***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

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 sample size and statistical tests can be found in Material and Methods and respective figure legends.

**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:

Animals were randomly selected from a large collection of clonally dividing asexual planarians for all experiments. Biological replicates involving 3-5 animals per experiments were performed. No outliers were observed, and no high throughput sequence data is generated in this study. This information can be found in Material and Methods and respective figure legends.

**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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All data are represented as mean+/- SD and the statistical test and N number of animals used is explained in material and methods section and also in the respective figure legends. The source data file also contains information of the statistical test used for individual datasets. All statistical tests are performed using Graphpad prism v6 and the exact p value for all key questions is reported. (unless p<0.0001 in which case Prism does not provide an exact value).

(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:

No group has been allocated in this study. Animals were randomly selected from a large collection of clonally dividing asexual planarians for all experiments.

**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
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* Include model definition files including the full list of parameters used
* Include code used for data analysis (e.g., R, MatLab)
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Please indicate the figures or tables for which source data files have been provided:

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in the manuscript. Source data files containing numerical data supporting individual graphs have been provided for all main and supplementary figures.