***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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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:

The manuscript reports results of simulations so there’s no sampling from a larger data set and, therefore, no sample size.

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* You should report how often each experiment was performed
* You should include a definition of biological versus technical replication
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Simulations were run multiple times, and with different initial conditions. results were consistent across runs. The paper does not present run-to-run analyses but code is provided, permitting any reader to run the simulations.

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* Statistical analysis methods should be described and justified
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* 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
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Please indicate the figures or tables for which source data files have been provided:

All code and results are available at https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12317414.v1