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## Cancer: Inappropriate Expression of Stem Cell Programs?

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**Refers to:** [Module Map of Stem Cell Genes Guides Creation of Epithelial Cancer Stem Cells](#)  
*Cell Stem Cell*, Volume 2, Issue 4, 10 April 2008, Pages 333-344  
 David J. Wong, Helen Liu, Todd W. Ridky, David Cassarino, Eran Segal, Howard Y. Chang

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Cancer stem cells (CSCs) are a subpopulation of cancer cells that possess characteristics, including self-renewal, associated with normal stem cells. In this issue of *Cell Stem Cell*, [Wong et al. \(2008\)](#) define a core embryonic stem cell (ESC)-like gene expression program that may be important for CSC function in multiple epithelial cancers.

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