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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 our <u>Editorial Policies</u> and the <u>Editorial Policy Checklist</u>.

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| _ | _ | | | \sim |

| For a | all statistical an | alyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section. | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| n/a | Confirmed | | | | | |
| | The exact | The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement | | | | |
| | X A stateme | nt on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly | | | | |
| \boxtimes | 1 1 | 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. | | | | |
| \boxtimes | A description of all covariates tested | | | | | |
| \boxtimes | A descript | ion of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons | | | | |
| \boxtimes | | 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) | | | | |
| \boxtimes | | 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 Give <i>P</i> values as exact values whenever suitable. | | | | |
| \boxtimes | For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings | | | | | |
| \boxtimes | For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes | | | | | |
| \boxtimes | 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 <u>statistics for biologists</u> contains articles on many of the points above. | | | | | |
| Software and code | | | | | | |
| Polic | y information a | about <u>availability of computer code</u> | | | | |
| Da | ta collection | Commercial Zeiss Zen software was used to perform confocal imaging. Computer simulations were done in Matlab 9.6 (MathWorks). | | | | |
| Da | ta analysis | Commercial software used to analyze data: Imaris 9.3 (Bitplane) and Matlab 9.6 (MathWorks). ImageJ was also used to analyze data. | | | | |
| | , , | 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 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 <u>data availability statement</u>. 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

Source data supporting these findings are available online as Supplementary Data.

| Field-specific reporting | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Please select the o | ne 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 docume | ent with all sections, see <u>nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf</u> | | |
| | | study design | | |
| | | these points even when the disclosure is negative. | | |
| Sample size | Sample | size was chosen so that statistical variation of the data did not change considerably upon addition of more data points. | | |
| Data exclusions | No data | lata was excluded. | | |
| Replication | | endent experiments were performed and statistical analysis done independently of these data sets. The results obtained were the same a error bars in different, independent data sets. | | |
| Randomization | No spec | ecific experimental groups were defined and all data was considered. | | |
| Blinding | Analysis | Analysis was done by automated software which was blind to data collection. | | |
| 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 & ex | perime | ntal systems Methods | | |
| n/a Involved in th | ne study | n/a Involved in the study | | |
| Antibodies | 5 | ChIP-seq | | |
| Eukaryotic cell lines | | Flow cytometry | | |
| | Palaeontology and archaeology MRI-based neuroimaging | | | |
| Animals and other organisms | | | | |
| Human research participants | | | | |
| Clinical data Dual use research of concern | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Animals and | othe | r organisms | | |
| Policy information about studies involving animals; ARRIVE guidelines recommended for reporting animal research | | | | |
| Laboratory anima | Zebrafish (Danio rerio) were used in this study. Since only embryos were studied, sex-specific experiments were not necessary, as zebrafish embryos at the studies stage have not yet undergone sex determination. | | | |
| Wild animals None | | None | | |

Animal husbandry and experiments were done according to protocols approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the University of California Santa Barbara.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-collected samples

Ethics oversight

None.