

Supplementary Table 1**Precision data for cell lines controls in low level control numbers**

Cell Lines	Number of cells (n)	Number of repeats (n)	Recovery mean $\pm$ SD	Recovery mean (%)	Coefficient Variability (%)
MCF-7	1	3	0.33 $\pm$ 0.57	33.3	173.2
	5	3	1.6 $\pm$ 1.5	33.3	91.6
	10	3	6 $\pm$ 1.7	60	28.9
SKBR3	1	3	-	-	-
	5	3	2.3 $\pm$ 1.5	46.6	49.4
	10	3	5.3 $\pm$ 1.5	53.5	28.6
MDA-MB231	1	3	0.3 $\pm$ 0.5	33.3	173.2
	5	3	2.6 $\pm$ 0.5	53.3	21.7
	10	3	5.6 $\pm$ 1.1	56.6	20.3
T47D	1	3	0.6 $\pm$ 0.5	66	86.6
	5	3	3.3 $\pm$ 0.5	66	17.3
	10	3	7.3 $\pm$ 1.1	73.3	15.2