast (57).
398 Mutations in *KMT2C* and *GATA3* were also observed in a variety of luminal breast
399 cancer organoids, *CDH1* mutations were present in 10% of PDOs all of which belonged
400 to invasive lobular carcinomas, and *ARID1B* mutations were found in a few TNBC-
401 derived organoids (Fig 1E). Overall, the mutation profiles of patient-derived BC
402 organoids are in concordance with the mutational landscape of BCs (10,26). A relatively
403 large subset of tissues (24/87) that resulted in cultured organoids did not have
404 pathogenic SNVs (Fig 1F, Table S1), while 10/87 samples dropped off in culture at early
405 passages (Fig 1F). The PDOs with pathogenic SNVs showed a range of growth
406 properties *in vitro* with subsets exhibiting long-term continued expansion while others
407 seem to have more limited cultures either in terms of maximum passages reached or
408 limited expansion abilities (Table S1).

409 A comparison of the SNV profile between several pairs of patient tumor and
410 PDOs showed high concordance of the pathogenic SNVs between the tumor and tumor
411 derived organoids (Fig S1A), except in some cases where the SNVs are present at a
412 much lower variant allele frequency (VAF) in the tumor, for instance, NH84TT-P0
413 showed <25% TP53 VAF compared to 100% VAF in NH84TT-p10 PDO (Fig S1A)
414 suggesting normal contamination in the tumor tissues and a successful outgrowth of
415 cancer cells in organoid cultures. Longitudinal analyses for some patient-derived
416 organoids showed the stability of primary driver mutations overtime in culture (Fig S1B).

417 To determine whether the amount of tumor material was a limiting step for generation of
418 organoids, we collected tumor scrapings (see methods) from a subset of tumor
419 samples. A comparison of tumor tissue (labeled TT) and the scrapings (labeled Sc) from
420 three different patients (Fig S1C) showed high concordance and indicates that, if
421 necessary, small amounts of tumor material can be used to generate organoids. We
422 also examined the pathogenic SNVs in TNBC tissue samples (p0) that did not result in a
423 successful generation of organoids (establishment or long-term cultures) and 6/10 had
424 TP53 mutations and some samples also had BRCA1/2 mutations (Fig S1D), the latter
425 were largely absent in successful organoid cultures (Fig 1E).

426

427 **Breast cancer organoids are enriched for copy number alterations**

428 Having identified pathogenic driver mutations for the tumor-derived organoids,
429 we performed copy number analysis using SMASH (short multiply aggregated
430 sequence homologies) (45) for various PDOs. TP53 mutated TNBC PDOs make up the
431 majority of the ER- subset and are highly genomically altered compared to the luminal
432 ER+ organoids (Fig 2A, B, Table S2). Some organoids that were deemed to be derived
433 from tumor based on pathogenic SNVs (eg. LNS12T, LNS18T, NH06T etc.) showed no
434 prominent CNAs. Some TNBC PDOs that showed trace SNVs such as NH58T, NH72T
435 and NH66T also showed minimal CNAs (Fig 1E and 2A). In keeping with large scale
436 genomic datasets (10,26), a consistent gain of chromosome 1q (chr1q) and loss of
437 chr16q was observed in the luminal organoids where CNAs were detected (Fig 2A). The
438 TP53 mutated TNBC organoids were highly genomically aberrant where multiple lines
439 showed a gain of chromosomes (chrs) 1q, 8q, 19q and chrs 7, 20 and 21; loss of chrs

440 3p, 4, 5, 17p and Xp was also observed in multiple organoid lines (Fig 2A). These
441 TNBC PDOs also showed copy number loss of chr4q and chr5q (Fig 2A) that have been
442 previously reported to be over-represented in basal-like breast cancers (58). Of note,
443 the AdCC-like organoids, NH87T (primary tumor) and HCM-CSHL-0655-C50 (lymph
444 node metastasis from the same patient), were considerably less genomically aberrant
445 as compared to the other TNBC organoids and showed focal amplification of chr8q and
446 deletion of chr6p (Fig 2A, C-D). Interestingly, the chrX deletion was only observed in the
447 primary tumor (NH87T) sample (Fig 2A, C) and a focal deletion was observed in chr2 of
448 the lymph met HCM-CSHL-0655-C50 (Fig 2C). The AdCC organoid CNA profiles are
449 consistent with the low CNA profiles that are typically observed in AdCC-like breast
450 cancers (57).

451 For a subset of these samples, we compared the copy number profiles of the
452 primary tumor with the paired tumor and normal organoids and observed more
453 pronounced CNAs in the organoids compared to the tumors suggesting that the
454 organoid culture enriches for tumor cells (Fig 2C-D). As observed in the SNV data (Fig
455 S1) the NH84T tumor (p0 with <25% VAF of pathogenic TP53) was likely very
456 heterogenous and contained a significant population of normal cells, however, the tumor
457 cells successfully outgrew the normal and resulted in a highly pure tumor organoid
458 culture over multiple passages (Fig 2C-D). For HCM-CSHL-0366-C50 and NH87T the
459 early passage p1 or tumor tissue (p0) respectively, had relatively less normal
460 contamination and maintained their copy number profiles over time in culture (Fig 2C-
461 D). While copy number profiles were enriched for in successful tumor PDOs, for some

462 cultures we observed loss of copy number alterations in the organoids over-time,
463 suggesting a normal outgrowth (Fig S1E).

464 Since tumor organoids are more enriched for tumor cells compared to the p0
465 tumor tissue, we profiled the putative cancer driver gene panel in individual organoid
466 samples. TNBC PDOs typically had a higher copy number alteration frequency of these
467 cancer driver genes (top bar-graph in Fig 2B). *TGFB2*, *MDM3*, *AKT3*, *DDR2* and *INSRR*
468 showed the highest frequency of alteration (Fig 2B) and are all genes present on chr1q
469 that is amplified in both luminal and TNBC PDOs (Fig 2A-B). Interestingly, we also
470 found a higher frequency of deletion of *KDM6A*, *ARAF* and *RPS6KA3* tumor
471 suppressors, located on chrXp, specifically in the TNBC-derived organoids (arrows in
472 Fig 2B). Loss of *PPP2R2A* (chr8p), which was previously reported to be a tumor
473 suppressor in breast cancer (10), was also identified in 38% of the samples, the majority
474 of which are of TNBC subtype (Fig 2B). Furthermore, there is an over-representation of
475 loss of chr3p in the TNBC samples, that results in the deletion of potential tumor
476 suppressors: *ACVR2B*, *BAP1*, *CTNNB1*, *MLH1*, *MYF88* and *PBRM1* (Fig 2B). Copy
477 number loss of chr6q is also common in TNBC organoids and results in loss of *ARID1B*,
478 *MAP3K4*, and *PARK2*, a master regulator of G1/S cyclins (59). *ESR1*, the gene
479 encoding estrogen receptor (ER), present on chr6q is also frequently lost in these TNBC
480 organoids (Fig 2A-B). We also identified gains of *CALR*, *JAK3*, *KEAP1*, *PIN1* and
481 *SMARCA4* that are associated with the amplification of chr19p and amplification of
482 mismatch repair (MMR) genes *MSH2* and *MSH6* located on chr2p (Fig 2A-B) in subsets
483 of TNBC PDOs. While MMR genes are commonly mutated in various cancers, their
484 overexpression was recently associated with aggressive prostate cancers (60) and was

485 shown to promote genomic instability in yeast (61) but their role is yet to be determined
486 in TNBC disease progression.

487 Taken together, the SNV and copy number profiling of PDOs shows robust
488 retention of genomic features of various types of breast cancers, including luminal,
489 TNBC, and rare AdCC-like carcinomas. While there might be small alterations overtime
490 in PDO cultures, the key pathogenic mutations and overall copy number profiles are
491 conserved throughout organoid culture (Fig S1, 2C-D) supporting their utilization as
492 valid cancer models. Additionally, we find overrepresentation of some lesser studied
493 copy number variants in our data such as loss of tumor suppressors *RPS6KA3*,
494 *PPP2R2A* and *PARK2* and copy number gains of MMR genes *MSH2* and *MSH6* that
495 might have important unexplored consequences in breast cancer progression.

496

497 **A subset of TNBC organoids recapitulate signatures of aggressive basal-like** 498 **breast cancers**

499 Next, we performed RNA-seq on various tumor and normal-derived organoids to
500 profile their transcriptomes (Table S3). Hierarchical clustering of samples by euclidean
501 distance divided them into six groups (Fig S2A). We used supervised clustering with
502 838 previously curated gene expression signatures (42–44) (Table S4) and found
503 similar patterns of clustering among the various organoid lines (Fig 3A). Group 4 is
504 largely comprised of the true normal organoids (labeled with prefix NM in Fig S2A)
505 derived from breast tissues obtained from individuals undergoing reductive
506 mammoplasty (Normal in Fig 3A-B, S2A, C), paired normal PDOs derived from normal
507 tissue adjacent or distal to the tumor and very few tumor-derived organoids; this cluster

508 showed an enrichment of normal mammary stem cell (MaSC) signatures and low
509 proliferation related expression profiles (Fig 3A-B). Group 1 is comprised of a mixture of
510 either paired normal organoids or tumor organoids that did not have a strong driver
511 mutation (eg. *PIK3CA* or *TP53*) (Fig 3A, S2A, 1E). This group had a signature profile
512 that was distinct from the true normal group (Group 4) and is most similar to luminal cell
513 signatures (Fig 3A). The samples in this group also have a higher proliferation signature
514 compared to the true normal Group 4 (Fig 3A). Group 5 mostly contained PDOs derived
515 from Luminal BC and showed luminal like gene-expression signatures (Fig 3A-B).
516 Signature profiling also uncovered immune and stromal signatures that highly
517 corresponded to samples in Group 3 (Fig 3A, S2C). Interestingly, two of the samples in
518 this group NH63T and NH54T exhibited limited propagation in culture due to stromal
519 outgrowth leading us to hypothesize that these samples had some fibroblast-like cells.
520 We also found a strong interferon (IFN) signature in this group along with some
521 additional PDOs from Group 6 (Fig 3A, S2C).

522 Groups 2 and 6 are comprised mostly of TNBC organoids and all organoid lines
523 in these groups could be propagated to long-term cultures (>passage10, labeled LT-
524 TNBCs) and showed continued expansion (Fig 3A, S2A). The only exception is the
525 NH48N normal sample, which was confirmed to be mostly tumor by copy number
526 analysis and identical to its counterpart NH48T (Fig S2B). The most prominent
527 signatures of Groups 2 and 6 correspond to basal-like breast cancer gene-sets that are
528 also defined by luminal progenitor (LP) like signatures (Fig 3A-B, S2C-D). LP-like gene
529 expression has previously been shown to be associated with basal-like breast cancers
530 (53). The organoids in this group also showed enrichment of proliferation signatures

531 (Fig 3A-B) and the majority had a *TP53* mutation which was in conjunction with the
532 *PIK3CA* mutations for three samples (HCM-CSHL-0773-C50, HUB4T and HCM-CSHL-
533 0155-C50) (Fig 3A, S2A). We also observed a MYC amplification signature in this
534 subgroup (Fig 3B) that was accompanied by the copy number amplification of *cMYC* in
535 many of these PDOs (Fig S2E). Additionally, gene sets associated with hypoxia,
536 glycolysis, angiogenesis and fetal MaSC (fMaSC) metabolism signatures were also
537 enriched in LT-TNBCs (Fig 3A-B, S2C). The *VEGF* 13-gene signature showed high
538 correlation with basal-like breast cancers (55), has prognostic significance and is
539 associated with poor outcome in breast and other cancers (62). Similarly, fMaSC
540 metabolism signature is a refined 8-gene signature, which primarily comprises genes
541 associated with glycolysis and fatty acid metabolism, and was previously shown to be
542 associated with TNBCs and metastatic TNBC lesions (63). This suggests that the PDOs
543 with these signatures are likely associated with tumors linked to poor outcomes.

544 In order to understand the complexity of organoid cultures we profiled the growth
545 properties of various TNBC and normal organoids. TNBC organoids appear as densely
546 filled balls of cells which is in stark contrast to the normal organoids that have a
547 predominant acinar structure with a central lumen and some organoids that were filled
548 (NM04N in Fig 3C). The TNBC-organoids showed varying degrees of propagation in
549 culture where some lines could be propagated for over 10 passages (LT-TNBCs) with
550 continued expansion while many short-term culture lines dropped out of culture at
551 various points (Fig 3D, S3A) and had limited material to assay. Low starting material,
552 limited proliferation, normal and stromal outgrowths were among the primary reasons
553 for short term culture growth (Fig S3A). We focused on the LT-TNBCs for all

554 downstream analyses. IHC for the proliferation marker, Ki-67, in confluent PDO cultures
555 showed large variability of expression amongst the various organoid lines and also
556 within each culture (Fig 3C- lower panels). In concordance with expression signatures
557 (Fig 3B), LT-TNBC organoids were highly proliferative compared to normal and luminal
558 organoids (Fig 3C, S3B-C). There was a lot of heterogeneity within organoid cultures
559 with some organoids being mostly comprised of proliferating cells, for instance
560 NH85TSc and NH95T, while other cultures were more mixed (Fig S3C, Table S5).
561 Normal-derived organoids typically had <10% of proliferating cells per organoid and
562 showed luminal-basal organization with a hollow lumen, while TNBC-derived organoids
563 tend to be highly proliferative and undifferentiated with little to no observed cellular
564 organization (Fig S3C, Table S5). When seeded as single cells, we observed a range of
565 organoid formation amongst the various lines (Fig S3D) which did not always correlate
566 with the proliferative index of the PDOs, and might be due to the requirement of cell-cell
567 contact in some but not all PDOs that is apparent when seeding at low density as single
568 cells.

569 Of note, none of the TNBCs propagated in culture showed expression profiles of
570 the more mesenchymal-like claudin-low subgroup (6), possibly because the culture
571 conditions are more favorable towards the propagation of epithelial cells. Overall, the
572 gene expression signatures of the normal and tumor-derived organoids depict the
573 expression profiles of luminal and basal-like breast cancers. The TNBC organoids that
574 can be propagated to long-term cultures (LT-TNBCs), Groups 2 and 6, had very classic
575 basal-like breast cancer signatures and were associated with proliferation (Fig 3A-D),
576 hypoxia (Fig 3A-B) and *c-MYC* amplification gene expression signatures (Fig 3B, S2E).

577 Furthermore, about 40% of basal-breast cancers exhibit *c-MYC* amplification (26) and
578 the majority of our LT-TNBC organoids show an enrichment of *c-MYC* (Fig S2E)
579 signature suggesting that our organoid system results in long-term expansion of TNBCs
580 that are *c-MYC* driven and have a LP-like basal breast cancer signature.

581 As a proof-of-concept, we tested whether these PDOs were amenable to drug
582 response assays, and performed dose response curves using 6 different PDO lines with
583 three different drugs (Fig S3E). TNBC PDOs (Fig S3D) showed high sensitivity to the
584 cytotoxic chemotherapeutic agent paclitaxel compared to the luminal line NH53T and
585 the TNBC-met HCM-CSHL-0773-C50 (Fig S3E). Conversely, capivasertib (AZD5363), a
586 pan-AKT inhibitor used in PIK3C mutated cancers (64), showed greater sensitivity
587 against the PIK3CA mutated luminal NH53T PDO (Fig S3E). Similarly, afatinib a
588 targeted inhibitor for EGFR, showed the most activity in the EGFR amplified NH84T
589 PDO line (Fig S3E).

590

591 **TNBC organoids can recapitulate tumor morphology *in-vivo***

592 Next, we examined the *in-vivo* tumor forming abilities of these patient-derived
593 cultures. We transplanted organoids from eight different TNBC (LT-TNBCs) lines into
594 the mammary-fat pads of NOD-SCID mice and assayed their tumor formation and
595 metastatic potential over time (Fig 4A). We found striking differences in the tumor
596 forming ability between the different organoid lines (Fig 4B) despite having highly
597 aberrant genomic profiles (Fig 2, 4C). TNBC organoids HCM-CSHL-0366-C50,
598 NH85TSc and NH87T resulted in palpable masses around 30 days and steady tumor
599 formation in 100% of injection sites (Fig 4B, Table S6). NH85TSc-derived tumors grew

600 rapidly and resulted in visibly necrotic masses that needed to be resected at ~100 days.
601 HCM-CSHL-0366-C50 resulted in primary tumors that also developed fluid filled cysts
602 on top of the tumors that drained on their own. NH87T and HCM-CSHL-0655-C50 are
603 the AdCC-like primary tumor and lymph-node metastasis from the same patient.
604 Interestingly, while NH87T formed tumors rapidly, HCM-CSHL-0655-C50 did not and
605 the tumors remained small (Fig 4B, Table S6), despite both of these lines having
606 equivalent growth properties *in vitro* (Fig 3, S3). This observation was consistent for the
607 two independent transplant experiments done with different passage organoids (Table
608 S6). NH95T resulted in small tumor masses at multiple injection sites that were slow to
609 grow while NH84T and NH93T had small tumors observable only in fat-pad histology
610 sections of some sites and NH64T did not result in any primary tumors (Figs 4B, S4A,
611 Table S6) despite being highly genomically aberrant (Figs 4C, 1-2) and having high
612 proliferation and organoid formation rates *in-vitro* (Figs S3C-D).

613 Remarkably, the PDO-derived xenograft (PDO-X) tumors resulting from HCM-
614 CSHL-0366-C50, NH85TSc, NH87T and NH95T organoids recapitulated the
615 morphology of the patient tumor despite previously being in culture for up to 18
616 passages. The tumor and the organoid-xenograft from patient HCM-CSHL-0366-C50
617 were the most distinct and showed squamous differentiation with pleomorphic cells that
618 were variable in size and had cells with either oval or pale nuclei with prominent nucleoli
619 (Fig 4D). We also observed cells that had thin spinous connections with adjacent tumor
620 cells which were also present in the organoids (black arrows Fig 4D). NH85TSc tumor
621 and organoid-xenografts both showed highly undifferentiated morphology with large
622 necrotic areas and stromal compartments infiltrating in between the tumors (Fig 4D).

623 Lastly, NH87T tumor was a TNBC type with AdCC like features that are characterized
624 by cribriform architectural patterns and pseudo-lumens (57,65). While the organoid-
625 derived xenograft had a lower stromal composition compared to the patient tumor it still
626 recapitulated the key features of the original tumor, including the presence of cuboidal
627 cells, cribriform architecture and pseudo-lumens (yellow arrows Fig 4D). This particular
628 subtype is also characterized by the expression of CD117 and CK5/6 (66). We
629 performed IHC for CD117 and CK5/6 on PDO-X tumor sections from NH87T and
630 observed positive membrane labeling for CD117 along with areas of high and low
631 CK5/6 labeling as observed in the clinical IHC labeling of the patient slide (Fig S4C).

632 While NH95T formed tumors at a much lower efficiency (Fig 4A, B), the tumors
633 that did form had morphological similarities to the original patient tumor (Fig 4D). The
634 patient tumor cells showed an organization pattern which was recapitulated in the
635 organoid-derived xenografts and to some extent in the NH95T organoids (Fig 4D). Of
636 note, patients from whom the fast-growing organoids were derived, i.e., HCM-CSHL-
637 0366-C50, NH85 and NH87, presented with poor diagnoses and outcomes (TMN
638 staging in Fig 4B). Patient HCM-CSHL-0366-C50 had rapid metastasis to the brain and
639 succumbed from the disease, patient NH85 had local recurrence in the lymph node and
640 patient NH87 presented with a positive lymph node at initial diagnosis (Table S1). Using
641 IHC with a human mitochondrial antibody we only observed micro-metastasis and
642 single-cell metastasis in our experiments (Fig 4D, S4B, Table S6), however, altering the
643 experimental conditions such as: prolonging the end-point, using a more
644 immunocompromised NOD/SCID gamma (NSG) mouse model or tail-vein injections
645 might result in more metastatic lesions and will be examined in future studies. Thus far,

646 our data shows that TNBC PDOs recapitulate the tumor intrinsic properties of the
647 original tumors at genomic, transcriptomic and morphological levels.

648

649 **TNBC derived organoids are enriched for luminal-progenitor-like cells**

650 To fully assess the utility of PDOs as cancer models, we next asked what were
651 the cell types represented within these organoids and how did they differ from the
652 normal derived PDOs. In order to profile the cell-types present within the normal and
653 TNBC organoids, we used a combination of flow cytometry and single cell RNA-seq
654 (scRNA-seq). We assayed for mammary epithelial lineages using EPCAM and CD49f
655 as luminal and basal cell markers respectively (21,22,53,67). As previously shown (22),
656 the normal derived organoids recapitulate the EPCAM+ luminal lineage,
657 EPCAM+/CD49f+ luminal progenitor cells and EPCAM-/CD49f+ basal cell lineages
658 (NM07NL in Fig 5A). The populations slightly fluctuated between the different normal
659 lines and passages but overall, the different lineages were observed in all normal
660 organoids (Fig 5A-C, S5A, Table S7). TNBC organoids were less heterogeneous in the
661 expression of these markers, and as observed by RNA-seq signatures (Fig 3B, S2D),
662 showed an enrichment of luminal progenitor-like cells (Fig 5A-B) which had co-
663 expression of EPCAM and CD49f but showed slightly different and patient-specific
664 expression patterns of these markers (Fig 5A, S5A). TNBC organoids also showed a
665 higher gene expression of EPCAM and CD49f (gene *ITGA6*) compared to the normal
666 organoids (Fig S5B). Some TNBC PDOs, for example NH84T, had a more luminal cell
667 flow-cytometry profile, despite clustering with the other LT-TNBCs at the transcriptome
668 level. Interestingly, metastatic TNBC lines HCM-CSHL-0773-C50 and HUB4T also had

669 an enrichment of more luminal-like cells (Fig 5B, S5D). NH85TSc which was derived
670 from a patient that later relapsed and HCM-CSHL-0366-C50, which showed rapid
671 progression in the patient, also had a more luminal cell profile with higher percentage of
672 EPCAM only cells (Fig 5A-B) despite showing gene signatures of the basal-like BCs.
673 The EPCAM/CD49f profile of the individual lines was stable overtime at different
674 passages (Fig S5C). Additionally, while always observed in the normal-organoids, we
675 rarely observed CD49f only cells in the TNBC-organoids (Fig 5A-B, S5A, D). We
676 performed longitudinal analysis for one of the patient-derived organoid lines and
677 observed an enrichment of the tumor LPs in culture over time in early passages (Fig
678 5C) which coincided with a more pronounced copy number profile of the TNBC
679 organoids (Fig 5D) suggesting LP-like cells being the predominant cancer cell
680 population in TNBCs and potentially the cell of origin of these cancers.

681 In order to better understand the cellular composition of these organoids, we
682 performed scRNA-seq analysis on three normal and seven TNBC organoid lines. The
683 study was done in three experimental batches (Table S7) and processed where each of
684 the samples was quality controlled and filtered to remove cells with high mitochondrial
685 gene content and low gene identification (i.e. dead cells). The filtered matrix was SC-
686 transformed using Seurat (50) and the samples were integrated to account for the
687 different batches (Fig 5E). Clustering of data identified 19 clusters (Fig 5E) with some
688 clusters being highly representative of the normal organoids (clusters 0, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11 in
689 Fig 5F) while other clusters were largely comprised of tumor cells. Tumor organoids
690 were distinct from normal, with some overlap in clusters 0, 3 and 9 (Fig 5F-H).
691 Expression profiles of *EPCAM* and *ITGA6* (gene encoding CD49f) (Fig 5H)

692 recapitulated the data from flow cytometry (Fig 5A-B) where tumor organoids are
693 predominantly of the luminal progenitor nature as measured by co-expression of
694 *EPCAM* and *ITGA6* (CD49f) while the normal organoids recapitulate the three broad
695 mammary epithelial lineages: mature luminal (*EPCAM*+), luminal progenitors (LPs,
696 *EPCAM*+/*CD49f*+) and myoepithelial/basal-like cells (*Epcam*-low/*CD49f*+) . Unlike the
697 normal organoids, all tumor cells were *EPCAM*+ and a subset of those had low *ITGA6*
698 (Fig 5H). In concordance with the flow cytometry data (Fig 5A), the *ITGA6*-low cells
699 were largely present in HCM-CSHL-0366-C50 and NH85TSc. NH93T and the NH95T
700 organoid line had similar profiles and occupied similar space as the normal LP cells (Fig
701 5H). Lines NH87T and HCM-CSHL-0655-C50 are paired primary and lymph node
702 metastasis samples from the same patient and occupied very similar spaces with some
703 overlap with normal LP cells (Fig 5H), while NH64T, NH85TSc and HCM-CSHL-0366-
704 C50 are very distinct from the normal lines. Interestingly, there was a significant overlap
705 between the clusters identified between NH85TSc and HCM-CSHL-0366-C50 samples
706 (Fig 5H) in keeping with their transcriptome similarity (Fig 3A, S2A) and rapid tumor
707 progression *in vivo* (Fig 4A).

708 This data builds on previous studies that have correlated a LP-like expression
709 signature with basal-like breast cancers (53) and have shown that LP cells are the cell
710 of origin of BRCA-mutated basal breast cancers (68). We suggest that LP-like cells are
711 the possible cell of origin for a broader subset of TNBCs. Interestingly, a higher percent
712 of *EPCAM*+ only cells seems to be associated with a greater degree of disease
713 progression, however, this needs to be further investigated.

714

715 **Tumor LP-like cells exhibit altered expression and have an upregulation of**
716 **NOTCH and MYC downstream pathways**

717 Since TNBC organoids had a large proportion of LP-like cells that seemed
718 distinct from the normal LP cells (Figs 5, S5) we performed integrated single cell
719 analysis by SC-transforming individual samples and performing an anchor-dependent
720 integration for all individual samples. We identified thirteen clusters between the tumor
721 and normal cells (Fig 6A) out of which clusters 6, 8, 10 and 9 represented cell cycle
722 clusters (Fig S6A) with cluster 6 representing a population of G1-S phase cells, cluster 8
723 representing S-phase cells, cluster 9 S-G2M transition cells and cluster 10 marking
724 G2M cells while the remaining clusters represented G1 cells (Fig S6A-C). The cell
725 clusters identified represented biologically meaningful cell-types recently annotated by
726 single cell sequencing of adult human breast epithelium (52). Cell types identified
727 included: XBP1, AGR2 expressing mature luminal cells (Mat lum, cluster 1), APOE,
728 KRT6A expressing basal stem-like cells (basal SC, cluster 4), TAGLN, TIMP1
729 expressing myoepithelial cells (Myo, cluster 3), SLPI expressing luminal progenitor cells
730 (LP, cluster 7) and LTF expressing secretory cells (LP sec, cluster 2) (Fig 6B, S6C)
731 (52). To further validate the lineage specification in organoids we overlaid the published
732 mammary epithelial gene-sets (53) and computed a score for each of the three
733 mammary epithelial cells. The normal cell clusters showed a much stronger cell type
734 enrichment score while the tumor cells despite being predominantly EPCAM+/CD49f+
735 showed a more diffused enrichment of these signatures, suggesting some cell type
736 heterogeneity within these tumor organoids (Fig 6C). In normal organoids, Clusters 2,7
737 and 11 had a higher enrichment for luminal progenitor (LP) cell score, while cluster 1

738 showed an enrichment for mature luminal (mature Lum) cells and cluster 3 was
739 predominantly of the basal mammary stem cell (Basal SC) compartment (Fig 6C, S6C).
740 The tumor organoids showed varied expression profiles of various luminal/basal
741 markers (Fig S6D) and a diffused cluster specific enrichment of lineage scores (Fig 6C,
742 S6E), suggesting that while they have lost proper cell type specification, the clusters
743 identified using this integration approach have some similarity to the normal cell
744 lineages.

745 With the aim to identify mechanisms that underlie the tumor luminal progenitor-
746 like (LP-like) cells in TNBCs, we performed a differential expression analysis between
747 tumor and normal cells of clusters 2, 7 and 11. We identified 1103 significantly
748 differentially expressed genes ($p_{val_adj} < 0.05$) between the tumor LPs vs normal LPs
749 (Table S8). GSEA on the differentially expressed genes showed an enrichment of
750 NOTCH signaling related genes in the tumor LPs versus an enrichment of BMP2 targets
751 in the normal LPs (Fig 6D). Leading edge genes from these gene sets showed a
752 consistent downregulation of NOTCH signaling related genes, *RPS27A*, *YBX1*, *JAG1*,
753 *MDK*, *MYC* and *SEM1*, and an upregulation of BMP2 target genes, *LTF*, *MGP*, *KRT16*,
754 *KRT7*, *PLAAT3* and *NTRK2* in normal LPs from all three patients (Fig 6E). *MDK*, *JAG1*,
755 *YBX1* are ligands of NOTCH1, while *MYC* and *RSP27A* are downstream targets. While
756 NOTCH activity was present in normal LP cells, it was more pronounced in the TNBC
757 organoids (Fig S6F).

758 A further investigation into differentially regulated pathways showed upregulation
759 of genes involved in ribosomal biogenesis and translation in the tumor LPs. We
760 performed motif enrichment analysis on the differentially expressed LP genes and found

761 a significant enrichment of MYC binding sites in the tumor LP expressed genes (Fig
762 S6G). We used published MYC signatures to assess MYC activity in tumor and normal
763 organoids and found a higher ubiquitous enrichment of MYC activation in tumor
764 organoid cells, while in normal organoids it seemed to be higher in the proliferating cell
765 clusters (Fig S6F). Similarly, while the NOTCH pathway was hyper-active in tumor LPs
766 it was ubiquitously active across all tumor cells (Fig S6F). We tested whether NOTCH
767 and MYC activation was required for organoid formation and seeded NH95T, NH85TSc
768 and HCM-CSHL-0366-C50 as single cells in regular organoid growth medium in the
769 presence of DAPT (NOTCH inhibitor) or MYCi975 (MYC inhibitor) (69) and allowed for
770 organoids to form for 12 days. We saw a significant reduction in organoid formation in
771 the presence of both MYC and NOTCH inhibitors for NH85TSc and NH95T but not for
772 HCM-CSHL-0366-C50 (Fig 6F). While HCM-CSHL-0366-C50 did not show reduction in
773 the number of organoids formed, we did observe a significant difference in organoid
774 size with DAPT and MYCi975 suggesting growth defects on inhibition of these pathways
775 in all lines (Fig S6H). We further tested whether inhibition of NOTCH and MYC is
776 necessary for the formation of normal PDOs. Since, normal PDOs have multiple
777 populations we flow-sorted the basal stem-like CD49f+ve population and
778 EPCAM+/CD49f+ LP cells and seeded them as single cells in the presence of DAPT or
779 MYCi975 (Fig S6I). While DAPT had no effect on generation of normal PDOs from both
780 LP and basal stem-like cells, MYC inhibition resulted in no organoid formation.

781 Thus, our data shows that TNBC organoids have an underlying LP expression
782 signature which is driven by LP-like cells that exhibit altered expression from normal
783 LPs by hyperactivation of NOTCH and MYC signaling. These pathways are necessary

784 for the formation of some, but not all, TNBC organoids and when perturbed result in
785 proliferation defects in all tumor lines examined.

786

787 **TNBC organoids are comprised of heterogenous cancer cell populations**

788 Since normal organoids have clearly defined lineages, the clustering of the
789 integrated dataset (Fig 6) was largely driven by the normal organoids. To assess the
790 heterogeneity that exists within TNBC organoid cultures we performed a similar
791 integrated analysis on the TNBC organoids only and identified 13 different cell clusters
792 (Fig 7A, S7A). TNBC organoids on an overall showed less defined cell-lineage
793 specificity (Fig S7B-C). Clusters 3,9,6,8 and 5 correspond to the different cell cycle
794 phases (Fig 7A) and the remaining clusters are G1 cells (Fig 7A-B). We identified the
795 markers that uniquely define each of the clusters (Fig 7C, Table S9) and performed
796 GSEA on the marker genes to identify the phenotypes associated with each cell cluster
797 (Fig 7D). Cluster 0 represented a mixed cell cluster with some enrichment of mature
798 luminal-like cells. Cluster 1 was defined as Basal-like 1 as it showed a positive
799 enrichment of a basal breast cancer gene-set including specific markers *SAT1*, *GABRP*,
800 *TM4SF1*, *TTYH1*, *KRT16* and *KRT6A* genes (Table S9). Cluster 2 is mesenchymal-like
801 due to the selective expression of mesenchyme genes including *CCN2*, *TPM1* and
802 *LAMB1*. Cluster 7, MGP-high cluster, is a relatively distinct cluster with a very specific
803 high expression of *MGP* (Matrix Gla Protein) in all TNBC organoid lines (Fig 7C, S7E).
804 *MGP* is normally expressed in smooth muscle cells perhaps suggesting that these cells
805 might have contractile abilities. Cluster 12 had a very high expression of ribosomal and
806 translation related genes (Fig 7C-D). Clusters 4,10 and 11 are the most distinct of the

807 tumor cell clusters and are identified by the unique expression of certain genes. Cluster
808 10 represents an NFkB-active cluster that was also found in normal organoids (Fig
809 S6C), albeit with some differences in gene expression. As in normal organoids (Fig 6A,
810 S6B, 8C). this cluster shows the expression of *CXCL1*, *CXCL3*, *NFKBIA* etc. Cluster 11
811 is also defined by a basal breast cancer signature (Fig 7C-D), is labeled Basal-like 2
812 and shows a selective expression of *KRT17*. Cluster 4 is a hypoxia cell cluster that
813 shows selective high expression of *EGLN3*, *NDRG1*, *VEGFA* and likely represents cells
814 at the center of these organoids (Fig 7C-D). This cluster is represented by a higher
815 hypoxia score (Fig 7C-D), which interestingly correlates with basal stem cell (Basal SC)
816 signatures and shows comparatively low activity of MYC and NOTCH pathways (Fig 7E
817 and S7D-E). We also noted that the cluster specific genes for all clusters were fairly well
818 conserved between the different PDO lines (Fig S7F). Overall, this data suggests that
819 while the TNBC organoids retain patient intrinsic properties (Fig 1-4) there are common
820 cell signatures that define the cell types within these organoids.

821 The distinct gene expression patterns within these cell clusters also suggests
822 that the TNBC organoids are comprised of multiple cell types that are known to be
823 involved in tumorigenesis, tumor progression and metastasis, and can therefore be
824 used as models to study the various aspects of breast cancer progression.

825

826 **Discussion:**

827 We developed a patient-derived biobank of normal and breast cancer organoids
828 from a diverse group of patients with a focus on the highly aggressive TNBC subtype.
829 Our biobank is heterogenous in terms of ethnic/racial backgrounds, patient age and

830 breast cancer subtypes. A comprehensive genomic, transcriptomic, and cellular
831 characterization of these PDO models demonstrate their faithful recapitulation of the
832 patient tumor intrinsic properties and hence validates them as cancer models to study
833 various aspects of breast cancer progression and treatment.

834 Patient-derived organoids are an exciting step towards personalized medicine
835 with a promise to be used for real-time drug screens for guiding patient treatment (14).
836 When successfully established, breast cancer PDOs retain the genomic and
837 transcriptomic features of breast cancers and their parent tissues. We found that, the
838 TNBC organoids that showed long-term robust growth had activated MYC signaling, an
839 LP-like gene expression signature and were overwhelmingly composed of LP-like cells.
840 As these are among the most aggressive forms of breast cancer, organoid models
841 appear to be an exciting avenue for their study. In addition to replicating the tumor
842 specific features *in-vitro*, TNBC PDOs when transplanted into NOD/SCID mice
843 generated tumors with remarkable morphological similarity to that of the original patient
844 tumors, despite being in long-term organoid culture for up-to 18 passages. Long-term
845 cultured organoids, thus, maintain the intrinsic ability to represent the tumor from which
846 they were derived when placed in an *in vivo* environment. Interestingly, in our study not
847 all PDOs readily generated primary tumors *in vivo* despite being highly proliferative and
848 genomically aberrant organoids. The association of PDOs that generated tumors
849 rapidly, with worse outcomes and diagnosis, suggests that there might be a biologically
850 relevant explanation for this observed difference and must be investigated further along
851 with long-term patient follow up information. Patient-derived xenograft (PDX) models
852 also retain the histopathology of the original patient tumors (70,71) and a recent pre-

853 print study showed successful derivation of breast cancer organoids from PDX models
854 (72). Our models are complementary to this system and represent an opportunity to
855 derive PDOs first, perform *in-vitro* assays and drug screens, followed by PDOX
856 derivation for *in-vivo* validation studies.

857 While successfully established PDOs faithfully recapitulate the patient tumor
858 properties, the efficiency of establishment of these cultures is currently less than ideal.
859 The common challenges we faced during establishing organoid cultures included
860 normal outgrowth in some tumor organoid cultures, stromal outgrowth, non-proliferating
861 or dormant tumor cells, or limited growth potential *ex-vivo*. Since the medium
862 composition for tumor organoid growth also supports the culture of normal mammary
863 organoids (22) the purity of the starting tumor tissue might govern the time to generation
864 of tumor-only organoid cultures and early passages should be meticulously tested at a
865 genomic level before any pharmacological studies are carried out with these models.
866 Furthermore, some subtypes of breast cancer might be challenging to culture including
867 the less proliferative Luminal A subtype or the more mesenchymal claudin-low group of
868 TNBCs. Efforts to culture tumor-organoids in reduced complexity medium (72), might
869 alleviate some of these challenges and needs to be examined in future studies. The
870 PDO culture conditions are comprised of complex growth factors including, EGF,
871 FGF10, Neuregulin, R-spondin etc. (20), and it remains to be tested whether the
872 removal or alteration of these components would be beneficial in selecting out cancer
873 cells over normal epithelial cells, resulting in higher efficiency in the establishment of
874 TNBC PDOs. However, the simultaneous growth of normal and TNBC organoids in the

875 same culture conditions allows for comparison of similar cell types within these
876 organoids.

877 We used an integrated scRNA-seq approach to compare normal LP cells with the
878 tumor LP-like cells and identified hyperactivation of NOTCH and MYC signaling in the
879 tumor compared to normal LPs. LP cells were previously shown to be the cell of origin
880 of BRCA1 mutated basal-like BCs (53,68) and are speculated to be involved in
881 tumorigenesis of all basal-like BCs due to similarity of gene expression profiles (53).
882 Our data provides strong support for this hypothesis by showing that TNBC PDOs are
883 largely comprised of LP-like cells and suggests that hyperactivation of NOTCH and
884 MYC signaling might be relevant in tumorigenesis from LP-cells (Fig 7F). Mouse studies
885 have shown that Notch signaling is important in the maintenance of luminal lineage of
886 the normal mammary gland (73–76) and overactivation of Notch in luminal progenitors
887 resulted in hyperplasia and acquisition of self-renewal properties (73). Notch activation
888 drives the luminal fate specificity in normal mammary gland and can reprogram
889 committed basal mammary cells to an ER- luminal cell fate via multipotent embryonic
890 cell states (74,77), suggesting a role for Notch in fate specification and cellular plasticity.
891 While our data provides strong support for hyperactivation of NOTCH signaling in LP-
892 like cells in TNBCs it remains to be tested whether these cells arose from activation of
893 NOTCH in normal LP cells or from reprogramming of normal basal cells. Our data
894 suggest that activation of MYC along with NOTCH might also have a role in this
895 transformation. Given the complementarity of the NOTCH and MYC pathways, further
896 studies are needed to gain better resolution of this mechanism. The PDO system, thus,

897 can be exploited for identification of dysregulated pathways in cancers which can then
898 be perturbed in the normal PDOs to understand aspects of the origins of cancers.

899 A detailed analysis of the cell type heterogeneity of TNBC organoids also
900 revealed the presence of MYC/NOTCH-activity low and hypoxia high cells amongst
901 various other cancer relevant cell types. Recent studies have shown that cancer cells
902 can enter a MYC-low diapause-like state of dormancy upon chemotherapy treatment
903 and result in therapy escape (78,79). Furthermore, single cell analysis from TNBC
904 tumors with residual disease after chemotherapy treatment showed an enrichment of
905 hypoxia, angiogenesis, EMT and ECM degradation related genes in the persistent
906 tumors (80). We hypothesize that in PDOs with these expression signatures, the cells
907 that exhibit a MYC-low/hypoxia-high profile are the likely candidates for chemotherapy
908 escape (Fig 7F). Additionally, fate mapping and other studies have shown that tumor
909 cells exposed to hypoxia have a higher tendency to result in metastasis (81,82). It
910 remains to be tested to what extent these MYC-low/hypoxia-high cells contribute
911 towards metastasis and/or chemotherapy resistance, and these patient-derived
912 organoids will be an invaluable tool to answer these questions.

913 In summary, we developed a diverse biobank of BC organoids with a focus on
914 TNBC-derived organoids. We have thoroughly characterized these models as valid
915 systems that mimic the various aspects of patients' tumors, including genomic
916 alternations, transcriptomic signatures, cell type specificity and morphological
917 characteristics. Comparison of TNBC and normal-derived organoids provides important
918 insights into the mechanisms regulating tumorigenesis that can then be validated by
919 perturbation in normal PDOs (21). This comparison can also be used to identify novel

920 tumor specific targets that may play an important role in tumor growth and progression
921 (83). These next generation cancer models and the data derived from them offer vast
922 utilities and can be used for drug-screens, co-culture experiments, metabolomics, and
923 fate mapping studies to better understand the mechanisms driving cancers and for
924 identifying more specific treatment options.

925

926 **Acknowledgements**

927 We would like to thank members of the Spector lab for critical discussions and
928 advice throughout the course of this study. We thank Bodu Liu for critical review of this
929 manuscript. We also thank the various members of NCI-Human Cancer Model Initiative
930 (HCMI) for general advice and inputs on organoid cultures. We acknowledge the CSHL
931 Cancer Center Shared Resources (Animal, Flow Cytometry, Histology, Microscopy,
932 Organoid, Next-Gen Sequencing, and Single Cell Biology) for services and technical
933 expertise (NCI 2P3OCA45508). The sequencing analysis was performed using
934 equipment purchased through NIH grant S10OD028632-01. We thank Dr. Zihua Wang
935 for advice and a protocol for SMASH library preparation, Dr. Qing Gao for assistance
936 with histological sample preparation and optimization, Jill Habel for assistance with
937 mouse experiments. We are grateful for the support of Dr. Tawfiqui Bhuiya (Northwell
938 Health) for tumor tissue sections and regret his untimely passing. We deeply appreciate
939 the efforts of the Northwell Health Biobanking team for sample acquisition and the
940 patients and their families who donated tissues for research. This research was
941 supported by CSHL/Northwell Health support (D.L.S.), NCI 5P01CA013106-Project 3
942 (D.L.S.), Leidos Biomedical HHSN26100008 (D.A.T, D.L.S), and the Manhasset

- 943 Women's Coalition Against Breast Cancer (S.B.). This research was also supported by
944 NCI Breast SPORE program P50-CA58223 (C.M.P), and U01CA238475-01 (C.M.P).

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Figure Legends:

Figure 1. Establishment and somatic variant profiling of the breast cancer organoid biobank. A.) Summary of cancer type of the various tumor tissues that were used to generate organoids. IDC: Invasive ductal carcinoma, ILC: Invasive lobular carcinoma, Met-Lym: lymph node metastasis, IMC: Invasive mucinous carcinoma, NR: no residual tumor seen, DCIS: Ductal carcinoma in-situ, other: see Table S1 **B.)** Histopathological subtypes of the tumor tissues, ER/PR: Estrogen receptor (ER) and/or Progesterone receptor (PR), NA: not assessed **C.)** Age at diagnosis of the various subgroups of patient tumor tissues **D.)** Subtype specific, self-identified racial and ethnic breakdown of the patients represented in this biobank **E.)** Pathogenic single nucleotide variants (SNVs) identified in putative cancer driver genes in patient-derived organoids. **F.)** Proportion of organoids with pathogenic SNVs identified. Pathogenic SNVs: SNVs called pathogenic by ClinVar, COSMIC or REVEL and MCAP scores from targeted gene-panel sequence (49 samples) or whole exome sequencing (1 sample) (see Table S1), limited cultures: cultures where organoids were established at early passages (p0-p1) but could not be propagated, NA: not assessed

Figure 2. Copy number alterations (CNAs) enriched in the organoid models. A.) Copy number profiles, from IGV, of the various ER+ and ER- tumor derived organoids, along with the summary of overall copy number alterations across all samples. Side panel shows the pathogenic SNVs identified in that sample from Fig 1E. **B.)** Copy

number amplifications or deletions identified in putative cancer driver genes (from Fig 1E). **C.)** Copy number across different passages of three different sets of patient-derived organoids. **D.)** Magnified view of the chromosome regions in the red boxes in C.

Figure 3. A subset of TNBC organoids recapitulate signatures of aggressive basal-like breast cancers. A.) Molecular signatures associated with the different organoid lines. The sample legends are type: Normal= reductive mammaplasty derived normal organoids, Paired Normal= Adjacent or Distal to the tumor paired normal, Normal outgrowth= no pathogenic mutations were found, Luminal= ER/PR+ organoids; driver mutation: Other= trace mutations (see Fig 1E), None= no pathogenic mutations were found, NA= not assessed **B.)** Box-plots showing the breast cancer related and TNBC-specific scores for various gene signatures associated with poor outcomes. Each dot represents a different PDO; Luminal N=12, Normal N= 7, TNBC N= 19, TNBC met= 4. Differences in experimental groups were compared using Kruskal-Wallis test followed by pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon rank-sum test. Bonferroni-Holm method was used to adjust the family-wise error (** adjusted p-value < 0.005, * adjusted p-value < 0.05) **C.)** Light microscopy images of the various TNBC- and normal (NM04N) derived organoid lines, along with Ki67-IHC, scale bars=100 μ m **D.)** Distribution of maximum passage numbers tested for the various TNBC PDOs. Long-term cultures (long) are defined by p>10 with continued expansion

Figure 4. TNBC Organoids can recapitulate tumor morphology and progression *in-vivo*. A.) Overview of PDO xenotransplant experiment using TNBC PDOs. **B.)** Box

plots showing the end point tumor volume for the various organoid lines transplanted into the fat-pads of NOD-SCID mice. Each dot represents tumor volume from one injection, N1= experiment 1, N2= experiment 2. ## For NH84T microscopic primary tumors observed in histology sections from 1/10 sites. ** For NH93T microscopic primary tumors observed in histology sections from 6/10 sites. TMN staging: pathologic TMN staging from patient pathology report (Table S1) **C.)** CNV profiles of the PDOs lines selected for *in vivo* transplant experiments **D.)** H&E images of the paired patient tumor tissue, TNBC patient-derived organoids (PDO) and xenografts generated from patient-derived organoids (PDO-X). S= Stroma, T= tumor, N=necrosis. Black arrows point to the cells with spinous connections with adjacent tumor cells. Yellow arrows point to the pseudo-lumen observed within AdCC-like breast cancers. Last column shows human mitochondria IHC in the lung and the liver from a representative mouse injected with the respective PDO (scale bar=100µm).

Figure 5. TNBC organoids are enriched in luminal progenitor-like cells. A.) Representative flow-cytometry plots for normal derived organoid (NM07NL) and various TNBC organoids stained for CD49f-PE on the x-axis and EPCAM-AF647 on the y-axis. The gates are subsets of live single cells within each organoid line and represent various cell types of the mammary epithelium. L=EPCAM-high mature luminal cells, LP=EPCAM+CD49f+ luminal progenitors, B= CD49f+ basal cells, S= stromal compartment. **B.)** Quantitation of the L, LP and B gates in panel B for multiple TNBC and normal organoid lines over multiple passages (see Table S7). Data-points are plotted as mean \pm SEM using GraphPad Prism. NM0s: comprises multiple normal mammary derived

organoids from different patients **C.)** Flux of the epithelial cells during the early passages of organoid derivation for normal distal (DS97ND) and TNBC tumor (DS97T) samples from the same patient **D.)** Copy number plots of the TNBC organoids DS97T over multiple passages **E.)** UMAP plot of batch corrected scRNA-seq data from 3 normal and 7 TNBC organoids. Numbers on the plot represent cluster IDs. **F. & G.)** UMAP plot in A but **F.)** separated by the normal and tumor samples and **G.)** colored by cell cycle. **H.)** UMAP plot in E split by individual tumor and normal samples and showing normalized expression of *EPCAM* and *ITGA6* (gene encoding CD49f) expression patterns in individual cells.

Figure 6. Tumor LP-like cells exhibit altered gene expression and have an upregulation of NOTCH and MYC downstream pathways. **A.)** UMAP plots for Integrated scRNA-seq data for all samples. The numbers indicate cluster IDs. **B.)** Marker expression of various cell type specific genes in the adult human breast epithelium (52). **C.)** Plots showing combined scores for the three mammary epithelial lineages: LP score: Luminal Progenitor score, Mature Lum score: Mature luminal score, MaSC score: Mammary stem cell score (53). Dashed region indicates LP clusters 2,7 and 11 that were used to perform differential expression analysis between normal and tumor LPs. **D.)** GSEA plots showing enrichment of the differentially expressed genes between normal and tumor LPs. **E.)** Violin plots showing combined expression in clusters 2,7 and 11 of the leading-edge NOTCH signaling genes and BMP2 target genes as identified in E. **F.)** Organoid formation from single cells. Significance was assessed by two-way ANOVA ns= not significant, ** pvalue<0.005, * pvalue<0.05

Figure 7. TNBC Organoids are comprised of heterogenous cell populations. A.) UMAP plot of TNBC only integrated scRNA-seq data showing clusters identified and cell cycle phases. **B.)** Distribution of cells in each of the G1 clusters identified per organoid line. **C.)** Dot-plot showing the marker genes for each of the G1 clusters and the associated phenotypic identity of that cell cluster. **D.)** Enrichment scores from GSEA of each of the G1 clusters that showed strong enrichment of some specific pathways or phenotypes. Enrichment score is represented by $-10 \times \text{NES} \times \text{padj.value}$. **E.)** Combined gene set scores for the various phenotypes. Top panel: green= MYC signature, pink= Hypoxia signature. Bottom panel: green= Basal mammary stem cell (SC) signature, pink= Hypoxia signature. White represents positive correlation of the two signatures. **F.)** Schematic (created using BioRender.com) showing the cellular composition and heterogeneity observed in normal vs TNBC PDOs when cultured in matrigel. TNBC PDOs retain the tumor SNV/CNA profiles, are largely comprised of LP-like cells that might have originated from normal LP cells by the hyperactivation of NOTCH/MYC pathways. TNBC PDOs also have cells with signatures of hypoxia which is anti-correlated with NOTCH/MYC and positively associated with basal mammary stem cell signatures.

Figure 1

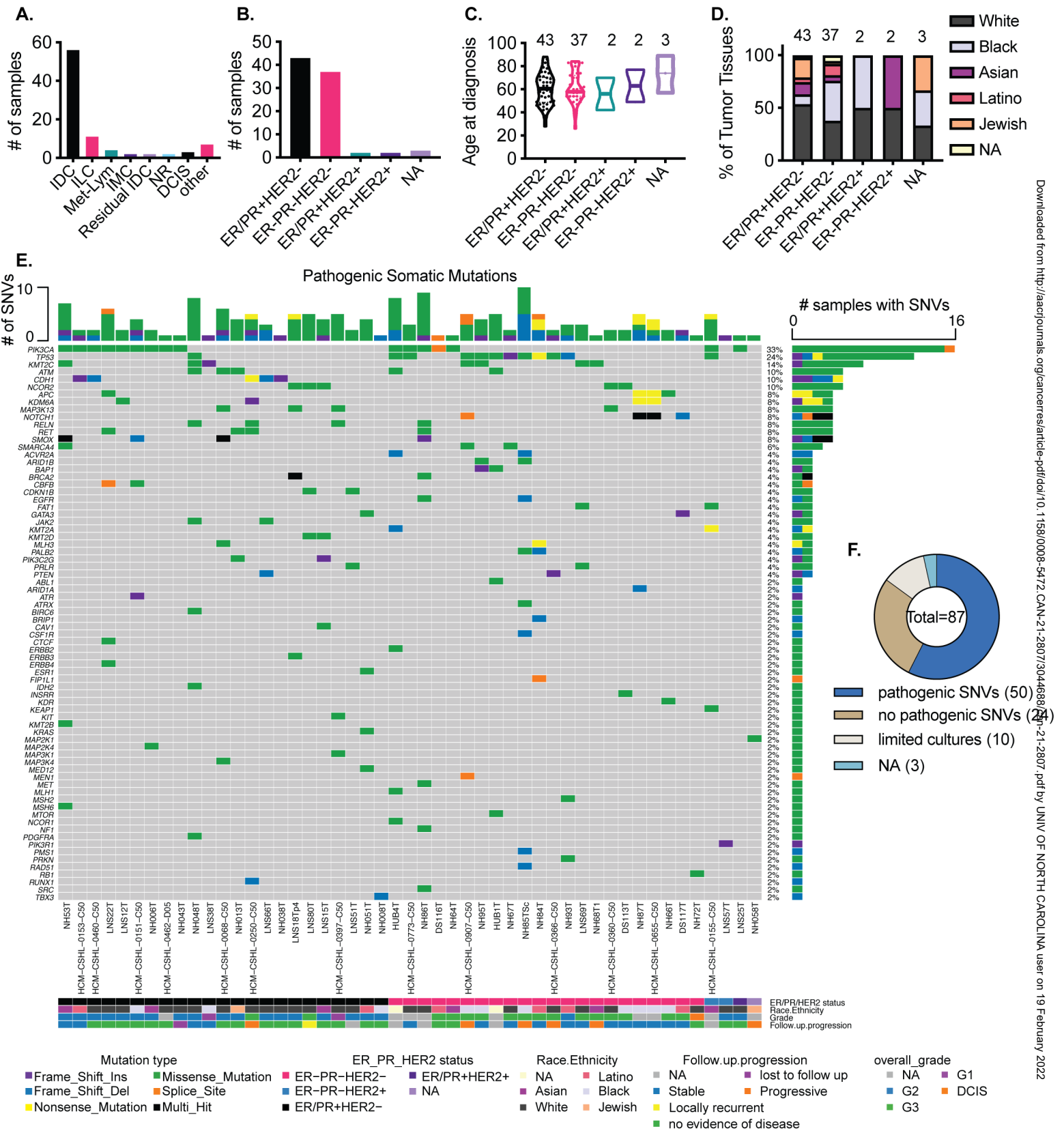


Figure 2

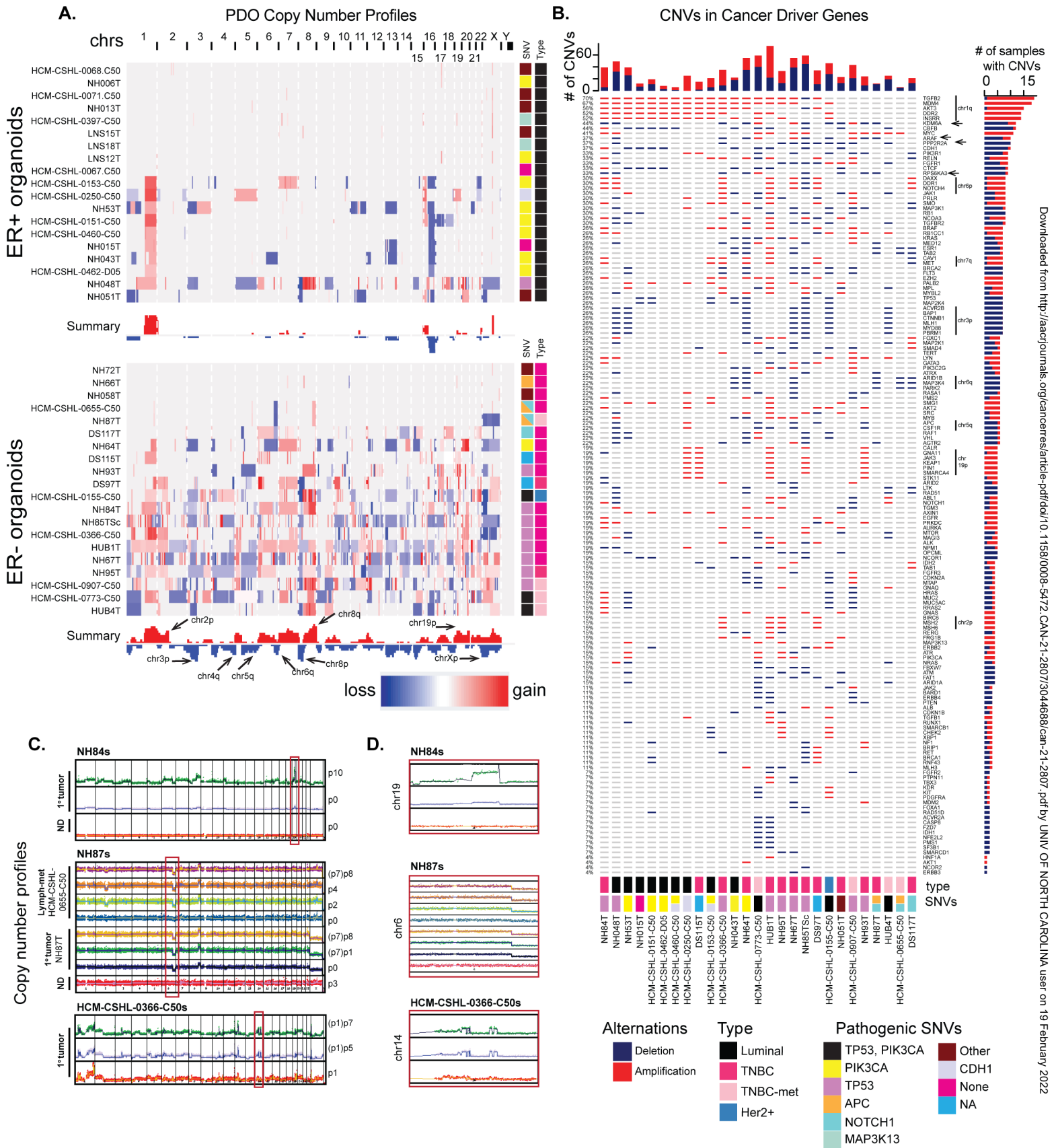


Figure 3

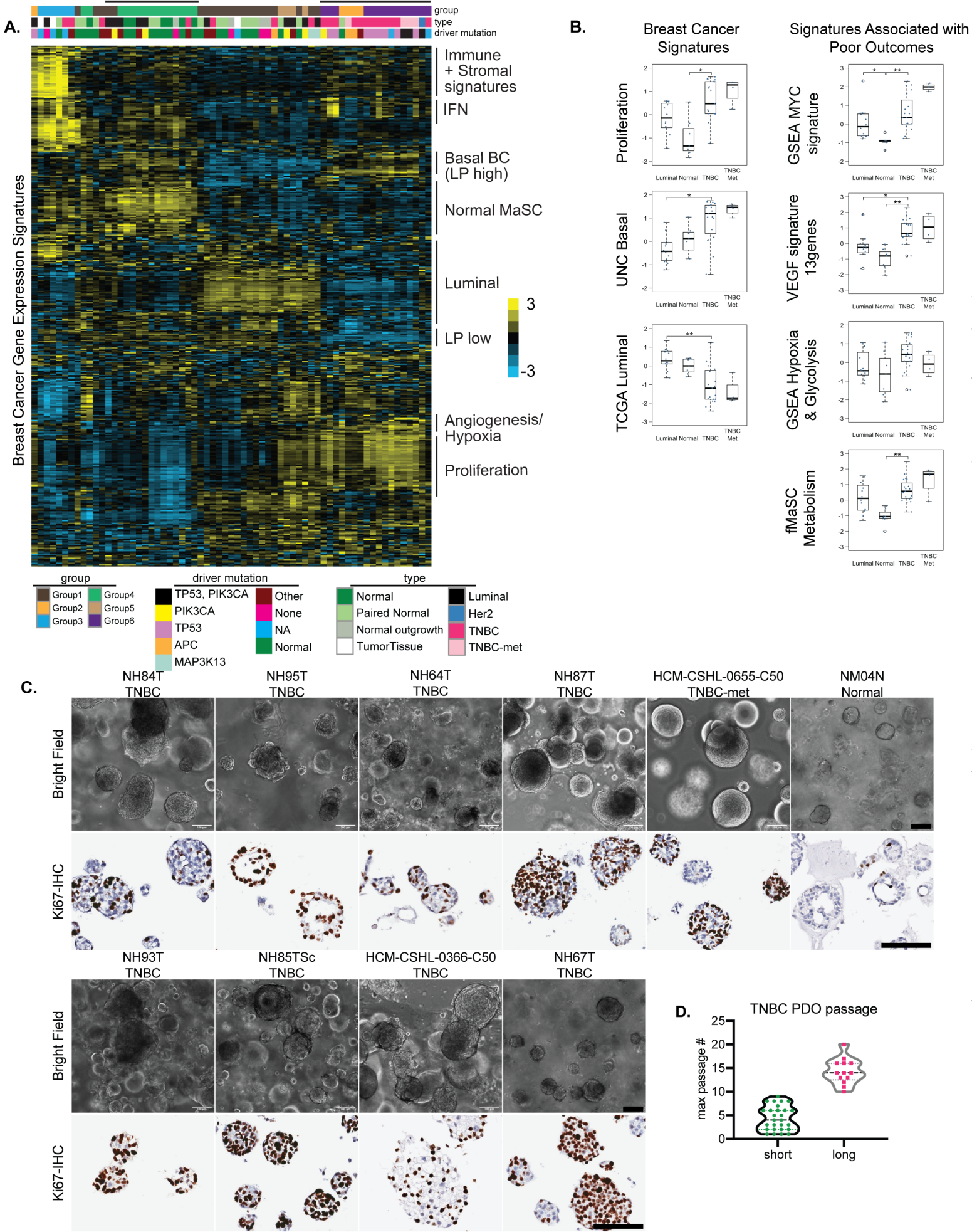


Figure 4

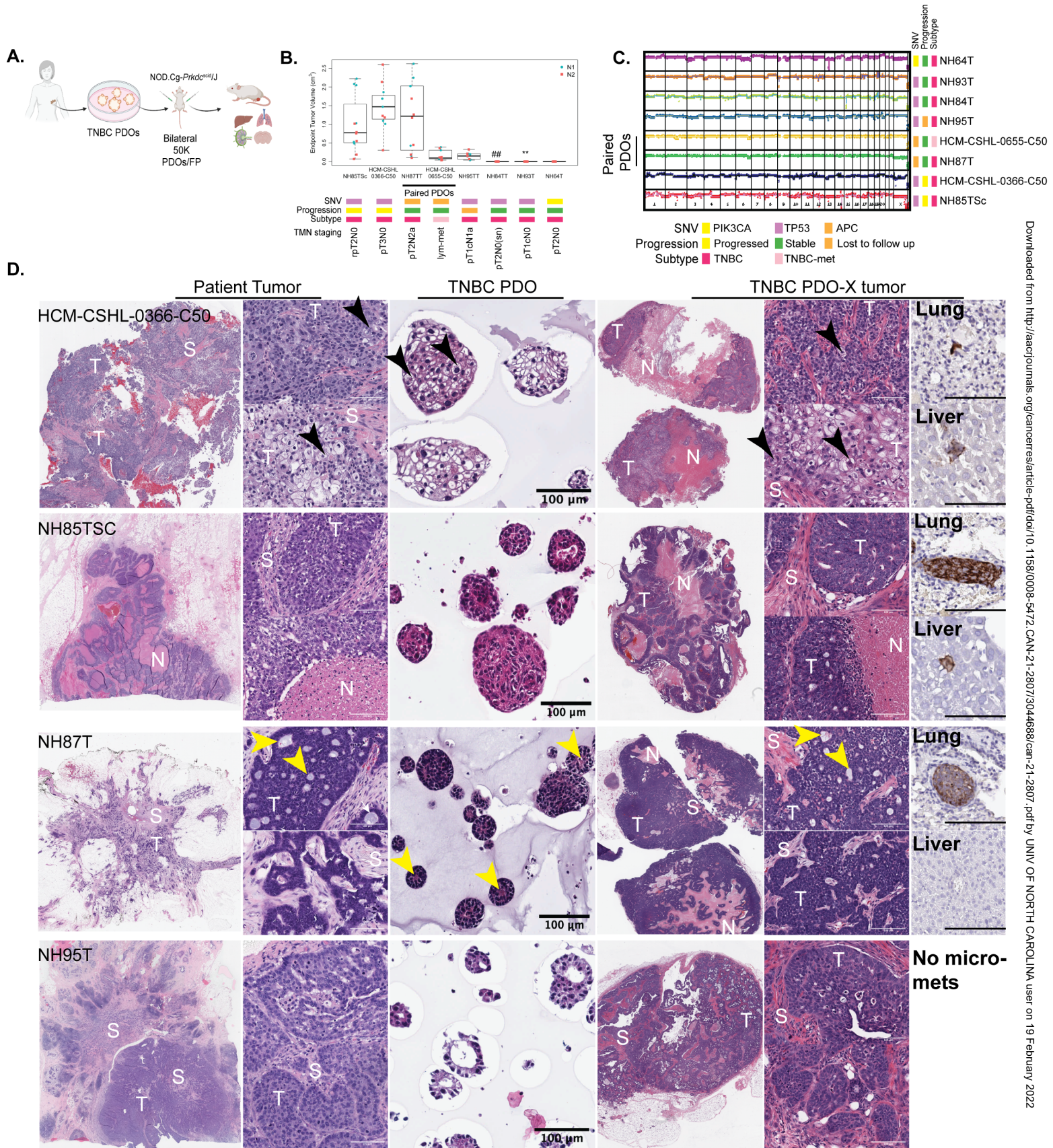


Figure 5

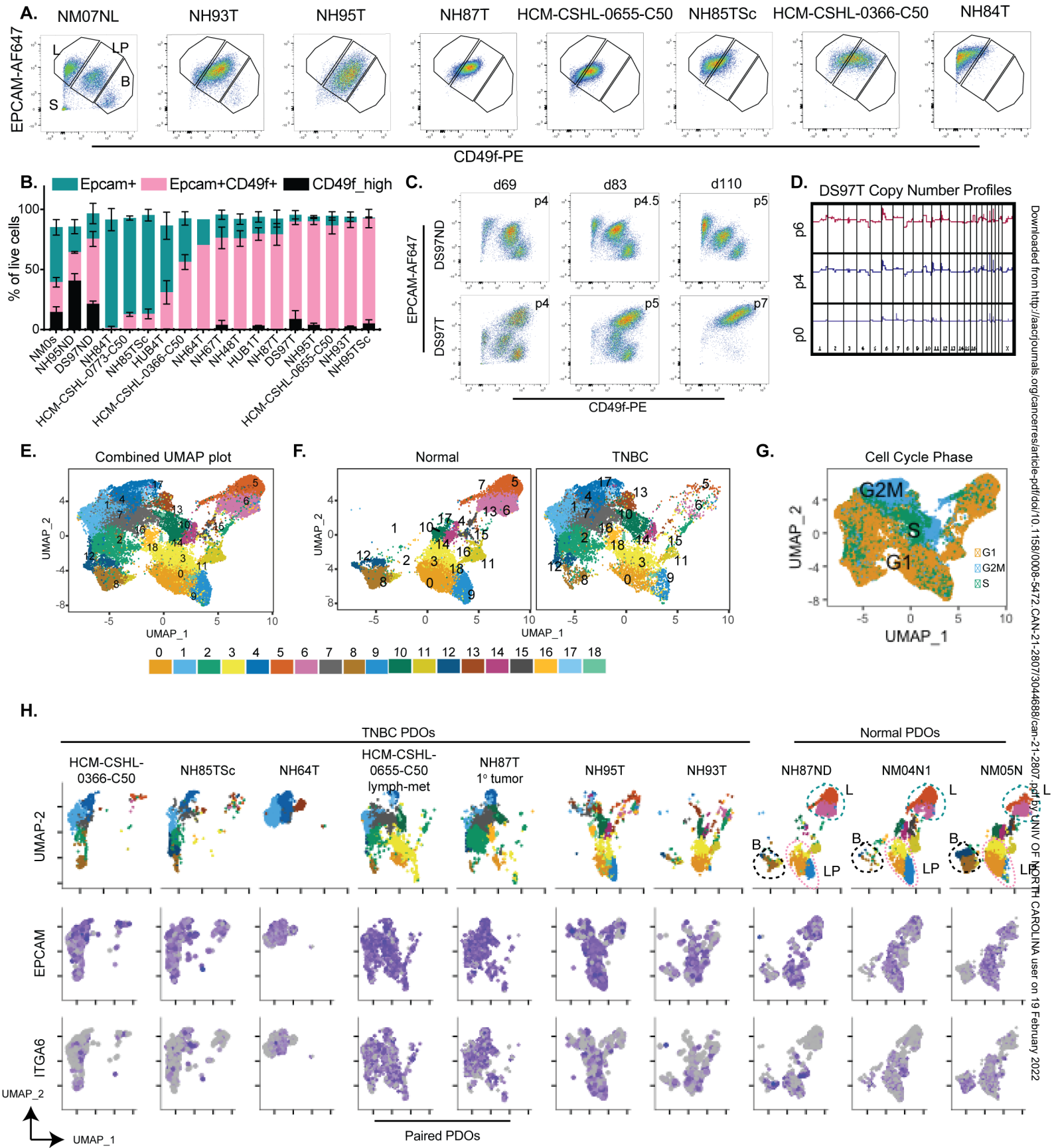


Figure 6

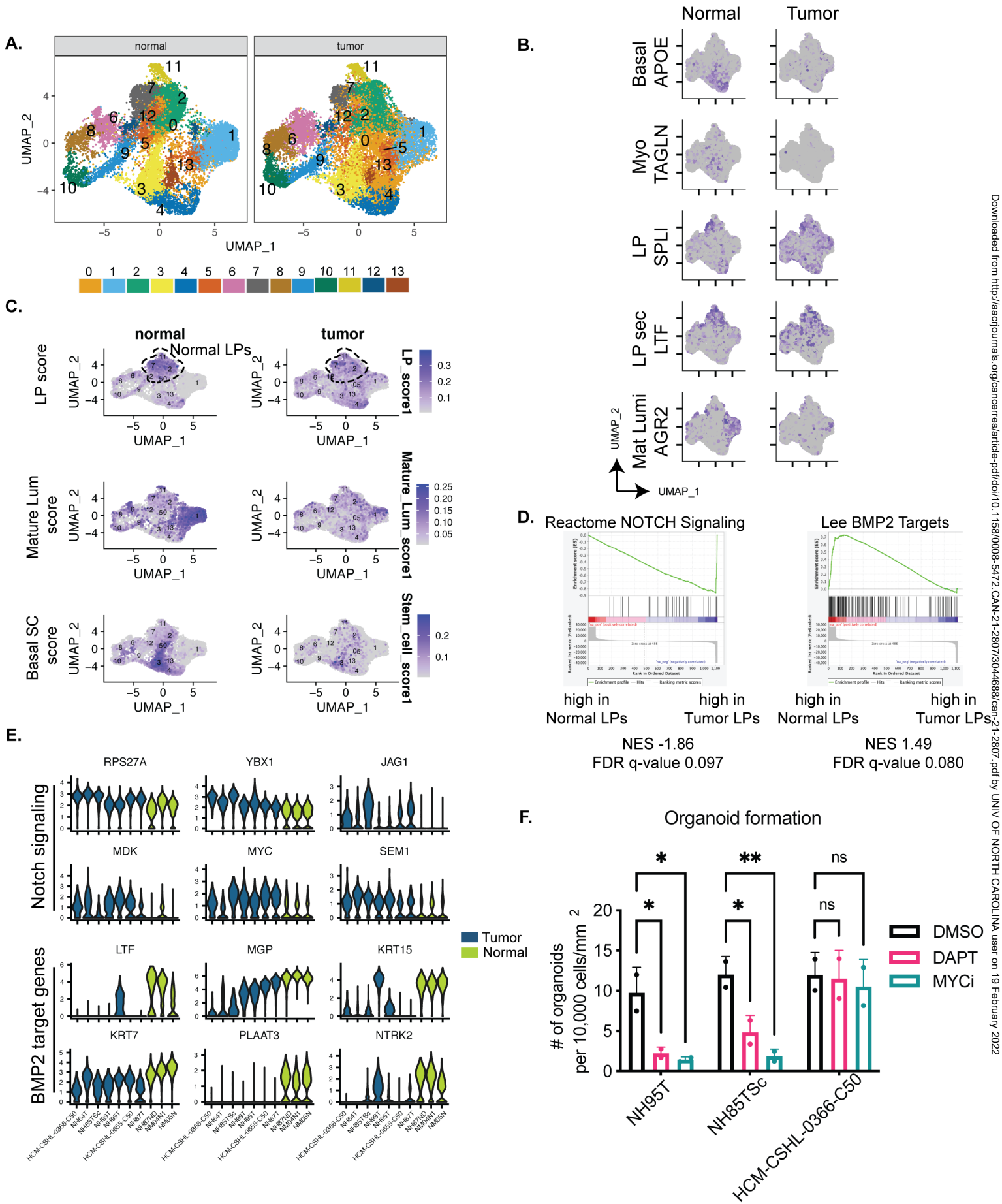


Figure 7

