natureresearch

Corresponding author(s): Erwin Frey

Last updated by author(s): Dec 11, 2019

Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see<u>Authors & Referees</u> and the<u>Editorial Policy Checklist</u>.

Statistics

For	all st	atistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.
n/a	Сог	nfirmed
x		The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
X		A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
x		The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
X		A description of all covariates tested
x		A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
×		A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
x		For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F, t, r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
x		For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
X		For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
x		Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d, Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated
	•	Our web collection on statistics for biologists contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection	All data was collected with either COMSOL Multiphysics (Versions 5.1 - 5.4) for FEM simulations or with Mathematica (Version 11.1 to 12.)			
Data analysis	All data was analyzed with either COMSOL Multiphysics (Versions 5.1 to 5.4) or with Mathematica (Version 11.1 to 12.)			

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors/reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research guidelines for submitting code & software for further information.

Data

Policy information about availability of data

All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

We provide the outcomes of linear stability analysis in form of graphs with color codes for the growth rates. Mathematica lists of parameters, modes and corresponding growth rates we provide upon request. We further provide COMSOL simulation files for the reproduction of FEM simulations upon request. Data from FEM simulations is shown in our plots and can be provided in text format upon request.

Field-specific reporting

Life sciences study design

An studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.								
Sample size	Our computer simulations followed deterministic model equations.							
Data exclusions	We did not exclude data on purpose.							
Replication	Our computer simulations followed deterministic model equations.							
Randomization	Describe how samples/organisms/participants were allocated into experimental groups. If allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled OR if this is not relevant to your study, explain why.							
Blinding	Describe whether the investigators were blinded to group allocation during data collection and/or analysis. If blinding was not possible, describe why OR explain why blinding was not relevant to your study.							

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems



M	et	hc	bd	S

- n/a Involved in the study

 Involved in the study

 ChIP-seq

 Flow cytometry
- MRI-based neuroimaging