***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/)), or the [ARRIVE guidelines](http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info:doi/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

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Sample size is mentioned in Materials and Methods section.

**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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**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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The information on Statistics is provided in Materials and Methods section under, “Quantification and Statistical Analysis”. Information on p-values is reported in the figure legend corresponding to each figure.

(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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* 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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Not applicable.

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* 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
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* Avoid stating that data files are “available upon request”

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

Source data files are provided for all figures.

Accession #s and URLs of RNAseq data deposited on SRA-NCBI:

1. PRJNA727590 (*S. aureus* vs Starvation in Wild type and *hlh-30(tm1978)* mutant animals).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA727590>

2. PRJNA728096 (*S. aureus* vs Starvation in Wild type and *nhr-49(nr2041)* mutant animals).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA728096>