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**The role of CAF-derived IGFBP-2 in preventing anoikis in breast cancer cells**

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**Lead Organization:** University of Notre Dame

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**Public Abstract:**

Cancer cells spread from the primary tumor to secondary sites by a process known as metastasis. Metastasis is responsible for 90% of cancer deaths, yet much is still unknown about how cancer cells metastasize. It is known that cancer cells must shut off a cell death program known as anoikis in order to survive during metastasis. However, very little is known about how cancer cells actually shut down anoikis. In this proposal, we investigate how a protein known as IGFBP-2, which is secreted by non-cancerous cells in a tumor, can help cancer cells survive during metastasis by blocking anoikis.