

Supplementary Information

Fendler et al.

Inhibiting WNT and NOTCH in renal cancer stem cells and the implications for human patients

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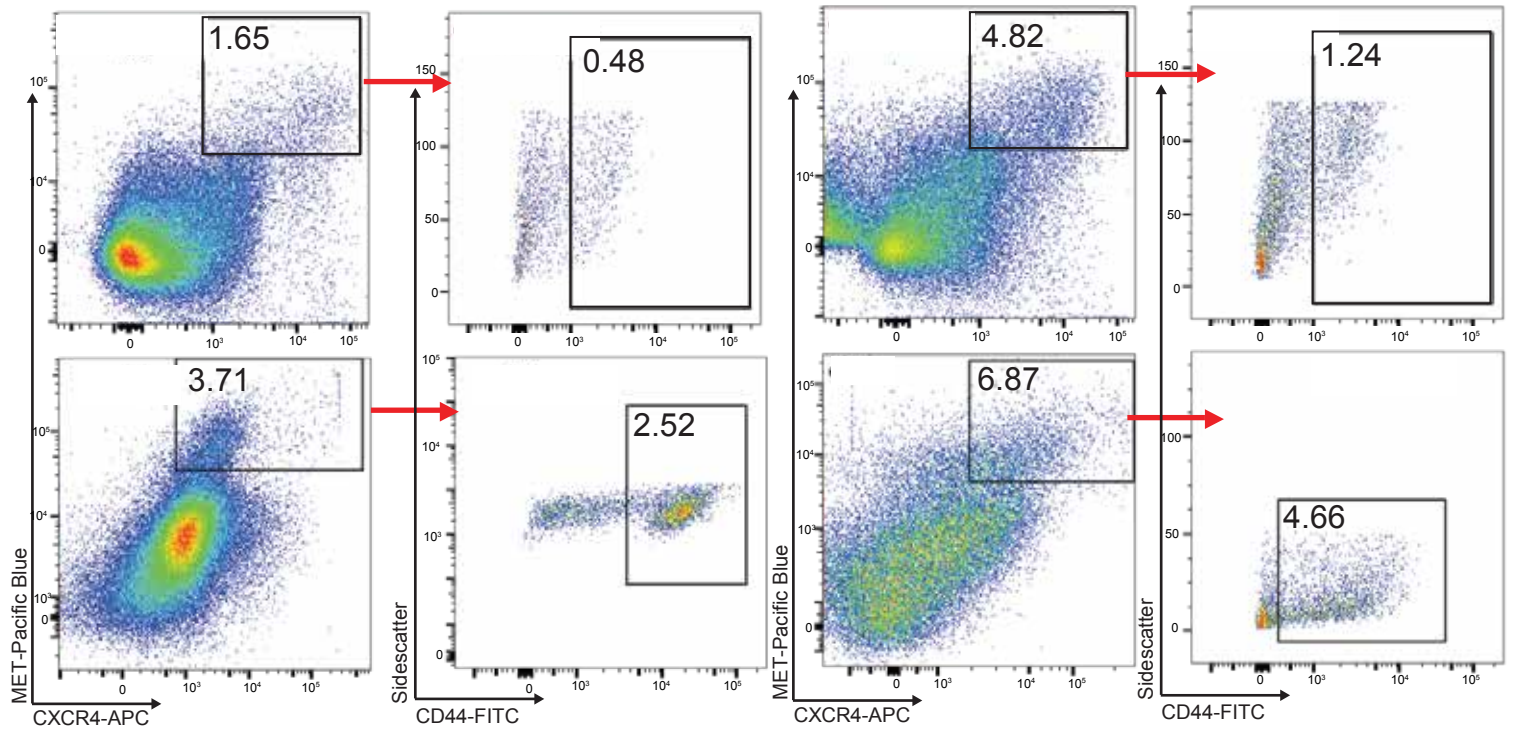
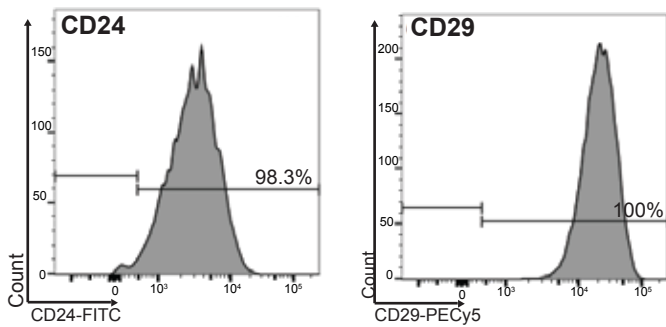
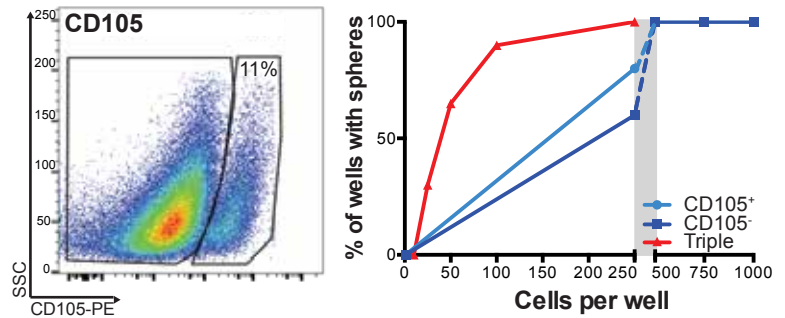
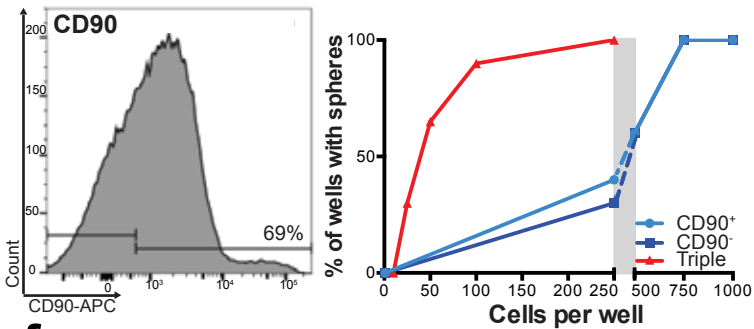
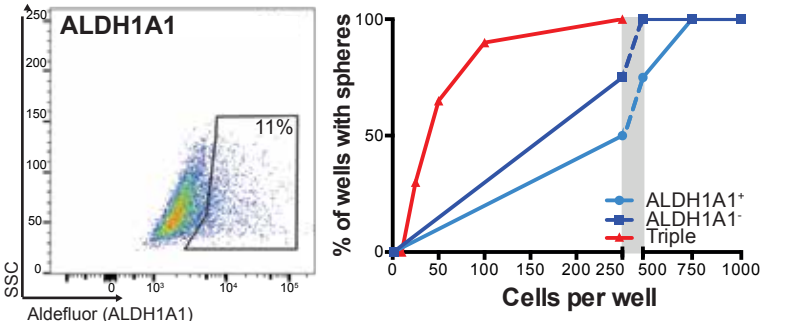
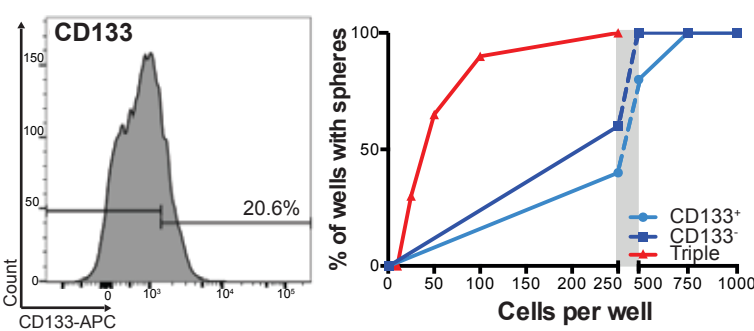
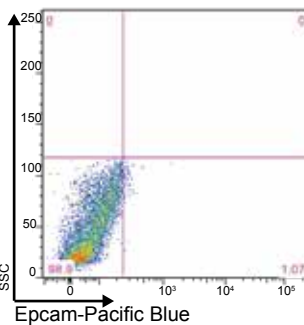
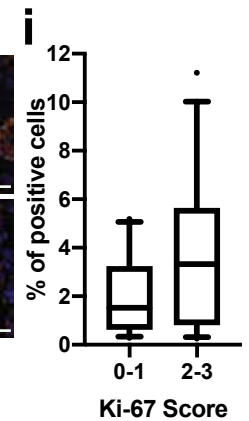
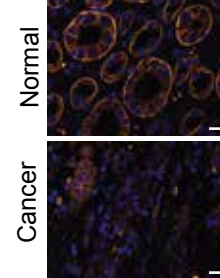
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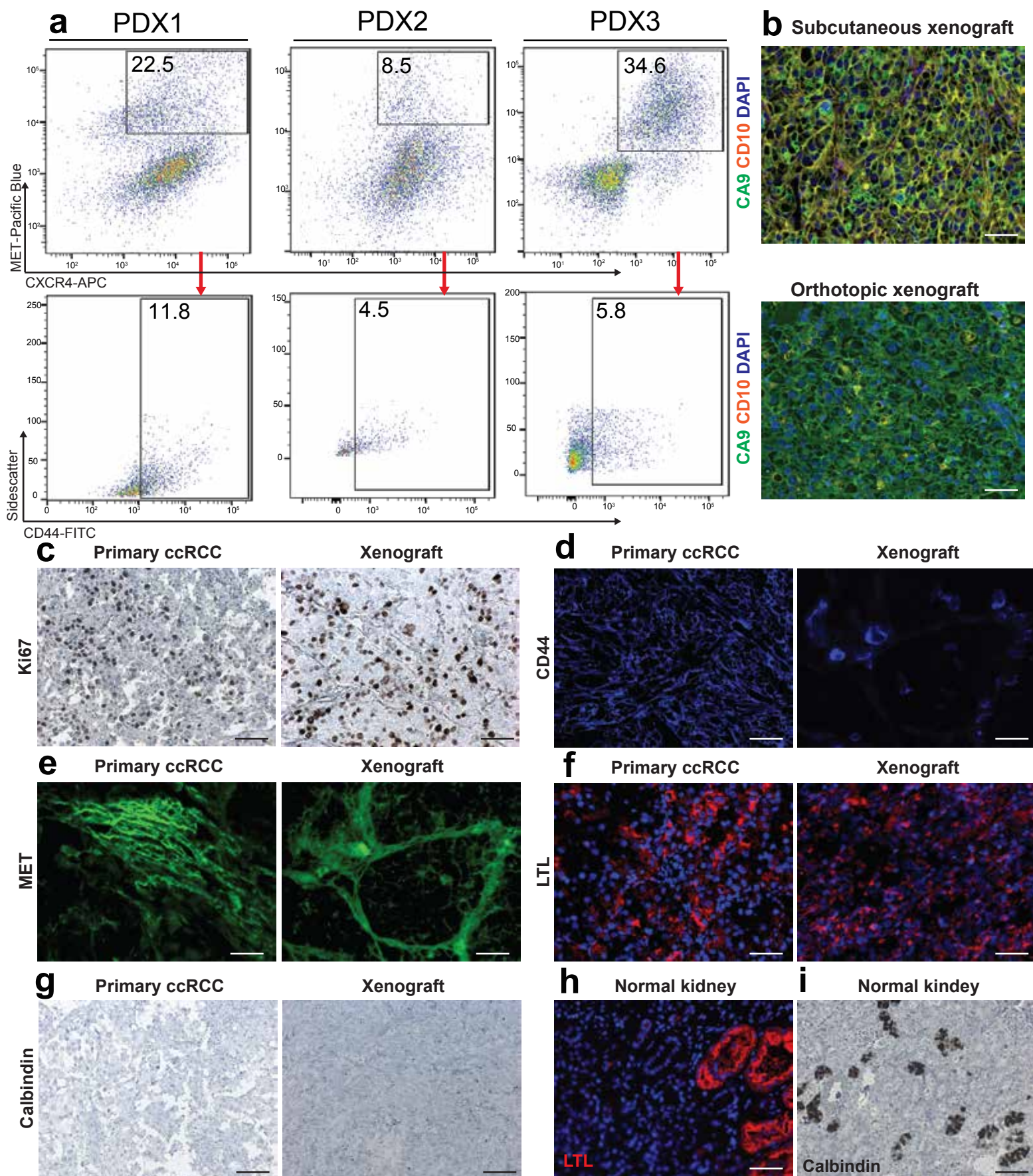
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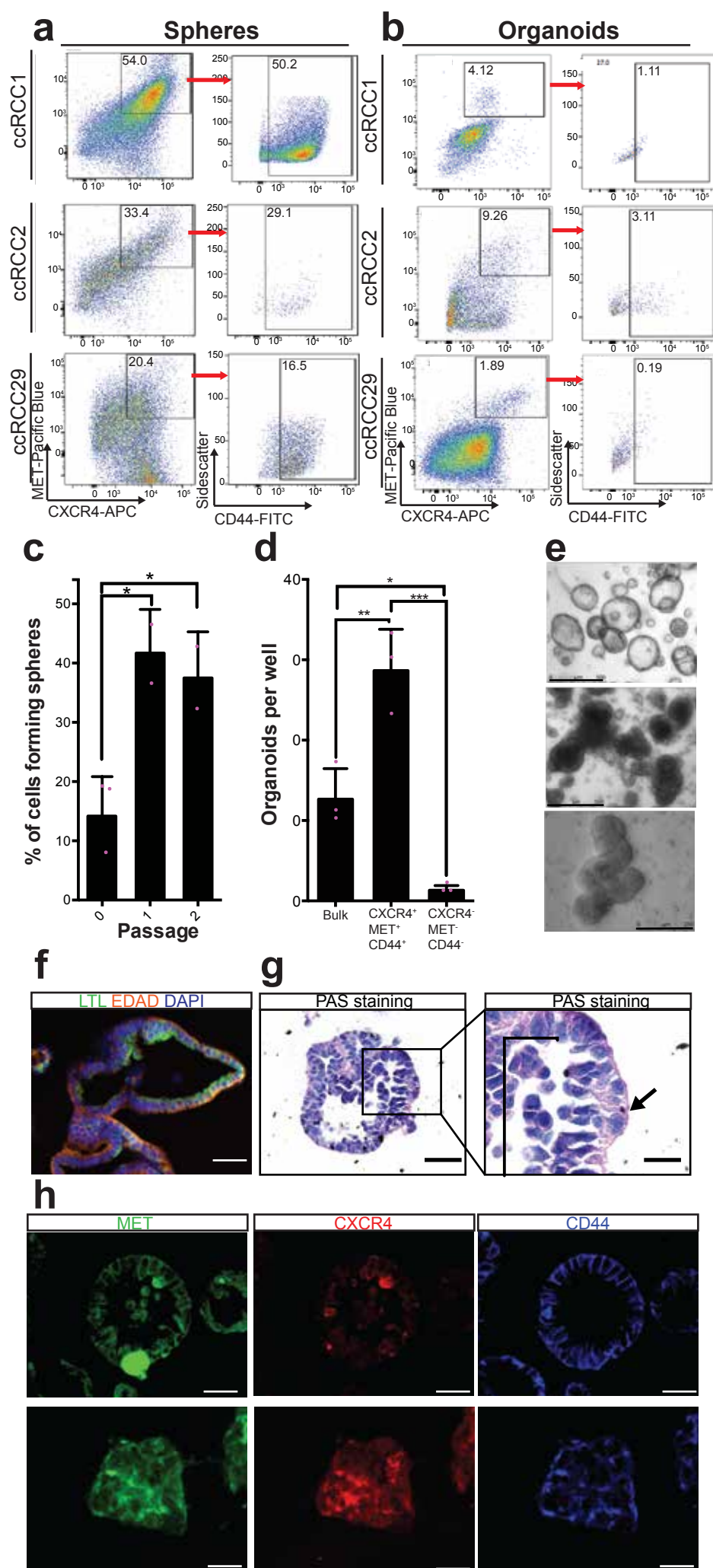
Supplementary Figure 1. Analysis of ccRCC cancer stem cells using the stem cell markers CXCR4, MET, and CD44.

(a) Representative FACS of single cell suspensions of ccRCC cells using the markers CXCR4, MET and CD44. (b-f) Representative FACS and accompanying limiting dilution assays using various other surface markers. Limiting dilution assays were not performed for CD24 and CD29-sorted cells. (g) Representative FACS using the epithelial marker Epcam. (h) Immunofluorescence for Epcam in ccRCC tissue and normal adjacent kidney (scale bars, 25 μ m) Epcam staining was repeated in 5 independent ccRCC tumors. (i) Percentage of CXCR4⁺MET⁺CD44⁺ in ccRCC with low (0-1, n=16) or high (2-3, n=21) Ki-67 scores. Ki-67 was scored from 0 (no positive nuclei) to 3 (all/ almost all nuclei positive). Boxes show the 25, 50 and 75 percentiles, whiskers the 10 and 90 percentiles, outliers are shown as dots.



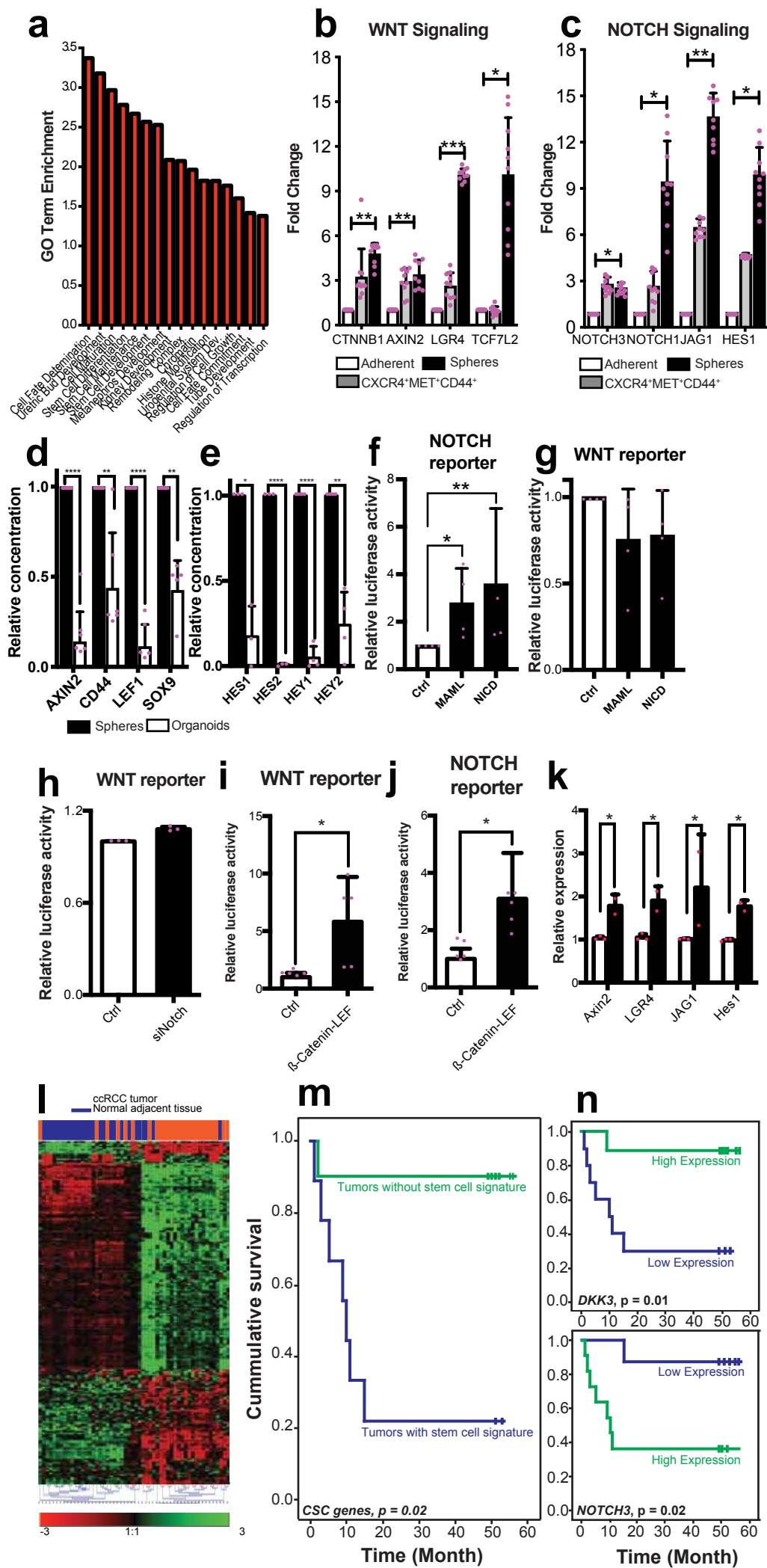
Supplementary Figure 2. Histological examination of xenografts and corresponding primary tumors

(a) Representative FACS of single cell suspensions of subcutaneous xenografts using the markers CXCR4, MET and CD44. Axis label of sidescatter is a multiple of 1000. (b) Representative immunohistochemistry of CA9 and CD10 in subcutaneous xenografts and a corresponding orthotopic xenograft (scale bars, 50 μ m). (c) Representative immunohistochemistry of Ki-67 in ccRCC and a corresponding subcutaneous xenograft (scale bars, 100 μ m). (d) Representative immunofluorescence of CD44 in different ccRCCs (left dedifferentiated solid histology, right nested clear cells) (scale bars, 50 μ m). (e) Representative immunofluorescence of MET in different ccRCCs (left tumor border, right center) (scale bars, 50 μ m). (f) Representative immunofluorescence of LTL in ccRCC and a corresponding subcutaneous xenograft (scale bars, 50 μ m). (g) Representative immunohistochemistry of Calbindin in ccRCC and a corresponding subcutaneous xenograft (scale bars, 100 μ m). (h) Representative stainings of LTL (scale bars, 50 μ m) and Calbindin (scale bars, 100 μ m) in normal adjacent kidney marking proximal tubules (LTL) or distal tubules (Calbindin). All stainings were performed in 3 independent xenografts and in 42 ccRCC specimens.



Supplementary Figure 3. Analysis of ccRCC sphere and organoid cultures.

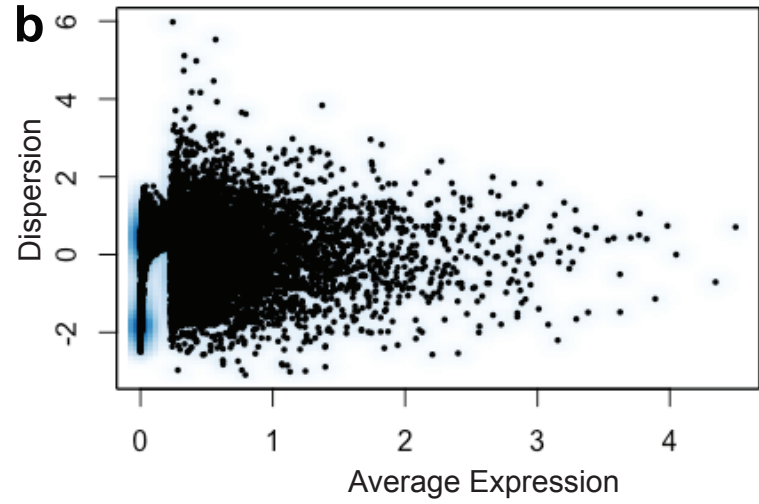
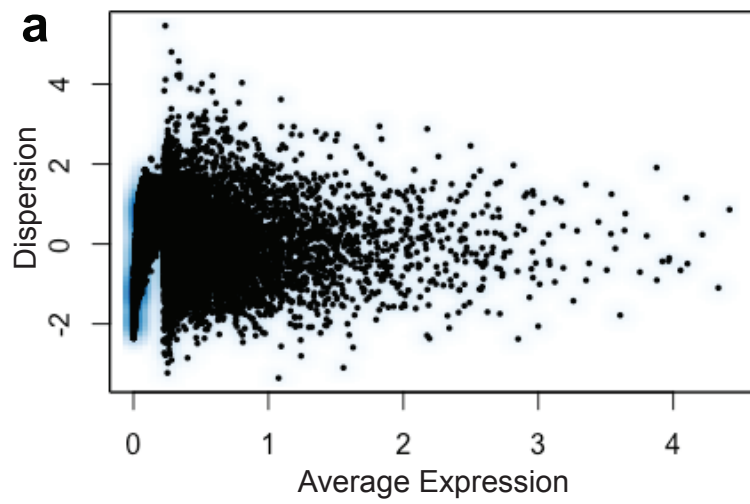
(a, b) Representative FACS images of single cell suspensions of 7 days cultured ccRCC spheres and organoids. Axis label of sidescatter is a multiple of 1000. (c) Sphere cultures were reseeded every 7 days and the numbers of spheres were counted for each passage (n=3 independent patients). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation, p-values: * < 0.05 by one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post test (two-sided). (d) Number of organoids formed after 7 days in culture from control ccRCC, CXCR4⁺MET⁺CD44⁺ or CXCR4⁻MET⁻CD44⁻ cells (n=3 independent patients). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation, p-values: * < 0.05, ** < 0.01, *** < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA with Tukey post test (two-sided). (e) Representative brightfield images of organoids showing different morphologies, scale bars as indicated. Brightfield images were obtained from 15 independent organoid cultures. (f) Representative images of LTL localized to the apical side of an organoid (scale bars, 50 μ m). LTL staining was performed in 10 independent organoid cultures. (g) Representative image of PAS staining for cytoplasmic glycogen, marked by an arrow (scale bars, 50 and 25 μ m). (h) Representative images of MET, CXCR4 and CD44 in organoids (top) and spheres (bottom) (scale bars, 25 μ m).



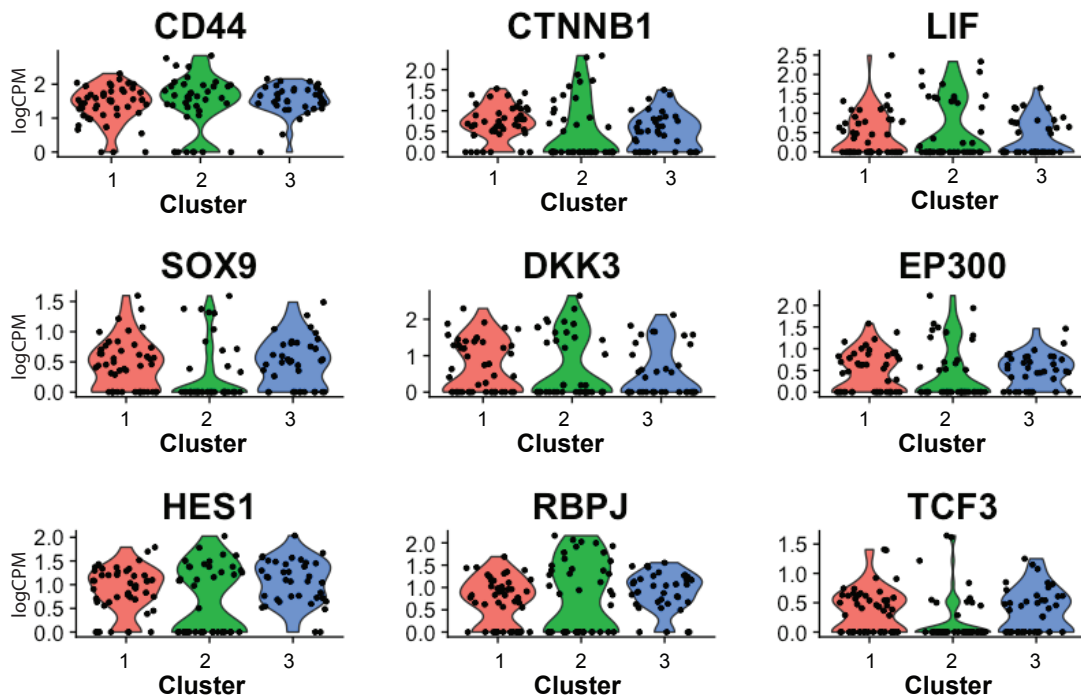
Supplementary Figure 4. Gene expression profiling in CXCR4⁺MET⁺CD44⁺, spheres and ccRCC tumors.

(a) GO term analysis of deregulated genes in CXCR4⁺MET⁺CD44⁺ and sphere cells. (b, c) Expression of WNT and NOTCH pathway genes in control cells, CXCR4⁺MET⁺CD44⁺ cells and spheres derived from ccRCC tumors (n=10). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. p-values: * < 0.05, ** < 0.01, *** < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA (two-sided). (d) Comparative expression analysis of WNT target genes in spheres and organoids (n = 5, matched samples from independent patients). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation, p-values: ** < 0.01, **** < 0.0001 by two-sided t-test. (e) Comparative expression analysis of NOTCH target genes in spheres and organoids (n = 5, matched samples from independent patients). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation, p-values: * < 0.05, ** < 0.01, **** < 0.0001 by two-sided t-test. (f) NOTCH luciferase reporter gene assay in sphere cultures transfected with either a MAML1 or NICD-expressing plasmid (n=4 independent patients). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. p-values: * < 0.05, ** < 0.01 by RM ANOVA with Dunnett's post test (two-sided). (g) WNT luciferase reporter gene assay in sphere cultures transfected with either a MAML1 or NICD-expressing plasmid (n=4 independent patients). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. (h) WNT luciferase reporter gene assay in sphere cultures transfected with siRNA against (n=3 independent patients). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. (i,j,k) WNT or NOTCH luciferase reporter gene assays of sphere cultures (n=5 independent patients) transfected with a plasmid controlling expression of a β -Catenin-LEF1 fusion protein. Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation, p-values: * < 0.05, by two-sided t-test. (l) Heatmap showing the differential expression of the stem cell signature in ccRCC specimens (orange, n=28) and normal adjacent tissue (blue, n=28). (m) Overall survival of ccRCC patients with or without the stem cell signature. Predictor score for each patient was calculated by Cox regression analysis. Patients were stratified into groups according to the median predictor score. (n) Overall survival of ccRCC patients with high (expression \geq median) or low (expression <

median) expression of JAG1, NOTCH3, EP300 and DKK3. Censored patients are presented as vertical lines. Significance was tested by log rank test (two-sided).

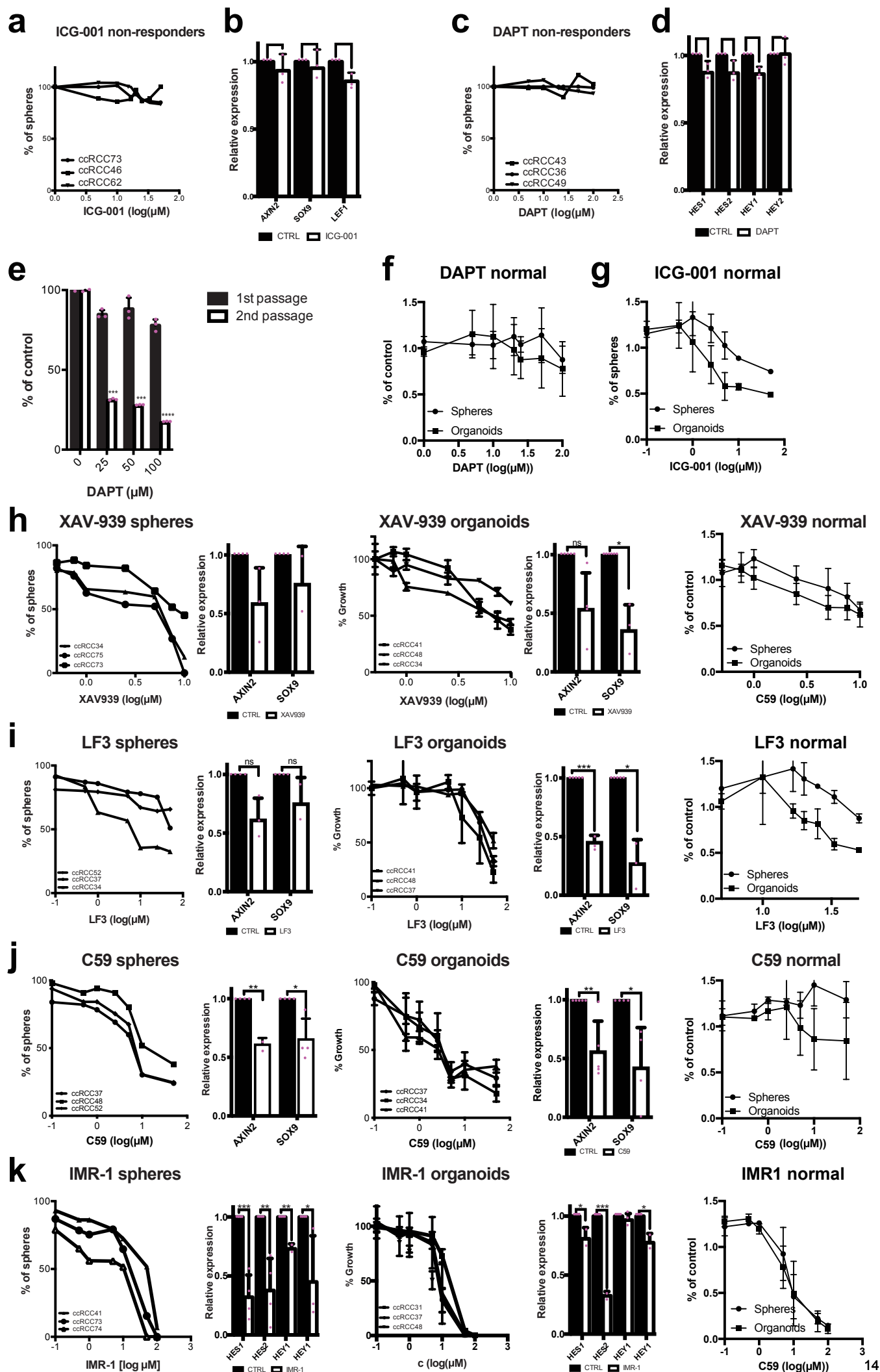


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Supplementary Fig. 5. Single-Cell Sequencing of CXCR4+MET+CD44+ cells.

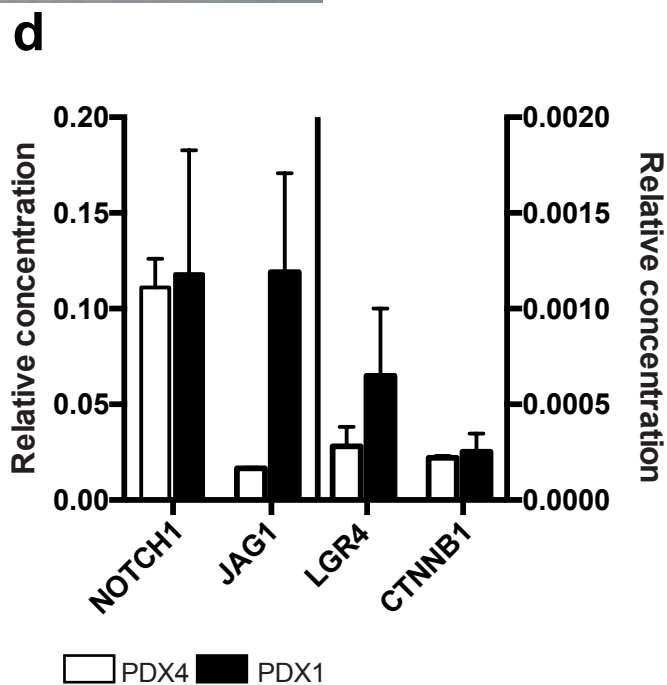
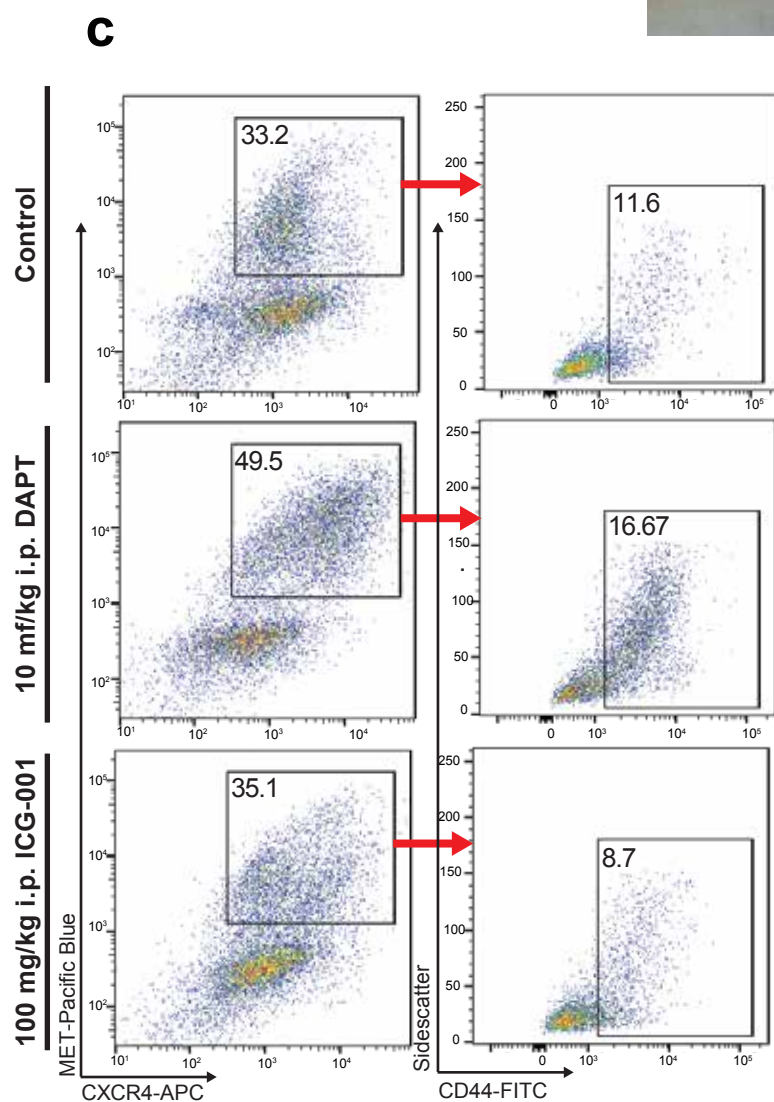
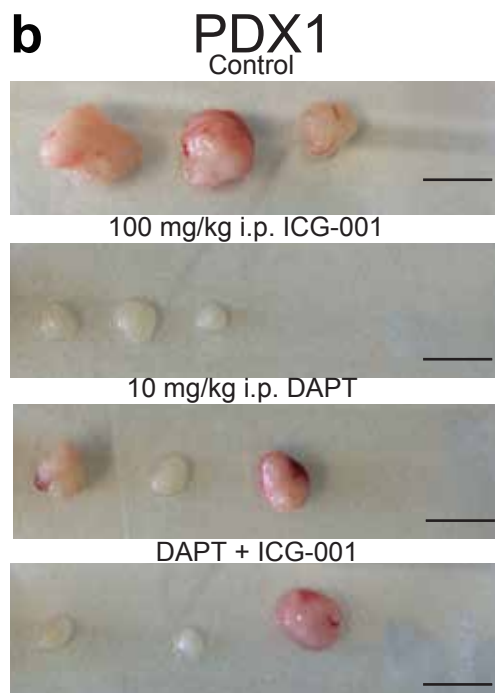
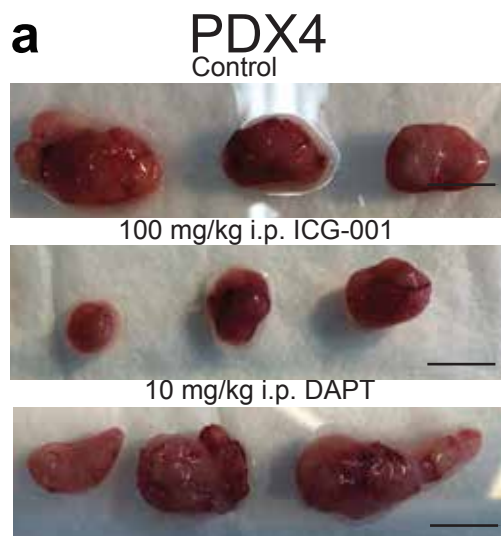
(a, b) Most variable genes in single cells for each patient. (c) Expression of non-variant WNT, NOTCH and stem cell genes in each cluster. Data are shown as scatter plot, violin plot represents data density.



Supplementary Figure 6. Pharmacological inhibition of WNT and NOTCH signaling in ccRCC.

(a) Representative inhibitor treatments of sphere cultures from 3 independent patients not responding to ICG-001. Sphere cultures were treated with 5 to 50 μ M ICG-001 (b) Non-responders were treated with 20 μ M ICG-001 (n=4 independent patients). Expression of target genes was measured by RT-qPCR. Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. (c) Representative inhibitor treatments of sphere cultures from 3 independent patients not responding to DAPT. Sphere cultures were treated with 1 to 100 μ M DAPT. (d) Non-responders were treated with 20 μ M DAPT (n=4 independent patients). Expression of target genes was measured by RT-qPCR. Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. (e) Organoids were treated with 0 to 100 μ M DAPT for seven days. Cultures were reseeded and cultured with the same DAPT concentration for seven days (n=3 independent patients). Metabolic activity was measured by CellTiterGlo assay and normalized to vehicle treated controls. Data shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. (f,g) Normal kidney sphere cultures were treated with 5 to 50 μ M ICG-001 or 1 to 100 μ M DAPT for 7 days, and spheres $< 25 \mu$ M were counted (n=5 independent patients). Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. p-values: *** < 0.001 , **** < 0.0001 by two-sided t-test. (h) Sphere and organoid cultures from ccRCC or normal kidney organoids (n=5 independent patients) were treated with 0.5 to 10 μ M XAV-939, or treated with 7.5 μ M XAV-939 (n=5 independent patients) for 24 hrs and the expression of target genes was measured by RT-qPCR. Data of ccRCC sphere and organoids are from single patients. Data of normal kidney organoids and RT-PCR data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. p-values: * < 0.05 by two-sided t-test. (i) Sphere and organoid cultures from ccRCC or normal kidney organoids (n=5 independent patients) were treated with 0.1 to 100 μ M LF3, or treated with 25 μ M LF3 (n=5 independent patients) for 24 hrs and the expression of target genes was measured by RT-qPCR. Data of ccRCC sphere and organoids are from single patients. Data of normal kidney organoids and RT-PCR data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. p-values: * < 0.05 , *** < 0.0001 by two-sided t-test. (j) Sphere

and organoid cultures from ccRCC or normal kidney organoids (n=5 independent patients) were treated with 0.1 to 100 μ M C59, or treated with 25 μ M C59 (n=5 independent patients) for 24 hrs and the expression of target genes was measured by RT-qPCR. Data of ccRCC sphere and organoids are from single patients. Data of normal kidney organoids and RT-PCR data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. p-values: * < 0.05, ** < 0.001 by two-sided t-test. (k) Sphere and organoid cultures from ccRCC or normal kidney organoids (n=5 independent patients) were treated with 0.1 to 100 μ M IMR-1, or treated with 15 μ M IMR-1 (n=5 independent patients) for 24 hrs and the expression of target genes was measured by RT-qPCR. Data of ccRCC sphere and organoids are from single patients. Data of normal kidney organoids and RT-PCR data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation. p-values: * < 0.05, ** < 0.001, *** < 0.001 by two-sided t-test.

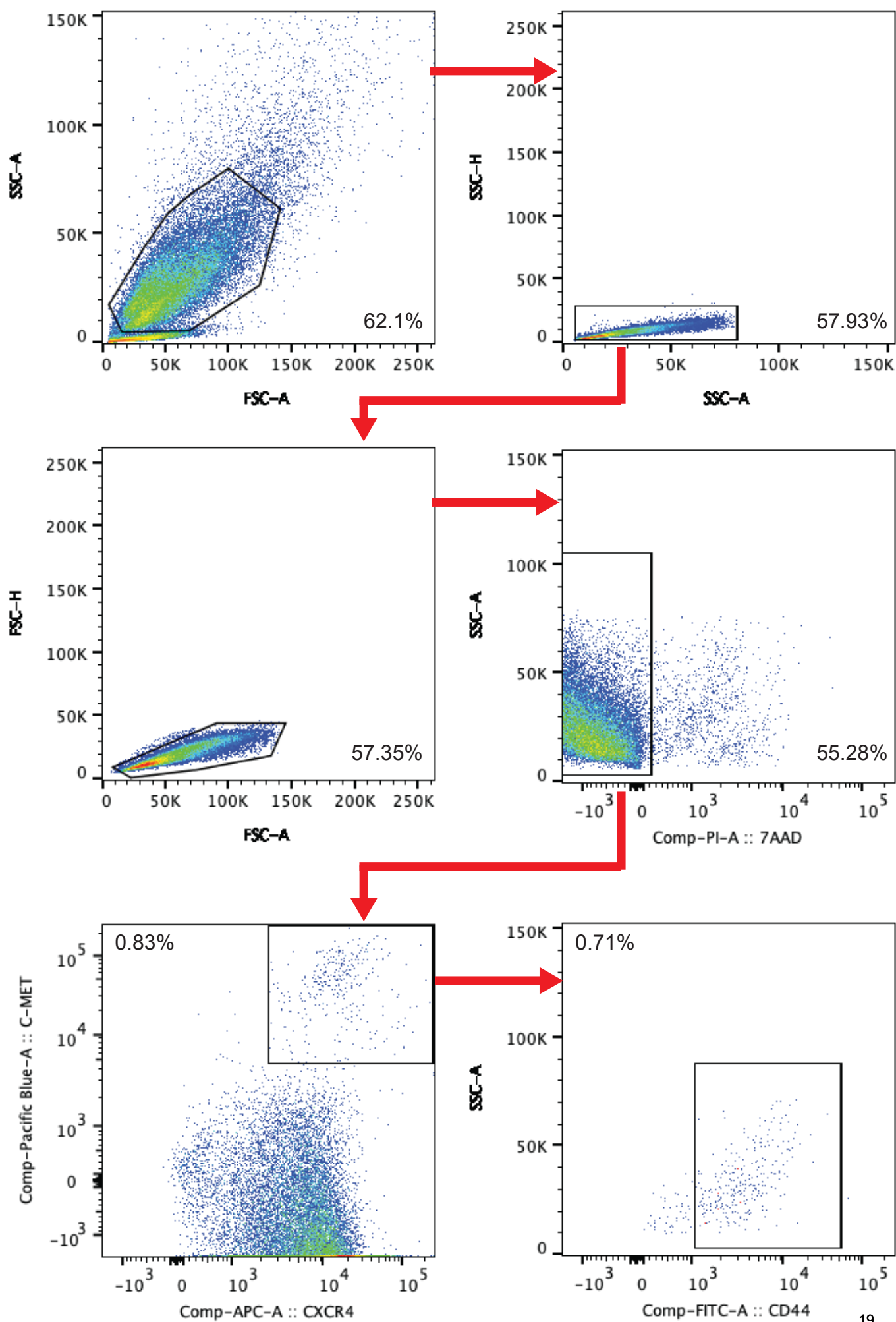


e

| | ICG-001 | DAPT |
|---------|---------|------|
| PDX4 | + | - |
| ccRCC32 | + | - |
| PDX1 | + | + |
| ccRCC71 | + | + |

Supplementary Figure 7. Inhibition of WNT and NOTCH signaling in patient-derived ccRCC xenografts.

(a, b) Size of subcutaneous tumors after treatment with 100 mg/kg ICG-001, 10 mg/kg DAPT, combinations, or vehicle for 19 days (PDX4) or 23 days (PDX1) (scale bars, 1 cm). (c) FACS of subcutaneous tumors using the markers CXCR4, MET and CD44 after treatment with 100 mg/kg ICG-001, 10 mg/kg DAPT, combinations, or vehicle for 19 days (PDX4). Axis label of sidescatter is a multiple of 1000. (d) Comparative gene expression analysis of NOTCH1, JAG1 and CTNNB1 (left y-axis) and LGR4 (right y-axis) in PDX1 and PDX4 tumors without treatment. Data are shown as mean, error bars represent standard deviation from 3 technical replicates of each PDX. (e) Comparison of treatment response in CSC and xenografts from the same ccRCC tumor.



Supplementary Figure 8. FACS gating strategy

Single cells were gated by plotting SSC versus FSC and confirmed by gating FSC-A vs FSC-H and SSC-A vs. SSC-H. Viable cells were identified by negative 7AAD staining. CXCR4⁺MET⁺ cells were identified the viable cell population and further split by CD44. SSC, sidescatter, FSC, forwardscatter, A, Area, H, Height.

Supplementary Table 1: Clinical characteristics of ccRCC patients.

| Characteristics | Primary cells | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----|
| | Patients (n=55) | % |
| Age, years | | |
| Median | 63 | |
| Range | 34-85 | |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 35 | 64 |
| Female | 20 | 36 |
| Pathological stage | | |
| pT1 | 16 | 29 |
| pT2 | 6 | 11 |
| pT3 | 33 | 60 |
| pT4 | 0 | 0 |
| Grade | | |
| G1 | 2 | 4 |
| G2 | 32 | 58 |
| G2-3 | 1 | 2 |
| G3 | 18 | 33 |
| G3-4 | 1 | 2 |
| G4 | 1 | 2 |
| Surgical margins | | |
| R0/Rx | 47 | 85 |
| R1 | 8 | 15 |
| Venous invasion | | |
| V0/Vx | 48 | 87 |
| V1 | 5 | 9 |
| V2 | 2 | 4 |
| Lymph invasion | | |
| L0/Lx | 45 | 87 |
| L1 | 7 | 13 |
| Lymph node metastasis | | |
| N0/Nx | 51 | 98 |
| N1 | 4 | 8 |
| N2 | 0 | 0 |
| Metastasis | | |
| M0 | 47 | 85 |
| M1 | 8 | 15 |

Supplementary Table 2: Clinical characteristics of ccRCC patients.

| Characteristics | Microarray | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| | Patients (n=28) | % |
| Age, years | | |
| Median | 65 | |
| Range | 40-78 | |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 19 | 70 |
| Female | 8 | 30 |
| Pathological stage | | |
| pT1 | 12 | 44 |
| pT2 | 1 | 4 |
| pT3 | 13 | 48 |
| pT4 | 1 | 4 |
| Grade | | |
| G1 | 1 | 4 |
| G2 | 19 | 70 |
| G2-3 | 0 | 0 |
| G3 | 7 | 26 |
| G3-4 | 0 | 0 |
| G4 | 0 | 0 |
| Surgical margins | | |
| R0/Rx | 27 | 100 |
| R1 | 0 | 0 |
| Venous invasion | | |
| V0/Vx | 20 | 74 |
| V1 | 6 | 22 |
| V2 | 1 | 4 |
| Lymph invasion | | |
| L0/Lx | 23 | 85 |
| L1 | 4 | 15 |
| Lymph node metastasis | | |
| N0/Nx | 25 | 92 |
| N1 | 1 | 4 |
| N2 | 1 | 4 |
| Metastasis | | |
| M0 | 14 | 52 |
| M1 | 13 | 48 |

Supplementary Table 3: IC50-values of spheres treated with ICG-001 or DAPT.

| Sphere culture | ICG-001 (μM) | DAPT (μM) |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| ccRCC54 | 5.96 | 9.34 |
| ccRCC02 | 6.28 | >100 |
| ccRCC55 | 6.48 | 43.74 |
| ccRCC52 | 6.54 | >100 |
| ccRCC45 | 6.77 | 7.67 |
| ccRCC49 | 7.28 | >100 |
| ccRCC71 | 9.52 | 28.10 |
| ccRCC42 | 9.71 | 9.51 |
| ccRCC38 | 9.85 | 121.30 |
| ccRCC39 | 10.41 | 57.56 |
| ccRCC70 | 10.57 | 42.42 |
| ccRCC37 | 11.09 | 21.97 |
| ccRCC34 | 11.45 | 23.64 |
| ccRCC32 | 12.68 | 88.19 |
| ccRCC76 | 14.22 | 81.25 |
| ccRCC24 | 15.94 | 38.67 |
| ccRCC33 | 16.68 | 90.20 |
| ccRCC77 | 19.23 | >100 |
| ccRCC60 | 19.97 | 4.43 |
| ccRCC27 | 21.46 | >100 |
| ccRCC78 | 21.93 | 75.67 |
| ccRCC21 | 22.94 | >100 |
| ccRCC16 | 23.75 | 9.59 |
| ccRCC41 | 23.88 | 95.42 |
| ccRCC12 | 24.98 | 66.86 |
| ccRCC44 | 25.60 | 20.09 |
| ccRCC50 | 30.00 | 69.24 |
| ccRCC79 | 32.81 | NA |
| ccRCC61 | 32.99 | 48.76 |
| ccRCC68 | 35.33 | >100 |
| ccRCC25 | 35.88 | >100 |
| ccRCC04 | >50 | 11.79 |
| ccRCC30 | >50 | 32.35 |
| ccRCC29 | >50 | 38.62 |
| ccRCC62 | >50 | 65.02 |
| ccRCC26 | >50 | 69.21 |
| ccRCC65 | >50 | 75.55 |
| ccRCC73 | >50 | 75.55 |
| ccRCC57 | >50 | 81.51 |
| ccRCC36 | >50 | 117.10 |
| ccRCC75 | >50 | >100 |
| ccRCC17 | >50 | NA |
| ccRCC74 | NA | 23.60 |
| ccRCC03 | NA | 77.40 |
| ccRCC46 | NA | 91.06 |
| ccRCC18 | NA | >100 |
| ccRCC43 | NA | >100 |
| ccRCC56 | NA | >100 |

Supplementary Table 4. Correlation of IC50 values with pathological stage, Fuhrman Grade or percentage of CXCR4⁺MET⁺CD44⁺.

| | Spearman correlation coefficient | p-value (Spearman correlation) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Correlation with ICG-001 (n=44) | | |
| Pathological stage | 0.04 | 0.83 |
| Fuhrmann Grade | -0.19 | 0.25 |
| % CXCR4 ⁺ /MET ⁺ /CD44 ⁺ | 0.15 | 0.54 |
| Correlation with DAPT (n=44) | | |
| Pathological stage | -0.14 | 0.36 |
| Fuhrmann Grade | 0.24 | 0.12 |
| % CXCR4 ⁺ /MET ⁺ /CD44 ⁺ | 0.20 | 0.67 |

Supplementary Table 5: RT-qPCR primer sequences.

| Target gene | Forward primer sequence | Reverse primer sequence |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| AXIN2 | CTGGCTATGTCTTTGCACCA | CTTCACACTGCGATGCATTT |
| CD44 | GGCTTTCAATAGCACCTTGC | ACACCCCTGTGTTGTTTGCT |
| CTNNB1 | ATTCTTGGCTATTACGACAGACTG | TACTAAAGCTTGGGGTCCACC |
| GAPDH | GAGTCAACGGATTTGGTCGT | TTGATTTTGGAGGGATCTCG |
| HES1 | CGGACATTCTGGAAATGACA | CATTGATCTGGGTCATGCAG |
| HES2 | GCATCAACCAGAGCCTGAG | TCCAGGACGTCTGCCTTCT |
| HEY1 | TGGATCACCTGAAAATGCTG | ATGCGAAACCAGGTCTGAACTC |
| HEY2 | AAGATGCTTCAGGCAACAGG | TACCGCGCAACTTCTGTTAG |
| JAG1 | GAACCCGATCAAGGAAATCA | GAGCTCAGCAAGGGAACAAG |
| LEF1 | CAAGCACAAACCTCTCAGGA | TGGGTGGAGAAAGAGATCCA |
| LGR4 | AACAGTACCCAGTGAAGCCATT | ACCTCCGTCAAGCTGTTGTC |
| NOTCH1 | CACACCAACGTGGTCTTCAA | CGGTTGTCAATCTCCAGGTA |
| NOTCH3 | AGGATGTGGACGAGTGCTCTAT | CAGATACAGGTGAACTGGCCTA |
| SOX9 | CCAACGCCATCTTCAAGG | AAGTCGATAGGGGGCTGTCT |
| TCF7L2 | TCTAACAAAGTGCCAGTGGTG | GGCGATAGTGGGTAATACGG |

Supplementary Table 6: List of antibodies used for FACS, IF, IHC, and MACS

| ID | Antibody | SOURCE | Application | Order-No. and RRID |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Mouse anti-CD44 FITC | BD Biosciences | FACS | 555478, RRID:AB_395870 |
| 2 | Mouse anti-CXCR4 | R&D | FACS | MAB170, RRID: AB_357856 |
| 3 | Rabbit anti-c-Met | Santa Cruz | FACS | Sc-160, RRID: N/A |
| 4 | Mouse anti-CD105 PE | Biolegend | FACS | 323206, RRID:AB_755958 |
| 5 | Streptavidin-APC | Life Technologies | FACS | SA1005 |
| 6 | Goat anti-mouse biotinylated | Sigma Aldrich | FACS | B7022, RRID: AB_258598 |
| 7 | Anti-Rabbit Pacific Blue | Invitrogen | FACS | P-10994, RRID: AB_2539814 |
| 8 | Mouse anti-CD24 FITC | BD Biosciences | FACS | 560992, RRID: AB_10562033 |
| 9 | Mouse anti-CD29 PE-Cy5 | BD Biosciences | FACS | 559882, RRID: AB_397356 |
| 10 | Mouse anti-CD133 biotinylated | Miltenyi Biotec | FACS | 130-098-897, RRID: AB_2660890 |
| 11 | Mouse anti-CD90 APC | BD Biosciences | FACS | 561971, RRID: Ab_10898350 |
| 12 | Mouse anti-E-Cadherin | BD Biosciences | FACS | 610181, RRID: AB_397580 |
| 13 | Anti-Epcam | Abcam | FACS/IF | Ab223582, RRID: AB_2762366 |
| 14 | Rabbit anti-Carbonic anhydrase IX | Abcam | IF | ab128883, RRID: N/A |
| 15 | Mouse anti-CD44 | Cell Signaling Technology | IF | 3570, RRID: AB_2076465 |
| 16 | Rabbit anti-JAG1 | Atlas Antibodies | IF | HPA021555, RRID: AB_1851969 |
| 17 | Rabbit anti-Met | Cell Signaling Technology | IF | 8198, RRID: AB_10858224 |
| 18 | Mouse anti-CD10 | Dako | IF | M7308, RRID: AB_2144424 |
| 19 | Rabbit anti-VCAM1 | Abcam | IF | ab134047, RRID:AB_2721053 |
| 20 | Rabbit anti-Ki-67 | Thermo Fisher | IF/IHC | RM-9106-S, RRID: AB_149792 |
| 21 | Rabbit anti-NOTCH1 | Rockland Inc. | IHC | 100-401-407, RRID: AB_2153490 |
| 22 | Mouse anti-beta-catenin | BD biosciences | IHC | 610153, RRID: AB_397554 |
| 23 | Mouse anti-Calbindin | Sigma Aldrich | IHC | C9848, RRID:AB_2314065 |
| 24 | CD45 Microbeads | Miltenyi Biotec | MACS | 130-045-801 |

FACS, Fluorescence-activated cell sorting, IF, immunofluorescence, IHC, immunohistochemistry, MACS magnetic-activated cell sorting