***eLife’s* transparent reporting form**

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**Sample-size estimation**

* You should state whether an appropriate sample size was computed when the study was being designed
* You should state the statistical method of sample size computation and any required assumptions
* If no explicit power analysis was used, you should describe how you decided what sample (replicate) size (number) to use

No sample size was calculated prior to initiating this study. We aimed to use the highest number of larvae when possible. However, the technical difficulties of live imaging and the need to test larvae on a specific developmental stage posed some constraints. The specific sample size for each experiment is listed in the figure legends. Raw data is provided as source data for all results.

Please outline where this information can be found within the submission (e.g., sections or figure legends), or explain why this information doesn’t apply to your submission:

**Replicates**

* You should report how often each experiment was performed
* You should include a definition of biological versus technical replication
* The data obtained should be provided and sufficient information should be provided to indicate the number of independent biological and/or technical replicates
* If you encountered any outliers, you should describe how these were handled
* Criteria for exclusion/inclusion of data should be clearly stated
* High-throughput sequence data should be uploaded before submission, with a private link for reviewers provided (these are available from both GEO and ArrayExpress)

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Prior to generating the results presented in this manuscript, we performed pilot studies to assess efficacy of treatment conditions, effect size, and variability in the measures of biological outcomes. Thus, results presented in this manuscript represent replicate experiments (usually 1 or 2) to these pilot analyses. For each experiment we indicate the number of larvae (biological replicates) and the number of hair cell clusters evaluated per larva, which increases the power of each biological replicate. No outliers were excluded from any experiment.

**Statistical reporting**

* Statistical analysis methods should be described and justified
* Raw data should be presented in figures whenever informative to do so (typically when N per group is less than 10)
* For each experiment, you should identify the statistical tests used, exact values of N, definitions of center, methods of multiple test correction, and dispersion and precision measures (e.g., mean, median, SD, SEM, confidence intervals; and, for the major substantive results, a measure of effect size (e.g., Pearson's r, Cohen's d)
* Report exact p-values wherever possible alongside the summary statistics and 95% confidence intervals. These should be reported for all key questions and not only when the p-value is less than 0.05.

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Statistical tests, n, and p-values for each experiment are listed in the figure legends. Exact p-values for each experiment are found in the source data files.

(For large datasets, or papers with a very large number of statistical tests, you may upload a single table file with tests, Ns, etc., with reference to sections in the manuscript.)

**Group allocation**

* Indicate how samples were allocated into experimental groups (in the case of clinical studies, please specify allocation to treatment method); if randomization was used, please also state if restricted randomization was applied
* Indicate if masking was used during group allocation, data collection and/or data analysis

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Not applicable

**Additional data files (“source data”)**

* We encourage you to upload relevant additional data files, such as numerical data that are represented as a graph in a figure, or as a summary table
* Where provided, these should be in the most useful format, and they can be uploaded as “Source data” files linked to a main figure or table
* Include model definition files including the full list of parameters used
* Include code used for data analysis (e.g., R, MatLab)
* Avoid stating that data files are “available upon request”

Source data have been provided for figures 1,3,4,5, 6, and 7 and the supplemental figures.

Please indicate the figures or tables for which source data files have been provided: