

Chi-squared test comparing normal adjacent vs all other groups.

Normal versus	Unadjusted p from exact c <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted p-value
DCIS	0.0081	significant
DCIS+IDC	0.5459	ns
IDC	0.2448	ns



#### Supplementary Figure 1: Gas6 protein expression during breast cancer progression

**a** Immunohistochemical staining of Gas6 in paraffin-embedded cell pellets: NCI-H226 (Gas6 positive control) and HT-29 (negative control). Scale bar=50 μm. **b** Graph shows the number of patients above and below the median Gas6 score. Table shows the corresponding pairwise comparison using Chi-square analysis to assess statistical significance between normal and each of the other groups. ns = nonsignificant. **c** Representation of stromal Gas6 score (0: negative, 1: low, 2: moderate and 3: high) in normal, pure DCIS, DCIS + IDC, and IDC alone. Error bars are SEM, and Chi-squared analysis showed no statistical difference between normal breast and other tissues.



#### Supplementary Figure 2: Gas6 mRNA in normal and cancer tissues

**a** Gene expression profile across all tumor samples and paired normal tissues. Bars represent the median expression of tumor type or normal tissue. **b** A boxplot showing the mean transcripts per million for Gas6 mRNA in 291 normal breast tissues in contrast to 1085 from breast cancer tissues showing a significant reduction in Gas6 RNA in cancer tissues (unpaired t-test, \*p<0.01). Graphs were generated from GEPIA database.

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### Chi-squared test comparing Normal adjacent vs all other groups.

Normal versus	Unadjusted p from exact c <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted p-value
Luminal A	0.2964	ns
Luminal B	0.0123	ns
Her2	0.0254	ns
TNBC	0.0879	ns

b



#### Supplementary Figure 3: Gas6 protein expression in breast cancer subtypes

**a** Number of patients above and below the median Gas6 score, and the corresponding pairwise comparison using Chisquared test (table) to assess statistical significance between normal breast and each of the other groups. ns = notsignificant. **b** Graph depicts quantitation Gas6 protein staining of TMAs, expressed as the percentage (%) of patients expressing epithelial Gas6 protein in different molecular subtypes: normal breast (n=10), luminal A (n=39), luminal B (n=18), Her2<sup>+</sup> (n= 19), and TNBC (n=19).



### Supplementary Figure 4: Axl antibody validation in paraffin-embedded cell pellets

Images show immunohistochemical (top) and immunofluorescent (bottom) staining using the same antibody to AxI in paraffin-embedded cell pellets H1299 (AxI-positive cell line) and Jurkat (AxI-negative cell line). Scale bar=50 µm (top), 20 µm (bottom).

# a METABRIC



Supplementary Figure 5: Survival status of patients classified by subtype expressing high or low Gas6 mRNA. a Overall survival in luminal B, normal-like, Her2<sup>+</sup>, basal-like and claudin low patients, with high and low levels of Gas6 mRNA. Graphs were generated using METABRIC dataset. b Kaplan Meier plots representing RFS of treated breast cancer luminal B, Her2<sup>+</sup> and basal-like patients, in addition to RFS of treated patients with Grades I, II and III. Log-rank, Chi squared test for statistical analysis.