***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
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* If no explicit power analysis was used, you should describe how you decided what sample (replicate) size (number) to use

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We repeated experiments three independent times. In the instance where we performed more than three independent experiments, this decision was based on the low number of colonies formed in response to high dose radiation and the desire to minimize any effect of low numbers on the observed effect.

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This information can be found in the Methods under “Scientific Rigor” and in the Figure Legends.

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* Statistical analysis methods should be described and justified
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* 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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(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.)

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