



**Figure S2 Candidates ranked by the NormFinder’s model-based and pairwise comparison approaches.** Using the ER+ and ER- groups of data, the intergroup variation is plotted (*blue squares*) as the expression difference between the two groups. The intragroup variation is indicated by *vertical bars* (a: ER+ samples; b: ER- samples) that give a confidence interval for the difference. Because the average of the intergroup variations is always 0, in the case of chart a an intergroup variation of  $>0$  implies that the gene shows systematically higher expression in ER+ tumors than in ER- tumors and the opposite if the value is  $<0$ . Intergroup variations on charts a and b are mirror symmetric with respect to zero level.