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**Supplemental Information**

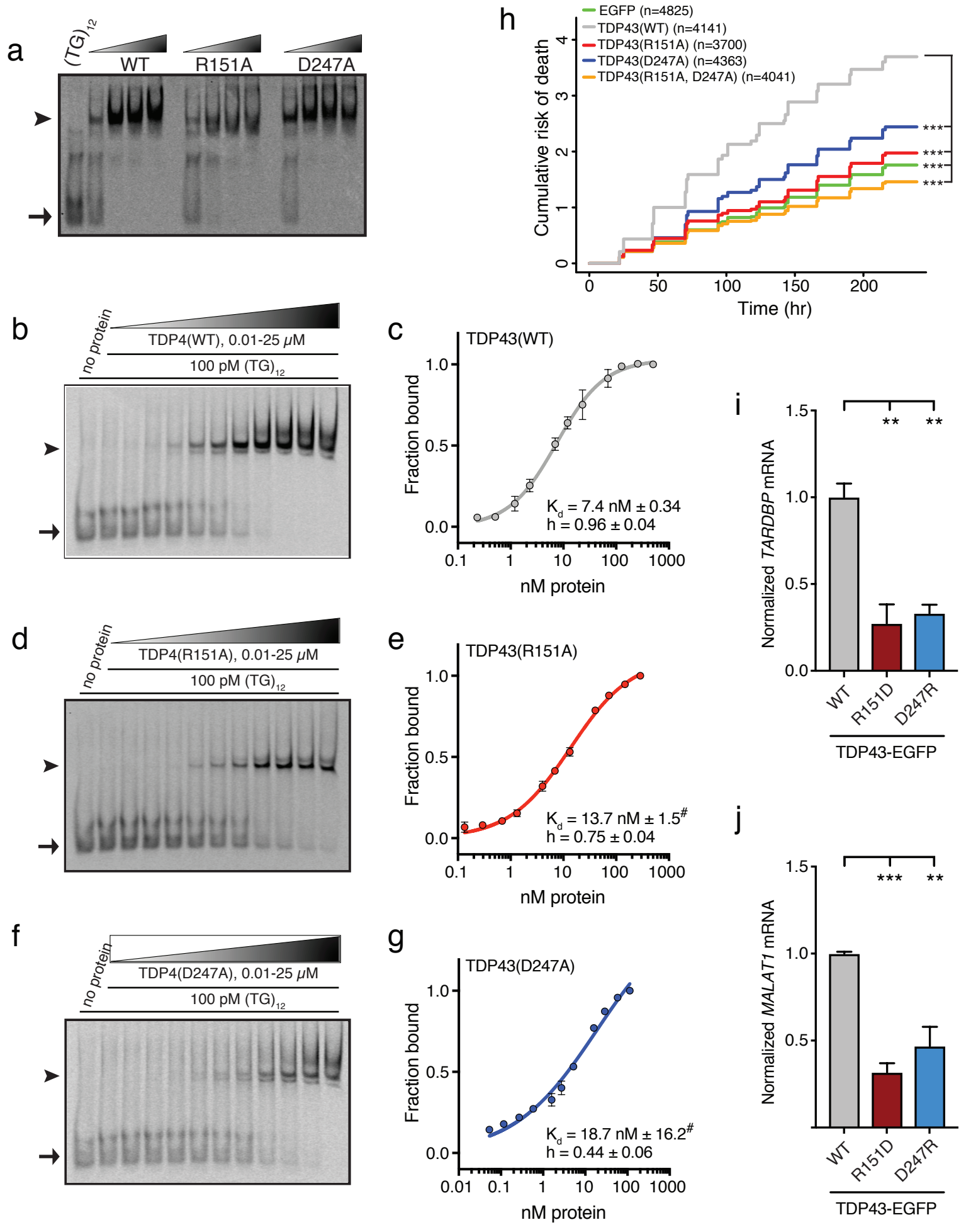
**An Intramolecular Salt Bridge Linking TDP43**

**RNA Binding, Protein Stability, and**

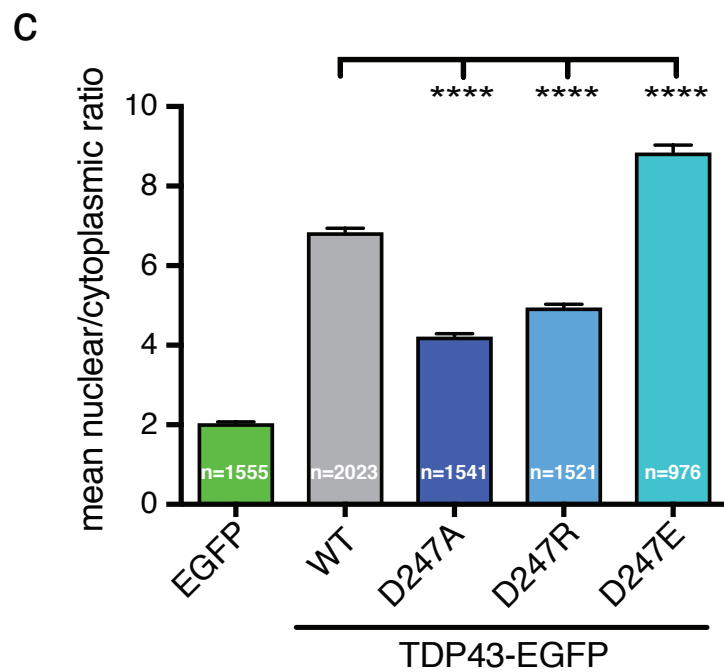
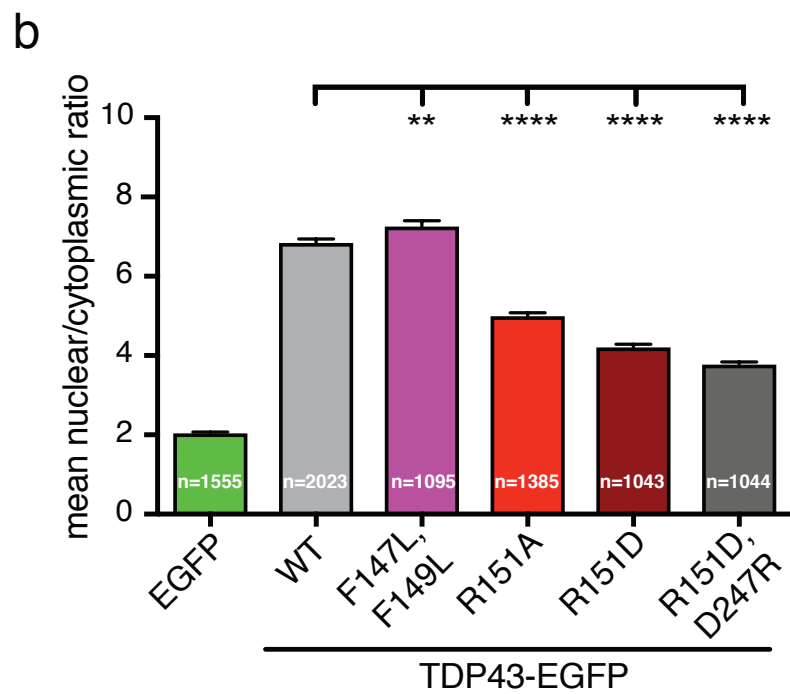
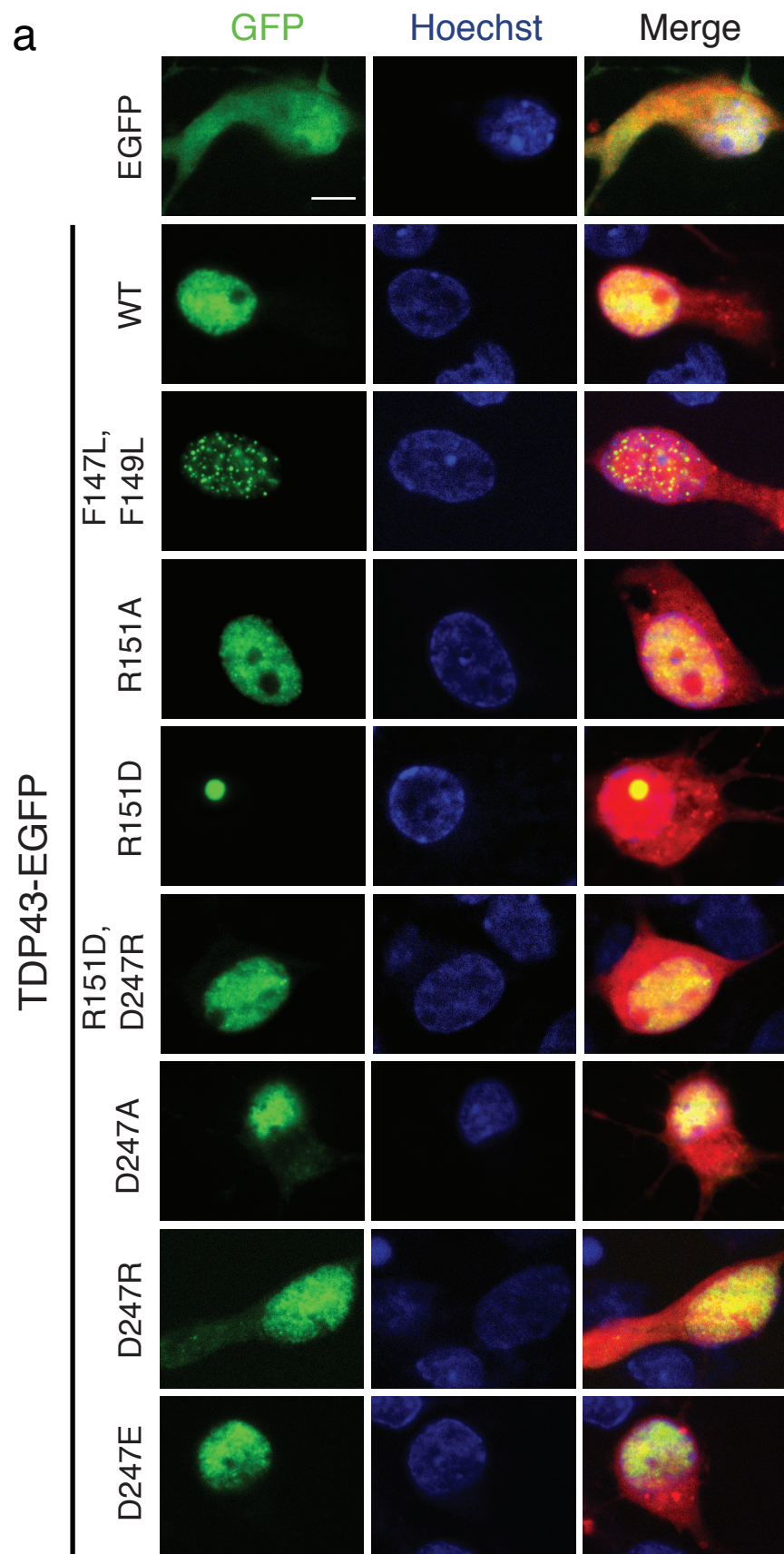
**TDP43-Dependent Neurodegeneration**

**Brittany N. Flores, Xingli Li, Ahmed M. Malik, Jose Martinez, Asim A. Beg, and Sami J. Barmada**

# Figure S1

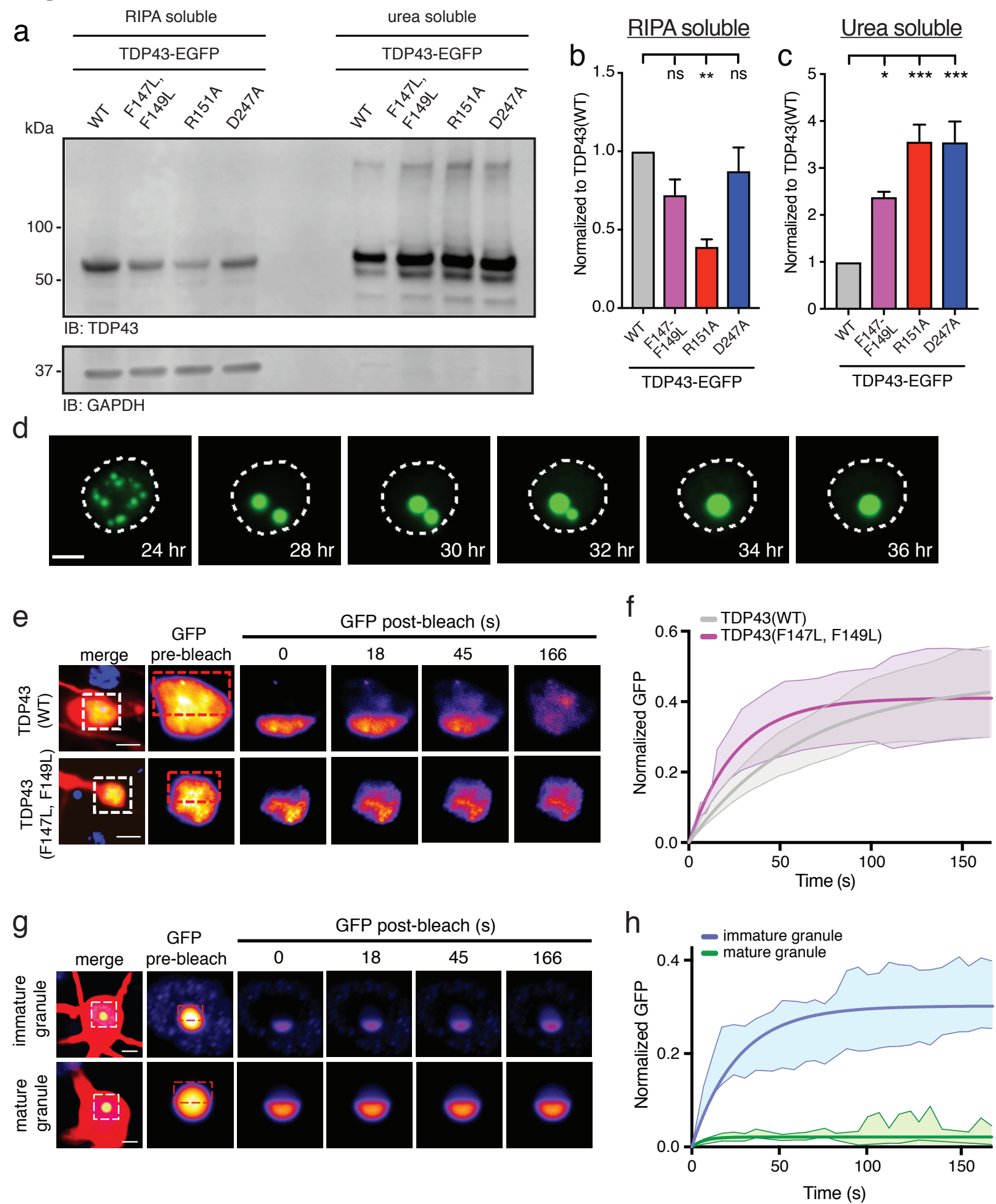


**Figure S1. Salt bridge disrupting mutations impair DNA binding by TDP43 and interfere with TDP43-dependent toxicity, related to Figures 1 and 5.** **a**, EMSA of recombinant TDP43 variants at increasing protein concentrations (12 fmol to 4 pmol) incubated with labeled (TG)<sub>12</sub> oligonucleotides (100 pM). **b, d, f**, Labeled (TG)<sub>12</sub> oligomers were added (100 pM) to increasing protein concentrations (0.01-25 μM). Three independent replicates for each protein were quantified in **c, e, g** to calculate dissociation constants ( $K_d$ ) and Hill slopes. For **a, b, d, f**, arrowheads mark protein-DNA complexes, while arrows indicate free DNA oligomers. For **c, e, and g**,  $K_d$  and Hill coefficient were determined by the nonlinear least squares regression fit equation, and each plot displays mean ± SEM; #,  $p < 0.01$  for comparison with TDP43(WT), extra sum-of-squares F test. **h**, Overexpressing TDP43(WT)-EGFP significantly enhances the cumulative risk of death compared to EGFP-expressing neuron (HR=2.43,  $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$ ). Individual mutations that disrupt the salt bridge (R151A or D247A) significantly reduce toxicity compared to TDP43(WT)-expressing neurons (HR=0.47, and 0.58, respectively,  $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$  for both comparisons). Expression of TDP43(R151A, D247A)-EGFP significantly abrogates toxicity compared to TDP43(WT)-expressing neurons (HR=0.36,  $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$ ). n, number of neurons. \*\*\*  $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$ , Cox proportional hazards. Survival analyses were collected from 3 independent experiments, with 8 wells per condition for each replicate. **i** and **j**, HEK293T cells were transfected with TDP43(WT), TDP43(R151D), or TDP43(D247R) and immunoprecipitated with antibodies against GFP. Bound *TARDBP* (**i**) or *MALAT1* (**j**) transcripts were amplified from total RNA by qRT-PCR. Data were pooled from 3 independent replicates. Plots show mean ± SEM, \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , Kruskal-Wallis with Dunn's test.

**Figure S2**

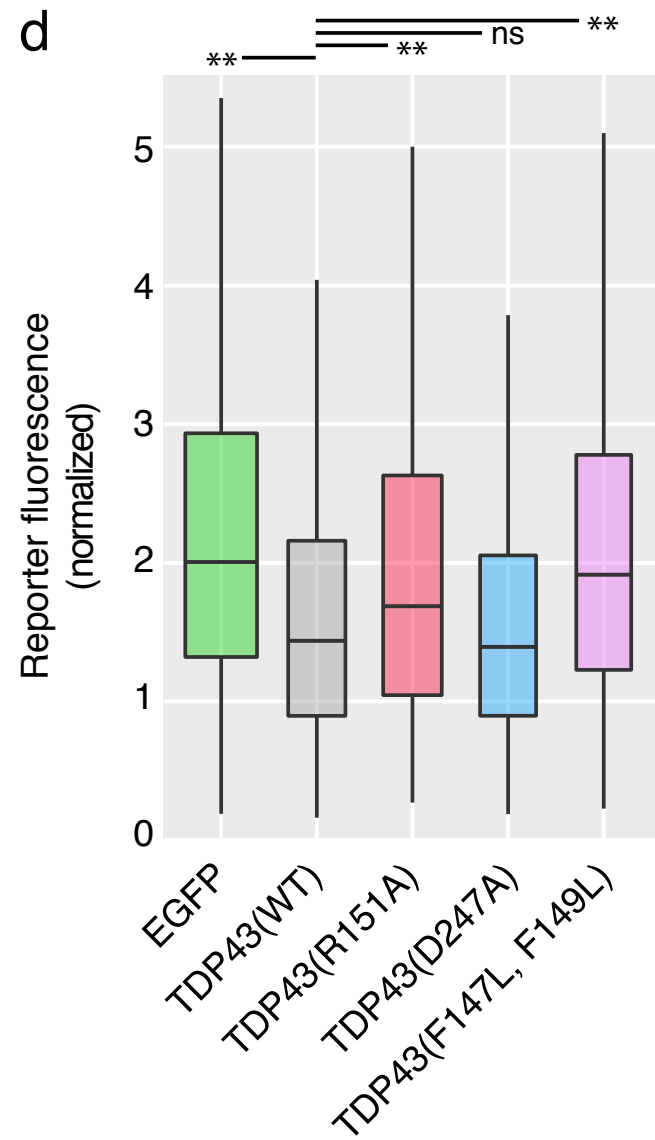
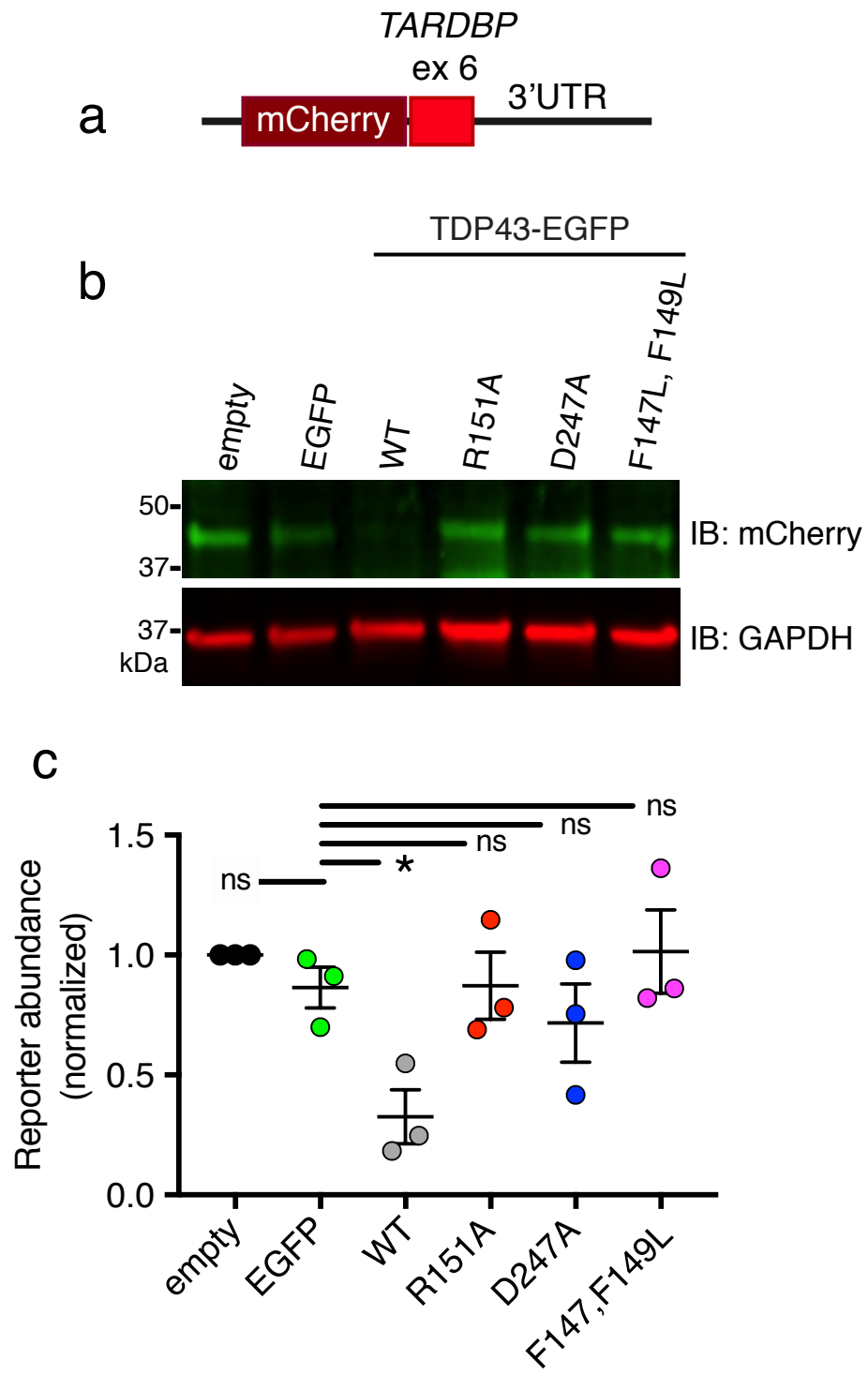
**Figure S2. Manipulating the RRM1-RRM2 salt bridge affects subcellular TDP43 localization, related to Figure 2.** **a**, Fluorescent microscopy of primary neurons expressing EGFP-tagged TDP43 variants. Nuclei were stained with a dye (4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI)). Scale bar: 5  $\mu$ m. **b** and **c**, Subcellular TDP43-EGFP localization was quantified by measuring the fluorescence intensity of TDP43 within the nuclear and cytoplasmic compartments separately for each neuron. The mean nuclear-cytoplasmic ratio (NCR) for TDP43(WT) was  $6.9 \pm 0.087$ . **b**, All variants of R151 significantly decreased the TDP43-EGFP NCR. **c**, Mutating D247 to either alanine or arginine decreased the NCR, while mutating D247 to glutamate significantly increased TDP43-EGFP NCR. Data in **b** and **c** represent at least 3 independent experiments, \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ , one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post-hoc. Plots in **b**, **c** show mean  $\pm$  SEM; n, number of neurons.

# Figure S3



**Figure S3. Mutations that interfere with RNA binding reduce solubility and elicit liquid-liquid and liquid-gel phase transitions, related to Figure 2.** **a**, HEK293T cells were transfected with TDP43 variants, sonicated in RIPA buffer or extracted with urea buffer as indicated, and immunoblotted with anti-TDP43 antibodies. **b, c** Each TDP43 mutant was enriched within the urea-soluble fraction, compared to TDP43(WT). Data represent 3 independent replicates, \*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ , one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post-hoc. Plots in **b, c** show mean  $\pm$  SEM. **d**, TDP43(F147L, F149L)-EGFP shows time-dependent changes in distribution from diffuse to small puncta, which then fuse over time into large droplets consistent with liquid-like behavior. Scale bar: 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . **e** and **f**, TDP43(F147L, F149L)-EGFP that has not phase separated and is still relatively diffuse in the nucleus shows no difference in its mobility compared to TDP43(WT)-EGFP (diffuse TDP43(WT)  $n = 4$ , diffuse TDP43(F147L, F149L)  $n = 5$ ). **g** and **h**, Immature granules into which not all of the TDP43 has yet coalesced show internal rearrangement by fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP), consistent with liquid-liquid phase separated granules, but mature granules are nearly completely immobile (immature granules  $n = 3$ , mature granules  $n = 5$ ). Scale bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . Data represent 3 independent replicates.

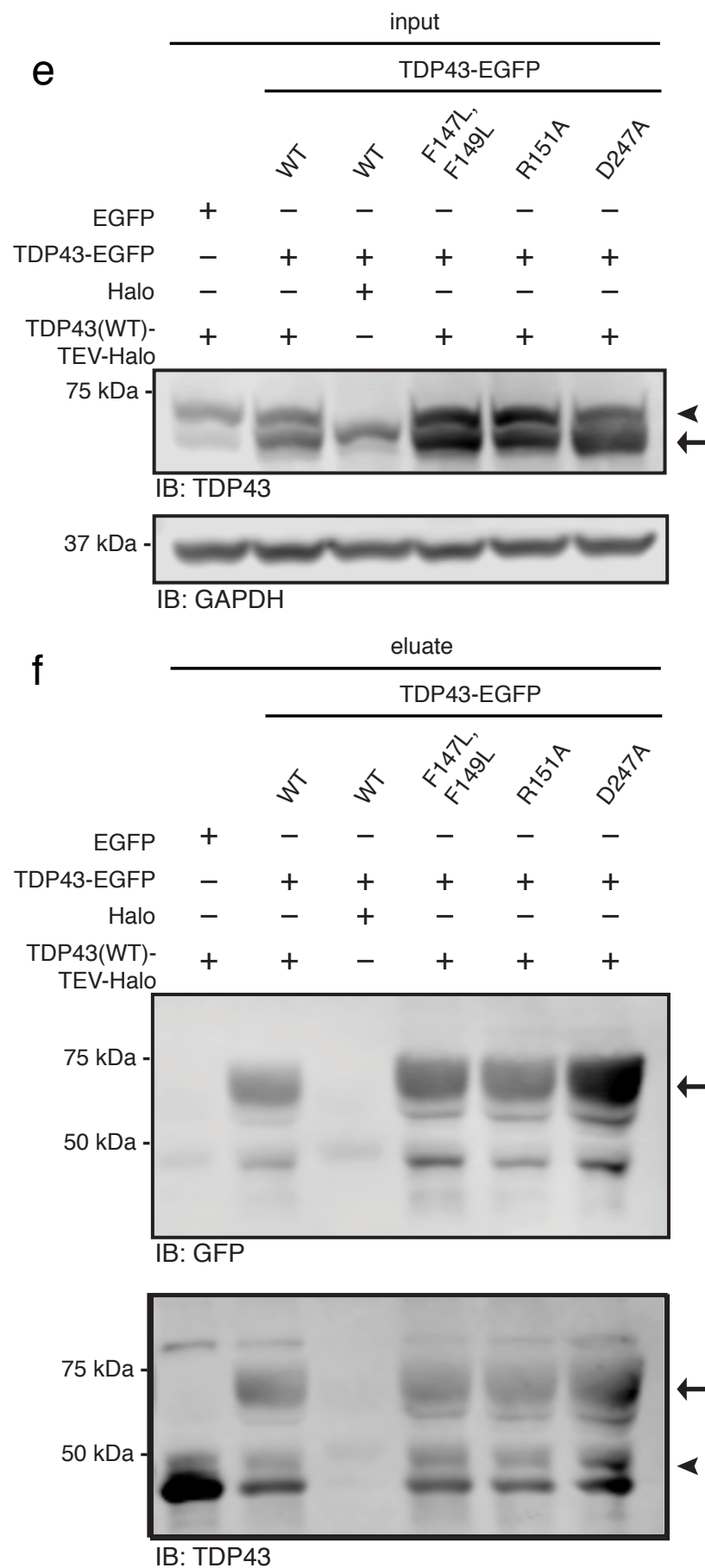
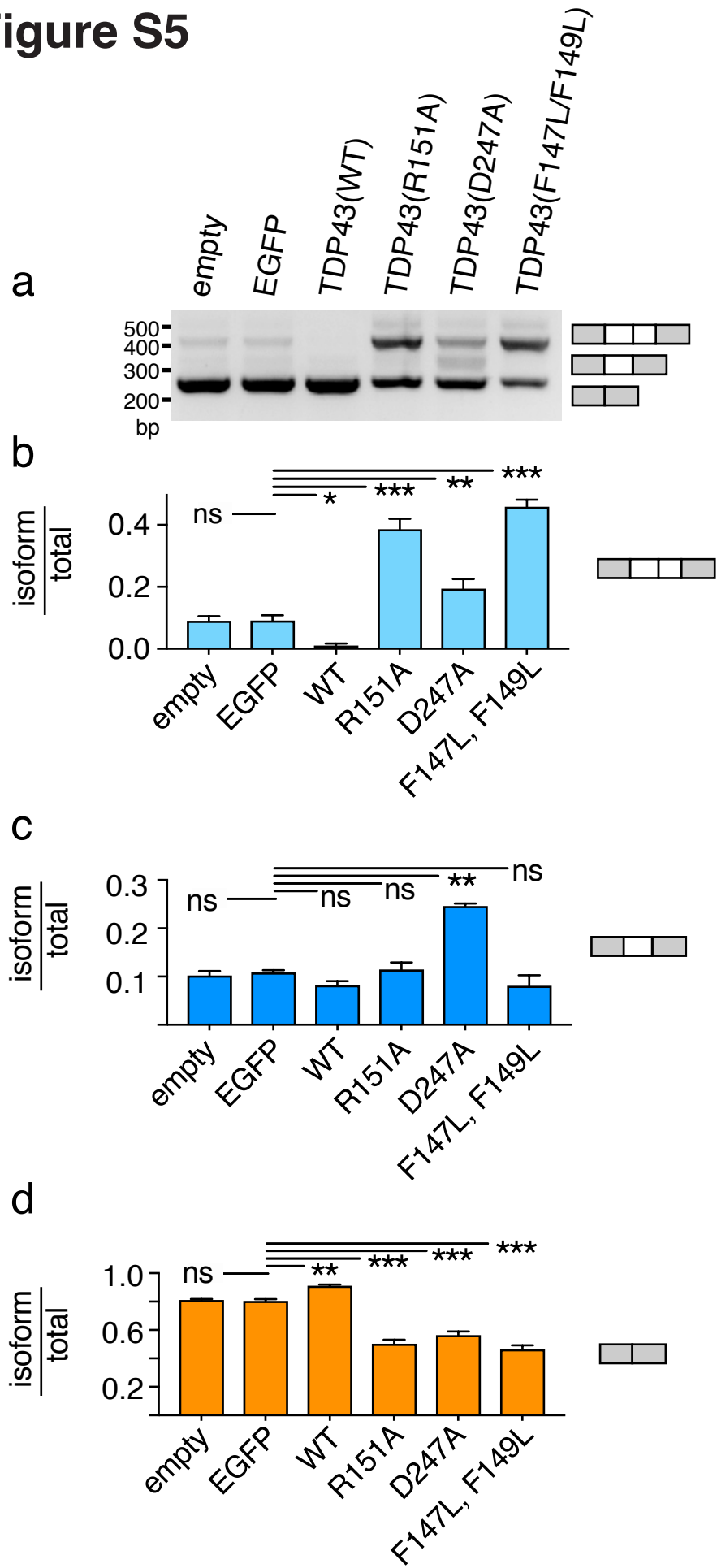
# Figure S4





**Figure S4. Salt bridge-disrupting mutations prevent TDP43 autoregulation, related to Figure 2.** **a**, Schematic illustration of a fluorescent TARDBP autoregulation reporter, consisting of mCherry located upstream *TARDBP* exon 6 and 3'UTR. **b**, HEK293T cells were co-transfected with the reporter and TDP43-EGFP variants, then immunoblotted with mCherry and GAPDH antibodies (**c**) or imaged by automated microscopy (**d**). Overexpression of TDP43(WT)-EGFP significantly reduced reporter abundance compared to EGFP in HEK293T cells (**c**) and primary neurons (**d**). Data represent 3 independent replicates, \*\*  $p < 0.001$ , one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post-hoc.

# Figure S5

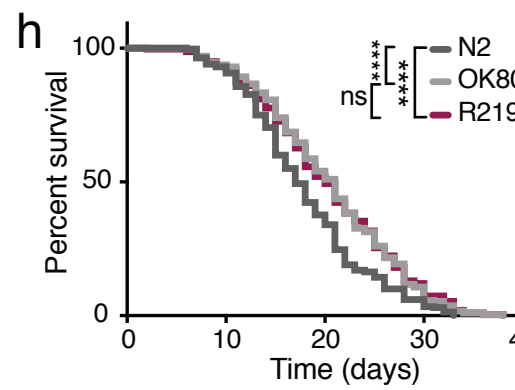
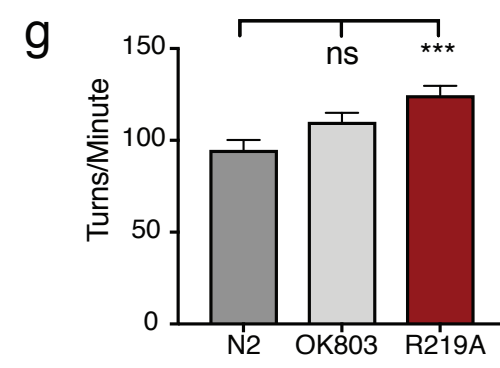
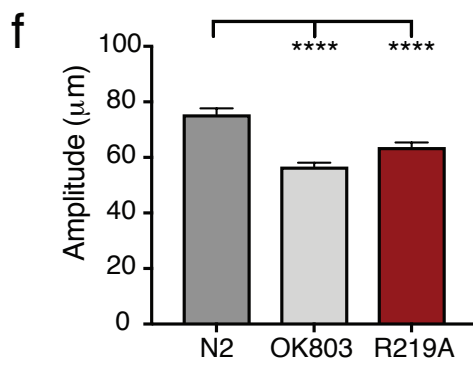
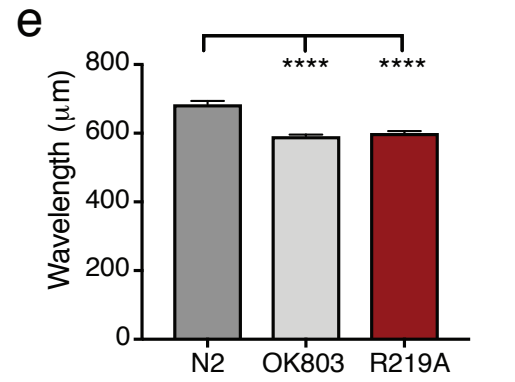
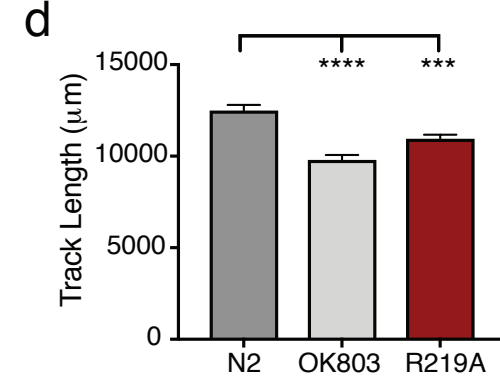
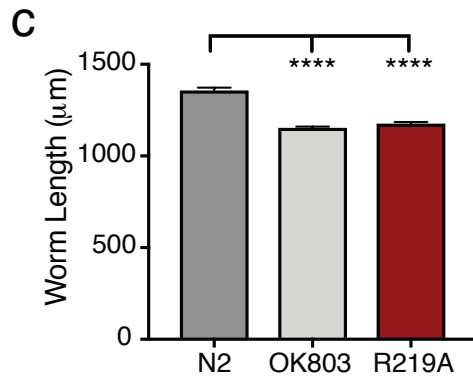


**Figure S5. Overexpression of RNA binding-deficient TDP43 mutants impair TDP43-dependent splicing and physically interact with wild-type TDP43, related to Figure 2.** **a**, *CFTR* minigene splice products in HEK293 cells overexpressing EGFP or EGFP-tagged TDP43 variants. The top band represents exon 9 inclusion, the bottom band shows complete exon 9 exclusion, and the middle band arises from a cryptic splice event within exon 9. **b-d**, Quantification for each *CFTR* isoform. While TDP43(WT)-EGFP overexpression led to an increase in exon 9 exclusion, mutations disrupting RNA binding significantly decreased the proportion of transcripts with exon 9 exclusion. Data was pooled from 3 independent replicates, \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ ; 2-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison test. **e**, HEK293 cells co-expressing TDP43(WT)-HaloTag and EGFP-tagged TDP43(WT), TDP43(F147L, F149L), TDP43(R151A), or TDP43(D247A). Input samples were immunoblotted with anti-TDP43 and -GAPDH antibodies. **f**, HaloTag or TDP43(WT)-HaloTag was eluted with HaloLink, and eluates immunoblotted with anti-GFP and -TDP43 antibodies. TDP43(WT)-HaloTag associated with all TDP43-EGFP variants as detected by the ~75 kDa band corresponding to TDP43-EGFP in each lane. For **e** and **f**, arrow points to TDP43-EGFP. Arrowhead indicates TDP43-HaloTag for (**e**) and native TDP43 for (**f**). Immunoblots are representative of 3 biological replicates.

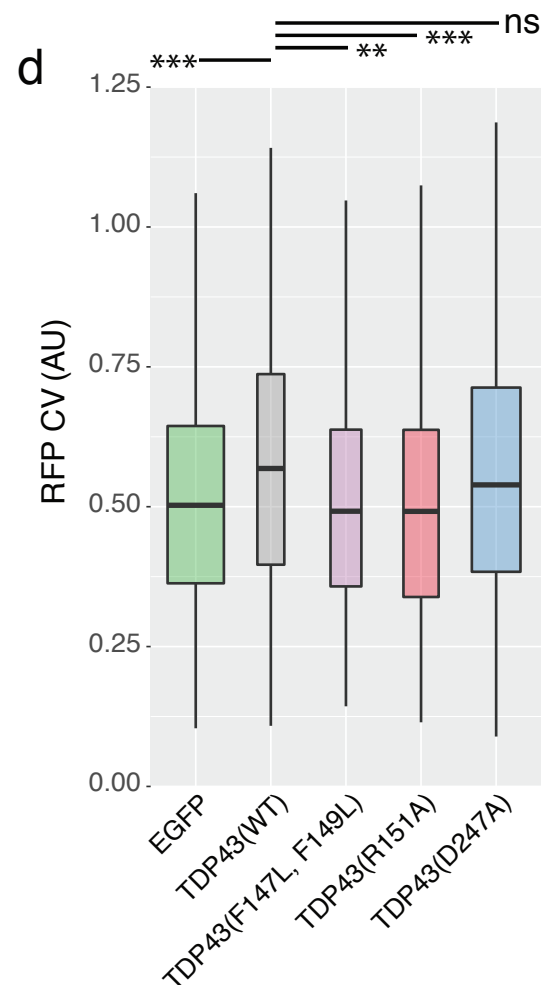
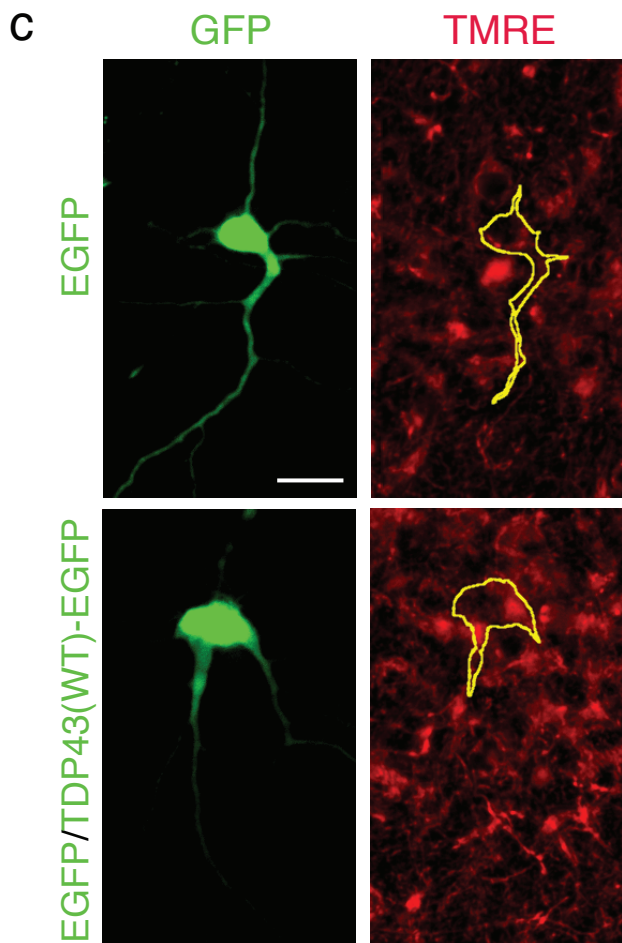
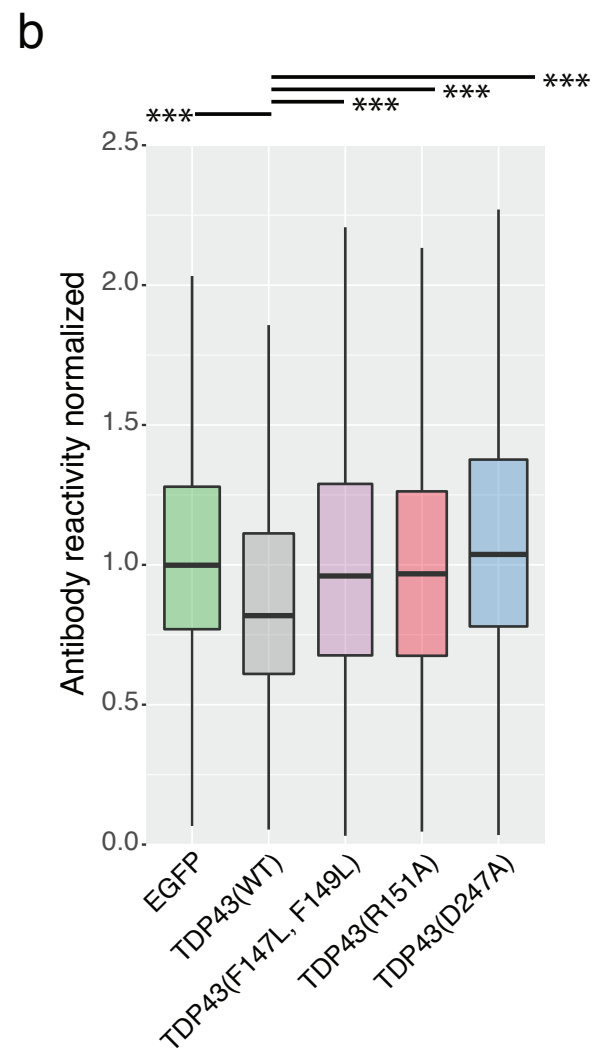
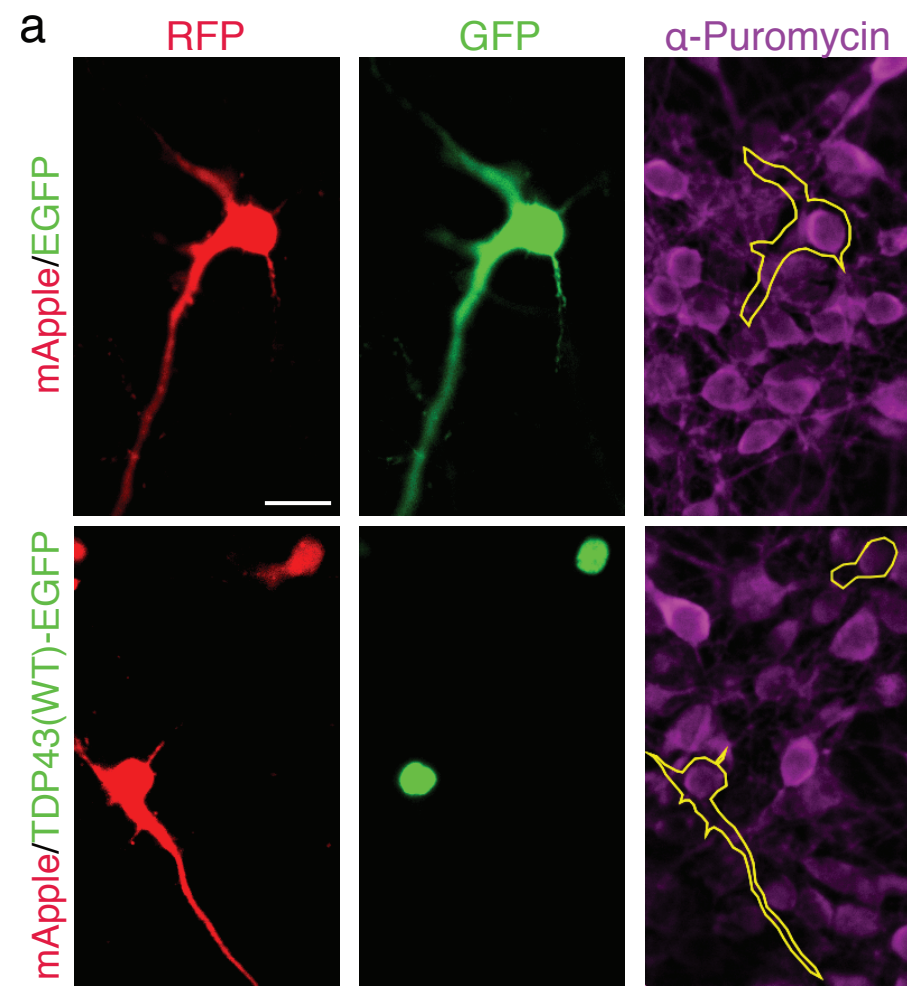
# Figure S6

**a**

<i>Homo Sapiens</i>	111	LPWKTTEQDLKEYFSTFGEVLMVQVKKDLKTGHSKGF	<b>RFTEYETQVKVM</b>	-SQRHMID	169
<i>Mus</i>	111	LPWKTTEQDLKDYFSTFGEVLMVQVKKDLKTGHSKGF	<b>RFTEYETQVKVM</b>	-SQRHMID	169
<i>Pongo</i>	111	LPWKTTEQDLKEYFSTFGEVLMVQVKKDLKTGHSKGF	<b>RFTEYETQVKVM</b>	-SQRHMID	169
<i>Xenopus</i>	112	LPWKTTEQDLKDYFSTFGEVIMVQVKKDAKTGHSKGF	<b>RFADYETQVKVM</b>	-SQRHMID	170
<i>C. elegans</i>	180	VDFKTTDECFQKYFEDIGTVVFC <b>EI</b> KRK-SDGNSKGF	<b>RV</b> MSSVGE <b>Q</b> NKVLAIPQH <b>M</b> ID		238
		: : *** : :	: : * : *	: *	: : * : *



**Figure S6. The *tdp-1*(R219A) knock-in phenocopies TDP-1 null mutations in *C. elegans*, related to Figure 2.** **a**, Interspecies sequence conservation of TDP43's RRM1 domain. Highly conserved residues are highlighted in green. Conservation of R151 (in bold) is highlighted. **b**, Representative images of 7d old wild-type (N2), *tdp-1* (*ok803*) knockout, and mutant *tdp-1* (R219A) animals. Scale bar: 200  $\mu$ m. **c-f**, Behavioral assays of 7d-old animals measuring worm length, track length, wavelength, and amplitude on NGM plates. Both *ok803* and R219A animals displayed significantly reduced locomotor metrics compared to N2 animals on NGM plates. **g**, Thrash assay measuring the number of body bends per minute in liquid media. R219A, but not *ok803*, animals displayed a significant increase in the number of body bends per minute compared to N2. **h**, An increase in survival was observed for both *ok803* and R219A animals compared to N2, but no significant difference was observed between *ok803* and R219A worms. **c-f**, data were pooled from 3 independent experiments, totaling  $n \geq 127$  animals/genotype; \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ , one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post-hoc. **g**, data were pooled from 3 independent experiments, totaling  $n \geq 96$  animals/genotype; \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ , one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post-hoc. **h**, data were pooled from 3 replicates, totaling 418 animals/genotype; \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ , log-rank test. Plots in **c-g** show mean  $\pm$  SEM.

**Figure S7**

**Figure S7. Protein synthesis and mitochondria morphology are altered in TDP43(WT)-expressing neurons, related to Figures 6 and 7.** **a**, Primary neurons were co-transfected with mApple and TDP43(WT)-EGFP or EGFP alone, treated with 1  $\mu$ g/mL puromycin, and stained with puromycin antibodies. Yellow lines outline the cell bodies. **b**, TDP43(WT)-expressing neurons reduced protein synthesis by SUnSET. **c**, Fluorescent images of representative neurons overexpressing EGFP or TDP43(WT)-EGFP and EGFP and stained with the mitochondrial dye TMRE, demonstrating changes in mitochondria morphology in TDP43(WT)-expressing neurons. **d**, TDP43(WT)-EGFP and TDP43(D247A)-EGFP displayed elevated mitochondrial CV compared to EGFP. Data were collected from 2 independent experiments, \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ , one-way ANOVA with Tukey's test. Scale bar: 20  $\mu$ m.

**Table S1. Gene ontology of abnormally spliced transcripts, related to Figure 7.**

KEGG Term	p	FE	Bonf.	Benj.	FDR	Genes
Ribosome	$6.6 \times 10^{-17}$	3.0	$3.1 \times 10^{-14}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-14}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-13}$	RPL18, RPL17, RPL19, RPL14, RPL13, RPS27L, RPS2, RPS3, RPLP0, RPLP1, RPL10, RPL11, RPL12, MRPL32, MRPL33, MRPL2, MRPL1, MRPL4, MRPL3, MRPS5, MRPL9, MRPS2, RPS18, RPS16, MRPS18A, RPS13, UBA52, MRPS17, MRPS16, MRPS11, MRPS10, RPS15A, RPL36, RPL37, MRPL10, RPS27, RPL30, RPS28, MRPL15, RPL32, RPL6, RPL31, RPL34, RPL9, RPL8, RPL3, RPL5, RPL7A, RPL10A, RPS24, RPSA, RPL26, RPL27, MRPS21, RPS6, RPS8, RPL28, RPS7, RPL23, RPL18A, RPL21, RPL37A
Spliceosome	$5.5 \times 10^{-10}$	2.5	$1.5 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.7 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.2 \times 10^{-7}$	HNRNPA1L2, NCBP1, CHERP, SRSF10, TRA2B, U2AF2, U2SURP, TRA2A, CWC15, SNU13, SF3B6, XAB2, SF3B4, SF3B2, HNRNPA3, HNRNPM, SF3B1, TCERG1, PLRG1, USP39, DHX15, MAGOHB, HNRNPC, ACIN1, RBM25, PRPF40A, RBM22, SNRPA1, ALYREF, SF3A2, DDX5, HNRNPA1, SF3A1, RBMX, HNRNPU, PRPF6, SRSF2, EIF4A3, PPIE, SRSF5, PPIH, SRSF6, SLU7, SNRNP40, SNRPC, PUF60, PRPF38B, THOC1, PRPF38A, SNRPG
Proteasome	$6.1 \times 10^{-8}$	3.4	$1.7 \times 10^{-5}$	$5.7 \times 10^{-6}$	$8.1 \times 10^{-5}$	PSMA7, PSMB5, PSMA1, PSMB4, PSMD14, PSMB7, PSMD13, PSMC5, PSMC4, PSMD11, PSMA5, PSMC3, PSME2, PSMA4, PSMC2, PSMA3, POMP, PSMD2, PSMD3, PSME3, PSME4, PSMD7, PSMD8
Cell cycle	$1.5 \times 10^{-7}$	2.3	$4.3 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	E2F3, FZR1, E2F4, PKMYT1, TTK, CHEK1, PTTG1, CDC16, ZBTB17, CDC45, ORC4, MYC, ORC1, CUL1, BUB3, TFDP1, STAG1, CDC7, CDK1, ANAPC2, ANAPC5, RBL1, ANAPC4, TP53, SKP2, MCM2, SKP1, MCM3, MCM4, CDC27, WEE1, CDC25A, MCM6, CDC25B, CCNB1, HDAC1, PLK1, PCNA, BUB1B, MDM2, ANAPC7, SMC1A, GADD45B
RNA transport	$8.6 \times 10^{-7}$	2.0	$2.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.9 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-3}$	XPO1, NCBP1, RANGAP1, PNN, PRMT5, MAGOHB, NUP37, DDX20, ACIN1, TPR, TGS1, KPNB1, EIF2B4, EIF2B5, CLNS1A, NUP88, RAN, EIF2S3, NUP85, UBE2I, TACC3, EIF4G1, EIF4A3, EIF4G2, EIF4G3, AAAS, EIF4A2, EIF4A1, THOC6, NUP107, THOC1, NUP98, ELAC2, STRAP, PABPC4, NDC1, SUMO2, NUP214, EIF3B, EIF3G, EIF3E, NUP50, XPOT, GEMIN2, ALYREF, RNPS1, NXF1, CASC3, FXR1, EIF4B, SEC13, EIF4E2
Base excision repair	$6.6 \times 10^{-6}$	3.4	$1.9 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$8.8 \times 10^{-3}$	APEX2, LIG1, NEIL3, POLE, NEIL1, MBD4, XRCC1, SMUG1, POLD4, MPG, MUTYH, POLE2, POLD1, POLD2, TDG, PCNA, PARP2
DNA replication	$2.6 \times 10^{-5}$	3.1	$7.4 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.5 \times 10^{-2}$	LIG1, POLE, RNASEH1, POLA2, MCM2, MCM3, MCM4, RNASEH2C, MCM6, RFC5, POLD4, RFC1, POLE2, POLD1, PRIM2, POLD2, PCNA



**Table S2. Primers used for site-directed mutagenesis, related to STAR methods.**

Point Mutations or PCR Product	Amino Acid(s)	Primers	Sequences (5' – 3')
F147L/F149L	147,149	Forward	GGT CAT TCA AAG GGG CTT GGC CTT GTT CGT TTT ACG G
		Reverse	CCG TAA AAC GAA CAA GGC CAA GCC CCT TTG AAT GAC C
R151A	151	Forward	GGT TTG GCT TTG TTG CTT TTA CGG AAT ATG
		Reverse	CAT ATT CCG TAA AAG CAA CAA AGC CAA ACC
R151D	151	Forward	GGG GTT TGG CTT TGT TGA TTT TAC GGA ATA TG
		Reverse	CAT ATT CCG TAA AAT CAA CAA AGC CAA ACC CC
D247A	247	Forward	CTC TTT GTG GAG AGG CCT TGA TCA TTA AAG G
		Reverse	CCT TTA ATG ATC AAG GCC TCT CCA CAA AGA G
D247R	247	Forward	CTC TTT GTG GAG AGC GCT TGA TCA TTA AAG
		Reverse	CTT TAA TGA TCA AGC GCT CTC CAC AAA GAG
D247E	247	Forward	GTC TCT TTG TGG AGA GGA GTT GAT CAT TAA AGG AAT C
		Reverse	GAT TCC TTT AAT GAT CAA CTC CTC TCC ACA AAG AGA C
mPUM2	255, 256, 259	Forward	CAC AAA TTT GCC GCC GCT GTA GTA GCA AAG TGT GTT ACT C
		Reverse	GAG TAA CAC ACT TTG CTA CTA CAG CGG CGG CAA ATT TGT G
PP7	1-283	Forward	TCC AAA ACC ATC GTT CTT TCG G
		Reverse	TCC TCC TCC GCT TCC TCC ACT A
TDP43 N-terminus	1-106	Forward	ATG TCT GAA TAT ATT CGG GTA ACC G
		Reverse	TAA ATC GGA TGT TTT CTG GAC T
TDP43 C-terminus	263-414	Forward	AAG CAC AAT AGC AAT AGA CAG TTA G
		Reverse	TCC CCA GCC AGA AGA CTT AGA ATC C
TDP43(RRM1)	107-176	Forward	ATA GTG TTG GGT CTC CCA T
		Reverse	GCT TCT CAA AGG CTC ATC TT
TDP43(RRM2)	191-262	Forward	CTT CCT AAT TCT AAG CAA AGC CAA G -3'
		Reverse	AGG TTC GGC ATT GGA TAT ATG AAC GC – 3
TDP43(WT)	1-414	Forward	GCT AGC GCC ACC ATG TCT GAA TAT ATT
		Reverse	ACC GGT CCC AAA CCT CTA CCG TCC CA
HaloTag	1-296	Forward	ATG GCA GAA ATC GGT ACT GG
		Reverse	CTA GGA AAT CTC GAG CGT CGA CA
TEV	1-7	Forward	GAG AAT CTT TAT TTT CAG GGC
		Reverse	GCC CTG AAA ATA AAG ATT CTC

