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

We encourage authors to provide detailed information *within their submission* to facilitate the interpretation and replication of experiments. Authors can upload supporting documentation to indicate the use of appropriate reporting guidelines for health-related research (see [EQUATOR Network](http://www.equator-network.org/%20)), life science research (see the [BioSharing Information Resource](https://biosharing.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)), or the [ARRIVE guidelines](http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info%3Adoi/10.1371/journal.pbio.1000412) for reporting work involving animal research. Where applicable, authors should refer to any relevant reporting standards documents in this 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

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:

We carried out 4 biological replicates with multiple technical replicates for the cyanide worm movement assay and carried out 4 biological replicates for LC-MS experiments to measure quinone levels. We did not compute appropriate sample sizes prior to study design.

**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)

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:

We carried out 4 biological replicates for the cyanide movement assay and LC-MS experiments. All descriptions of replicates, statistical analysis, and data correction and normalization methods are covered in the figure legends (Figure 5) and the Materials and Methods (Lipid extraction and LC-MS quantitation; Image-based KCN recovery assay)

**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.

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:

Information on the statistical analysis and information on replicates for Figure 5b/c are described in figure legends, Material and Methods and Supplementary File 2.

The values shown in Figure 5b are the mean of 4 biological replicates. Significance of differences in quinone levels in Figure 5b in described in the figure legend and indicated in the plot. P values are indicated in the figure legend and Supplementary File 2 for both significant and non-significant differences. Error bars show standard deviation.

The quantitative data shown in Figure 5c represent the mean of biological replicates with error bars being standard error.

(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

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:

Not relevant

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

Statistical analysis data for RQ and Q levels in Figure 5b are listed in Supplementary File 2.

Sequences for CRISPR mutants, and the sgRNAs and primers used for CRISPR-mediated editing are listed in Supplementary File 1.

Genomic coordinates for alternatively spliced exons (illustrated in Figure 3), species sequences used for Figure 4, as well as previously published RNA-seq data analyzed for this paper are listed in Supplementary File 3.