

This File contains Supplementary Materials and Methods and 8 Supplementary Figures.

Supplementary Material and Methods

Gene expression profiling analyses. TCGA breast cancer transcriptional profiling data previously analyzed in (1) were downloaded from the TCGA website

https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/docs/publications/brca_2012/ (file BRCA.exp.547.med.txt, level 3 data freeze from November 2011). Data were processed on Agilent custom 244K whole genome arrays for 522 tumors, 3 metastatic tumors, and 22 tumor-adjacent normal and provided as median centered on 17,184 genes. Genes with a low dynamic range (estimated by standard deviation < 0.5 and max - min expression across samples < 1.5) were filtered out and the expression data were restricted to the 12,459 reliable genes. Clinical information on estrogen receptor (ER) status and progesteron receptor (PR) status were available in the BRCA_Clinical.tar/nationwidechildrens.org_clinical_patient_public_brca.txt file with several clinical information inconsistencies highlighted in (1). ERBB2 clinical status was assessed as described by integrating immunohistochemistry results with FISH results and copy number calls. Breast cancer intrinsic subtypes were assigned for 514 of the 522 primary tumors based on the PAM50 calls (file BRCA.547.PAM50.SigClust.Subtypes.txt) (1, 2) as Basal (98 samples out of which 82 were triple negative tumors), Her2 (58 samples), Luminal A (231 samples) and Luminal B (127 samples). Amplification status for the chr1q32.1 region harboring IKK ϵ as estimated by GISTIC (3) was available for 498 primary tumors.

The IKK ϵ high/low status for individual tumors was evaluated based on the z-scores of IKK ϵ expression and the absolute cutoff threshold 1. In statistics, the z-score is the (signed) number of standard deviations an observation is above the mean. The z-scores of IKK ϵ expression were

computed by subtracting from the gene expression for each sample the average gene expression across all samples and by dividing the result to the standard deviation of gene expression across samples. High IKK ϵ status was assigned to samples with z-scores above 1.

TNBC subtypes used for unsupervised clustering were identified within the 82 basal TCGA samples with negative ER and negative PR status by applying the ssGSEA method (see below) for six TNBC subtype signatures identified by Lehman et al (4). In their study Lehman et al analyzed gene expression profiles for 587 TNBC samples from 21 breast cancer data sets and identified six TNBC subtypes displaying unique gene expression signatures and ontologies, including 2 basal-like (BL1 and BL2), an immunomodulatory (IM), a mesenchymal (M), a mesenchymal stem-like (MSL), and a luminal androgen receptor (LAR) subtype. The gene signatures consisting of top 300 genes up-regulated and top 300 genes down regulated in each of the six TNBC subtypes versus all others were provided by Supplementary Table S3 in Lehman et al. The B-cell cluster signature reflects lymphocytic infiltration and was derived from Iglesia et al (5). Correlation of IKK ϵ mRNA expression with TP53 mutational status (present or absent) within the TCGA dataset was analyzed by two sample t-test in all tumors and in the TNBC subset. The relationship between IKK ϵ levels and Miller-Payne response to neoadjuvant cisplatin (6) was also measured by t-test comparison of poor (0-2) and good (3-5) responders.

The single sample GSEA (ssGSEA) Method. The ssGSEA method (7) and implemented in GenePattern v3.6.1 (8) provides for each individual tumor sample an enrichment score (ES) with respect to a priori defined gene set signatures. The enrichment score provides evidence for the coordinate up- or down-regulation of a gene set's members within individual samples. In

ssGSEA the genes for each individual sample are ranked based on their expression intensity by applying the RankNormalize method implemented in GenePattern (8). ES is calculated as a running sum statistic by walking down across the ranked list of genes, increasing the sum when encountering genes in the gene set and decreasing it when encountering genes not in the gene set. A positive ES denotes a significant overlap of the signature gene set with groups of genes at the top of the ranked list, while a negative ES denotes a significant overlap of the signature gene set with groups of genes at the bottom of the ranked list.

The IL-1 and IL-6 signatures were derived from the transcriptome profile of cultured human macrophages stimulated for 4 h with interleukin 1 (IL-1) and interleukin 6 (IL-6) (9) derived from the NCBI/Genbank GEO database (series entry GSE8515). The IL-1 signature was defined based on the collection of 127 probe sets strongly activated by IL-1 only (cluster A) along with the collection of 43 probe sets activated by both IL-1 and IL-6 (cluster C) (9). TNF, IFN- γ , and IFN-2 α signatures were generated from stimulated monocytes (10) based on GEO dataset GSE38351. Correlation with IKK ϵ mRNA expression was assessed using the normalized mutual information statistic as described in (11).

The IL-1 high/low status for individual tumors was evaluated based on the z-scores of enrichment with the IL-1 signature and the absolute cutoff threshold 1. ES scores for IL-1 signature enrichment were evaluated for each primary tumor sample by applying the ssGSEA method described above. The z-scores of IL-1 enrichment were then computed by subtracting from the ES value of each sample the average of the ES values across all samples and by

dividing the result to their standard deviation. High IL-1 status was assigned to samples with enrichment z-scores above 1.

Cell Culture. All breast cancer cell lines and 293T cells were obtained from ATCC and cultured in the recommended media for each cell line with supplements as per ATCC guidelines. Immortalized human mammary epithelial cells (HMLE) isogenic for IKK ϵ expression (myristolated-Flag-IKK ϵ or vector control) were cultured as described (12). For suspension culture of triple negative breast cancer cell lines, cells were plated onto ultra low attachment plates (from Corning Costar) for 48 h in their respective medium with or without IL-1 β (25 ng/ml) and CYT387.

3D culture was performed as described using a novel microfluidic device (13). In brief, the device consists of a central gel region surrounded by two channels on either side formed by bonding a coverslip to a patterned polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) substrate. MDA-MB-468 breast cancer cell spheroids obtained following 10-14 d suspension culture were embedded in collagen matrigel in the central gel region. One channel was used to infuse media and the other for stimulation of spheroid dispersal by addition of growth factor (EGF 20 ng/ml) or cytokines (CCL5 and IL-6 each at 20 ng/ml). Cell dispersal was monitored over time by phase-contrast imaging after growth factor/cytokine addition with or without CYT387 treatment. For angiogenesis experiments, HUVECs were seeded in the central channel of the 3 chamber angiogenesis device, surrounded by collagen on either side. Control media was infused through one channel, while 293T cells transfected with IKK ϵ x 24 h were seeded in the opposing channel,

or CCL5/IL-6 (20 ng/ml each) were added directly to media in this channel. HUVEC cell migration was observed into collagen by phase-contrast imaging and distance was quantified after 24 h. For MEK inhibitor experiments, GSK1120212 was added to CCL5/IL-6 at the indicated concentrations.

Inhibitors, Growth Factors/Cytokines, and ELISA. CYT387 and Ruxolitinib were purchased from Shanghai Haoyuan Chemexpress Co. Ltd. EGF (#4127) was from Sigma, IL-1 β (#201-LB), IL-6 (#206-IL), and CCL5 (#278-RN) were obtained from R&D. ELISA kits for IL-6 (D6050) and CCL5 (DRN00B) levels were from R&D and were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Media was collected following transfection of 293T cells with EGFP or IKK ϵ +/- CYT387 (5 μ M) starting 12 h post-transfection, or following stimulation of the TNBC lines with IL-1 β (25 ng/ml) for 24h +/- CYT387 (5 μ M). Proteome ProfilerTM Human Cytokine Array (ARY005) was purchased from R&D and treated with media from 293T cells transfected with EGFP as a control, or IKK ϵ +/- CYT387 (5 μ M) starting 12 h post-transfection. Media was collected 24 h after transfection, the blot was performed according to the manufacturer's instructions and imaged using standard ECL-based detection and autoradiography. Proteome ProfilerTM Human Phospho-kinase Array (ARY003B) was treated with lysates from the same 293T cells, processed, and imaged by ECL-based detection and autoradiography according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Antibodies and Immunoblotting. Immunoblotting was performed according to a standard protocol (14). Anti-STAT3 (#9132), Y705 pSTAT3 (#9145), STAT5 (#9358), Y694 pSTAT5

(#4322), p105 (#4717), S933 p-p105 (#4806), IKK α (#2682), IKK β (#2370), and T180/Y182 p-p38 (#4511) were from Cell Signaling Technologies. β -Actin antibody was from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (#sc-47778 HRP). IKK ϵ antibody was from Sigma (#I4907). Secondary antibodies were from Bio-Rad. Blots were developed using standard ECL-based detection and autoradiography.

Transfection, Lentiviral Infection, Constructs. 293T cells were transfected using Fugene 6 reagent (#11815091001, Roche) according to the manufacturer's instructions with 1 μ g of plasmid. Lentiviral infection of shRNAs or ORFs was performed as described (7, 15). For selection of virally infected cells, 1-2 μ g/ml of Puromycin (pLKO.1) or 5-10 μ g/ml of Blasticidin (pLX304) was used 24 h post infection. pLKO.1 shRNA constructs were obtained from the Broad Institute TRC (<http://www.broadinstitute.org/rnai/trc>) with the following sequences:

shGFP TRCN0000072181: 5' ACAACAGCCACAACGTCTATA 3'

shIKK ϵ -1 TRCN0000010036: 5' TGGGCAGGAGCTAATGTTTCG 3'

shIKK ϵ -2 TRCN0000010027: 5' GAGCATTGGAGTGACCTTGTA 3'

pLX304-GFP, pLX304-IKK ϵ -WT, and pLX304-IKK ϵ -K38A constructs were used for transient transfection of 293T cells. MDA-MB-468-IKKe-Y88C cells were generated by stable transduction of MDA-MB-468 cells by lentiviral infection with pLX304-IKKe-Y88C using blasticidin selection, followed by treatment in CYT387 (2.5 μ M) for 3 weeks.

Quantitative Real-Time PCR. RNA was extracted from transfected 293T cells or snap-frozen xenograft tumors using PerfectPure RNA Kit (5 PRIME). Reverse transcription of 1 μ g RNA

samples was performed using SuperScript® III First-Strand Synthesis SuperMix (Invitrogen). Quantitative real-time PCR was conducted using LightCycler® 480 SYBR Green I Master (Roche) and Light Cycler 480 II real-time PCR system (Roche). Values were normalized to 36B4. The sequences of the primers used for RT-PCR are:

CCL5: FWD 5'CGCTGTCATCCTCATTGCTA3', REV 5'GAGCACTTGCCACTGGTGTA3'
IL6: FWD 5'TCAATGAGGAGACTTGCCTG3', REV 5'TCATCTGCACAGCTCTGGCT3'
IKKε: FWD 5'ATTACAACACTGCCAAGGGC3', REV 5'AGCACCTCCATGACCCAGTG3'
36B4: FWD 5'GCAATGTTGCCAGTGTCTGT3', REV 5'GCCTTGACCTTTTCAGCAAG3'

Animal Studies. MDA-MB-468 xenografts were established following subcutaneous injection of 1×10^6 cells into nude mice. WHIM patient derived xenografts were cultured as described (16, 17). Mice with established tumors were treated by daily oral gavage with vehicle control or CYT387 dissolved in N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (Sigma-Aldrich) at 100 mg/mL and mixed with a methylcellulose/tween vehicle (0.5% methylcellulose (Sigma-Aldrich) and 0.4% polysorbate-80 (Tween-80) (Sigma-Aldrich) in sterile water for daily oral gavage dose of 100 mg/kg. Tumor area measurements were obtained in a blinded fashion, and tumor volume was calculated using the formula $((\text{width})^2 \times \text{length})/2$.

For short term pharmacodynamics studies mice were treated for 3 d to achieve steady state inhibition and tumors were harvested 6 h after the final dose of drug. Tumors were isolated and snap frozen for qRT-PCR or immunoblotting, or formalin fixed for immunohistochemistry (IHC). IHC staining was performed on FFPE tissue sectioned at 5µm thickness. Slides were deparaffinized, rehydrated and treated with 3% H₂O₂ in PBS. Antigen retrieval was achieved by microwaving in a pressure cooker for 15 min in Antigen Retrieval Citra Solution (BioGenex,

HK086-9K). Sections were incubated with Peroxidase Blocking Reagent (Dako, S2001) for 15 min, and Protein Block (Dako, X0909) for 15 min. Anti-pSTAT3 (Cell Signaling Technology, 9131; 1:70 dilution) was applied for 16 h at 4°C, followed by EnVision™+/HRP, Rabbit (Dako, K4003), diaminobenzidine (Dako, K3468), and hematoxylin counterstain. pSTAT3 expression was evaluated by two blinded pathologists (Y.I. and Z.R.Q.).

Histopathologic analysis. A total of 11 formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded WHIM21 xenograft tumors treated with vehicle control (n = 3), 50mg/kg/d CYT387 (n = 2), 2.5mg/kg/d GSK112012 (n = 2), or CYT387 and GSK112012 in combination (n = 4), respectively. Pathology review of the H&E staining and the subsequent immunohistochemical stains were conducted manually by a trained pathologist in the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Molecular Pathology Core.

Immunohistochemical staining of Ki67, CD31 and ERG were performed on 4-µm sections of the FFPE WHIM21 xenograft tissue; using the Bond Refine Detection System following the manufacturer's protocols on the Leica Bond III automated immunostainer. The sections were automatically deparaffinized, antigen retrieval was performed with Bond Epitope Retrieval Solution 1 (HIER1, pH 6.0) and processed for 20 min. The slides were incubated with the antibody against Ki67 (VP-K451, Rabbit polyclonal, Vector) at a dilution of 1:1500 for 60 min, CD31 (Rabbit polyclonal, ab28364, Abcam) at a dilution of 1:50 for 20 min and ERG (Rabbit monoclonal, #2805-1, Epitomics) at a dilution of 1:200 for 60 min, respectively. The sections were then treated according to the streptavidin–biotin–peroxidase complex method (Bond Polymer Refine Detection, Leica Microsystems) with diaminobenzidine (DAB) as a chromogen and counterstained with hematoxylin. Tonsil tissue was used as a positive control for Ki67 and

CD31; Prostate cancer tissue was used as positive controls for ERG. Omission of the primary antibody was utilized as a negative control.

The Ki67 labeling index scoring and microvessel density (MVD) estimation were visually performed by histopathology using an Olympus CX41 light microscope. High resolution, high magnification 40x images were taken with the Image Capture software (Company, version X). For each individual case, the region of most intense staining (or “hot spot”) was identified with 4x and 10x object lenses. Ki-67 score was assessed in a minimum of 10 consecutive High Power Fields (HPFs, 400x) in the representative “hot spot” area. The Ki67 labeling index was calculated as the percentage of positively stained tumor cells relative to total tumor cells. To evaluate MVD, slides stained with anti-CD31 antibody were examined. Single endothelial cell or clusters of endothelial cells positive for CD31 were considered as a vessel; Vessels with muscular walls were not counted. For each case, the number of microvessels was counted in a minimum of 6 consecutive HPFs (HPF size 0.95 mm²) in the “hot spot” area. MVD was then estimated as a mean of the number of microvessels per square millimeter (microvessel/mm²).

Supplementary Figures

Supplemental Figure 1. *IKKε* expression correlates with IL-1 associated immune signaling in TNBC. **(A)** Relationship between *IKKε* mRNA levels and expression of several different cytokine gene signatures across breast cancers in the TCGA dataset. The degree of cytokine signature expression were measured using single sample GSEA (ssGSEA), NMI = normalized mutual information statistic. **p<0.001 **(B)** Correlation between *IKKε* mRNA and IL-1 signature expression in TNBC, HER2⁺ or Luminal breast tumors. Odds ratios were calculated by two

tailed Fisher tests. The high/low status for IKK ϵ was estimated based on z-scores of IKK ϵ expression across samples. The high/low status for IL-1 was estimated based on z-scores for ssGSEA enrichment of the IL-1 signature across samples. (C) Unsupervised clustering of IKK ϵ mRNA and IL-1 signature expression with other previously described TNBC subtypes and with a previously described lymphocyte infiltration signature. Yellow bar indicates the association between IKK ϵ mRNA, IL-1 signature, immunomodulatory subtype (NMI = 0.28) and B-cell cluster (NMI = 0.15), **p<0.001, *p<0.02

Supplemental Figure 2. Correlation of IKK ϵ mRNA levels with TP53 status and response to cisplatin. (A) Log₂ mRNA expression of IKK ϵ sorted by the presence or absence of TP53 mutation, analyzed by t-test across all tumors (p=0.01) or TNBC subset (p=0.58). (B) Log₂ mRNA expression of IKK ϵ sorted by Miller-Payne response to neoadjuvant cisplatin in a cohort of TNBC patients. No significant difference was observed by t-test (p = 0.74).

Supplemental Figure 3. Inhibition of IKK ϵ alone is insufficient to disrupt cytokine expression TNBC cells. (A) MDA-MB468 cells were infected with a control shRNA or 2 different IKK ϵ specific shRNAs and stimulated with IL-1 β for 4 h. CCL5 or IL-6 levels were measured by ELISA. Mean and SD of duplicate samples shown. (B) Immunoblot of IKK ϵ and β -actin levels in MDA-MB468 cells following control or IKK ϵ shRNA expression.

Supplemental Figure 4. CYT387 treatment inhibits migration and anchorage independent proliferation of TNBC cells. (A) Phase contrast images of MDA-MB-468 spheroids in microfluidic 3D culture stimulated to proliferate and migrate with EGF (20 ng/ml). Spheroids were treated with DMSO as a control or CYT387 at the indicated concentrations. Representative spheroid dispersal at 48 h shown (20x). (B) Phase contrast images (10x) of multiple other TNBC

cell lines cultured in suspension using ultra-low cluster plates and stimulated to proliferate with IL-1 β (25 ng/ml) in the presence of DMSO or 5 μ M CYT387.

Supplemental Figure 5. CYT387 treatment disrupts IKK ϵ -associated STAT and NF- κ B signaling. **(A)** Proteomics array measuring the phosphorylation status of 45 different proteins involved in signal transduction 24 h following control EGFP expression or IKK ϵ with 12 h DMSO or CYT387 (5 μ M) pretreatment. Highlighted are STAT family members as well as p38 α , which were induced by IKK ϵ and suppressed by CYT387 treatment. **(B)** Levels of Y694 pSTAT5, total STAT5, and β -actin following EGFP or IKK ϵ overexpression in 293T cells and treatment with DMSO, 5 μ M Ruxolitinib or 5 μ M CYT387. **(C)** Levels of T180/Y182 p-p38 and β -actin following EGFP or IKK ϵ overexpression in 293T cells and treatment with DMSO, Ruxolitinib or CYT387. **(D)** Immunoblot of T180/Y182 p-p38 and β -actin levels in MDA-MB-468 cells treated with DMSO, 5 μ M Ruxolitinib or 5 μ M CYT387 for the indicated times. **(E)** Levels of S933 p-p105, total p105, and β -actin in the indicated TNBC cell lines following DMSO or 5 μ M CYT387 treatment for x 1 h. **(F)** Immunoblot of IKK ϵ , pSTAT3, and β -actin levels in the indicated TNBC cell lines following 24 h, 48 h, or 72 h DMSO or 5 μ M CYT387 treatment.

Supplemental Figure 6. Autocrine and paracrine effects of IKK ϵ regulated cytokines. **(A)** ELISA measuring CCL5 or IL-6 levels in HCC1187 or HCC70 cells x 24 h following IL-1 β (25 ng/ml) with DMSO as a control or 5 μ M CYT387 treatment. Values represent mean and SD of duplicate samples. **(B)** Relative viability of MDA-MB-468 cells in 2D culture by CTG 72 h following 5 μ M Ruxolitinib or CYT387 treatment, or CYT387 + CCL5, IL-6, CCL5/IL-6, compared with DMSO control. Mean and SEM of triplicate samples shown, ** p<0.001 by t-test

for comparison of CYT alone to cytokine addition. (C) 293T cells transfected with EGFP, IKK ϵ -WT or IKK ϵ -KD were seeded after 24 hours into the channel as indicated, such that conditioned media diffused towards HUVECs into the central channel (arrows). Phase contrast images (20x) and quantification of migration show that IKK ϵ -WT expressing cells specifically induced HUVEC migration. (D) High resolution 40x image of HUVEC cell proliferation during CCL5/IL-6 induced migration (arrows indicate nuclear division).

Supplemental Figure 7. IKK ϵ expression across TNBC PDX tumors and WHIM21 response to therapy. (A) Relative levels of IKK ϵ mRNA in a WHIM tumor panel, scale levels of normalized expression, white = not tested. Highlighted are WHIM4 and WHIM21 tumors, TNBC WHIM tumor models that showed high level IKK ϵ expression, as well as WHIM12, a TNBC that did not over-express IKK ϵ . (B) Change in absolute tumor volume over time from subset of CYT387/GSK1120212 treated mice with high initial tumor burden demonstrating regression of established tumors. (C) Representative WHIM21 tumors dissected from vehicle, CYT387, GSK1120212 or CYT387+GSK1120212 treated mice after 30 d.

Supplemental Figure 8. Low dose CYT387/GSK1120212 combination therapy in IKK ϵ high versus IKK ϵ low TNBC PDX tumors. (A) Spider plot of % change in tumor volume over time in WHIM21 tumors treated with vehicle control, high dose Ruxolitinib (100 mg/kg/d), or low dose CYT387 (10 mg/kg/d) combined with GSK1120212 (2.5 mg/kg/d). Over the course of a 30 day treatment Ruxolitinib treated mice progressed similarly to control treated animals, whereas tumor progression was halted over this time period after just 2 weeks of treatment with low dose CYT387/GSK1120212. (B) Spider plot of % change in tumor volume following vehicle (n=15) or low dose CYT387/GSK1120212 treatment (n=15) of WHIM12 PDX tumors, a TNBC model

with low levels of IKK ϵ expression. Tumors also responded to therapy, although less dramatically than WHIM21 tumors, with some mice progressing on treatment.

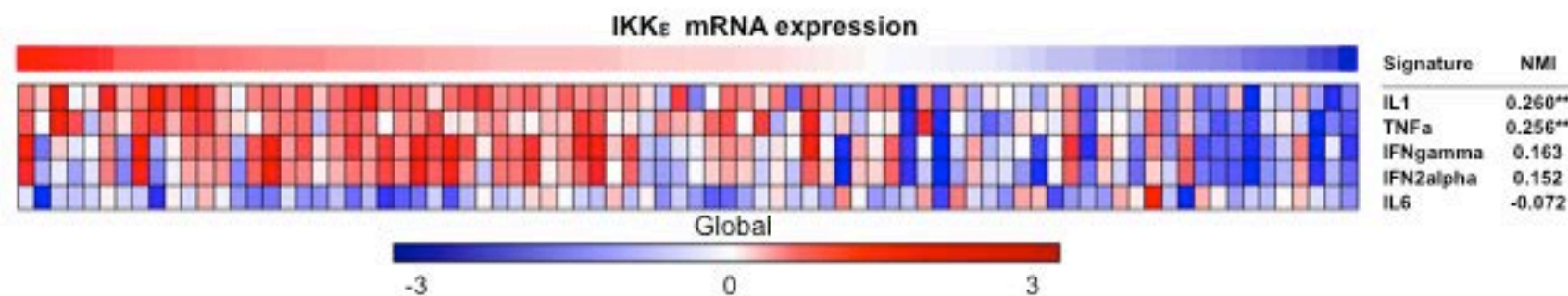
Supplemental Figure 9. Histologic analysis of WHIM21 treated tumors. **(A-D)** Area of necrosis (indicated by arrows) in control, CYT387, GSK1120212, and CYT+GSK treated tumors. **(E-H)** Ki-67 nuclear stain to assess proliferation in viable tumor cells across each condition. **(I-L)** CD31 stain to used to assess microvascular density in regions of viable tumor following each treatment. **(M-P)** Orthogonal assessment of tumor vascularity using ERG immunohistochemistry.

Supplementary References

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A



B

	TNBC	Other	Basal non-TBNC	Other	HER2	Other	Lum A	Other	Lum B	Other
IKK ϵ \uparrow & IL1 \uparrow	18	15	3	30	1	32	1	32	10	23
Other	64	417	13	468	57	424	230	251	117	364
	OR = 7.76 $p = 1.15e-07$		OR = 3.58 $p = 0.07$		OR = 0.23 $p = 0.15$		OR = 0.03 $p = 5.06e-08$		OR = 1.35 $p = 0.41$	

C

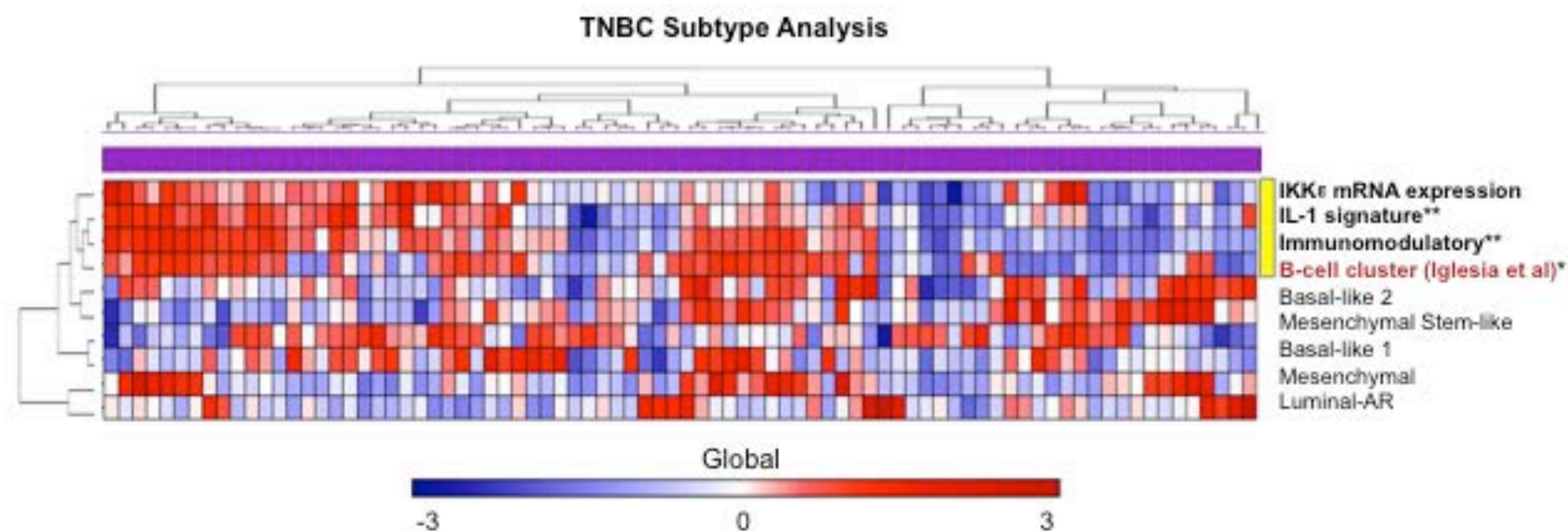
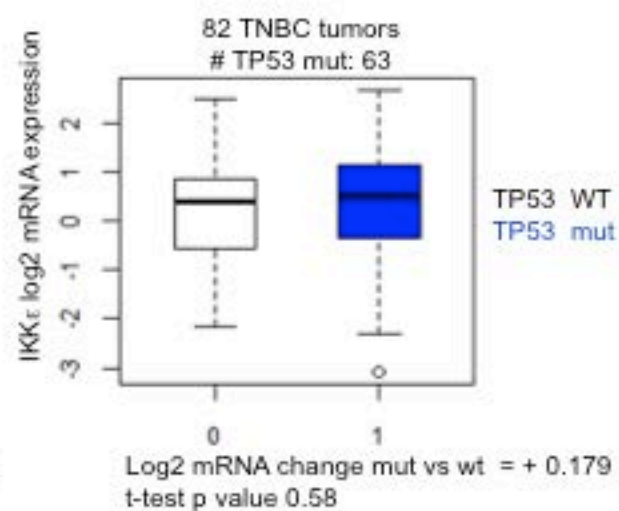
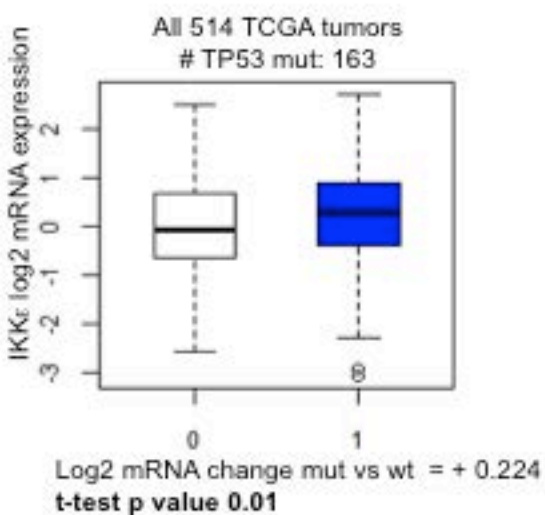


Figure S1

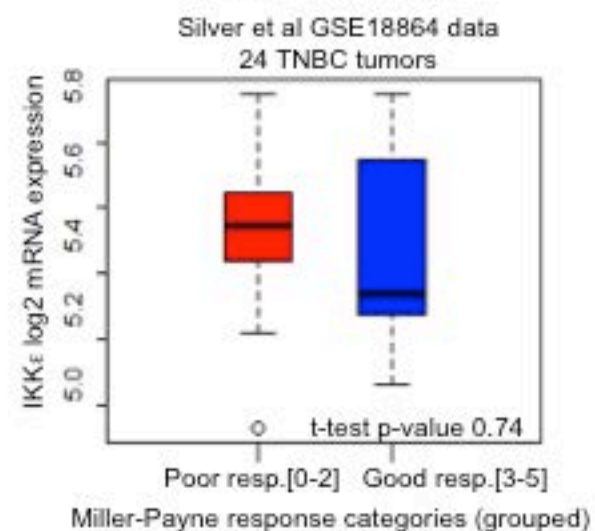
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Correlation with TP53 status



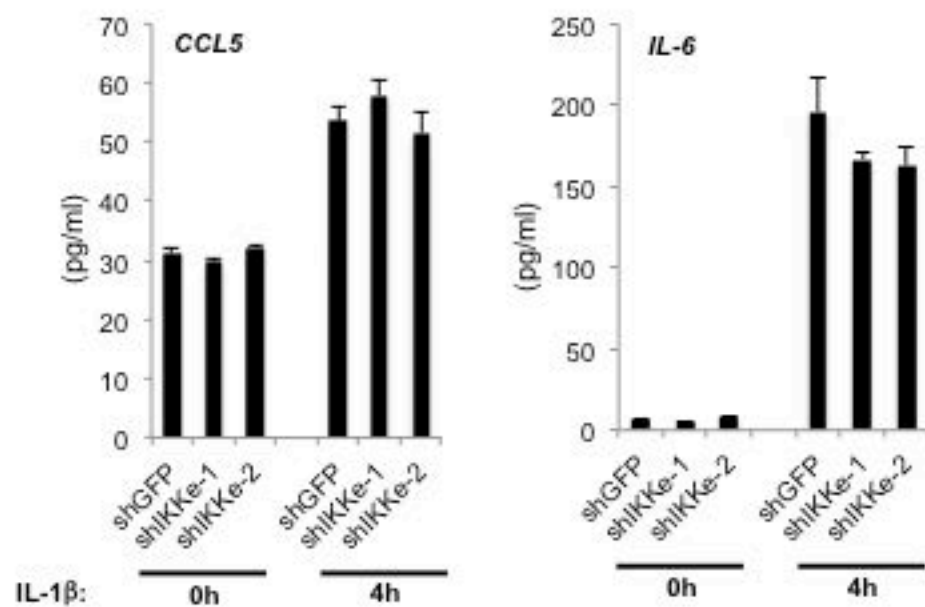
B

Cisplatin Response

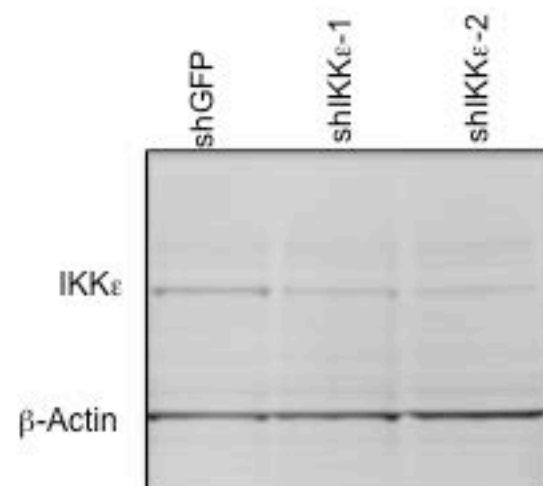


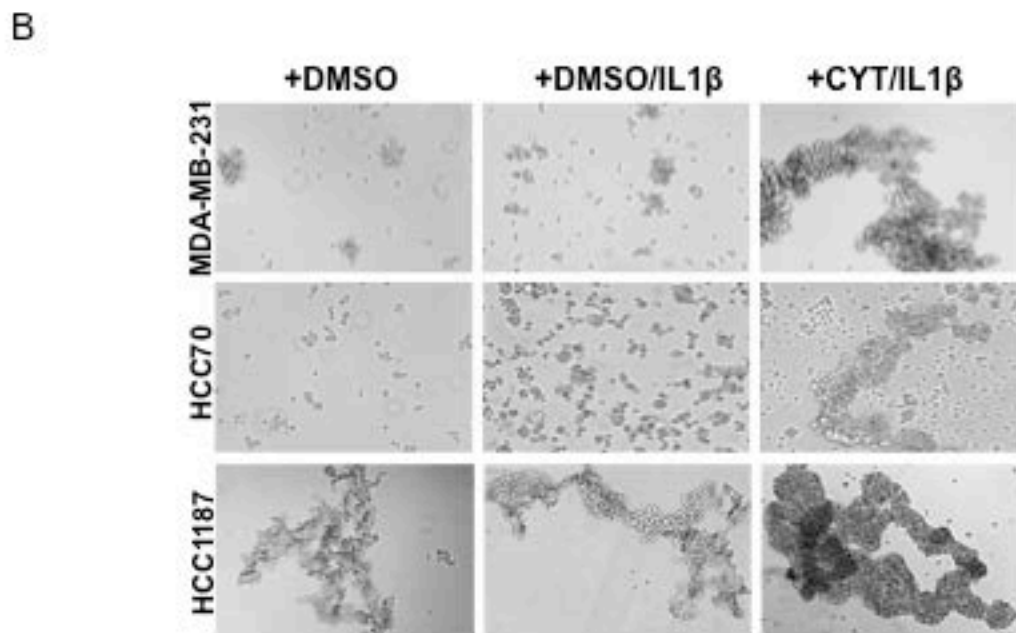
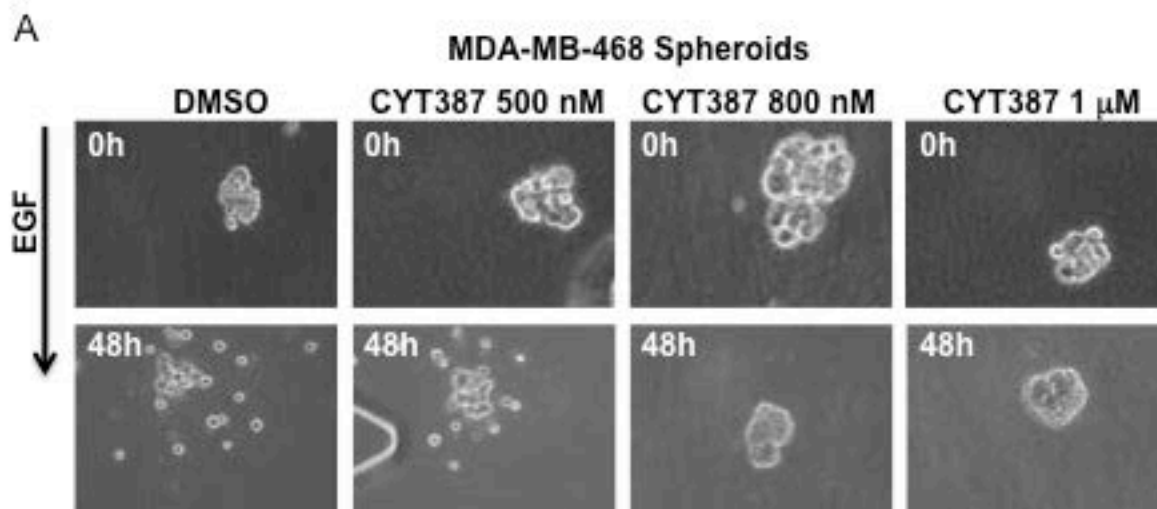
MDA-MB-468 Cells

A



B





Ultra-low cluster plate

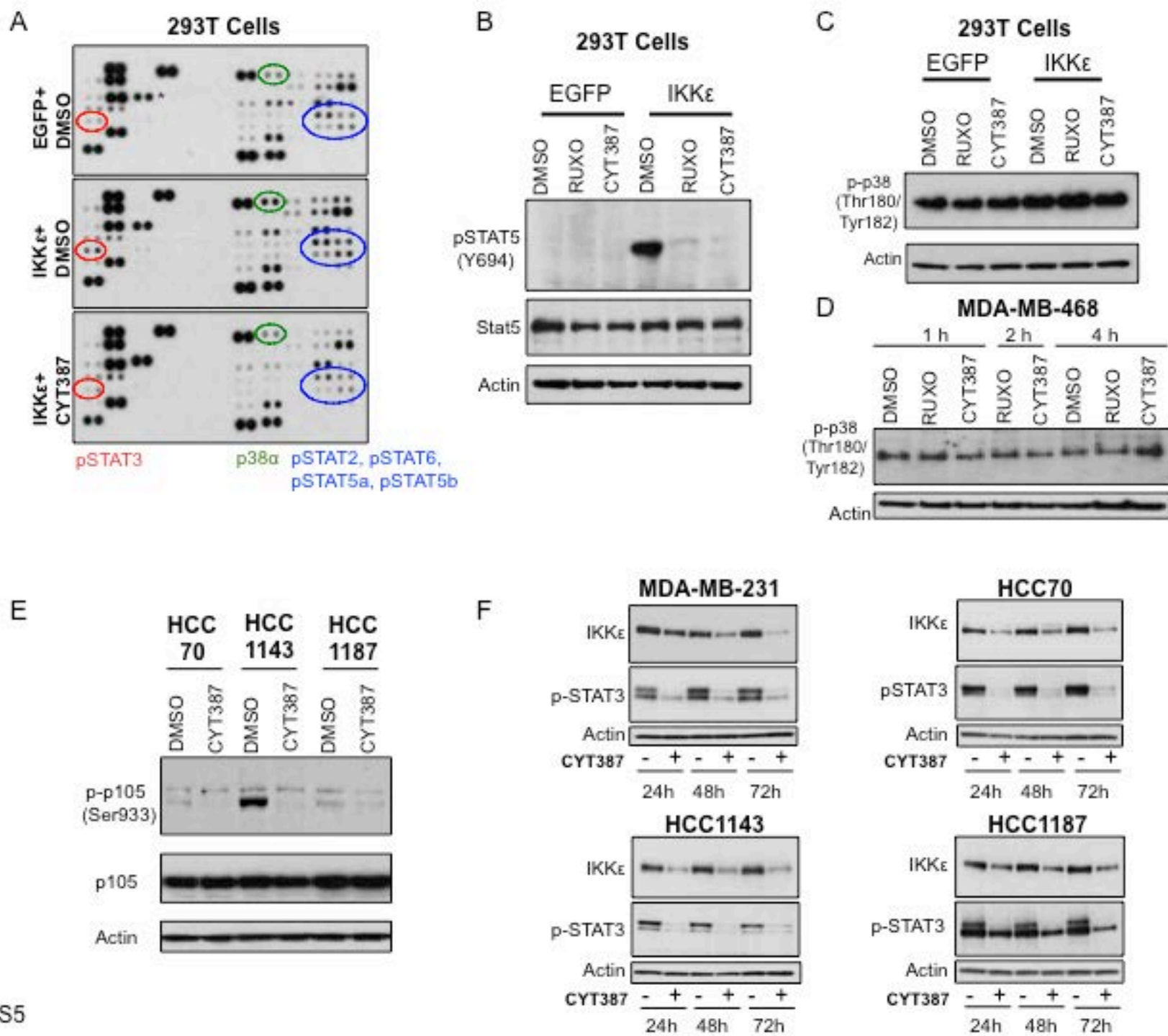


Figure S5

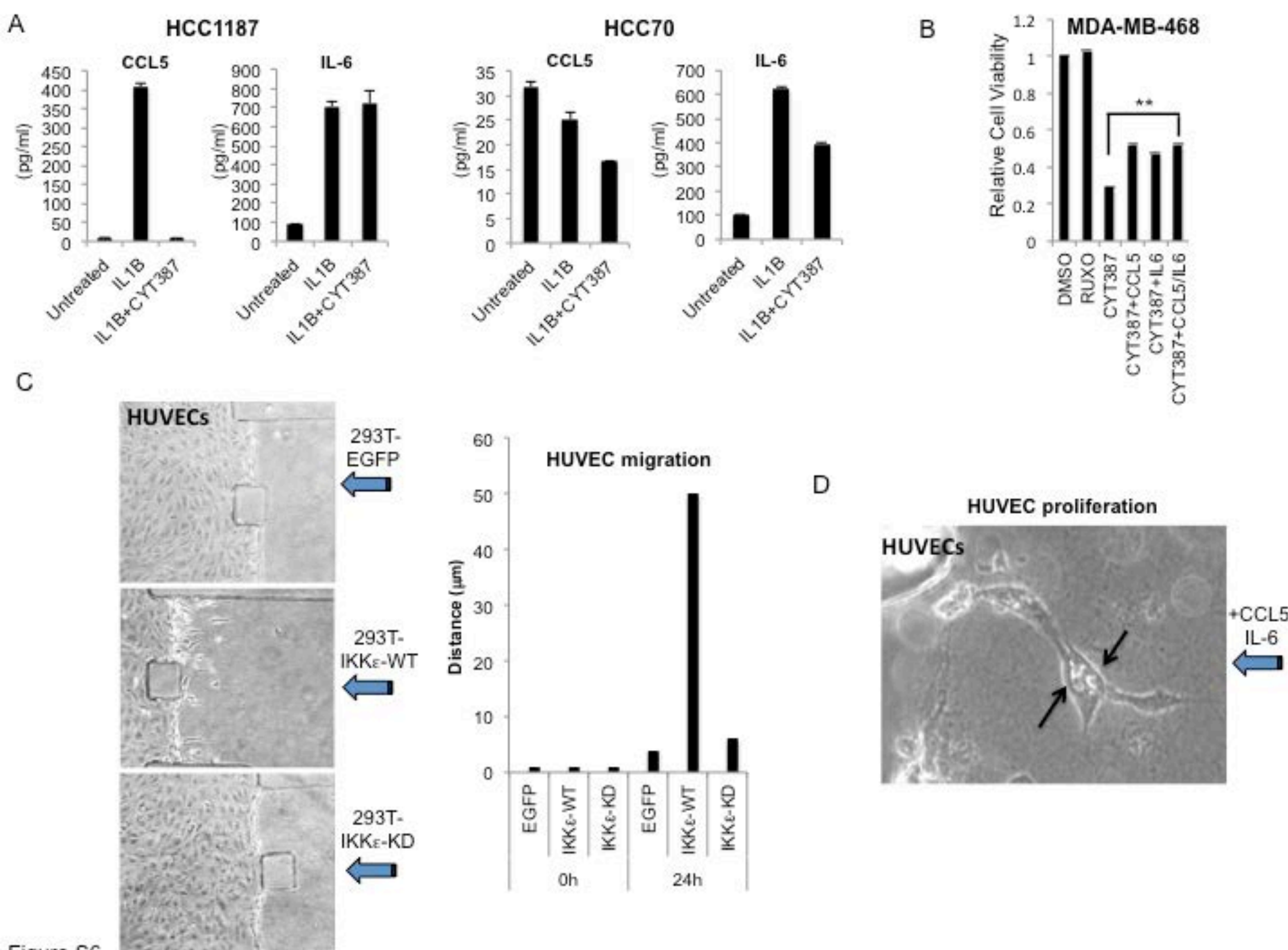
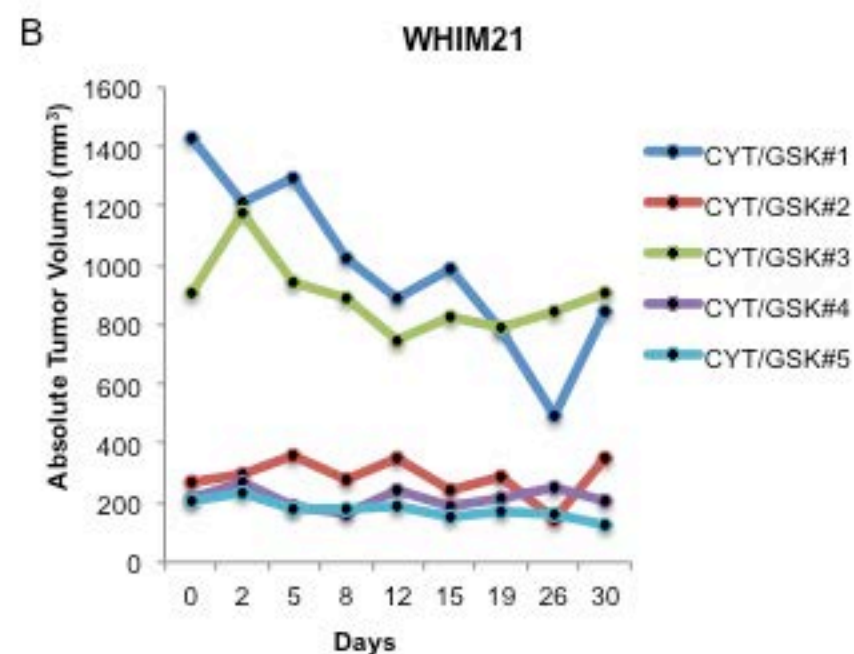
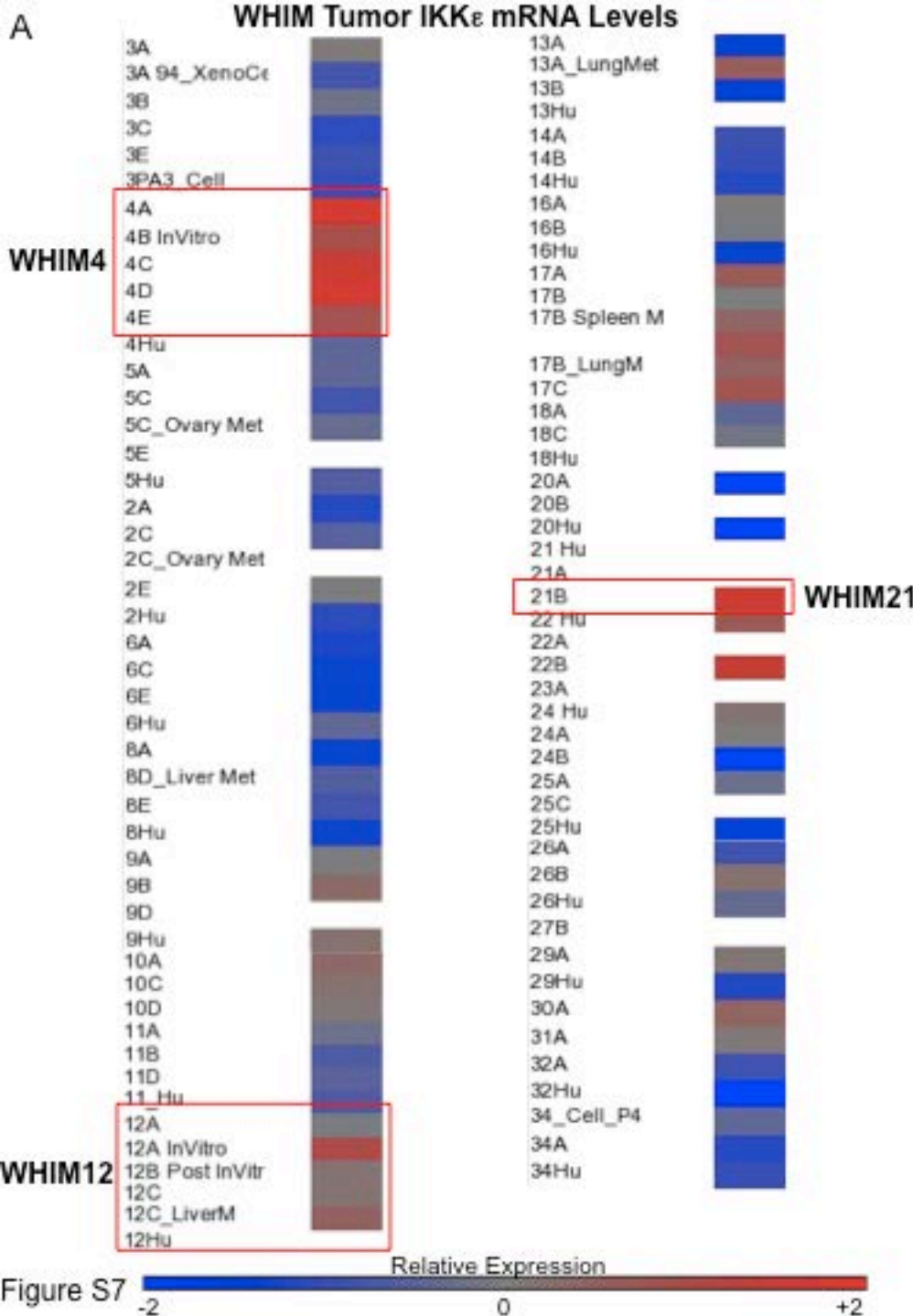


Figure S6



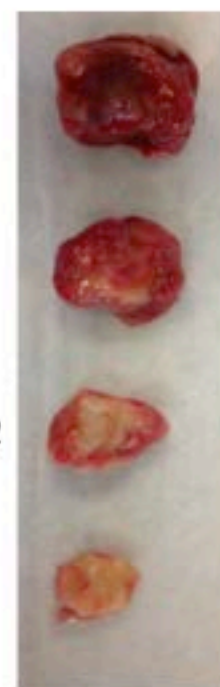
C

Vehicle

CYT387

GSK1120212

CYT387+
GSK1120212



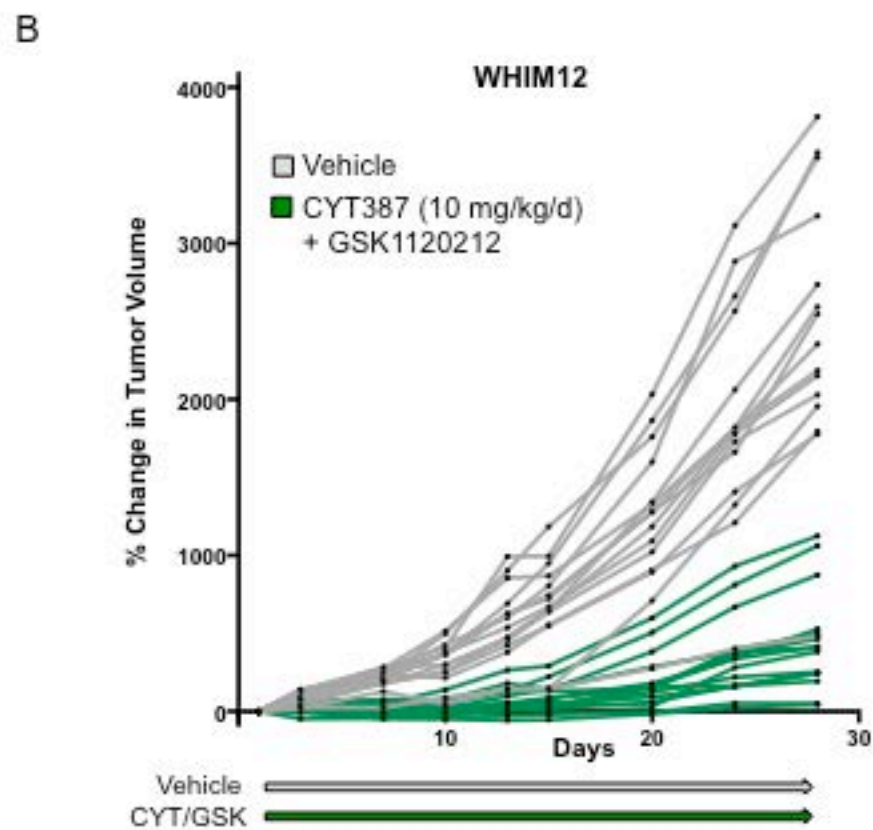
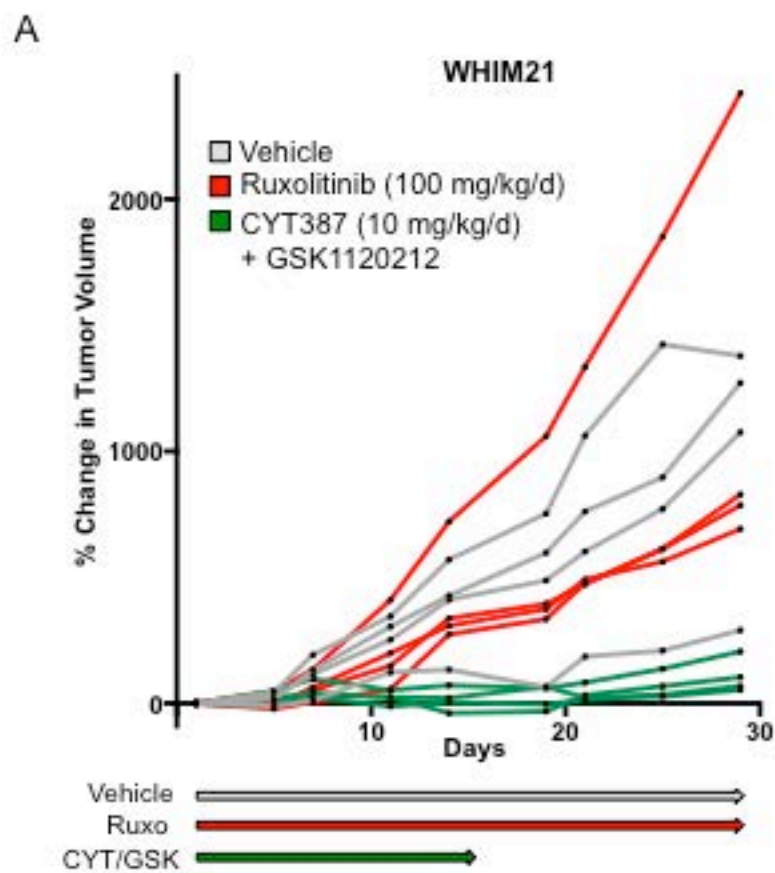


Figure S8

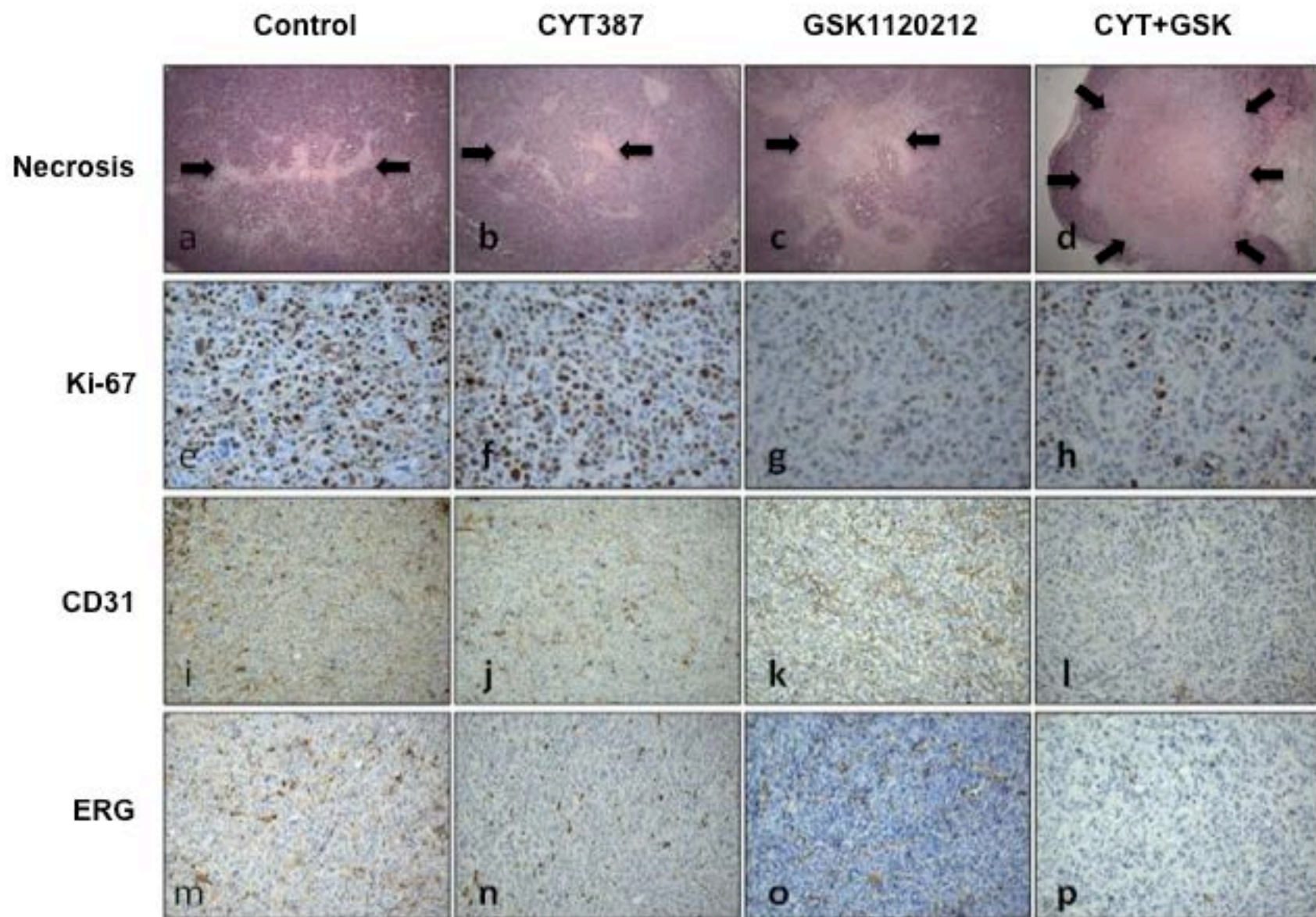


Figure S9