Supplementary Fig S5. MCT-1/IL-6/IL-6R signaling promotes breast cancer stemness. IL-6 (50 ng/ml) was used to treat MDA-MB-231 cells for 14-17 days. Mammosphere formation (A), MCT-1 (B), CD44 (C), CD133 (D), ALDH-1 (E), Oct-4 (F), Sox-2 (G) and Nanog (H) mRNA levels were analyzed. IL-6R was evaluated in day 14 mammospheres with different MCT-1 levels (I). Upon tocilizumab (200 mg/ml) treatment for 14 days, the MDA-MB-231 mammospheres (≥50 μm) (J), IL-6R (K), IL-6 (L), CD44 (M), ALDH-1 (N), EpCAM (O) and Oct4 (P) mRNA levels were analyzed. CD44(+)/CD24(-) subpopulations in day 21 mammospheres were measured by flow cytometry using CD44-FITC and CD24-PE staining (Q). The results are expressed as the mean ± SD (n=3). One-way ANOVA with a post hoc two-tailed t-test was used to calculate the statistical significance of pairwise comparisons. *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001