

Tools for better understanding breast cancer stem cells

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A joint project between the Griffith University and the UQ Centre for clinical Research (UQCCR) has characterised an in vitro model that allows further studies on the breast cancer biology.

These studies include the confirmation that primary tissue obtained from patients with breast cancer behaves similarly to those derived from longterm cultured cell lines.

Griffith University's Associate Professor Alejandro Lopez said the team was working towards making breast cancer stem cells the target of specific cancer therapies, to improve current treatment outcomes.

"We have recently described methods to investigate breast cancer stem cells based on research with established cell lines. We confirm in this publication that the properties found previously, also apply for primary tissues derived from breast cancer," Associate Professor Alejandro Lopez said.

"It is not a given that findings obtained from established cell lines could translate into fresh human tissue. Our results here show that cells from both behave similarly.

"We describe a series of methods that progress our understanding of how <u>breast cancer stem cells</u> behave". The findings advance the definition of tools with which we could more appropriately test potential therapies for advanced cancer."



More information: "Identification of basal- and luminal-like mammospheres from breast cancer cell lines and primary human breast epithelia" *PLOS ONE*: <u>dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0064388</u>

Provided by Griffith University

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