Figure 7. Development of resistance to tamoxifen reverts tumour cells to a more undifferentiated phenotype.

A. Differentiation to epithelial cells in the normal breast. ER expression is absent in breast stem cells and Nanog, Oct4 and Sox2 expression is downregulated during differentiation. B. Sox2 promotes tamoxifen resistance in breast tumour cells. ER transcriptional activity (ER-TA) is lost and Sox2 expression is increased further during development of resistance leading to Wnt signalling activation and increased cancer stem cell population.