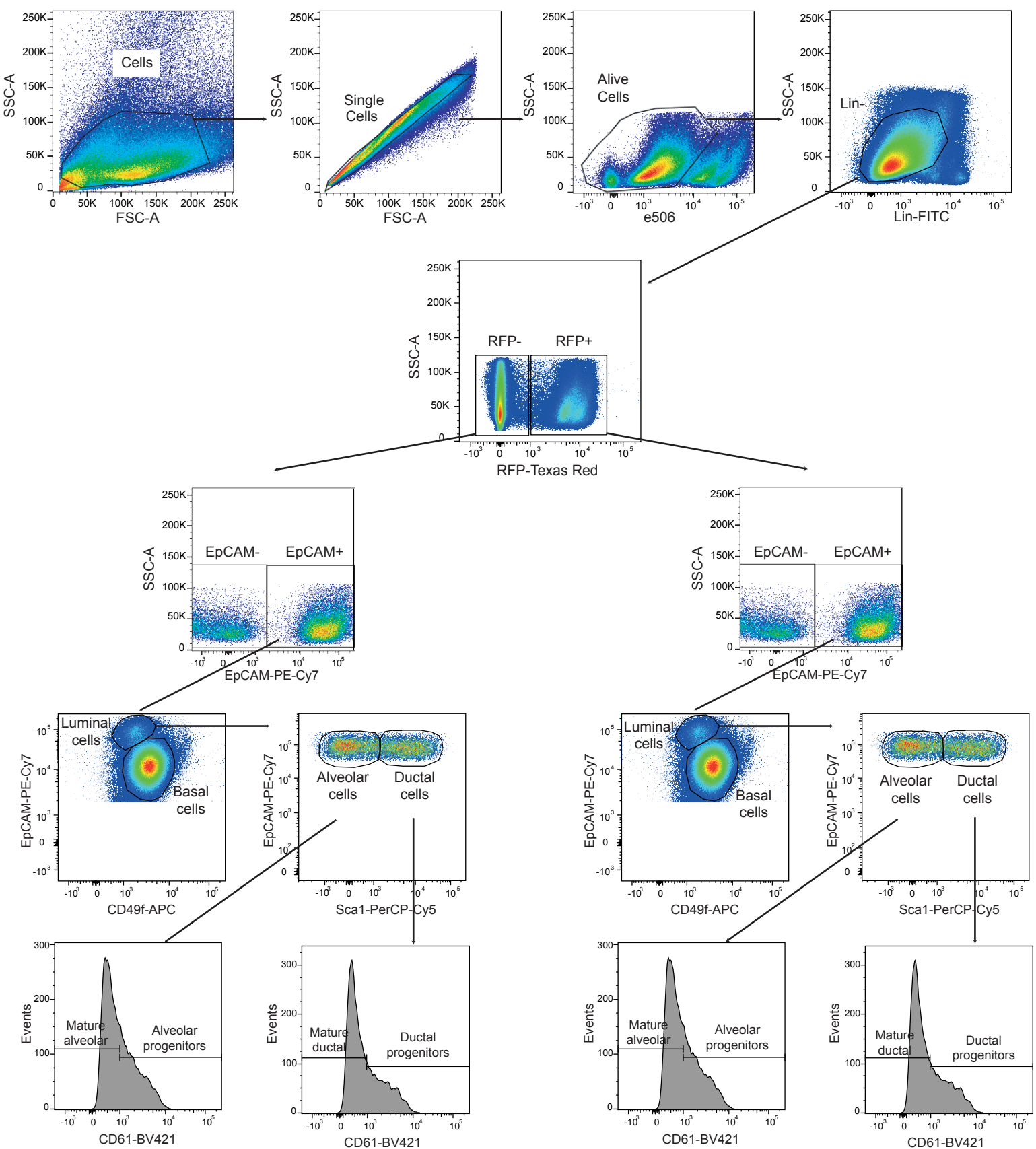




Supplementary Figure S1: Comprehensive flow cytometry gating strategy for breast epithelial cell analysis. This figure illustrates the sequential gating steps applied in our study. (i) Initial gating on SSC-A vs. SSC-H discriminates cell size, excluding cell fragments and clumps. (ii) Singlet cells are selected through FSC-A vs. SSC-A gating, ensuring individual cell analysis. (iii) Viability is assessed using Fixable Viability Dye eFluorTM 506, isolating live cells. (iv) Stromal and lineage-positive cells (FITC+ Lin+) are excluded, removing fibroblasts, leukocytes, red cells, and endothelial cells. (v) Epithelial cells are identified as FITC-Lin-, and (vi) further categorized into RFP+ (recombinant) and RFP- (non-recombinant) populations. The gating strategy enables precise identification and analysis of breast epithelial cell subpopulations, critical for our investigation.