Glycoprotein nmb is exposed on the dormant breast cancer cells and induces stem cell-like properties.

We have identified “cell surface” GPNMB as a novel and potent marker for breast cancer stem cells (CSCs). CSCs are thought to be a root cause of cancer metastasis and relapse. So, we should beat CSCs to eradicate cancer.

3D culture and in vivo (but not 2D culture) conditions can generate heterogeneity.

CSC: cancer stem cell  
EMT-TF: epithelial mesenchymal transition related transcription factor

Reference: Chen et al., Cancer Res. 2018; 78(22):6424-6435. Contact: Drs. Y. Okita & M. Kato