PLOS Science Wednesday: Hi reddit, we’re Katherine and Marni and we found that most DNA changes in breast cancer metastases occurs in the original tumor, while the metastatic tumors are comprised of clones from the original – Ask Us Anything!

Hi Reddit,

We are Katherine Hoadley and Marni Siegel, researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Our research focuses on understanding why some breast cancers spread throughout the body, a process known as metastasis.

We recently published a paper titled “Tumor Evolution in Two Patients with Basal-like Breast Cancer: A Retrospective Genomics Study of Multiple Metastases” in PLOS Medicine.

We wanted to understand how hormone negative tumors in the breast travelled to distant sites, a process known as metastases. By comparing the original breast cancer to distant tumors, we looked for DNA changes that were both shared and unique at these different sites. We found that, in two patients, the majority of disease-causing DNA changes in the metastases are established in the original tumor, and that these metastatic tumors are made up of multiple distinct populations of cells, or clones, from the original tumor.

Check out the PLOS Medicine special issue on Cancer Genomics for other research articles on this topic.

We look forward to answering your questions at 1pm ET -- Ask Us Anything!

The AMA is still in progress

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will be permanently archived, assigned a digital object identifier (DOI), and formatted as a white paper.

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