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Title: TGF-beta and BMP in breast cancer cell invasion

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Stellingen

- 1. The spheroid assay provides a good method for the study of TGF- β -induced invasion of breast cancer cells in a 3D environment because the malignancy of cells is correlated with invasion (this thesis).
- 2. MMP2 and MMP9 enzymatic activity is necessary for TGF- β -induced invasion in a 3D environment (this thesis)
- 3. Integrin f_3 expression rescues the inhibitory effect of BMP-7 on TGF- β induced invasion and can therefore be considered as a hub in the crosstalk between TGF- β en BMP-7 (this thesis)
- 4. Overexpression of transcription factors involved in EMT, Slug and Snail, enhances breast cancer cell invasion in a 3D environment (this thesis).
- 5. Cancer stem cells may have arisen from cancer cells which have undergone EMT, becausel cells which have undergone EMT express cancer stem cell markers (Mani et al *Cell* 2008 133:704-715)
- 6. Essential cellular functions that are present in tissues are missed by 'petri dish'-based cell cultures, because tissues are not 2 dimensional (Pampaloni et al *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 2007 8:839-845)
- 7. Colonization of distant organ seems to be the rate-limiting step in metastasis; only a few cancer stem cells can do the job (Malanchi et al *Nature* 2012 481: 85–89)
- 8. When a plant goes to seed, it seeds are carried in all directions; but they can only live and grow if they fall in congenial soil (Paget *Lancet* 1889 1:571-573)
- 9. The thin line between geniality and mental disease is determined by the number of dopamine receptors in the thalamus (de Manzano et al *PloS One* 2010 5:e10670)
- 10. A PhD is like gardening; the soil is important for growth, the position determines the blooming, most experiments fail and you are bothered by Slugs and Snails.
- 11. E-mails can be interpreted in several ways; a smiling face can not.