

Reporting Summary

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Please do not complete any field with "not applicable" or n/a. Refer to the help text for what text to use if an item is not relevant to your study.

For final submission: please carefully check your responses for accuracy; you will not be able to make changes later.

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

- | n/a | Confirmed |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The exact sample size (<i>n</i>) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
<i>Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> A description of all covariates tested |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. <i>F</i> , <i>t</i> , <i>r</i>) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and <i>P</i> value noted
<i>Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's <i>d</i> , Pearson's <i>r</i>), 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

AutoEMation for cryo-EM data collection, MotionCor 2 for motion correction, Gctf 1.06 for defocus estimation

Data analysis

Relion 3.1, PHENIX1.18.2, trRosetta, tFold, COOT, PyMOL 2.5, Chimera 1.15, ConSurf server, Dali server, SnapGene 5.2.3, GraphPad Prism 9, cryoSPARC 3.2, Gautomatch 0.56, ImageJ

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 and 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

Data supporting the findings of this manuscript are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request. Atomic coordinate and corresponding EM maps of the WLS-Wnt3a complex PDB 7DRT (<http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb7DRT/pdb>) and EMD-30827 (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/emdb/EMD-30827>) have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (<http://www.rcsb.org>) and the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/emdb/>), respectively. Source data are provided with this paper.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences Behavioural & social sciences Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

Life sciences study design

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

Sample size	All histograms were generated from three independent measurements. We did extensive individual preliminary tests to confirm the reproducibility under our final experimental conditions.
Data exclusions	No data exclusions.
Replication	Co-IP assay, Wnt secretion assay and TOPFlash assay were performed at least three times to confirm the results. Independent replication was done every two to three days. All attempts under our final experimental conditions were successful.
Randomization	N/A. We had enough control and the reproducibility was good. Our results were sufficient to demonstrate the accuracy.
Blinding	N/A. We had enough control and the reproducibility was good. Our results were sufficient to demonstrate the accuracy.

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		Methods	
n/a	Involved in the study	n/a	Involved in the study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antibodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Human research participants		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern		

Antibodies

Antibodies used	Rabbit polyclonal anti-Wnt3a antibody (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat. # 09-162, 1:1000 dilution); Rabbit polyclonal anti-WLS (Sangon Biotech, D264109, 1:1000 dilution); beta-Actin (8H10D10) Mouse mAb (CST, Cat. #3700, 1:1000 dilution); Goat anti-Mouse IgG, HRP conjugated (CWBIO, CW0102, 1:10000 dilution); Goat-anti-Rabbit IgG, HRP conjugated (CWBIO, CW0103, 1:10000 dilution).
Validation	All primary antibodies target human proteins in this study. We validated these antibodies by western blotting through obtaining bands with expected molecular weight.

Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines](#)

Cell line source(s)	HEK293S GnTI ⁻ and HeLa cell lines were from ATCC.
Authentication	No further authentication was performed for commercially available cell lines.
Mycoplasma contamination	No mycoplasma contamination.
Commonly misidentified lines (See ICLAC register)	No commonly misidentified cell lines were used.

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