1

2

3

4

5 **A tRNA processing enzyme is a key regulator of the mitochondrial unfolded protein response**

6

7 James P. Held[1], Gaomin Feng[2], Benjamin R. Saunders[1], Claudia V. Pereira[1], Kristopher Burkewitz[2],

8 and Maulik R. Patel[1,2,3,*]

9

10 [1]Department of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

11 [2]Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville,

12 TN

13 [3]Diabetes Research and Training Center, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN

14 *Correspondence: maulik.r.patel@vanderbilt.edu

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25   **Abstract**

26   The mitochondrial unfolded protein response (UPR^{mt}) has emerged as a predominant mechanism that

27   preserves mitochondrial function. Consequently, multiple pathways likely exist to modulate UPR^{mt}. We

28   discovered that the tRNA processing enzyme, homolog of ELAC2 (HOE-1), is key to UPR^{mt} regulation

29   in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. We find that nuclear HOE-1 is necessary and sufficient to robustly activate

30   UPR^{mt}. We show that HOE-1 acts via transcription factors ATFS-1 and DVE-1 that are crucial for

31   UPR^{mt}. Mechanistically, we show that HOE-1 likely mediates its effects via tRNAs, as blocking tRNA

32   export prevents HOE-1-induced UPR^{mt}. Interestingly, we find that HOE-1 does not act via the integrated

33   stress response, which can be activated by uncharged tRNAs, pointing towards its reliance on a new

34   mechanism. Finally, we show that the subcellular localization of HOE-1 is responsive to mitochondrial

35   stress and is subject to negative regulation via ATFS-1. Together, we have discovered a novel RNA-

36   based cellular pathway that modulates UPR^{mt}.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

Mitochondria are central to a myriad of cellular processes including energy production, cellular signaling, biogenesis of small molecules, and regulation of cell death via apoptosis (Nunnari and Suomalainen, 2012). Mitochondrial dysfunction can lead to metabolic and neurological disorders, cardiovascular disease, and cancers (Vafai and Mootha, 2012). To maintain proper mitochondrial function cellular mechanisms have evolved that respond to, and mitigate, mitochondrial stress (Baker et al., 2012; Wang and Chen, 2015; Wrobel et al., 2015; Munkácsy et al., 2016; Tjahjono and Kirienko, 2017; Weidberg and Amon, 2018; Naresh and Haynes, 2019; Fessler et al., 2020; Guo et al., 2020).

One of the predominant mitochondrial stress response mechanisms is the mitochondrial unfolded protein response (UPR^{mt}). Though first discovered in mammals (Zhao et al., 2002), UPR^{mt} has been best characterized in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Naresh and Haynes, 2019). UPR^{mt} is primarily characterized by transcriptional upregulation of genes whose products respond to and ameliorate mitochondrial stress (Yoneda et al., 2004; Nargund et al., 2012).

In *C. elegans*, activation of UPR^{mt} relies on the transcription factor ATFS-1 that primarily localizes to mitochondria, but under mitochondrial-stress conditions is trafficked to the nucleus where it drives the expression of mitochondrial stress response genes (Haynes et al., 2010; Nargund et al., 2012, 2015). However, it has become increasingly apparent that UPR^{mt} is under multiple levels of control: Mitochondrial stress in neurons can activate intestinal UPR^{mt} non-cell-autonomously via retromer-dependent Wnt signaling (Durieux et al., 2011; Berendzen et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2018); overexpression of two conserved histone demethylases are independently sufficient to activate UPR^{mt} (Merkwirth et al., 2016); and ATFS-1 is post-translationally modified to facilitate its stability and subsequent UPR^{mt} activation (Gao et al., 2019). Given mitochondrial integration into many diverse cellular signaling and metabolic pathways, there are likely yet-to-be identified pathways regulating UPR^{mt}.

71   In conducting a small scale RNAi screen to interrogate the effects of perturbing mitochondrial RNA

72   processing we discovered that the 3'-tRNA zinc phosphodiesterase, homolog of ELAC2 (HOE-1), is a

73   key regulator of UPR^{mt} in *C. elegans*. ELAC2 is an essential endonuclease that cleaves 3'-trailer

74   sequences from nascent tRNAs—a necessary step of tRNA maturation—in both nuclei and

75   mitochondria (Nashimoto et al., 1999; Mayer et al., 2000; Schiffer et al., 2002; Takaku et al., 2003;

76   Dubrovsky et al., 2004; Brzezniak et al., 2011; Lopez Sanchez et al., 2011; Siira et al., 2018). ELAC2

77   has also been reported to cleave other structured RNAs yielding tRNA fragments, small nucleolar

78   RNAs (snoRNAs) and micro RNAs (miRNAs) (Kruszka et al., 2003; Lee et al., 2009; Bogerd et al.,

79   2010; Siira et al., 2018). In humans, mutations in ELAC2 are associated with hypertrophic

80   cardiomyopathy (Haack et al., 2013; Shinwari et al., 2017; Saoura et al., 2019) and prostate cancer

81   (Tavtigian et al., 2001; Korver et al., 2003; Noda et al., 2006) while in *C. elegans*, loss of HOE-1 has

82   been shown to compromise fertility (Smith and Levitan, 2004).

83   Surprisingly, we find that it is not the mitochondrial, but rather the nuclear activity of HOE-1 that is

84   required for activation of UPR^{mt}. Remarkably, compromising nuclear export of HOE-1 is sufficient to

85   specifically and robustly activate UPR^{mt}. Blocking tRNA export from the nucleus suppresses this HOE-

86   1-dependent UPR^{mt} induction, suggesting that HOE-1 generates RNA species required in the cytosol to

87   trigger UPR^{mt}. Finally, we show that HOE-1 nuclear levels are dynamically regulated under conditions

88   of mitochondrial stress, supporting a physiological role for HOE-1 in mitochondrial stress response.

89   Taken together, our results provide a novel mechanism by which UPR^{mt} is regulated as well as provide

90   critical insight into the biological role of the conserved tRNA processing enzyme, HOE-1.

91   **Results**

92   ***hoe-1* is required for maximal UPR^{mt} activation.**

93   We discovered that RNAi against *hoe-1*, a gene encoding a 3'-tRNA phosphodiesterase, attenuates

94   *hsp-6p::GFP* induction—a fluorescence based transcriptional reporter of UPR^{mt} activation (Yoneda et

95   al., 2004). Knockdown of *hoe-1* by RNAi is sufficient to attenuate UPR^{mt} reporter activation induced by

96   a loss-of-function mutation in the mitochondrial electron transport chain (ETC) complex I subunit NUO-6

97   (*nuo-6(qm200)*) **(Figure 1A, 1B)**.

98   To further interrogate the potential role of *hoe-1* in UPR^{mt} regulation we used CRISPR/*Cas9* to

99   generate a *hoe-1* null mutant (*hoe-1(-/-)*) by deleting the open reading frame of *hoe-1* (Dokshin et al.,

100   2018). The *hoe-1* null mutants do not develop past late larval stage 3, thus the allele is maintained over

101   a balancer chromosome, *tmC25* (Dejima et al., 2018). UPR^{mt} induced by the knockdown of both the

102   mitochondrial protease, *spg-7*, and ETC complex IV subunit, *cco-1*, is robustly attenuated in *hoe-1* null

103   animals **(Figure 1C–E)**. Furthermore, UPR^{mt} induced by *nuo-6(qm200)* is attenuated in *hoe-1* null

104   animals similarly to what is seen in *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *hoe-1* RNAi **(Figure 1F, 1G)**. Taken

105   together, these findings suggest that HOE-1 is generally required for maximal UPR^{mt} activation.

106   **HOE-1 is dual-targeted to nuclei and mitochondria.**

107   To better understand the role of HOE-1 in UPR^{mt} regulation we sought to identify where HOE-1

108   functions in the cell. HOE-1 is predicted to localize to both nuclei and mitochondria and this dual-

109   localization has been shown for HOE-1 orthologs in *Drosophila*, mice, and human cell lines (Dubrovsky

110   et al., 2004; Brzezniak et al., 2011; Rossmanith, 2011; Siira et al., 2018) . To determine the subcellular

111   localization of HOE-1 in *C. elegans* we C-terminally tagged HOE-1 with GFP at its endogenous locus

112   (HOE-1::GFP). Both *hoe-1::GFP* homozygous and *hoe-1::GFP/hoe-1(-/-)* trans-heterozygous animals

113   grow and develop indistinguishably from wildtype animals suggesting that GFP-tagging HOE-1 does

114   not compromise its essential functions **(Figure 2 – figure supplement 1A)**. We found that HOE-1

115   localizes to both mitochondria and nuclei **(Figure 2A)**.

116   **Mitochondrial HOE-1 is not required for UPR^{mt} activation.**

117   Given the dual-localization of HOE-1, we questioned whether it is mitochondrial or nuclear HOE-1 that

118   is required for UPR^{mt} activation. To address this question, we created mitochondrial and nuclear

119   compartment-specific loss-of-function mutants of HOE-1 **(Figure 2B)**. *hoe-1* contains two functional

120   start codons. Translation beginning from the first start codon (encoding methionine 1 (M1)) produces a

protein containing a mitochondrial targeting sequence (MTS). Translation beginning from the second start codon (encoding methionine 74 (M74)), which is 3' to the MTS, produces a nuclear specific protein. This feature is conserved in human ELAC2 and it has been shown that mutating M1 to an alanine produces a mitochondrial-specific knockout (Brzezniak et al., 2011). Thus, we used the same approach to create a mitochondrial-specific knockout of *C. elegans* HOE-1 (*hoe-1(ΔMTS)*). This mutation is sufficient to strongly attenuate mitochondrial targeting without impacting nuclear localization **(Figure 2 – figure supplement 2A)**.

UPR^{mt} reporter activation by *spg-7* and *cco-1* RNAi is not attenuated in *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* animals **(Figure 2C, 2D and Figure 2 – figure supplement 3A, 3B)**. In fact, UPR^{mt} reporter activation is slightly elevated in *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* animals relative to wildtype. These data suggest that mitochondrial HOE-1 is not required for UPR^{mt} activation.

Nuclear HOE-1 is required for UPR^{mt} activation.

HOE-1 is predicted to contain two nuclear localization signals (NLS). Given that *hoe-1* null mutant animals are developmentally arrested and *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* animals are superficially wildtype we reasoned that completely ablating nuclear localization of HOE-1 may result in recapitulation of the null phenotype. In effort to disentangle the developmental effects from the effect on UPR^{mt} we ablated only one of the nuclear localization signals of HOE-1. To compromise nuclear localization we mutated the positively charged residues of the most N-terminal NLS to alanines (*hoe-1(ΔNLS)*). These mutations are sufficient to strongly attenuate, but not completely ablate, HOE-1 nuclear localization whilst still allowing animals to develop to adulthood **(Figure 2 – figure supplement 4A–C)**.

In contrast to loss of mitochondrial HOE-1, loss of nuclear HOE-1 robustly attenuates UPR^{mt} reporter activation induced by *spg-7* RNAi **(Figure 2E, 2F)** and attenuates UPR^{mt} reporter activation induced by *nuo-6(qm200)* **(Figure 2G, H)**. Furthermore, loss of nuclear HOE-1 attenuates the transcriptional upregulation of UPR^{mt} target genes *hsp-6* **(Figure 2I)** and *cyp-14A1.4* **(Figure 2 – figure supplement**

145   **5A)** under conditions of mitochondrial stress. Together these data suggest that HOE-1 is required in the

146   nucleus to facilitate UPR^{mt} activation.

147   **Compromising HOE-1 nuclear export is sufficient to activate UPR^{mt}.**

148   Like many nuclear localized proteins (la Cour et al., 2004), HOE-1 has both nuclear localization signals

149   and a nuclear export signal (NES). Given that loss of nuclear HOE-1 results in UPR^{mt} attenuation we

150   questioned if compromising HOE-1 nuclear export, by ablating the NES of HOE-1, is sufficient to

151   activate UPR^{mt}. We created a HOE-1 NES knockout mutant (*hoe-1(ΔNES)*) by replacing the strong

152   hydrophobic resides of the predicted NES with alanines **(Figure 3 – figure supplement 1A)**. *hoe-*

153   *1(ΔNES)* animals are superficially wildtype in their development but are sterile. Thus, the allele is

154   balanced with *tmC25*. Homozygous *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals have elevated nuclear HOE-1 accumulation

155   relative to wildtype **(Figure 3 – figure supplement 1B, Figure 2 – figure supplement 4B, 4C)**.

156   Strikingly, the UPR^{mt} reporter *hsp-6p::GFP* is robustly activated in adult *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals similarly

157   to that seen in mitochondrial stressor *nuo-6(qm200)* and constitutive UPR^{mt} activation in *atfs-1* gain-of-

158   function (*atfs-1(et15)*) mutant animals **(Figure 3A, 3B)**. *hoe-1(ΔNES)* also mildly induces the less

159   sensitive UPR^{mt} reporter *hsp-60p::GFP* **(Figure 3 – figure supplement 2A, 2B)**.

160   UPR^{mt} activation is characterized by the transcriptional upregulation of a suite of mitochondrial stress

161   response genes that encode chaperone proteins, proteases, and detoxification enzymes that function

162   to restore mitochondrial homeostasis (Nargund et al., 2012). To interrogate the extent of UPR^{mt}

163   induction in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals, we measured transcript levels of a diverse set of UPR^{mt} associated

164   genes. We found that the UPR^{mt} genes encoding a chaperone protein (*hsp-6*), stress response involved

165   C-type lectin (*clec-47*), and P450 enzyme (*cyp-14A4.1*) are all upregulated in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals

166   **(Figure 3C, 3D, 3E)**. These data support *hoe-1(ΔNES)* being sufficient to activate the UPR^{mt}

167   transcriptional response.

168   UPR^{mt} activation is dependent upon the transcription factor ATFS-1 (Haynes et al., 2010; Nargund et

169   al., 2012). Thus, we tested if UPR^{mt} reporter activation in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals is ATFS-1 dependent.

170 Knockdown of *atfs-1* is sufficient to completely attenuate UPR^mt reporter activation in *hoe-1(ΔNES)*

171 animals **(Figure 3F, 3G)**, showing that UPR^mt induction by *hoe-1(ΔNES)* is ATFS-1 dependent.

Elevated nuclear HOE-1 levels in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals is likely responsible for UPR^mt activation.

173 To further interrogate how UPR^mt is activated in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals we made double localization

174 mutants of *hoe-1*. If UPR^mt is activated in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals due to elevated nuclear HOE-1 levels

175 we reasoned that introducing a *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* mutation in the *hoe-1(ΔNES)* background (*hoe-*

176 *1(ΔNLS+ΔNES)*) should be sufficient to attenuate UPR^mt activation. Indeed, *hoe-1(ΔNLS+ΔNES)*

177 animals have UPR^mt reporter activation comparable to wildtype animals **(Figure 3 – figure supplement**

178 **3A, 3B)**. Furthermore, we reasoned that compromising mitochondrial localization of HOE-1 in a *hoe-*

179 *1(ΔNES)* background (*hoe-1(ΔMTS+ΔNES)*) may further enhance *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^mt

180 activation as what would be the mitochondrial targeted HOE-1 pool should be diverted to the nucleus

181 as well. Consistent with our hypothesis, *hoe-1(ΔMTS+ΔNES)* animals have even higher activation of

182 UPR^mt than *hoe-1(ΔNES)* alone **(Figure 3 – figure supplement 4A, 4B)**. Taken together, these data

183 strongly suggest that *hoe-1(ΔNES)* triggers UPR^mt activation due to elevated nuclear HOE-1 levels.

Compromising HOE-1 nuclear export activates UPR^mt cell-autonomously in the intestine.

185 Contrary to UPR^mt induced by *nuo-6(qm200)* and *atfs-1(et15)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals appear to have

186 UPR^mt activated specifically in the intestine **(Figure 3A)**. We questioned if this UPR^mt activation is

187 occurring cell autonomously or non-cell autonomously as UPR^mt has been shown to be able to be

188 signaled across tissues, particularly from neurons to intestine(Durieux et al., 2011; Berendzen et al.,

189 2016; Zhang et al., 2018). To determine which tissue HOE-1 is required in for UPR^mt activation we took

190 advantage of the auxin-inducible degradation (AID) system that allows for tissue-specific protein

191 degradation(Zhang et al., 2015). Briefly, degron-tagged proteins will be degraded in the presence of the

192 plant hormone auxin but only in tissues wherein E3 ubiquitin ligase subunit, TIR1, is expressed. We C-

193 terminally degron-tagged *hoe-1(ΔNES)* (*hoe-1(ΔNES)::degron*) and crossed this allele into

194 backgrounds in which TIR1 is driven under an intestinal-specific (*ges-1p::TIR1*) or a neuronal-specific

195   (*rgef-1p::TIR*) promoter(Ashley et al., 2021). *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt} is only attenuated when

196   HOE-1 is selectively degraded in the intestine **(Figure 3 – figure supplement 5A, 5B)**. This data

197   strongly suggests that compromised nuclear export of HOE-1 activates UPR^{mt} cell-autonomously in the

198   intestine.

Compromising HOE-1 nuclear export specifically activates UPR^{mt}.

200   Changes in protein synthesis rates and associated protein folding capacity can broadly activate cellular

201   stress response mechanisms (Wang and Kaufman, 2016; Das et al., 2017; Boos et al., 2019). Given

202   the role of *hoe-1* in tRNA maturation we questioned if the robust upregulation of UPR^{mt} in *hoe-1(ΔNES)*

203   animals may be the result of compromised cellular proteostasis in general rather than specific activation

204   of UPR^{mt}. One stress response mechanism that is sensitive to global proteotoxic stress is the

205   endoplasmic reticulum unfolded protein response (UPR^{ER}) (Preissler and Ron, 2019). We find that the

206   UPR^{ER} reporter *hsp-4p::GFP* is not activated in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals **(Figure 3H, 3I)**, suggesting that

207   *hoe-1(ΔNES)* does not cause ER stress nor cellular proteotoxic stress. Additionally, a basal reporter of

208   GFP that has been used to proxy general protein expression (Gitschlag et al., 2016), *ges-1p::GFPcyto*,

209   is only mildly upregulated in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals relative to wildtype **(Figure 3J, 3K)**. Together these

210   findings support that impaired nuclear export of HOE-1 specifically activates UPR^{mt}.

Compromising HOE-1 nuclear export reduces mitochondrial membrane potential.

212   UPR^{mt} is known to be triggered when mitochondrial membrane potential is compromised (Rolland et al.,

213   2019; Shpilka et al., 2021). Thus we assessed mitochondrial membrane potential, using TMRE

214   staining, in adult *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals where UPR^{mt} is robustly activated. Consistent with UPR^{mt}

215   activation, we found that mitochondrial membrane potential is severely depleted in adult *hoe-1(ΔNES)*

216   animals **(Figure 4A, 4B)**. However, *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* animals also exhibit compromised mitochondrial

217   membrane potential without UPR^{mt} activation suggesting that decreased membrane potential does not

218   guarantee UPR^{mt} induction **(Figure 4A, 4B)**. Compromised mitochondrial membrane potential can be

219   both a cause and consequence of UPR^{mt} activation (Rolland et al., 2019; Shpilka et al., 2021). Thus,

we assessed whether or not compromised membrane potential in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals is *atfs-1-*

dependent. Mitochondrial membrane potential is not rescued in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals on *atfs-1* RNAi

(Figure 4C, 4D) suggesting that reduced mitochondrial membrane potential in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals is

not a result of UPR^{mt} activation. Taken together, these data show that compromised nuclear export of

HOE-1 results in depletion of mitochondrial membrane potential. Furthermore, this depletion in

membrane potential correlates with UPR^{mt} activation, consistent with the possibility that *hoe-1(ΔNES)*

activates UPR^{mt} via depletion of mitochondrial membrane potential.

Compromising HOE-1 nuclear export elevates nuclear levels of UPR^{mt} transcription factors ATFS-1 and DVE-1.

UPR^{mt} activation is dependent upon nuclear accumulation of the transcription factor ATFS-1(Nargund

et al., 2012, 2015). Thus, we tested if ATFS-1 accumulates in nuclei of *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals by

assessing the fluorescence intensity of ectopically-expressed mCherry-tagged ATFS-1 (*atfs-1p*::ATFS-

1::mCherry) in wildtype *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and mitochondrial-stressed *nuo-6(qm200)* animals. Both *hoe-*

1(ΔNES) and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals have elevated nuclear accumulation of ATFS-1 relative to wildtype

(Figure 5A, 5B). However, while *nuo-6(qm200)* animals exhibit elevated levels of total cellular and

extranuclear levels of ATFS-1::mCherry relative to wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals do not **(Figure 5C**

and Figure 5 – figure supplement 1A). We find that *atfs-1* mRNA levels are also elevated in *hoe-*

1(ΔNES) animals relative to wildtype comparable to that seen in *nuo-6(qm200)* animals **(Figure 5D)**.

The transcription factor DVE-1 is required for full UPR^{mt} activation (Haynes et al., 2007; Tian et al.,

2016). Thus, we asked if DVE-1::GFP nuclear expression is higher in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* than in wildtype

animals. We found that accumulation of DVE-1::GFP in intestinal cell nuclei is significantly higher in

hoe-1(ΔNES) than in wildtype animals **(Figure 5E, 5F).** Qualitatively, cellular DVE-1::GFP levels

appear mildly elevated in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals based on actin (**Figure 5G, Figure 5 – source data)**,

though the difference in DVE-1::GFP levels is not significant when normalized to total protein **(Figure**

5H). Thus, while we cannot rule out the possibility of a slight increase in the cellular levels of DVE-1,

elevation in the nuclear localization of DVE-1 in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals is the more robust phenotype.

Together, these data suggest that UPR^{mt} induction in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals is a result of increased nuclear accumulation of UPR^{mt} transcription factors ATFS-1 and DVE-1.

UPR^{mt} is activated by altered tRNA processing in animals with compromised HOE-1 nuclear export.

The canonical role of HOE-1 is to cleave 3'-trailer sequences from nascent tRNAs (Nashimoto et al., 1999; Mayer et al., 2000; Schiffer et al., 2002; Takaku et al., 2003; Dubrovsky et al., 2004; Brzezniak et al., 2011; Lopez Sanchez et al., 2011; Siira et al., 2018). This enzymatic function is dependent upon zinc binding(Ma et al., 2017; Bienert et al., 2017). Thus we queried if UPR^{mt} activation by *hoe-1(ΔNES)* is dependent upon the catalytic activity of HOE-1. To test this, we generated a catalytically-dead HOE-1 mutant by changing an essential aspartate of the zinc-binding pocket of HOE-1 to alanine in both a wildtype (*hoe-1(D624A)*) and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* (*hoe-1(D624A+ΔNES)*) background. Animals homozygous for D624A recapitulate the growth arrest phenotype of the *hoe-1* null mutant precluding us from assessing the impact of D624A on UPR^{mt} induction in adult *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals. To overcome this constraint we assessed UPR^{mt} activation in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* versus *hoe-1(ΔNES)/hoe-1(D624A+ΔNES)* trans-heterozygous animals. A single copy of catalytically dead *hoe-1* is sufficient to attenuate *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt} **(Figure 6 – figure supplement 1A, 1B)**. These data suggest that *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt} requires the catalytic activity of HOE-1.

Given that HOE-1 catalytic activity is required for UPR^{mt} we further interrogated the potential role of tRNA processing as a mechanism by which HOE-1 may modulate UPR^{mt} induction. Production of mature tRNAs begins with transcription of tRNA gene loci by RNA polymerase III followed by sequential cleavage of 5'-leader and 3'-trailer sequences from immature tRNA transcripts by RNase P and HOE-1, respectively. Following cleavage of 3'-trailer sequences, tRNAs can be transported to the cytosol by tRNA exportin (Hopper and Nostramo, 2019).

Given that HOE-1 nuclear levels are elevated in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals, we reasoned that 3'-tRNA processing should be elevated due to increased nuclear activity of HOE-1. Thus, we questioned if

271   UPR^mt induction in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals is a result of elevated 3'-tRNA processing. First, we knocked-

272   down RNA pol III subunit *rpc-1* to attenuate the production of total RNA pol III-dependent transcripts in

273   *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals. If *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^mt is due to elevated processing of tRNAs we

274   hypothesized that restriction of nascent tRNA production should attenuate UPR^mt activation. Indeed, we

275   found that *rpc-1* RNAi robustly attenuates *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^mt **(Figure 6 – figure supplement**

276   **2A, 2B)**. Interestingly, *rpc-1* RNAi has little impact on mitochondrial stress induced UPR^mt (*nuo-*

277   *6(qm200)*) **(Figure 6 – figure supplement 2C, 2D)**. These data show that *rpc-1* is required for *hoe-*

278   *1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^mt and support our hypothesis that increased 3'-tRNA processing by HOE-1

279   activates UPR^mt.

280   For the majority of tRNAs 5'-end processing by the RNase P complex is a prerequisite for 3'-end

281   processing by HOE-1 (Frendewey et al., 1985; Yoo and Wolin, 1997). Thus, if increased 3'-tRNA end

282   processing is responsible for UPR^mt activation, compromising 5'-end processing by RNAi against

283   RNAse P should attenuate *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^mt. RNAi against a subunit of the RNase P

284   complex, *popl-1*, attenuates UPR^mt induction in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals **(Figure 6A, 6B)**. *popl-1* RNAi

285   also attenuates both UPR^mt induced by *nuo-6(qm200)* **(Figure 6C, 6D)** as well as basal induction of

286   *ges-1p::GFPcyto* **(Figure 6E, 6F)**, albeit to a lesser extent than the attenuation seen in *hoe-1(ΔNES)*

287   animals. These data suggest that *popl-1* RNAi may have a broad impact on protein expression but

288   supports that elevated 3'-tRNA processing in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals is responsible for UPR^mt activation

289   given that *popl-1* RNAi strongly attenuates *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^mt.

290   Following 3'-end processing in the nuclei, tRNAs can be exported to the cytosol by tRNA exportin

291   (Hopper and Nostramo, 2019). To test if elevated levels of 3'-processed tRNAs are required in the

292   cytosol to activate UPR^mt we asked if restricting tRNA nuclear export via RNAi against tRNA exportin,

293   *xpo-3*, attenuates *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^mt.   Strikingly, *xpo-3* RNAi robustly attenuates *hoe-*

294   *1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^mt **(Figure 6G, 6H)**. However, *xpo-3* RNAi does not attenuate *nuo-6(qm200)*

295   induced UPR^mt **(Figure 6I, 6J)** nor basal *ges-1p::GFP* levels **(Figure 6K, 6L)**. These data suggest that

296   in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals 3'-processed tRNAs are required in the cytosol to activate UPR^mt.

297   While 5'- and 3'-tRNA processing are the only steps known to be required for tRNA export from the

298   nucleus, there are other downstream tRNA maturation processes that occur (Hopper and Nostramo,

299   2019). Some nascent tRNAs include introns that need to be removed and then ligated by a tRNA ligase

300   (Englert and Beier, 2005; Popow et al., 2012).For tRNAs to be charged with corresponding amino

301   acids, nascent tRNAs must contain a CCA sequence as part of the 3' acceptor stem. This can be

302   achieved by a CCA-adding tRNA nucleotidyl transferase (Hou, 2010). Knockdown of both tRNA ligase,

303   *rtcb-1*, and tRNA nucleotidyl transferase, *hpo-31* mildly attenuate *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt} **(Figure**

304   **6 – figure supplement 3A–C)**. However, *rtcb-1* RNAi also mildly attenuates *nuo-6(qm200)*-induced

305   UPR^{mt} **(Figure 6 – figure supplement 3D, 3E)**. Knockdown of *hpo-31* severely compromised growth of

306   *nuo-6(qm200)* animals and thus the impact on UPR^{mt} could not accurately be assessed. These data

307   suggest that tRNA ligation and CCA addition have limited involvement in *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt}.

308   Taken together, these data suggest that UPR^{mt} induction by nuclear export deficient HOE-1 is the result

309   of increased 3'-tRNA processing and that these tRNA species are required in the cytosol to trigger

310   UPR^{mt}.

311   **Compromised HOE-1 nuclear export does not activate UPR^{mt} via GCN2 or eIF2α.**

312   Alteration to tRNA processing can activate cellular signaling pathways (Raina and Ibba, 2014). One

313   such pathway is the integrated stress response (ISR) in which uncharged tRNAs activate the kinase

314   GCN2 which, in turn, phosphorylates the eukaryotic translation initiation factor, eIF2α. This inhibitory

315   phosphorylation of eIF2α leads to upregulation of a select number of proteins including the transcription

316   factor ATF4 (Pakos-Zebrucka et al., 2016; Costa-Mattioli and Walter, 2020). Interestingly, ATF4 and

317   one of its targets, ATF5, are orthologs of ATFS-1 (Fiorese et al., 2016). Moreover, GCN2 and ISR in

318   general have been shown to be responsive to mitochondrial stress (Baker et al., 2012; Fessler et al.,

319   2020; Guo et al., 2020; Koncha et al., 2021). Thus, we questioned if UPR^{mt} activation by *hoe-1(ΔNES)*

320   is mediated via GCN2 and eIF2α phosphorylation. We found that *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt} is only

321   slightly reduced in both a *gcn-2* null (*gcn-2(ok871)*) and an *eIF2α* non-phosphorylatable mutant

(*eIF2α(S46A,S49A)*)) background **(Figure 7A, 7B)**. These data suggest that a mechanism independent of ISR must largely be responsible for UPR^{mt} activation by *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals.

Nuclear HOE-1 is dynamically responsive to mitochondrial stress and negatively regulated by ATFS-1.

To better understand the potential physiological implications of HOE-1 in UPR^{mt} we assessed *hoe-1* expression and subcellular dynamics of HOE-1 during mitochondrial stress. It is predicted that two major transcripts are produced from the *hoe-1* gene locus: one that contains an MTS and one that does not which are translated into mitochondrial- and nuclear-targeted HOE-1, respectively. However, it has been shown in other systems that *hoe-1* orthologs produce a single transcript that encodes both a mitochondrial targeted and nuclear targeted HOE-1 isoform via alternative translation initiation(Rossmanith, 2011). Thus, we first sought to determine which mechanism is used for *hoe-1* expression. To do so we designed two sets of primers complementary to *hoe-1* mRNA one of which amplifies only mRNA that includes the MTS and the other which amplifies all *hoe-1* mRNA (spans a sequence that is included in all predicted HOE-1 isoforms). If there are two independent *hoe-1* transcripts we expected there to be higher levels of *hoe-1* mRNA measured by the primer pair for total transcripts than for the mitochondrial specific pair. However, we found that both primer pairs measured similar levels of *hoe-1* mRNA **(Figure 8 – figure supplement 1A)** suggesting that, like in other systems, there is a single *hoe-1* transcript. Next we assessed *hoe-1* mRNA levels in non-stress versus mitochondrial stress conditions. We found, using both primer pairs, that *hoe-1* mRNA levels are modestly elevated in *nuo-6(qm200)* animals relative to wildtype **(Figure 8 – figure supplement 1B, 1C)** suggesting that *hoe-1* may be transcriptionally upregulated under conditions of mitochondrial stress.

Next we assessed the subcellular dynamics of HOE-1 in response to mitochondrial stress. We found that HOE-1::GFP nuclear levels are markedly diminished under mitochondrial stress induced by *nuo-6(qm200)*, *cco-1* RNAi, and *spg-7* RNAi **(Figure 8A, 8B and Figure 8 – figure supplement 2A, 2B)**. This observation was unexpected given that *hoe-1* transcript levels are elevated during mitochondrial

stress and it runs contrary to the fact that compromising HOE-1 nuclear export is sufficient to induce UPR^{mt} **(Figure 3A, 3B)**. A common feature of signaling pathways is negative regulation. Thus, we questioned if reduced nuclear HOE-1 is a result of negative feedback rather than a direct result of mitochondrial stress. Given that mitochondrial stress activates UPR^{mt}, we assessed HOE-1::GFP status in a mitochondrial stress background wherein *atfs-1* is knocked down by RNAi. HOE-1 levels are significantly upregulated in nuclei of *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *atfs-1* RNAi relative to *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* RNAi, as well as both wildtype animals on *control* and *atfs-1* RNAi **(Figure 8A, 8B and Figure 8 – figure supplement 3A–C)**. Moreover, total cellular HOE-1 levels are elevated under mitochondrial stress in an *atfs-1* RNAi background **(Figure 8C, 8D and Figure 8 – source data 1A–E and 2A–E)**. Additionally, mitochondrial HOE-1 levels are elevated under mitochondrial stress conditions irrespective of RNAi treatment **(Figure 8 – figure supplement 3D)**. Together these data suggest that HOE-1 is upregulated and accumulates in nuclei upon mitochondrial stress. Then, nuclear HOE-1 is negatively regulated by ATFS-1 once UPR^{mt} is activated.

To further test if nuclear HOE-1 is negatively regulated by UPR^{mt} activation rather than by mitochondrial stress, we assessed HOE-1 localization in ATFS-1 gain-of-function animals (*atfs-1(et15)*). *atfs-1(et15)* constitutively activates UPR^{mt} in the absence of mitochondrial stress (Rauthan et al., 2013). Thus, we asked if *atfs-1(et15)* is sufficient to reduce nuclear HOE-1 levels. Indeed, nuclear HOE-1 levels are markedly reduced in *atfs-1(et15)* animals relative to wildtype **(Figure 8E, 8F and Figure 8 – figure supplement 4A–C)** while total and mitochondrial HOE-1 protein levels are largely unperturbed **(Figure 8G, 8H, Figure 8 – figure supplement 4D, Figure 8 – source data 3A–E and 4A–E)**. These data further support that UPR^{mt} activation negatively regulates nuclear HOE-1.

Discussion

Regulation of UPR^{mt} is not completely understood and elucidating this mechanism has broad implications for understanding cellular response to mitochondrial dysfunction. Here we describe a novel mechanism by which mitochondrial stress is transduced to activate UPR^{mt} and how that response is regulated through a feedback mechanism **(Figure 8I)**.

374 Multiple factors have been identified that are required for maximal activation of UPR^{mt}. This includes the
375 mitochondrial localized proteins, CLPP-1 protease and peptide transmembrane transporter HAF-1
376 (Haynes et al., 2007, 2010). Additionally, the transcription factors ATFS-1 and DVE-1 along with the co-
377 transcriptional activator UBL-5 are required for UPR^{mt} activation (Benedetti et al., 2006; Haynes et al.,
378 2007, 2010; Nargund et al., 2012, 2015; Tian et al., 2016). Histone modifications, chromatin
379 remodeling, and post-translational modifications of ATFS-1 are also involved in fully activating UPR^{mt}
380 (Tian et al., 2016; Merkwirth et al., 2016; Gao et al., 2019; Shao et al., 2020). We show for the first time
381 that nuclear HOE-1 is required for maximal activation of UPR^{mt} as its induction by various stressors is
382 attenuated in *hoe-1* RNAi, *hoe-1* null, and *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* backgrounds.

383 We show that loss of *hoe-1* results in varied attenuation of UPR^{mt} depending on how UPR^{mt} is
384 activated. UPR^{mt} induction by RNAi (*cco-1* and *spg-7*) is robustly attenuated by loss of *hoe-1* while *nuo-*
385 *6(qm200)*-induced UPR^{mt} is only modestly attenuated. RNAi by feeding works well in all tissues except
386 neurons (Timmons et al., 2001; Kamath et al., 2003). Importantly, UPR^{mt} can be activated non-cell
387 autonomously in the intestine by mitochondrial stress in neurons (Durieux et al., 2011; Berendzen et al.,
388 2016; Zhang et al., 2018). UPR^{mt} induced cell-autonomously in the intestine by RNAi may be *hoe-1*
389 dependent while neuron-to-intestine UPR^{mt} induction may work primarily in a *hoe-1*-independent
390 manner. Consistent with this, increased nuclear accumulation of HOE-1 only activates UPR^{mt} in the
391 intestine. These results further exemplify the complexity of UPR^{mt} signaling.

392 UPR^{mt} is generally triggered via compromised mitochondrial membrane potential which facilitates the
393 nuclear accumulation of ATFS-1(Rolland et al., 2019; Shpilka et al., 2021). We find that UPR^{mt}
394 activation via *hoe-1(ΔNES)* correlates with a decrease in mitochondrial membrane potential providing a
395 potential trigger for UPR^{mt} induction. Furthermore, we show that the UPR^{mt} transcription factors ATFS-1
396 and DVE-1 have increased nuclear localization in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals, thus likely facilitating the
397 robust UPR^{mt} activation.

398 HOE-1 functions in tRNA processing (Nashimoto et al., 1999; Mayer et al., 2000; Schiffer et al., 2002;
399 Takaku et al., 2003; Dubrovsky et al., 2004; Brzezniak et al., 2011; Lopez Sanchez et al., 2011; Siira et

al., 2018). Here we show that increased 3'-tRNA processing by HOE-1 is likely responsible for UPR[mt] activation. Restricting HOE-1-dependent 3'-tRNA trailer sequence cleavage indirectly by RNAi against RNA polymerase III subunit, *rpc-1*, and RNase P subunit, *popl-1*, strongly attenuate *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR[mt]. Moreover, these RNA species must be required in the cytosol to activate UPR[mt] as RNAi against tRNA exportin *xpo-3* is sufficient to robustly attenuate *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR[mt]. Our findings herein are the first reported connection between altered tRNA processing and UPR[mt] in *C. elegans*. Given the general requirement for tRNAs in protein translation on the one hand, and the mitochondria-specific nature of UPR[mt] on the other, our findings of a connection between the two are intriguing. However, besides performing their core housekeeping function in protein translation, tRNAs have also emerged as small RNAs with important regulatory roles inside cells (Avcilar-Kucukgoze and Kashina, 2020). Perhaps the most well-characterized regulatory role for tRNAs is in the activation of the integrated stress response (ISR). In ISR, uncharged tRNAs activate the eIF2α kinase, GCN2, resulting in the upregulation of ATFS-1 orthologs ATF4 and ATF5 (Pakos-Zebrucka et al., 2016; Costa-Mattioli and Walter, 2020). However, we show that *gcn-2* and eIF2α are not required for *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR[mt] activation suggesting that a different mechanism is responsible. The lack of involvement of ISR in HOE-1's role in UPR[mt] is not too surprising as there may be a greater pool of fully mature tRNAs in the cytosol in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals due to increased 3'-end processing of tRNAs above wildtype levels. This would result in an excess of charged tRNAs in the cytosol, the opposite of what is required to trigger GCN2-dependent ISR. Instead, we can speculate on several additional possibilities for the consequences of increased levels of charged tRNAs that can explain the role of HOE-1 in UPR[mt] regulation. For example, the use of amino acids to charge excess tRNAs in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals may limit the pool of free amino acids available for mitochondrial import, thus affecting translation of proteins encoded by the mitochondrial genome. This may result in stoichiometric imbalance between nuclear and mitochondrial-encoded components of the electron transport chain, which is known to compromise mitochondrial membrane potential and trigger UPR[mt] (Houtkooper et al., 2013). Alternatively, mito-nuclear imbalance in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals may result from excessive translation of nuclear-encoded mitochondrial proteins due to increased abundance of available charged tRNAs in the cytosol. In yet

427 another scenario, UPR^mt may not be the consequence of a global increase in the levels of all cytosolic

428 tRNAs but rather, may be due to changes in the levels of specific tRNAs that preferentially impact

429 translation of genes enriched for the corresponding codons. Such selective upregulation of tRNAs has

430 been shown previously to have specific cellular consequences (Gingold et al., 2014; Goodarzi et al.,

431 2016). Finally, it is possible that a tRNA-like RNA or other small RNA species such as tRNA fragments

432 are responsible for UPR^mt induction in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals (Kruszka et al., 2003; Lee et al., 2009;

433 Bogerd et al., 2010; Siira et al., 2018). However, if this is the case, our data argue that such an RNA

434 species would need to be transported to the cytosol by tRNA exportin. Non-tRNA transport by an

435 ortholog of *xpo-3* has not yet been reported (Hopper and Nostramo, 2019).

436 We show that nuclear HOE-1 is dynamically regulated by mitochondrial stress. In the presence of

437 stress, nuclear HOE-1 levels are depleted. However, this is UPR^mt dependent as HOE-1 nuclear levels

438 under mitochondrial stress are elevated above wildtype levels when UPR^mt is blocked by *atfs-1* RNAi.

439 These data, paired with the fact that compromising HOE-1 nuclear export triggers UPR^mt, lead us to

440 hypothesize that upon mitochondrial stress, nuclear HOE-1 levels are elevated. This upregulation of

441 nuclear HOE-1 elevates 3'-tRNA processing thereby triggering a signaling cascade that results in

442 elevated nuclear ATFS-1 and DVE-1 and subsequent UPR^mt induction. Activated UPR^mt then negatively

443 regulates HOE-1 nuclear levels thus providing a feedback mechanism to tightly control mitochondrial

444 stress response. UPR^mt negative regulation of HOE-1 is further supported by our data showing that

445 constitutive activation of UPR^mt by *atfs-1(et15)* is sufficient to reduce nuclear HOE-1 levels in the

446 absence of mitochondrial stress. How it is that mitochondrial stress activates HOE-1 is still unknown.

447 Multiple mitochondrial derived small molecules have been reported to communicate mitochondrial

448 status including reactive oxygen species (ROS), NAD+, and acetyl-CoA (Baker et al., 2012;

449 Mouchiroud et al., 2013; Ramachandran et al., 2019; Tjahjono et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2020) We look

450 forward to further investigating whether these, or other molecules, are involved in HOE-1 regulation.

451 In humans, mutations in the ortholog of HOE-1, ELAC2, are associated with both hypertrophic

452 cardiomyopathy (Haack et al., 2013; Shinwari et al., 2017; Saoura et al., 2019) and prostate cancer

453   (Tavtigian et al., 2001; Korver et al., 2003; Noda et al., 2006). Historically, it has been suggested that

454   mutations in ELAC2 cause disease because of a loss of mature tRNA production. Our works suggests

455   an intriguing alternative whereby ELAC2 mutations lead to altered tRNA processing that triggers

456   aberrant stress response signaling resulting in disease state. Our system provides a convenient

457   opportunity to interrogate these disease causing variants.

458   Taken together, our findings provide a novel mechanism—involving the tRNA processing enzyme HOE-

459   1—by which mitochondrial stress is transduced to activate UPR^{mt} thus providing important insight into

460   the regulation of mitochondrial stress response.

461

473

474   **Competing Interests**

475   The authors declare no competing interests.

476

477 **References**

478 Ashley, G.E., T. Duong, M.T. Levenson, M.A.Q. Martinez, L.C. Johnson, J.D. Hibshman, H.N. Saeger,

479   N.J. Palmisano, R. Doonan, R. Martinez-Mendez, B.R. Davidson, W. Zhang, J.M. Ragle, T.N.

480   Medwig-Kinney, S.S. Sirota, B. Goldstein, D.Q. Matus, D.J. Dickinson, D.J. Reiner, and J.D. Ward.

481   2021. An expanded auxin-inducible degron toolkit for Caenorhabditis elegans. *Genetics*.

482   217:iyab006. doi:10.1093/genetics/iyab006.

483 Avcilar-Kucukgoze, I., and A. Kashina. 2020. Hijacking tRNAs From Translation: Regulatory Functions

484   of tRNAs in Mammalian Cell Physiology   . *Front. Mol. Biosci.* . 7.

485 Baker, B.M., A.M. Nargund, T. Sun, and C.M. Haynes. 2012. Protective Coupling of Mitochondrial

486   Function and Protein Synthesis via the eIF2α Kinase GCN-2. *PLOS Genet.* 8:e1002760.

487 Benedetti, C., C.M. Haynes, Y. Yang, H.P. Harding, and D. Ron. 2006. Ubiquitin-like protein 5 positively

488   regulates chaperone gene expression in the mitochondrial unfolded protein response. *Genetics*.

489   174:229–239. doi:10.1534/genetics.106.061580.

490 Berendzen, K.M., J. Durieux, L.-W. Shao, Y. Tian, H.-E. Kim, S. Wolff, Y. Liu, and A. Dillin. 2016.

491   Neuroendocrine Coordination of Mitochondrial Stress Signaling and Proteostasis. *Cell*. 166:1553-

492   1563.e10. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2016.08.042.

493 Bienert, S., A. Waterhouse, T.A.P. de Beer, G. Tauriello, G. Studer, L. Bordoli, and T. Schwede. 2017.

494   The SWISS-MODEL Repository—new features and functionality. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 45:D313–

495   D319. doi:10.1093/nar/gkw1132.

496 Bogerd, H.P., H.W. Karnowski, X. Cai, J. Shin, M. Pohlers, and B.R. Cullen. 2010. A Mammalian

497   Herpesvirus Uses Noncanonical Expression and Processing Mechanisms to Generate Viral

498   MicroRNAs. *Mol. Cell*. 37:135–142. doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2009.12.016.

499 Boos, F., L. Krämer, C. Groh, F. Jung, P. Haberkant, F. Stein, F. Wollweber, A. Gackstatter, E. Zöller,

500   M. van der Laan, M.M. Savitski, V. Benes, and J.M. Herrmann. 2019. Mitochondrial protein-

induced stress triggers a global adaptive transcriptional programme. *Nat. Cell Biol.* 21:442–451. doi:10.1038/s41556-019-0294-5.

Brzezniak, L.K., M. Bijata, R.J. Szczesny, and P.P. Stepien. 2011. Involvement of human ELAC2 gene product in 3′ end processing of mitochondrial tRNAs. *RNA Biol.* 8:616–626. doi:10.4161/rna.8.4.15393.

Costa-Mattioli, M., and P. Walter. 2020. The integrated stress response: From mechanism to disease. *Science (80-.).* 368:eaat5314. doi:10.1126/science.aat5314.

la Cour, T., L. Kiemer, A. Mølgaard, R. Gupta, K. Skriver, and S. Brunak. 2004. Analysis and prediction of leucine-rich nuclear export signals. *Protein Eng. Des. Sel.* 17:527–536. doi:10.1093/protein/gzh062.

Das, R., J.A. Melo, M. Thondamal, E.A. Morton, A.B. Cornwell, B. Crick, J.H. Kim, E.W. Swartz, T. Lamitina, P.M. Douglas, and A. V Samuelson. 2017. The homeodomain-interacting protein kinase HPK-1 preserves protein homeostasis and longevity through master regulatory control of the HSF-1 chaperone network and TORC1-restricted autophagy in Caenorhabditis elegans. *PLoS Genet.* 13:e1007038–e1007038. doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1007038.

Dejima, K., S. Hori, S. Iwata, Y. Suehiro, S. Yoshina, T. Motohashi, and S. Mitani. 2018. An Aneuploidy-Free and Structurally Defined Balancer Chromosome Toolkit for Caenorhabditis elegans. *Cell Rep.* 22:232–241. doi:10.1016/j.celrep.2017.12.024.

Dokshin, G.A., K.S. Ghanta, K.M. Piscopo, and C.C. Mello. 2018. Robust Genome Editing with Short Single-Stranded and Long, Partially Single-Stranded DNA Donors in Caenorhabditis elegans. *Genetics*. 210:781–787. doi:10.1534/genetics.118.301532.

Dubrovsky, E.B., V.A. Dubrovskaya, L. Levinger, S. Schiffer, and A. Marchfelder. 2004. *Drosophila* Rnase Z processes mitochondrial and nuclear pre-tRNA 3′ ends in vivo. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 32:255–262. doi:10.1093/nar/gkh182.

525 Durieux, J., S. Wolff, and A. Dillin. 2011. The cell-non-autonomous nature of electron transport chain-

526   mediated longevity. *Cell*. 144:79–91. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.12.016.

527 Englert, M., and H. Beier. 2005. Plant tRNA ligases are multifunctional enzymes that have diverged in

528   sequence and substrate specificity from RNA ligases of other phylogenetic origins. *Nucleic Acids*

529   *Res.* 33:388–399. doi:10.1093/nar/gki174.

530 Fessler, E., E.-M. Eckl, S. Schmitt, I.A. Mancilla, M.F. Meyer-Bender, M. Hanf, J. Philippou-Massier, S.

531   Krebs, H. Zischka, and L.T. Jae. 2020. A pathway coordinated by DELE1 relays mitochondrial

532   stress to the cytosol. *Nature*. 579:433–437. doi:10.1038/s41586-020-2076-4.

533 Fiorese, C.J., A.M. Schulz, Y.-F. Lin, N. Rosin, M.W. Pellegrino, and C.M. Haynes. 2016. The

534   Transcription Factor ATF5 Mediates a Mammalian Mitochondrial UPR. *Curr. Biol.* 26:2037–2043.

535   doi:10.1016/J.CUB.2016.06.002.

536 Frendewey, D., T. Dingermann, L. Cooley, and D. Söll. 1985. Processing of precursor tRNAs in

537   Drosophila. Processing of the 3' end involves an endonucleolytic cleavage and occurs after 5' end

538   maturation. *J. Biol. Chem.* 260:449–454. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/S0021-9258(18)89752-6.

539 Gao, K., Y. Li, S. Hu, and Y. Liu. 2019. SUMO peptidase ULP-4 regulates mitochondrial UPR-mediated

540   innate immunity and lifespan extension. *Elife*. 8. doi:10.7554/eLife.41792.

541 Gingold, H., D. Tehler, N.R. Christoffersen, M.M. Nielsen, F. Asmar, S.M. Kooistra, N.S.

542   Christophersen, L.L. Christensen, M. Borre, K.D. Sørensen, L.D. Andersen, C.L. Andersen, E.

543   Hulleman, T. Wurdinger, E. Ralfkiær, K. Helin, K. Grønbæk, T. Ørntoft, S.M. Waszak, O. Dahan,

544   J.S. Pedersen, A.H. Lund, and Y. Pilpel. 2014. A dual program for translation regulation in cellular

545   proliferation and differentiation. *Cell*. 158:1281–1292. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.08.011.

546 Gitschlag, B.L., C.S. Kirby, D.C. Samuels, R.D. Gangula, S.A. Mallal, and M.R. Patel. 2016.

547   Homeostatic Responses Regulate Selfish Mitochondrial Genome Dynamics in C. elegans. *Cell*

548   *Metab.* 24:91–103. doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2016.06.008.

549   Goodarzi, H., H.C.B. Nguyen, S. Zhang, B.D. Dill, H. Molina, and S.F. Tavazoie. 2016. Modulated

550   Expression of Specific tRNAs Drives Gene Expression and Cancer Progression. *Cell*. 165:1416–

551   1427. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2016.05.046.

552   Guo, X., G. Aviles, Y. Liu, R. Tian, B.A. Unger, Y.-H.T. Lin, A.P. Wiita, K. Xu, M.A. Correia, and M.

553   Kampmann. 2020. Mitochondrial stress is relayed to the cytosol by an OMA1–DELE1–HRI

554   pathway. *Nature*. 579:427–432. doi:10.1038/s41586-020-2078-2.

555   Haack, T.B., R. Kopajtich, P. Freisinger, T. Wieland, J. Rorbach, T.J. Nicholls, E. Baruffini, A. Walther,

556   K. Danhauser, F.A. Zimmermann, R.A. Husain, J. Schum, H. Mundy, I. Ferrero, T.M. Strom, T.

557   Meitinger, R.W. Taylor, M. Minczuk, J.A. Mayr, and H. Prokisch. 2013. ELAC2 mutations cause a

558   mitochondrial RNA processing defect associated with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. *Am. J. Hum.*

559   *Genet.* 93:211–223. doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2013.06.006.

560   Haynes, C.M., K. Petrova, C. Benedetti, Y. Yang, and D. Ron. 2007. ClpP Mediates Activation of a

561   Mitochondrial Unfolded Protein Response in C. elegans. *Dev. Cell*. 13:467–480.

562   doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.devcel.2007.07.016.

563   Haynes, C.M., Y. Yang, S.P. Blais, T.A. Neubert, and D. Ron. 2010. The matrix peptide exporter HAF-1

564   signals a mitochondrial UPR by activating the transcription factor ZC376.7 in *C. elegans*. *Mol. Cell*.

565   37:529–540. doi:10.1016/J.MOLCEL.2010.01.015.

566   Hopper, A.K., and R.T. Nostramo. 2019. tRNA Processing and Subcellular Trafficking Proteins

567   Multitask in Pathways for Other RNAs   . *Front. Genet.* . 10:96.

568   Hou, Y.-M. 2010. CCA addition to tRNA: implications for tRNA quality control. *IUBMB Life*. 62:251–260.

569   doi:10.1002/iub.301.

570   Houtkooper, R.H., L. Mouchiroud, D. Ryu, N. Moullan, E. Katsyuba, G. Knott, R.W. Williams, and J.

571   Auwerx. 2013. Mitonuclear protein imbalance as a conserved longevity mechanism. *Nature*.

572   497:451–457. doi:10.1038/nature12188.

573 Kamath, R.S., A.G. Fraser, Y. Dong, G. Poulin, R. Durbin, M. Gotta, A. Kanapin, N. Le Bot, S. Moreno,

574   M. Sohrmann, D.P. Welchman, P. Zipperlen, and J. Ahringer. 2003. Systematic functional analysis

575   of the Caenorhabditis elegans genome using RNAi. *Nature*. 421:231–237.

576   doi:10.1038/nature01278.

577 Koncha, R.R., G. Ramachandran, N.B. V Sepuri, and K.V.A. Ramaiah. 2021. CCCP-induced

578   mitochondrial dysfunction - characterization and analysis of integrated stress response to cellular

579   signaling and homeostasis. *FEBS J.* doi:10.1111/febs.15868.

580 Korver, W., C. Guevara, Y. Chen, S. Neuteboom, R. Bookstein, S. Tavtigian, and E. Lees. 2003. The

581   product of the candidate prostate cancer susceptibility gene ELAC2 interacts with the gamma-

582   tubulin complex. *Int. J. cancer*. 104:283–288. doi:10.1002/ijc.10945.

583 Kruszka, K., F. Barneche, R. Guyot, J. Ailhas, I. Meneau, S. Schiffer, A. Marchfelder, and M.

584   Echeverría. 2003. Plant dicistronic tRNA-snoRNA genes: a new mode of expression of the small

585   nucleolar RNAs processed by RNase Z. *EMBO J.* 22:621–632. doi:10.1093/emboj/cdg040.

586 Lee, Y.S., Y. Shibata, A. Malhotra, and A. Dutta. 2009. A novel class of small RNAs: tRNA-derived

587   RNA fragments (tRFs). *Genes Dev.* 23:2639–2649. doi:10.1101/gad.1837609.

588 Lopez Sanchez, M.I.G., T.R. Mercer, S.M.K. Davies, A.-M.J. Shearwood, K.K.A. Nygård, T.R. Richman,

589   J.S. Mattick, O. Rackham, A. Filipovska, and K.K.A. Nygård. 2011. RNA processing in human

590   mitochondria. *Cell Cycle*. 10:2904–2916. doi:10.4161/cc.10.17.17060.

591 Ma, M., I. Li de la Sierra-Gallay, N. Lazar, O. Pellegrini, D. Durand, A. Marchfelder, C. Condon, and H.

592   van Tilbeurgh. 2017. The crystal structure of Trz1, the long form RNase Z from yeast. *Nucleic*

593   *Acids Res.* 45:6209–6216. doi:10.1093/nar/gkx216.

594 Mayer, M., S. Schiffer, and A. Marchfelder. 2000. tRNA 3' processing in plants: nuclear and

595   mitochondrial activities differ. *Biochemistry*. 39:2096–2105. doi:10.1021/bi992253e.

596 Merkwirth, C., V. Jovaisaite, J. Durieux, O. Matilainen, S.D. Jordan, P.M. Quiros, K.K. Steffen, E.G.

Williams, L. Mouchiroud, S.U. Tronnes, V. Murillo, S.C. Wolff, R.J. Shaw, J. Auwerx, and A. Dillin. 2016. Two Conserved Histone Demethylases Regulate Mitochondrial Stress-Induced Longevity. *Cell*. 165:1209–1223. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2016.04.012.

Mouchiroud, L., R.H. Houtkooper, N. Moullan, E. Katsyuba, D. Ryu, C. Cantó, A. Mottis, Y.-S. Jo, M. Viswanathan, K. Schoonjans, L. Guarente, and J. Auwerx. 2013. The NAD(+)/Sirtuin Pathway Modulates Longevity through Activation of Mitochondrial UPR and FOXO Signaling. *Cell*. 154:430–441. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.06.016.

Munkácsy, E., M.H. Khan, R.K. Lane, M.B. Borror, J.H. Park, A.F. Bokov, A.L. Fisher, C.D. Link, and S.L. Rea. 2016. DLK-1, SEK-3 and PMK-3 are required for the life extension induced by mitochondrial bioenergetic disruption in *C. elegans*. *PLoS Genet.* 12:e1006133. doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1006133.

Naresh, N.U., and C.M. Haynes. 2019. Signaling and regulation of the mitochondrial unfolded protein response. *Cold Spring Harb. Perspect. Biol.* a033944. doi:10.1101/cshperspect.a033944.

Nargund, A.M., C.J. Fiorese, M.W. Pellegrino, P. Deng, and C.M. Haynes. 2015. Mitochondrial and nuclear accumulation of the transcription factor ATFS-1 promotes OXPHOS recovery during the UPRmt. *Mol. Cell*. 58:123–133. doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2015.02.008.

Nargund, A.M., M.W. Pellegrino, C.J. Fiorese, B.M. Baker, and C.M. Haynes. 2012. Mitochondrial import efficiency of ATFS-1 regulates mitochondrial UPR activation. *Science (80-.)*. 337:587–590. doi:10.1126/science.1223560.

Nashimoto, M., M. Tamura, and R.L. Kaspar. 1999. Minimum Requirements for Substrates of Mammalian tRNA 3' Processing Endoribonuclease. *Biochemistry*. 38:12089–12096. doi:10.1021/bi9911942.

Noda, D., S. Itoh, Y. Watanabe, M. Inamitsu, S. Dennler, F. Itoh, S. Koike, D. Danielpour, P. ten Dijke, and M. Kato. 2006. ELAC2, a putative prostate cancer susceptibility gene product, potentiates

621 TGF-β/Smad-induced growth arrest of prostate cells. *Oncogene*. 25:5591–5600.

622 doi:10.1038/sj.onc.1209571.

623 Nunnari, J., and A. Suomalainen. 2012. Mitochondria: In sickness and in health. *Cell*. 148:1145–1159.

624 doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.02.035.

625 Pakos-Zebrucka, K., I. Koryga, K. Mnich, M. Ljujic, A. Samali, and A.M. Gorman. 2016. The integrated

626 stress response. *EMBO Rep.* 17:1374–1395. doi:10.15252/embr.201642195.

627 Popow, J., A. Schleiffer, and J. Martinez. 2012. Diversity and roles of (t)RNA ligases. *Cell. Mol. Life Sci.*

628 69:2657–2670. doi:10.1007/s00018-012-0944-2.

629 Preissler, S., and D. Ron. 2019. Early Events in the Endoplasmic Reticulum Unfolded Protein

630 Response. *Cold Spring Harb. Perspect. Biol.* 11:a033894. doi:10.1101/cshperspect.a033894.

631 Raina, M., and M. Ibba. 2014. tRNAs as regulators of biological processes. *Front. Genet.* 5:171.

632 doi:10.3389/fgene.2014.00171.

633 Ramachandran, P. V, M. Savini, A.K. Folick, K. Hu, R. Masand, B.H. Graham, and M.C. Wang. 2019.

634 Lysosomal Signaling Promotes Longevity by Adjusting Mitochondrial Activity. *Dev. Cell*. 48:685-

635 696.e5. doi:10.1016/j.devcel.2018.12.022.

636 Rauthan, M., P. Ranji, N. Aguilera Pradenas, C. Pitot, and M. Pilon. 2013. The mitochondrial unfolded

637 protein response activator ATFS-1 protects cells from inhibition of the mevalonate pathway. *Proc.*

638 *Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 110:5981–5986. doi:10.1073/pnas.1218778110.

639 Rolland, S.G., S. Schneid, M. Schwarz, E. Rackles, C. Fischer, S. Haeussler, S.G. Regmi, A.

640 Yeroslaviz, B. Habermann, D. Mokranjac, E. Lambie, and B. Conradt. 2019. Compromised

641 Mitochondrial Protein Import Acts as a Signal for UPRmt. *Cell Rep.* 28:1659–1669.

642 doi:10.1016/J.CELREP.2019.07.049.

643 Rossmanith, W. 2011. Localization of Human RNase Z Isoforms: Dual Nuclear/Mitochondrial Targeting

644 of the ELAC2 Gene Product by Alternative Translation Initiation. *PLoS One*. 6:e19152.

645   Saoura, M., C.A. Powell, R. Kopajtich, A. Alahmad, H.H. AL-Balool, B. Albash, M. Alfadhel, C.L. Alston,

646   E. Bertini, P.E. Bonnen, D. Bratkovic, R. Carrozzo, M.A. Donati, M. Di Nottia, D. Ghezzi, A.

647   Goldstein, E. Haan, R. Horvath, J. Hughes, F. Invernizzi, E. Lamantea, B. Lucas, K.-G. Pinnock,

648   M. Pujantell, S. Rahman, P. Rebelo-Guiomar, S. Santra, D. Verrigni, R. McFarland, H. Prokisch,

649   R.W. Taylor, L. Levinger, and M. Minczuk. 2019. Mutations in ELAC2 associated with hypertrophic

650   cardiomyopathy impair mitochondrial tRNA 3′-end processing. *Hum. Mutat.* 40:1731–1748.

651   doi:10.1002/humu.23777.

652   Schiffer, S., S. Rösch, and A. Marchfelder. 2002. Assigning a function to a conserved group of proteins:

653   The tRNA 3′-processing enzymes. *EMBO J.* 21:2769–2777. doi:10.1093/emboj/21.11.2769.

654   Shao, L.-W., Q. Peng, M. Dong, K. Gao, Y. Li, Y. Li, C.-Y. Li, and Y. Liu. 2020. Histone deacetylase

655   HDA-1 modulates mitochondrial stress response and longevity. *Nat. Commun.* 11:4639.

656   doi:10.1038/s41467-020-18501-w.

657   Shinwari, Z.M.A., A. Almesned, A. Alakhfash, A.M. Al-Rashdan, E. Faqeih, Z. Al-Humaidi, A. Alomrani,

658   M. Alghamdi, D. Colak, A. Alwadai, M. Rababh, M. Al-Fayyadh, and Z.N. Al-Hassnan. 2017. The

659   Phenotype and Outcome of Infantile Cardiomyopathy Caused by a Homozygous **ELAC2** Mutation.

660   *Cardiology*. 137:188–192. doi:10.1159/000465516.

661   Shpilka, T., Y. Du, Q. Yang, A. Melber, N. Uma Naresh, J. Lavelle, S. Kim, P. Liu, H. Weidberg, R. Li, J.

662   Yu, L.J. Zhu, L. Strittmatter, and C.M. Haynes. 2021. UPRmt scales mitochondrial network

663   expansion with protein synthesis via mitochondrial import in Caenorhabditis elegans. *Nat.*

664   *Commun.* 12:479. doi:10.1038/s41467-020-20784-y.

665   Siira, S.J., G. Rossetti, T.R. Richman, K. Perks, J.A. Ermer, I. Kuznetsova, L. Hughes, A.J. Shearwood,

666   H.M. Viola, L.C. Hool, O. Rackham, and A. Filipovska. 2018. Concerted regulation of mitochondrial

667   and nuclear non-coding RNAs by a dual-targeted RNase Z. *EMBO Rep.* 19:e46198.

668   doi:10.15252/embr.201846198.

669   Smith, M.M., and D.J. Levitan. 2004. The *Caenorhabditis elegans* homolog of the putative prostate

670   cancer susceptibility gene ELAC2 , *hoe-1* , plays a role in germline proliferation. *Dev. Biol.*

671   266:151–160. doi:10.1016/j.ydbio.2003.10.016.

672   Takaku, H., A. Minagawa, M. Takagi, and M. Nashimoto. 2003. A candidate prostate cancer

673   susceptibility gene encodes tRNA 3′ processing endoribonuclease. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 31:2272–

674   2278. doi:10.1093/nar/gkg337.

675   Tavtigian, S. V, J. Simard, D.H.F. Teng, V. Abtin, M. Baumgard, A. Beck, N.J. Camp, A.R. Carillo, Y.

676   Chen, P. Dayananth, M. Desrochers, M. Dumont, J.M. Farnham, D. Frank, C. Frye, S. Ghaffari,

677   J.S. Gupte, R. Hu, D. Iliev, T. Janecki, E.N. Kort, K.E. Laity, A. Leavitt, G. Leblanc, J. McArthur-

678   Morrison, A. Pederson, B. Penn, K.T. Peterson, J.E. Reid, S. Richards, M. Schroeder, R. Smith,

679   S.C. Snyder, B. Swedlund, J. Swensen, A. Thomas, M. Tranchant, A.-M. Woodland, F. Labrie,

680   M.H. Skolnick, S. Neuhausen, J. Rommens, and L.A. Cannon-Albright. 2001. A candidate prostate

681   cancer susceptibility gene at chromosome 17p. *Nat. Genet.* 27:172–180. doi:10.1038/84808.

682   Tian, Y., G. Garcia, Q. Bian, K.K. Steffen, L. Joe, S. Wolff, B.J. Meyer, and A. Dillin. 2016.

683   Mitochondrial Stress Induces Chromatin Reorganization to Promote Longevity and UPRmt. *Cell*.

684   165:1197–1208. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2016.04.011.

685   Timmons, L., D.L. Court, and A. Fire. 2001. Ingestion of bacterially expressed dsRNAs can produce

686   specific and potent genetic interference in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *Gene*. 263:103–112.

687   doi:10.1016/S0378-1119(00)00579-5.

688   Tjahjono, E., and N. V Kirienko. 2017. A conserved mitochondrial surveillance pathway is required for

689   defense against Pseudomonas aeruginosa. *PLoS Genet.* 13:e1006876.

690   doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1006876.

691   Tjahjono, E., A.P. McAnena, and N. V Kirienko. 2020. The evolutionarily conserved ESRE stress

692   response network is activated by ROS and mitochondrial damage. *BMC Biol.* 18:74.

693   doi:10.1186/s12915-020-00812-5.

694   Vafai, S.B., and V.K. Mootha. 2012. Mitochondrial disorders as windows into an ancient organelle.

695   *Nature*. 491:374–383. doi:10.1038/nature11707.

696   Wang, M., and R.J. Kaufman. 2016. Protein misfolding in the endoplasmic reticulum as a conduit to

697   human disease. *Nature*. 529:326–335. doi:10.1038/nature17041.

698   Wang, X., and X.J. Chen. 2015. A cytosolic network suppressing mitochondria-mediated proteostatic

699   stress and cell death. *Nature*. 524:481–484.

700   Weidberg, H., and A. Amon. 2018. MitoCPR—A surveillance pathway that protects mitochondria in

701   response to protein import stress. *Science (80-.)*. 360:eaan4146. doi:10.1126/science.aan4146.

702   Wrobel, L., U. Topf, P. Bragoszewski, S. Wiese, M.E. Sztolsztener, S. Oeljeklaus, A. Varabyova, M.

703   Lirski, P. Chroscicki, S. Mroczek, E. Januszewicz, A. Dziembowski, M. Koblowska, B. Warscheid,

704   and A. Chacinska. 2015. Mistargeted mitochondrial proteins activate a proteostatic response in the

705   cytosol. *Nature*. 524:485–488.

706   Yoneda, T., C. Benedetti, F. Urano, S.G. Clark, H.P. Harding, and D. Ron. 2004. Compartment-specific

707   perturbation of protein handling activates genes encoding mitochondrial chaperones. *J. Cell Sci.*

708   117:4055–4066. doi:10.1242/jcs.01275.

709   Yoo, C.J., and S.L. Wolin. 1997. The Yeast La Protein Is Required for the 3′ Endonucleolytic Cleavage

710   That Matures tRNA Precursors. *Cell*. 89:393–402. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/S0092-

711   8674(00)80220-2.

712   Zhang, L., J.D. Ward, Z. Cheng, and A.F. Dernburg. 2015. The auxin-inducible degradation (AID)

713   system enables versatile conditional protein depletion in C. elegans. *Development*. 142:4374–

714   4384. doi:10.1242/dev.129635.

715   Zhang, Q., X. Wu, P. Chen, L. Liu, N. Xin, Y. Tian, and A. Dillin. 2018. The Mitochondrial Unfolded

716   Protein Response Is Mediated Cell-Non-autonomously by Retromer-Dependent Wnt Signaling.

717   *Cell*. 174:870-883.e17. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2018.06.029.

718   Zhao, Q., J. Wang, I. V. Levichkin, S. Stasinopoulos, M.T. Ryan, and N.J. Hoogenraad. 2002. A

719   mitochondrial specific stress response in mammalian cells. *EMBO J.* 21:4411–4419.

720   doi:10.1093/emboj/cdf445.

721   Zhu, D., X. Wu, J. Zhou, X. Li, X. Huang, J. Li, J. Wu, Q. Bian, Y. Wang, and Y. Tian. 2020. NuRD

722   mediates mitochondrial stress-induced longevity via chromatin remodeling in response to acetyl-

723   CoA level. *Sci. Adv.* 6:eabb2529. doi:10.1126/sciadv.abb2529.

724

725   **Methods**

726   **Worm Maintenance**

727   Worms were grown on nematode growth media (NGM) seeded with OP50 *E. coli* bacteria and

728   maintained at 20°C.

729   **Mutants and Transgenic Lines**

730   A complete list of *C. elegans* strains used can be found in supplemental table S1. All new mutant and

731   transgenic strains generated via CRISPR/*Cas9* for this study were confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

732   **CRISPR/Cas9**

733   CRISPR was conducted as previously described (Dokshin *et al. Genetics* 2018; Paix *et al. Genetics*

734   2015) using Alt-R® S.p. Cas9 Nuclease V3 (IDT #1081058) and tracrRNA (IDT #1072532). A complete

735   list of crRNA and repair template sequences purchased from IDT can be found in supplemental table

736   S2.

737   **Genetic Crosses**

738   Strains resulting from genetic crosses were generated by crossing ~20 heterozygous males of a given

739   strain to 5 – 8 L4 hermaphrodites of another strain (heterozygous males were generated by first

740   crossing L4 hermaphrodites of that strain to N2 males). F1, L4 hermaphrodites were then cloned out

741   and allowed to have self-progeny. F2 progeny were cloned out and once they had progeny were

742   genotyped or screened (if fluorescent marker) for presence of alleles of interest. All genotyping primers

743   were purchased from IDT and can be found in supplemental table S2.

Fluorescence Microscopy

745   All whole animal imaging was done using Zeiss Axio Zoom V16 stereo zoom microscope. For all whole

746   animal imaging, worms were immobilized on 2% agar pads on microscope slides in ~1µl of 100mM

747   levamisole (ThermoFisher #AC187870100) and then coverslip applied.

Fluorescence Image Analysis

749   For whole animal fluorescence intensity quantification, total pixels (determined by tracing individual

750   animals and summing the total number of pixels within the bounds of the trace) and pixel fluorescence

751   intensity (pixel fluorescence intensity on 1-255 scale) were quantified using imageJ and mean

752   fluorescence intensity for each worm was calculated (sum total of fluorescence intensity divided by total

753   number of pixels within bounds of the trace). For DVE-1::GFP image analysis (Figure 5E&F),

754   brightness threshold was set to 25 in imageJ and then the number of gut cell nuclei that were saturated

755   at this threshold were counted. For Figure 8A&B and 8E&F, and Figure 8 – figure supplement 2A&B,

756   mean fluorescence intensity was calculated within the bounds of gut cell nuclei and outside of the

757   bounds of gut cell nuclei and then graphed as the ratio fluorescence intensity of nuclear to extranuclear

758   signal.

RNAi

760   RNAi by feeding was conducted as previously described (Gitschlag *et al. Cell Met.* 2016). Briefly, RNAi

761   clones were grown overnight from single colony in 2 ml liquid culture of LB supplemented with 50 µg/ml

762   ampicillin. To make 16 RNAi plates, 50 ml of LB supplemented with 50 µg/ml ampicillin was inoculated

763   with 500 µl of overnight culture and then incubated while shaking at 37°C for 4 – 5 hours (to an OD_{550-}

764   $_{600}$ of about 0.8). Cultures were then induced by adding 50 ml additional LB supplemented with 50 µg/ml

765   ampicillin and 4mM IPTG and then continued incubating while shaking at 37°C for 4 hours. Following

766   incubation, bacteria were pelleted by centrifugation at 3900 rpm for 6 minutes. Supernatant was

767   decanted and pellets were gently resuspended in 4 ml of LB supplemented with 8mM IPTG. 250 µl of

768   resuspension was seeded onto standard NGM plates containing 1mM IPTG. Plates were left to dry

769 overnight and then used within 1 week. Bacterial RNAi feeder strains were all from Ahringer RNAi

770 Feeding Library, grown from single colony and identity confirmed by Sanger sequencing. *atfs-1*

771 (ZC376.7), *cco-1* (F26E4.9), *hoe-1* (E04A4.4), *hpo-31* (F55B12.4), *popl-1* (C05D11.9), *rpc-1* (C42D4.8),

772 *rtcb-1* (F16A11.2), *spg-7* (Y47G6A.10), *xpo-3* (C49H3.10).

773 **Quantification of Gene Expression**

774 cDNA was synthesized using Maxima H Minus First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit, with dsDNase

775 (ThermoFisher #K1682) according to manufacturer's directions. Lysates for cDNA synthesis were made

776 by transferring 10, day 2 adult worms to 10 µl of lysis buffer supplemented with 20mg/ml proteinase K

777 and incubating at 65°C for 10 min, 85°C for 1 minute and 4°C for 2 minutes. Quantification of gene

778 expression was performed using droplet digital PCR (ddPCR) with Bio-Rad QX200 ddPCR EvaGreen

779 Supermix (Bio-Rad #1864034). Primers used for ddPCR can be found in supplemental table S2.

780 **TMRE Staining**

781 500 µl of 1mM TMRE (ThermoFisher #T669) solution in M9 buffer (prepared from a stock TMRE

782 solution of 0.5M in DMSO) was supplemented on top of standard NGM plates pre-seeded with 200ul

783 lawn of OP50 and allowed to dry overnight in the dark. The following day young L4 animals were

784 transferred to TMRE plates and incubated on TMRE for 16 hours. After 16 hours animals were

785 transferred from TMRE plates to seeded standard NGM plates for 1 hour to remove any non-specific

786 TMRE signal from cuticle and intestinal lumen. Animals were then imaged via confocal microscopy as

787 described below.

788 **Confocal Fluorescence Imaging**

789 Worms were grown at 20°C and age-synchronized by timed egg-lays on NGM plates seeded with

790 OP50 or HT115 bacteria for RNAi experiments. Before imaging, worms were immobilized with 3 µl 0.05

791 µm Polybead microsphere suspension (Polysciences) on a 10% agarose pad with a coverslip (1).

792 Images were taken in the mid- or posterior intestine using a Nikon Ti2 with CSU-W1 spinning disk and

793 Plan-Apochromat 100X/1.49 NA objective. HOE-1::GFP was imaged by 488 nm laser excitation and

794 ET525/36m emission filter. 2X integration was applied (Nikon Elements) to increase signal strength.

795 TMRE and ATFS-1::mCherry were imaged with 561 nm laser excitation and ET605/52M emission filter.

796   Image processing and analysis was performed with Nikon Elements software. Raw images were

797   subjected to deconvolution and rolling ball background subtraction. Mitochondrial networks were

798   segmented using the TMRE signal after excluding dye aggregates via Bright Spot Detection. To

799   objectively set threshold parameters across groups with different TMRE intensity levels, the low

800   threshold for segmentation was calculated based on a linear correlation with mean TMRE intensity

801   within each group, $y = 0.6411*x + 89.71$ (x = mean TMRE intensity and constants derived from an initial

802   manual validation). Regions of interest (ROIs) were manually drawn to encompass a single intestinal

803   cell, and nuclei were identified and segmented manually using brightfield images. Mean intensities were

804   measured within the resulting masks.

805   To detect localization of HOE-1::GFP in mitochondria, images of TMRE-stained intestinal cells of

806   control and ΔMTS worms were collected and blinded. Mitochondria were segmented by TMRE signals

807   as above. For each cell, one representative line scan was drawn manually across the mitochondrial

808   short axis.

809   **Western Blot**

810   50 adult worms were transferred into a tube containing 20 µl of M9 Buffer. Then, 20 µl of 2x Laemmli

811   Buffer (BioRad #161-0737) supplemented with 2-mercaptoethanol (i.e. βME) was added to worm

812   suspension and gently pipetted up and down 5 times to mix. Worms were lysed at 95°C for 10min in

813   thermocycler followed by ramp down to room temperature (25°C). Lysates were then pipetted up and

814   down 10 times to complete disrupt and homogenize suspension. Samples were briefly centrifuged to

815   pellet any worm debris. 20 µl of lysate supernatant was loaded onto precast Mini-PROTEAN TGX

816   Stain-Free Gel (BioRad #4568045). Gel was run for 30 min at 100V and then an additional 40 – 45 min

817   at 130V in 1x Tris/Glycine/SDS Running Buffer (BioRad #1610732). Following electrophoresis gel was

818   activated and imaged for total protein. Gel was equilibrated in Trans-Blot® Turbo™ Transfer Buffer

819   (BioRad #10026938) and transferred to activated and equilibrated Trans-Blot® Turbo™ LF PVDF

820   Membrane (BioRad #10026934) for 7 min at 2.5A/25V on Trans-Blot® Turbo™ Transfer System.

821   Following transfer, stain-free membrane was imaged for total protein. Membrane was then blocked in

822   5% milk in TBST for 2 hour rocking at room temperature. Following blocking, membrane was incubated

823   in primary antibody overnight rocking at 4°C. Mouse monoclonal anti-β-actin (Santa Cruz Biotechnology

824   #sc-47778) or mouse monoclonal anti-GFP (#sc-9996) were used at a dilution of 1:2500 in 5% milk in

825   TBST. The following day the membrane was washed 3 times for 5 min each with TBST and then

826   incubated with HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse antibody (sc-2005) at 1:2000 in 5% milk in TBST for 2

827   hours at room temperature. Membrane was again washed 3 times for 5 min each with TBST.

828   Membranes were then incubated for 5 minutes in Clarity™ Western ECL Substrate (BioRad #1705060)

829   and immediately imaged on a BioRad ChemiDoc™ MP imager. Band intensity was quantified using

830   imageJ.

831 **Statistical Analysis**

832   Experiment-specific details regarding sample size and statistical test used can be found in the

833   corresponding Figure Legends. Significant p-values under 0.05 are denoted on all graphs and p-values

834   above 0.05 are considered non-significant (ns). All statistical analysis was performed in GraphPad

835   Prism 9. All data points for each experiment are included (no outlier exclusion was performed). For all

836   whole animal fluorescence analysis, a sample size of 24 animals was generally used), each animal

837   considered a biological replicate. Statistical analysis of high resolution fluorescence confocal imaging

838   (HOE-1::GFP, ATFS-1::mCherry, and TMRE) was conducted on sample sizes between 60 – 80

839   animals of which animals were collected and imaged on three independent days, each animal

840   considered a biological replicate. For western blot analysis, 4 independent samples were used for each

841   condition, each sample (containing 50 worms each) is considered a biological replicate. For ddPCR

842   analysis, a sample size of 4 was used for each condition, each sample (containing 10 worms each) is

843   considered a biological replicate, each biological replicate was run in technical duplicate of which the

844   average value was used for analysis.

845

846 **Figure Legends**

847

848 **Figure 1: *hoe-1* is required for maximal UPR^mt activation.**

849 (**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^mt reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP)* activation in L4 *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on

850 *control* and *hoe-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200µm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in

851 individual L4 *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on control and *hoe-1 RNAi* normalized to *hsp-6p::GFP* in a

852   wildtype background on *control RNAi* (n=8 and 15 respectively, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test).
853   (**C**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in L3/L4 wildtype and *hoe-1* null
854   (*hoe-1(-/-)*) animals on *control*, *cco-1*, and *spg-7 RNAi*. Scale bar 200µm. (**D**) Fluorescence intensity
855   quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual L3/L4 wildtype and *hoe-1(-/-)* animals on *control* and *cco-1*
856   *RNAi* (n=8,12,6 and 13 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's
857   multiple comparisons test). (**E**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual L3/L4
858   wildtype and *hoe-1(-/-)* animals on *control* and *spg-7 RNAi* (n=7,15,6 and 18 respectively, mean and
859   SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**F**) Fluorescence images
860   of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in L3/L4 *nuo-6(qm200)* animals with (*hoe-1(+/+)*) and
861   without (*hoe-1(-/-)*) *hoe-1*. Scale bar 200µm. (**G**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in
862   individual L3/L4 *nuo-6(qm200)* animals with (*hoe-1(+/+)*) and without (*hoe-1(-/-)*) *hoe-1* normalized to
863   *hsp-6p::GFP* in a wildtype background (n=22 for each condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test).
864
865   **Figure 2: Nuclear HOE-1 is required for maximal UPR^{mt} activation.**
866   (**A**) Fluorescence images of a terminal intestinal cell in a wildtype animal expressing HOE-1::GFP
867   (green) stained with TMRE (magenta) to visualize mitochondria. GFP and TMRE co-localization shown
868   in white in merged image. Arrow indicates nuclei. Scale bar 20µm. Representative line segment
869   analysis of individual mitochondrion. (**B**) Schematic of HOE-1 protein showing the mitochondrial
870   targeting sequence (MTS) and nuclear localization signals (NLS). ΔMTS allele created by replacing
871   START codon with an alanine (M1A). Transcription begins at M74 for nuclear localized HOE-1. ΔNLS
872   allele created by compromising the most N-terminal NLS (^{636}KRPR > AAPA). (**C**) Fluorescence images
873   of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) in L4 wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* animals on *control* and *spg-7 RNAi*.
874   Scale bar 200µm. (**D**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual L4 wildtype and
875   *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* animals on *control* and *spg-7 RNAi* (n=15,20,17, and 19 respectively, mean and SD
876   shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**E**) Fluorescence images of
877   UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) in L4 wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* animals on *control* and *spg-7 RNAi*.
878   Scale bar 200µm. (**F**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual L4 wildtype and
879   *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* animals on *control* and *spg-7 RNAi* (n=15 for each condition, mean and SD shown,
880   ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**G**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt}
881   reporter in L4 *nuo-6(qm200)* animals in wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* backgrounds. Scale bar 200µm. (**H**)
882   Fluorescence intensity of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual L4 *nuo-6(qm200)* animals in wildtype and *hoe-*
883   *1(ΔNLS)* backgrounds (n=30 for each condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test). (**I**) mRNA
884   transcript quantification of *hsp-6* in L4 wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* animals on *control* and *spg-7 RNAi*
885   normalized to *ama-1* (n=4 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with
886   Tukey's multiple comparisons test).
887
888   **Figure 3: Nuclear export defective HOE-1 is sufficient to specifically activate UPR^{mt}.**
889   (**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in day 2 adult wildtype, *nuo-*
890   *6(qm200)*, *atfs-1(et15)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals. Scale bar 200µm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity
891   quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype, *nuo-6(qm200)*, *atfs-1(et15)*, and *hoe-*
892   *1(ΔNES)* animals (n=10 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with
893   Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**C–E**) mRNA transcript quantification of *hsp-6*, *clec-47*, and *cyp-*
894   *14A1.4*, respectively, in day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals normalized to *ama-1* mRNA
895   levels (n=4 for each condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test). (**F**) Fluorescence images of
896   UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in day 2 adult *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1*
897   *RNAi*. Scale bar 200µm. (**G**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2
898   adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi* (n=10 for each condition, mean
899   and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**H**) Fluorescence
900   images of UPR^{ER} reporter (*hsp-4p::GFP*) activation in day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals.
901   Scale bar 200µm. (**I**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-4p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult
902   wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals (n=10 for each condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test). (**J**)
903   Fluorescence images of intestinal-specific basal protein reporter (*ges-1p::GFPcyto*) activation in day 2
904   adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals. Scale bar 200µm. (**K**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of

905 *ges-1p::GFPcyto* in individual day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals (n=10 for each condition,
906 mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test).
907

Figure 4: **Nuclear export defective HOE-1 activates UPR^{mt}, correlating with reduced**
909 **mitochondrial membrane potential.**
910 (**A**) Fluorescence images of TMRE stained day 1 adult wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNLS)*
911 individuals. Scale bar 20μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of TMRE staining in individual
912 day 1 adult wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* animals (n=57, 60, and 63 respectively, mean
913 and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**C**) Fluorescence
914 images of TMRE stained day 1 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi*.
915 Scale bar 20μm. (**D**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of TMRE staining in individual day 1 adult
916 wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1* RNAi (n=65, 62, 65, and 61 respectively,
917 mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).
918

Figure 5: **Nuclear export defective HOE-1 animals have increased nuclear accumulation of**
920 **UPR^{mt} transcription factors ATFS-1 and DVE-1.**
921 (**A**), Fluorescence images of ATFS-1::mCherry in the terminal intestine of day 2 adult wildtype *hoe-*
922 *1(ΔNES)*, and *nuo-6(qm200)* individuals (tip of the tail is in the bottom of each panel). Intestinal nuclei
923 outlined with dashed white line. Scale bar 20μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of nuclear
924 ATFS-1::mCherry in wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *nuo-6(qm200)* individuals (n=65, 74, and 72
925 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).
926 (**C**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of total cellular ATFS-1::mCherry in wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*,
927 and *nuo-6(qm200)* individuals (n=61, 62, and 67 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way
928 ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**D**) mRNA transcript quantification of *atfs-1* in day 2
929 adult wildtype, *nuo-6(qm200)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals normalized to *ama-1* (n=4 for each condition,
930 mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**E**)
931 Fluorescence images of *dve-1p::DVE-1::GFP* in day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals. Scale
932 bar 200μm. (**F**) Number of intestinal cell nuclei with DVE-1::GFP puncta above brightness threshold of
933 25 in day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals (n=33 and 41 respectively, unpaired t-test). (**G**)
934 Western blot for DVE-1::GFP and actin from day 1 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals. (**H**)
935 Quantification of DVE-1::GFP western blot band intensity from day 1 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)*
936 animals normalized to total protein (n=4 for each condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test).
937

Figure 6: Nuclear export defective HOE-1 activates UPR^{mt} via altered tRNA processing.
939 (**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-*
940 *1(ΔNES)* animals on *control* and *popl-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity
941 quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals on *control*
942 and *popl-1 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with
943 Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**C**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*)
944 activation in day 2 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *popl-1 RNAi*. Scale bar
945 200μm. (**D**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype and
946 *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *popl-1 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown,
947 ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**E**) Fluorescence images of
948 intestinal-specific basal protein reporter (*ges-1p::GFPcyto*) activation in day 2 adult wildtype animals on
949 *control* and *popl-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200μm. (**F**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *ges-*
950 *1p::GFPcyto* in individual day 2 adult wildtype animals on *control* and *popl-1 RNAi* (n=24 for each
951 condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test). (**G**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-*
952 *6p::GFP*) activation in day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals on *control* and *xpo-3 RNAi*. Scale
953 bar 200μm. (**H**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype
954 and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals on *control* and *xpo-3 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown,
955 ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**I**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt}
956 reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in day 2 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *xpo-*
957 *3 RNAi*. Scale bar 200μm. (**J**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2

958 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *xpo-3 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean
959 and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**K**) Fluorescence
960 images of intestinal-specific basal protein reporter (*ges-1p::GFPcyto*) activation in day 2 adult wildtype
961 animals on *control* and *xpo-3 RNAi*. Scale bar 200µm. (**L**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *ges-*
962 *1p::GFPcyto* in individual day 2 adult wildtype animals on *control* and *xpo-3 RNAi* (n=24 for each
963 condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test).

965 **Figure 7: Nuclear export defective HOE-1 induced UPR^{mt} is not *gcn-2* or *eIF2α* dependent.**
966 (**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in day 2 adult wildtype, *gcn-*
967 *2(ok871)*, *eIF2α(S46A,S49A)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES);gcn-2(ok871)*, and *hoe-*
968 *1(ΔNES);eIF2α(S46A,S49A)* animals. Scale bar 200µm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of
969 *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype, *gcn-2(ok871)*, *eIF2α(S46A,S49A)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, *hoe-*
970 *1(ΔNES);gcn-2(ok871)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNES);eIF2α(S46A,S49A)* animals (n=24 for each condition, mean
971 and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

973 **Figure 8: Nuclear HOE-1 levels are elevated during mitochondrial stress in the absence of**
974 **ATFS-1 but decreased in the presence of ATFS-1.**
975 (**A**) Fluorescence images of HOE-1::GFP in day 1 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control*
976 and *atfs-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200µm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of intestinal nuclei relative
977 to extranuclear signal in day 1 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi*
978 (n=40 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple
979 comparisons test). (**C**) Western blot for HOE-1::GFP and actin from day 1 adult wildtype and *nuo-*
980 *6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi*. (**D**) Quantification of HOE-1::GFP western blot band
981 intensity from day 1 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi* normalized to
982 total protein (n=4 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's
983 multiple comparisons test). (**E**) Fluorescence images of HOE-1::GFP in day 1 adult wildtype and *atfs-*
984 *1(et15)* animals. Scale bar 200µm. (**F**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of intestinal nuclei relative
985 to extranuclear signal in day 1 adult wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals (n=40 for each condition, mean
986 and SD shown, unpaired t-test). (**G**) Western blot for HOE-1::GFP and actin from day 1 adult wildtype
987 and *atfs-1(et15)* animals. (**H**) Quantification of HOE-1::GFP western blot band intensity from day 1 adult
988 wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals normalized to total protein (n=4 for each condition, mean and SD
989 shown, unpaired t-test). (**I**) Mitochondrial stress triggers activation of HOE-1 resulting in altered RNA
990 processing that facilitates UPR^{mt} via ATFS-1. Activation of UPR^{mt} negatively regulates HOE-1.

992 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 1: *hoe-1::GFP* does not compromise growth or development and**
993 **is sufficient to rescue the developmental arrest of *hoe-1(-/-)* animals.**
994 (**A**) Bright-field images of wildtype, *hoe-1::GFP*, *hoe-1(-/-)*, and *hoe-1(-/-)/hoe-1::GFP* trans-
995 heterozygous animals 72 hours post-embryo. Scale bar 200µm.

997 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 2: *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* allele attenuates HOE-1 mitochondrial localization.**
998 (**A**) Fluorescence images of a terminal intestinal cell in a *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* day 1 adult animal expressing
999 HOE-1::GFP (green) stained with TMRE (magenta) to visualize mitochondria. GFP and TMRE co-
1000 localization shown in white in merged image. Arrow indicates nuclei. Scale bar 20µm. Representative
1001 line segment analysis of individual mitochondrion.

1003 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 3: *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* does not attenuate *cco-1 RNAi*-induced UPR^{mt}.**
1004 (**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) in L4 wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* animals on
1005 *control* and *cco-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200µm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in
1006 individual L4 wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔMTS)* animals on control and *cco-1 RNAi* (n=12,14,16, and 18
1007 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

1009 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 4: *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* allele attenuates nuclear HOE-1 localization.**

(**A**) Fluorescence images of a terminal intestinal cell individual a *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* day 1 adult animal expressing HOE-1::GFP(green) stained with TMRE (magenta) to visualize mitochondria. GFP and TMRE co-localization shown in white in merged image. Nuclei are traced with dashed white line. Scale bar 20μm (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of HOE-1::GFP in intestinal nuclei of wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔMTS)*, *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* backgrounds (n=57, 52, 60, and 73 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test). (**C**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of HOE-1::GFP in intestinal mitochondria of wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* backgrounds (n=57, 53, and 60 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 2 – figure supplement 5: UPR^{mt} responsive gene *cyp-14A1.4* is downregulated under mitochondrial stress conditions in *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* animals relative to wildtype.
(**A**) mRNA transcript quantification of *cyp-14A1.4* in L4 wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNLS)* animals on *control* and *spg-7 RNAi* normalized to *ama-1* (n=4 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 3 – figure supplement 1: Nuclear export defective HOE-1 has increased nuclear accumulation relative to wildtype.
(**A**) Schematic of HOE-1 protein showing the mitochondrial targeting sequence (MTS), nuclear localization signals (NLS) and nuclear export signal (NES). *hoe-1(ΔNES)* mutant generated by changing the strong hydrophobic residues of NES to alanines (^{731}VAELFELTI^{739}>^{731}AAEAAEATA^{739}) (**B**) Fluorescence images of a terminal intestinal cell in a *hoe-1(ΔNES)* day 1 adult animal expressing HOE-1::GFP (green) stained with TMRE (magenta) to visualize mitochondria. GFP and TMRE co-localization shown in white in merged image. Arrow indicates nuclei. Scale bar 20μm. Quantification of nuclear and mitochondrial HOE-1::GFP levels in *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals shown in Figure 2 – figure supplement 4.

Figure 3 – figure supplement 2: Nuclear export defective HOE-1 activates UPR^{mt}.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-60p::GFP)* activation in day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals. Scale bar 200μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-60p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test).

Figure 3 – figure supplement 3: Compromised nuclear import of HOE-1 completely attenuates *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt}.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP)* activation in day 2 adult wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNLS)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNLS+ΔNES)* animals. Scale bar 200μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNLS)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNLS+ΔNES)* animals (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 3 – figure supplement 4: Compromised mitochondrial import of HOE-1 exacerbates *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt}.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP)* activation in day 2 adult wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔMTS)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *hoe-1(ΔMTS+ΔNES)* animals. Scale bar 200μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔMTS)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *hoe-1(ΔMTS+ΔNES)* animals (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 3 – figure supplement 5: Nuclear export defective HOE-1 activates UPR^{mt} in the intestine cell autonomously.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP)* activation in day 2 adult wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNES::degron)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES::degron)* with intestinal-specific AID (*ges-1p::TIR1*), and *hoe-1(ΔNES::degron)* with neuronal-specific AID (*rgef-1p::TIR1*) animals on vehicle and 1mM auxin. (**B**)

Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual day 2 adult wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNES::degron)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES::degron)* with intestinal-specific AID (*ges-1p::TIR1*), and *hoe-1(ΔNES::degron)* with neuronal-specific AID (*rgef-1p::TIR1*) animals on vehicle and 1mM auxin (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). Note that the degron tagged *hoe-1(ΔNES)* allele has modestly diminished UPR^{mt} activation relative to the untagged *hoe-1(ΔNES)* allele.

Figure 5 – figure supplement 1: Nuclear export defective HOE-1 does not elevate extra-nuclear ATFS-1::mCherry levels.
(**A**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of extra-nuclear ATFS-1::mCherry in wildtype, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *nuo-6(qm200)* individuals (n=61, 62, and 67 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 5 – source data 1: Blots for wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals with DVE-1::GFP (Figure 4G & 4H)
All panels are the same membrane. (**A**) Image of stain-free blot for total protein from day 1 adult wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* animals. Four biological replicates of each condition: Lane #1 BR Spectra Protein Ladder – ladder bands in kDa denoted, Lane #2-5 wildtype and #6-9 *hoe-1(ΔNES)*. (**B**) Chemiluminescence image of blot for DVE-1::GFP using GFP primary antibody. (**C**) Composite image of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blot for DVE-1::GFP to show bands relative to ladder. (**D**) Chemiluminescence image of blot for actin using β-actin primary antibody. (**E**) Composite image of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blot for actin to show bands relative to ladder.

Figure 6 – figure supplement 1: Nuclear export defective HOE-1 induced UPR^{mt} is dependent upon the catalytic activity of HOE-1.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation and corresponding bright-field images of wildtype, catalytically-dead *hoe-1* (*hoe-1(D624A)*) mutant, catalytically-dead nuclear export defective *hoe-1* (*hoe-1(D624A+ΔNES)*) mutant, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNES)/hoe-1(D624A+ΔNES)* trans-heterozygous mutant animals 96 hours post-embryo. Scale bar 200μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual wildtype, *hoe-1(D624A)*, *hoe-1(D624A+ΔNES)*, *hoe-1(ΔNES)*, and *hoe-1(ΔNES)/hoe-1(D624A+ΔNES)* trans-heterozygous animals 96 hours post-embryo (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 6 – figure supplement 2: RNAi against RNA polymerase III subunit, *rpc-1*, preferentially attenuates *hoe-1(ΔNES)*-induced UPR^{mt}.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* day 2 adult animals on *control* and *rpc-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* day 2 adult animals on *control* and *rpc-1 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**C**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* day 2 adult animals on *control* and *rpc-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200μm. (**D**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* day 2 adult animals on *control* and *rpc-1 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 6 – figure supplement 3: RNAi against tRNA nucleotidyl transferase, *hpo-31*, and tRNA ligase, *rtcb-1*, mildly attenuate both *hoe-1(ΔNES)*- and *nuo-6(qm200)*-induced UPR^{mt}.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of UPR^{mt} reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* day 2 adult animals on *control*, *hpo-31*, and *rtcb-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200μm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* day 2 adult animals on *control* and *hpo-31 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with

Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**C**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual wildtype and *hoe-1(ΔNES)* day 2 adult animals on *control* and *rtcb-1 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). Note that the same *control* RNAi animals were used for analysis in both panel B & C as experiments were conducted simultaneously. (**D**) Fluorescence images of UPR^mt reporter (*hsp-6p::GFP*) activation in wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* day 2 adult animals on *control*, and *rtcb-1 RNAi*. Scale bar 200µm. (**E**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of *hsp-6p::GFP* in individual wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* day 2 adult animals on *control* and *rtcb-1 RNAi* (n=24 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 8 – figure supplement 1: *hoe-1* mRNA levels are upregulated under conditions of mitochondrial stress.
(**A**) Copies of total *hoe-1* mRNA (primer pair 1) versus *hoe-1* mRNA that include the mitochondrial targeting sequence (primer pair 2) in day 1 adult wildtype animals. ddPCR droplet counts shown. Paired samples connected with solid black line. (**B-C**) mRNA transcript quantification of *hoe-1* in day 1 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals normalized to *ama-1* (n=4 for each condition, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test) measured with two separate primer pairs.

Figure 8 – figure supplement 2: UPR^mt-inducing *cco-1 and spg-7 RNAi* both attenuate HOE-1 nuclear levels.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of HOE-1::GFP expressing animals on *control*, *cco-1*, and *spg-7 RNAi*. Scale bar 200µm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of intestinal nuclei relative to extranuclear signal of HOE-1::GFP on *control*, *cco-1*, and *spg-7 RNAi* (n=40 for each condition, mean and SD shown, ordinary one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 8 – figure supplement 3: Nuclear HOE-1 levels are elevated during mitochondrial stress in the absence of ATFS-1 but decreased in the presence of ATFS-1.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of the intestine of individual day 1 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals expressing HOE-1::GFP (green) stained with TMRE (magenta) to visualize mitochondria on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi*. GFP and TMRE co-localization shown in white in merged image. Nuclei are traced with dashed white line. Scale bar 20µm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of the nuclear to cytosolic ratio of HOE-1::GFP in intestine of wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi* (n=59, 64, 57, and 75 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**C**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of nuclear HOE-1::GFP in intestine of wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi* (n=76, 76, 80, and 77 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test). (**D**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of mitochondrial HOE-1::GFP in intestine of wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi* (n=59, 64, 57, and 75 respectively, mean and SD shown, ordinary two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test).

Figure 8 – source data 1: Blots for wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi* (Figure 8C).
All panels are the same membrane. (**A**) Image of stain-free blot for total protein from day 1 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi*. Two biological replicates of each condition: Lane # 1&11 BR Spectra Protein Ladder – ladder bands in kDa denoted. Lane # 2&7 wildtype on *control RNAi*, 3&8 wildtype on *atfs-1 RNAi*, 4&9 *nuo-6(qm200)* on *control RNAi*, and 5&10 *nuo-6(qm200)* on *atfs-1 RNAi*. Lane # 6 empty. (**B**) Chemiluminescence image of blot for HOE-1::GFP using GFP primary antibody. (**C**) Composite image of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blot for HOE-1::GFP to show bands relative to ladder. (**D**) Chemiluminescence image of blot for actin using β-actin primary antibody. (**E**) Composite image of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blot for actin to show bands relative to ladder.

Figure 8 – source data 2: Blots for wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi* (Figure 8D).
Samples were loaded and ran on two separate membranes simultaneously (Membrane A and Membrane B). All panels in each column are the same membrane. (**A**) Image of stain-free blots for total protein from day 1 adult wildtype and *nuo-6(qm200)* animals on *control* and *atfs-1 RNAi.* Two biological replicates on each blot of each condition: Lane # 1&10 BR Spectra Protein Ladder – ladder bands in kDa denoted. Lane # 2&6 wildtype on *control RNAi*, 3&7 wildtype on *atfs-1 RNAi*, 4&8 *nuo-6(qm200)* on *control RNAi*, and 5&9 *nuo-6(qm200)* on *atfs-1 RNAi*. (**B**) Chemiluminescence image of blots for HOE-1::GFP using GFP primary antibody. (**C**) Composite images of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blots for HOE-1::GFP to show bands relative to ladder. (**D**) Chemiluminescence images of blots for actin using β-actin primary antibody. (**E**) Composite images of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blots for actin to show bands relative to ladder.

Figure 8 – figure supplement 4: Constitutive activation of UPR^{mt} by *atfs-1* gain-of-function (*atfs-1(et15)*)) depletes nuclear HOE-1 levels.
(**A**) Fluorescence images of the intestine of individual day 1 adult wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals expressing HOE-1::GFP (green) stained with TMRE (magenta) to visualize mitochondria. GFP and TMRE co-localization shown in white in merged image. Nuclei are traced with dashed white line. Scale bar 20µm. (**B**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of the nuclear to cytosolic ratio of HOE-1::GFP in intestine of wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals (n=56 and 66 respectively, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test). (**C**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of nuclear HOE-1::GFP in intestine of wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals (n=77 and 81 respectively, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test). (**D**) Fluorescence intensity quantification of mitochondrial HOE-1::GFP in intestine of wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals (n=56 and 66 respectively, mean and SD shown, unpaired t-test).

Figure 8 – source data 3: Blots for wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals (Figure 8G).
All panels are the same membrane. (**A**), Image of stain-free blot for total protein from day 1 adult wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals. Two biological replicates of each condition: Lane # 1&6 BR Spectra Protein Ladder – ladder bands in kDa denoted. Lane #2&4 wildtype and #3&5 *atfs-1(et15)*. (**B**) Chemiluminescence image of blot for HOE-1::GFP using GFP primary antibody. (**C**) Composite image of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blot for HOE-1::GFP to show bands relative to ladder. (**D**) Chemiluminescence image of blot for actin using β-actin primary antibody. (**E**) Composite image of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blot for actin to show bands relative to ladder.

Figure 8 – source data 4: Blots for wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals (Figure 8H).
All panels are the same membrane. (**A**), Image of stain-free blot for total protein from day 1 adult wildtype and *atfs-1(et15)* animals. Four biological replicates of each condition: Lane # 1 BR Spectra Protein Ladder – ladder bands in kDa denoted. Lanes #2,4,6,8 wildtype and #3,5,7,9 *atfs-1(et15)*. (**B**) Chemiluminescence image of blot for HOE-1::GFP using GFP primary antibody. (**C**) Composite image of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blot for HOE-1::GFP to show bands relative to ladder. (**D**) Chemiluminescence image of blot for actin using β-actin primary antibody. (**E**) Composite image of chemiluminescence and colorimetric images of blot for actin to show bands relative to ladder.

Supplementary File 1: *C. elegans* strains used in this study

Supplementary File 2: Oligonucleotides used in this study
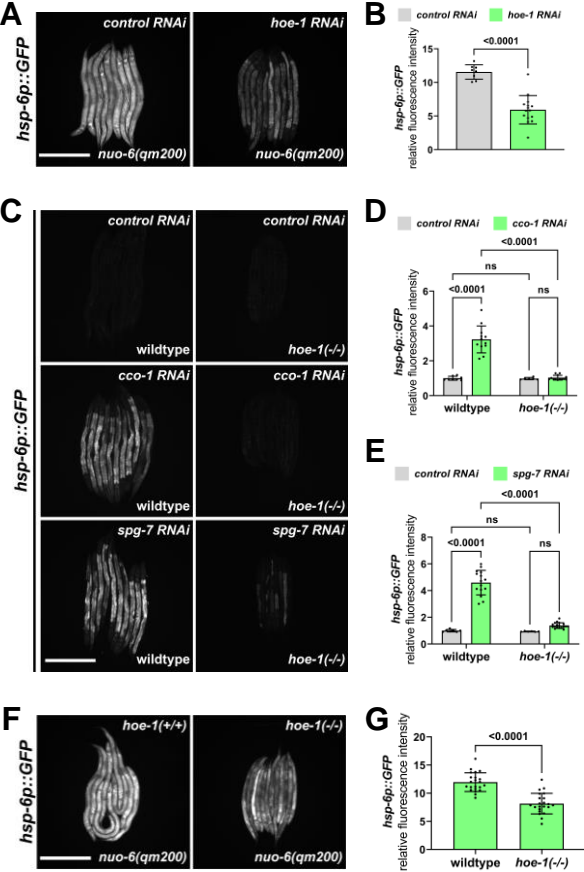
Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

A

TMRE   TMRE   TMRE

wildtype   *hoe-1(ΔNES)*   *hoe-1(ΔNLS)*

B

C

TMRE

control RNAi   *control RNAi*

wildtype   *hoe-1(ΔNES)*

atfs-1 RNAi   *atfs-1 RNAi*
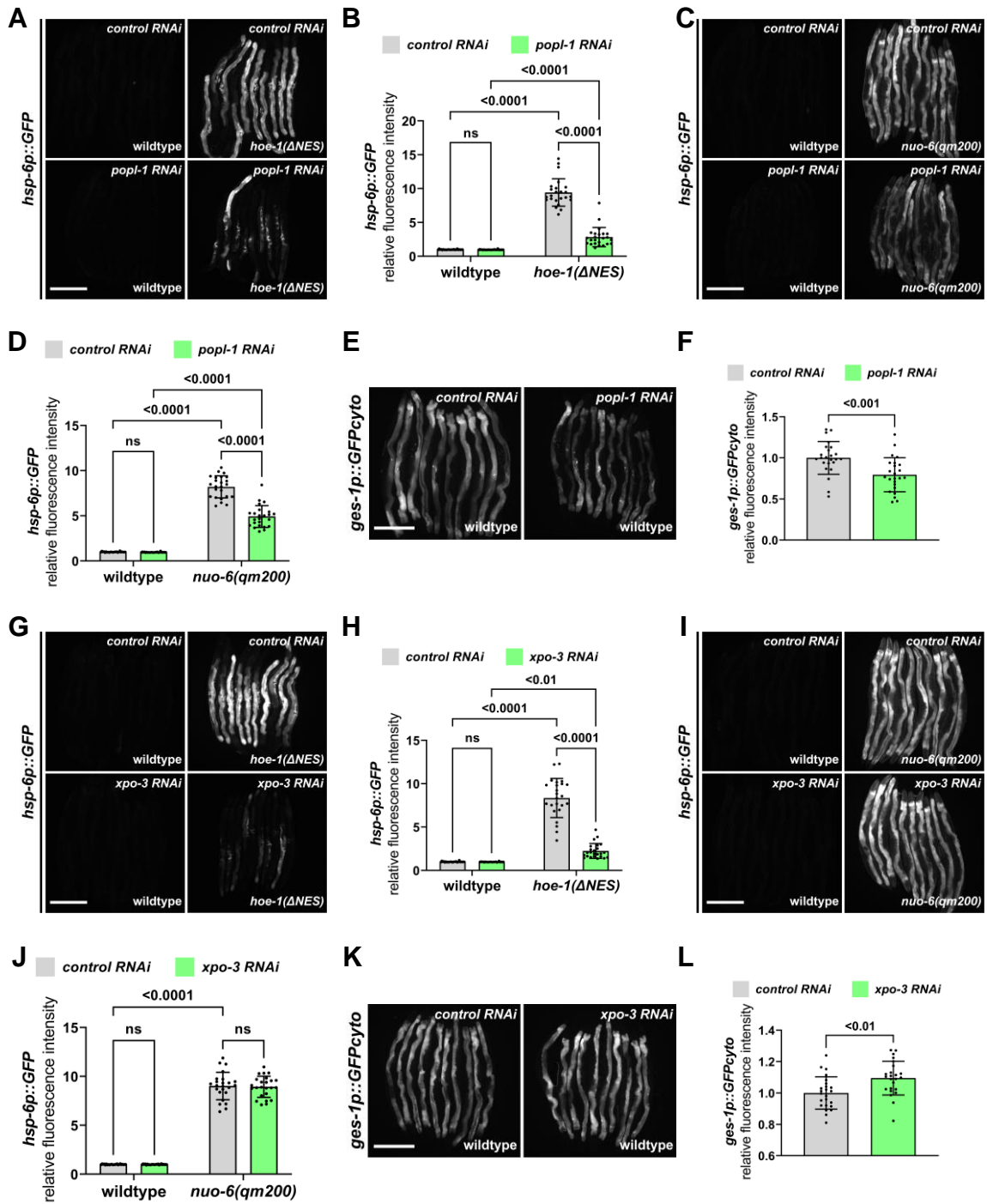
wildtype   *hoe-1(ΔNES)*

D
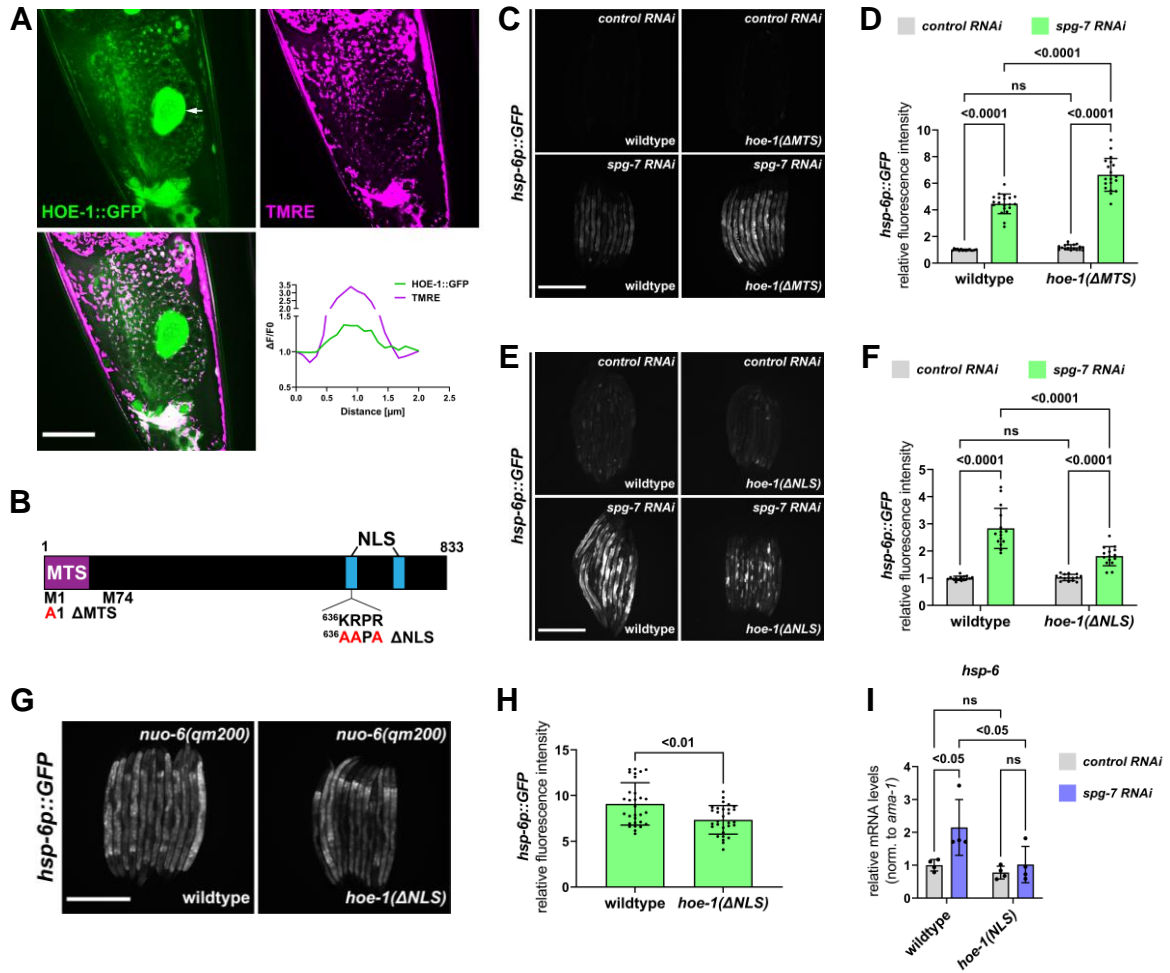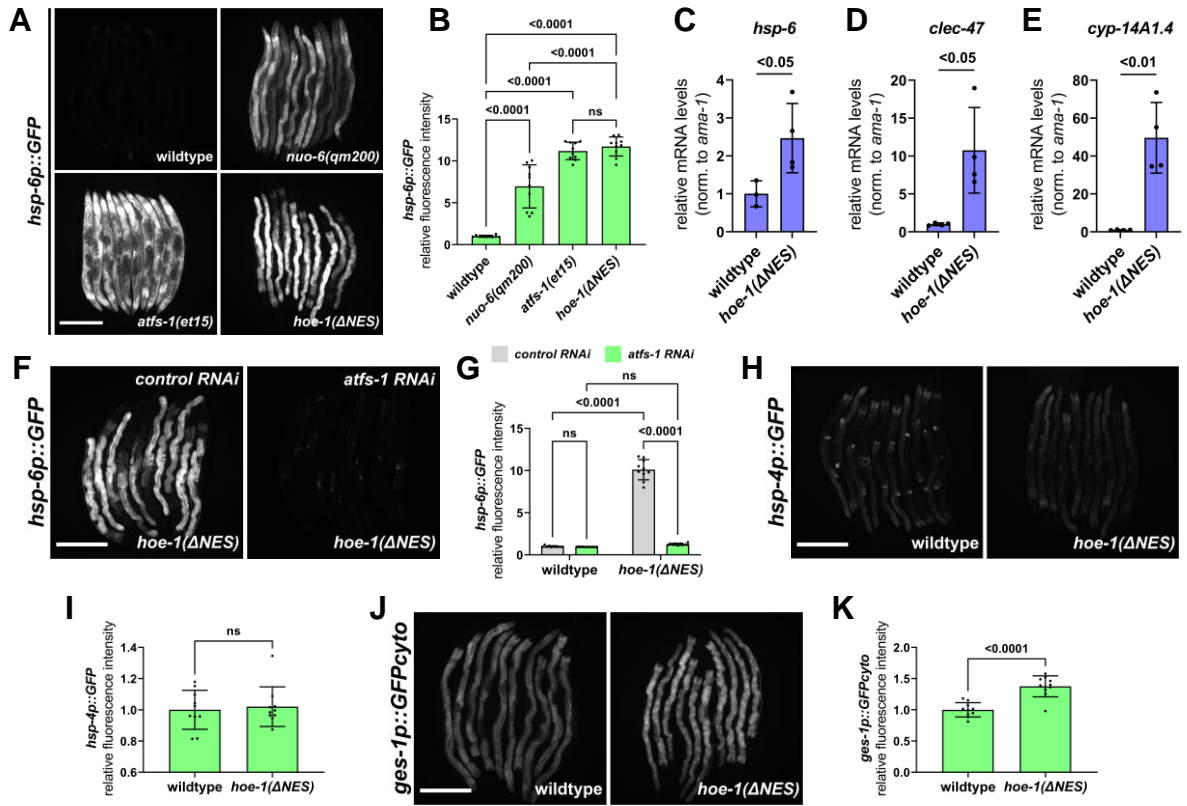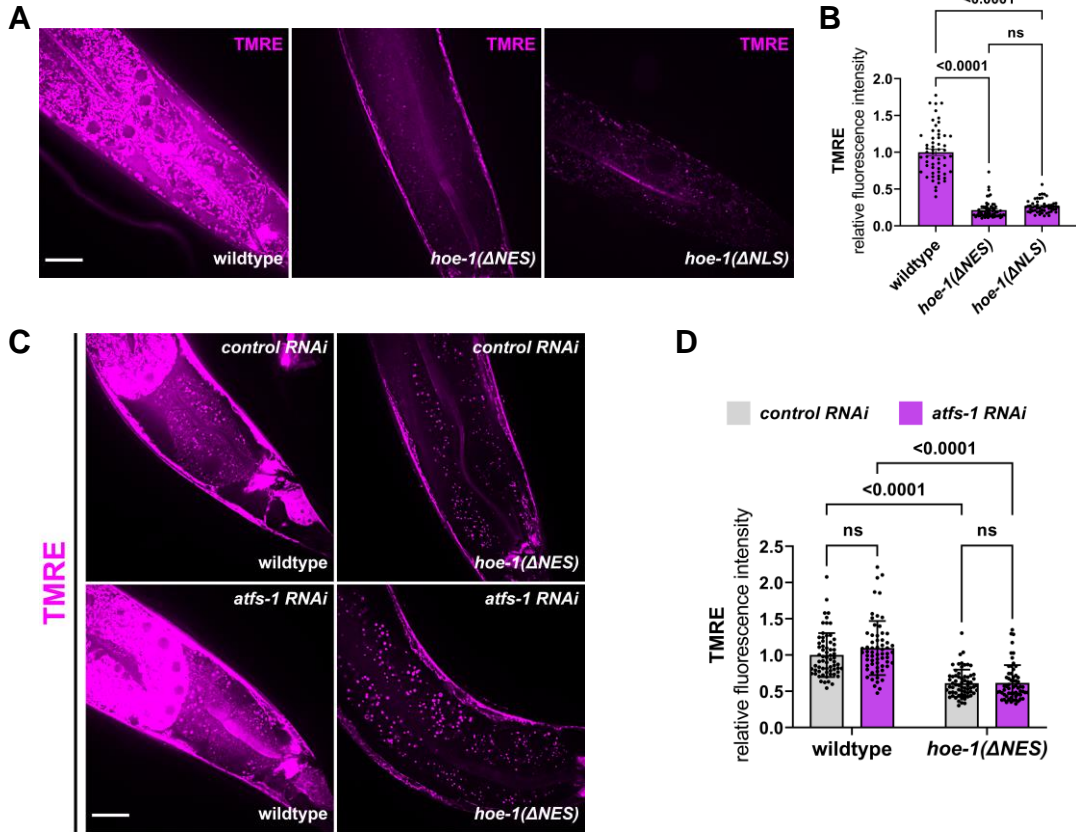
Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

A

B
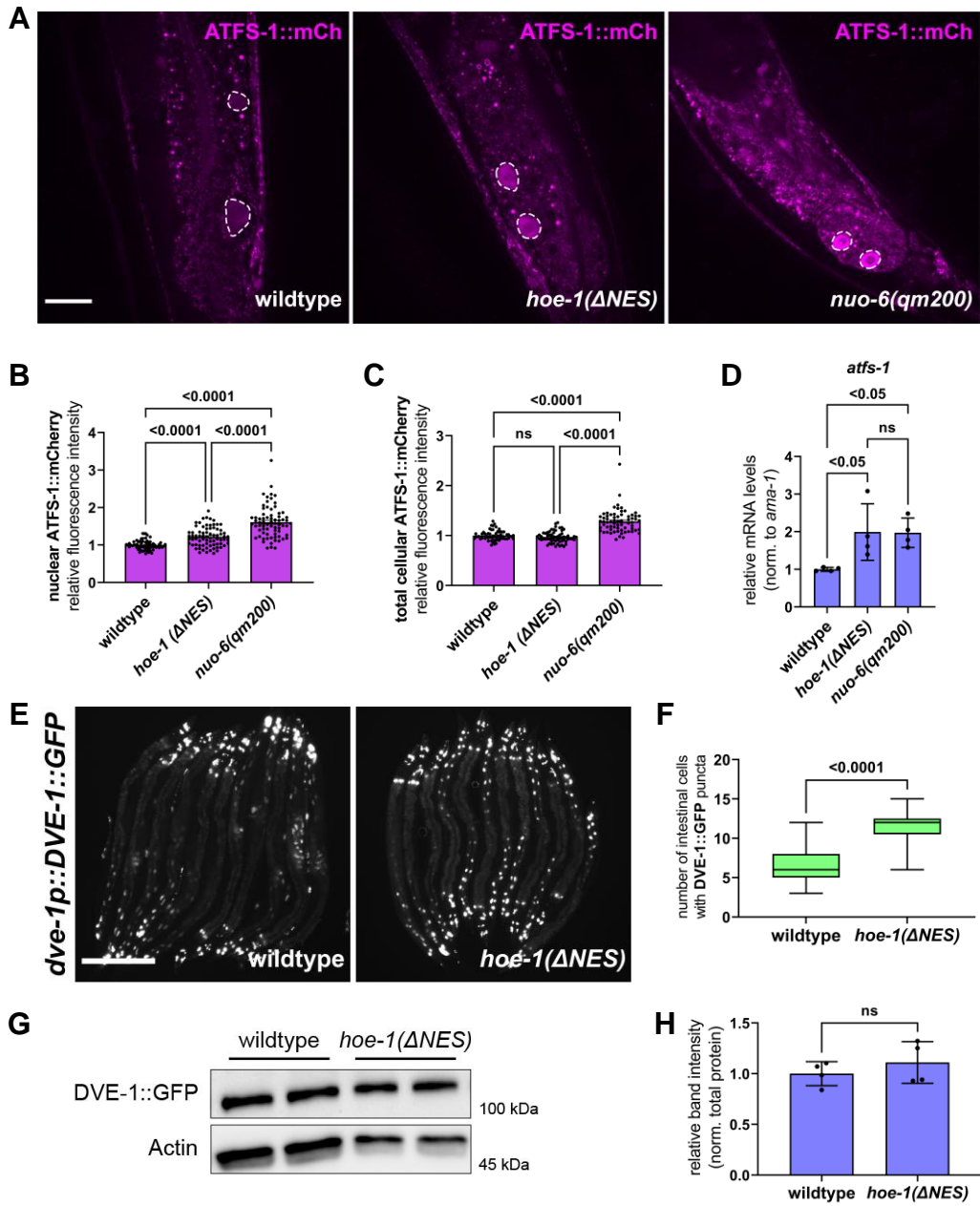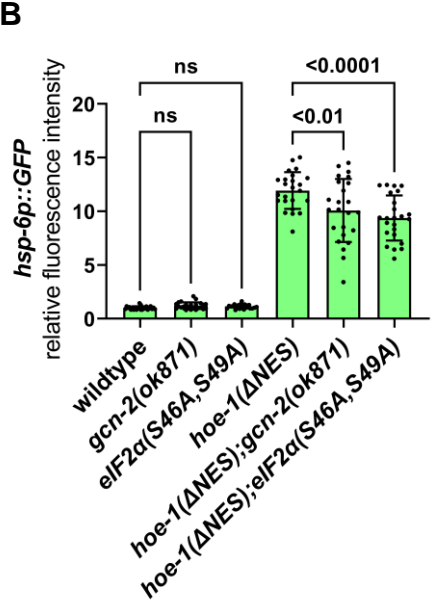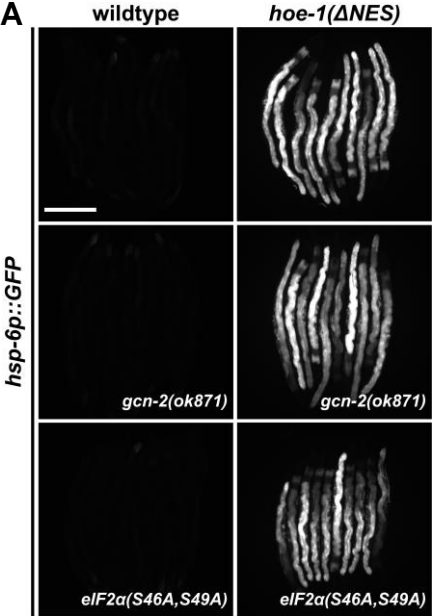
Figure 8

Figure 2 – figure supplement 1
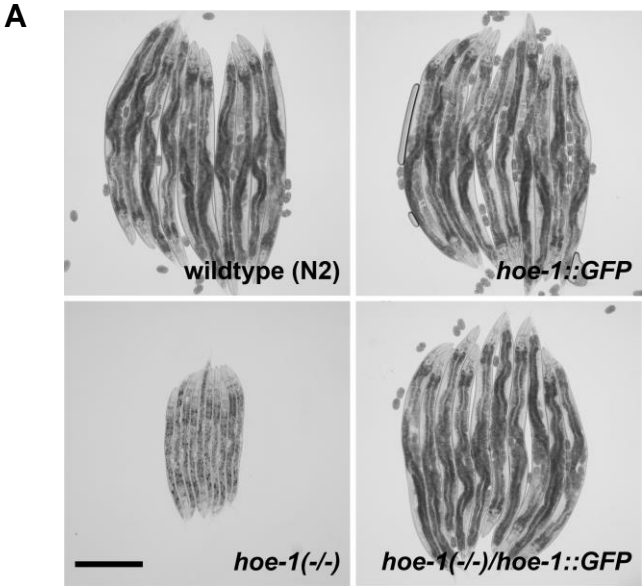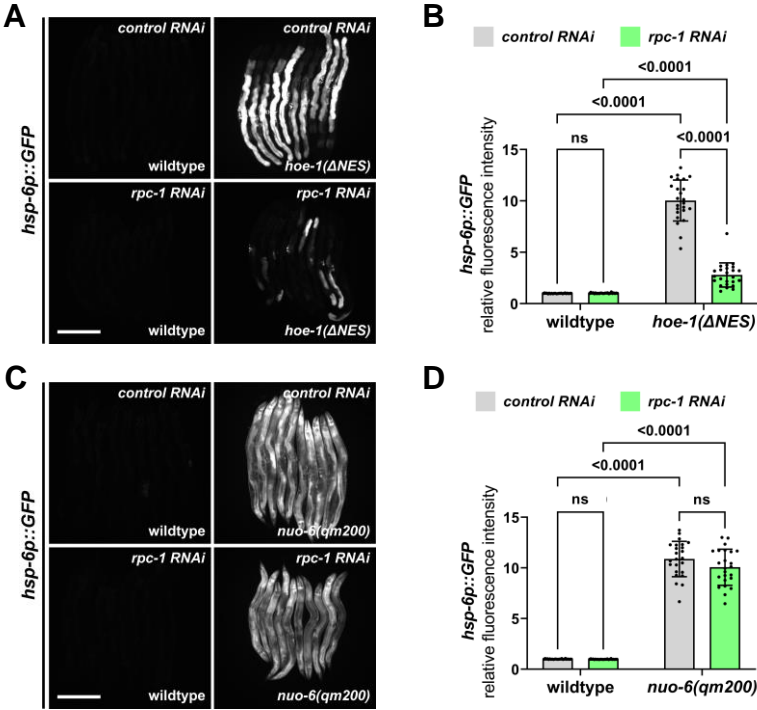
A

wildtype (N2)

hoe-1::GFP

hoe-1(-/-)

hoe-1(-/-)/hoe-1::GFP

Figure 2 – figure supplement 2

A

Figure 2 – figure supplement 3

A

hsp-6p::GFP

control RNAi	*control RNAi*
wildtype	*hoe-1(ΔMTS)*
cco-1 RNAi	*cco-1 RNAi*
wildtype	*hoe-1(ΔMTS)*

B

control RNAi *cco-1 RNAi*

hsp-6p::GFP
relative fluorescence intensity

<0.01

ns

<0.0001   <0.0001

wildtype   *hoe-1(ΔMTS)*

Figure 2 – figure supplement 4

A

B

C
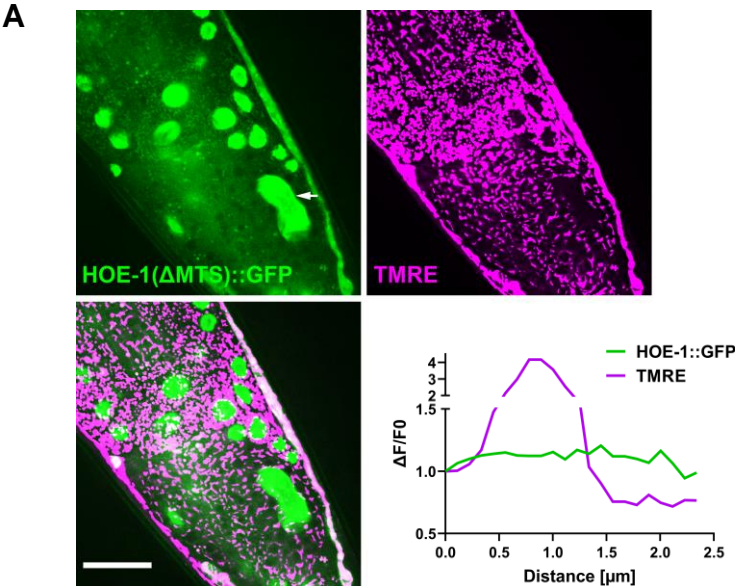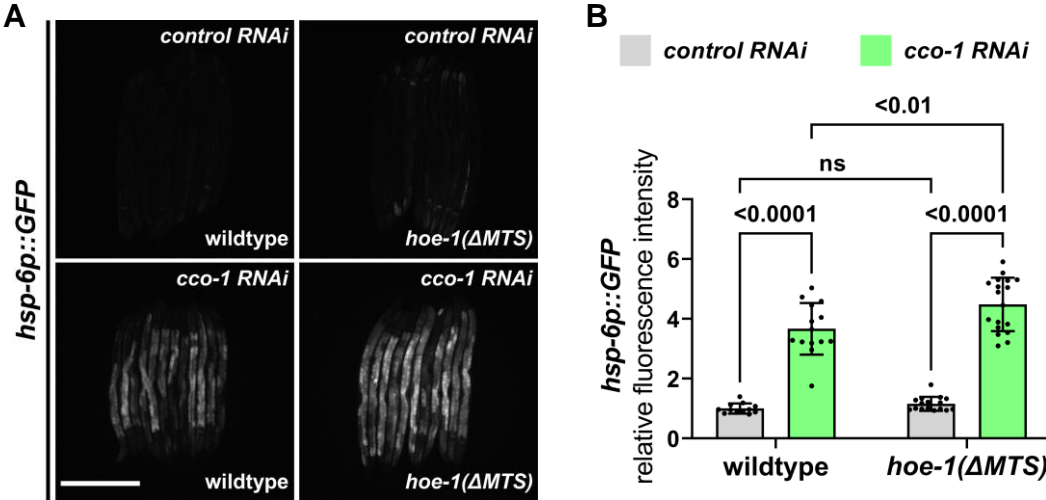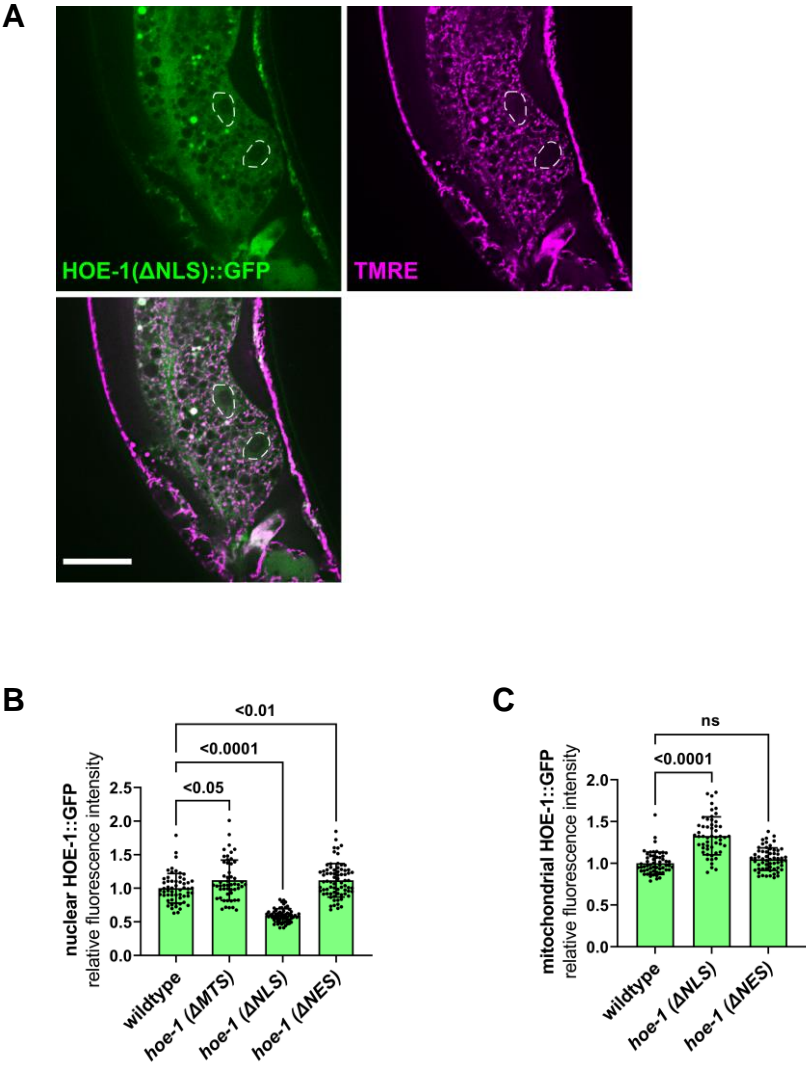
Figure 2 – figure supplement 5

A

Figure 3 – figure supplement 1

A

NLS   833

MTS   NES

¹ ₇₃₁VAELFELTI

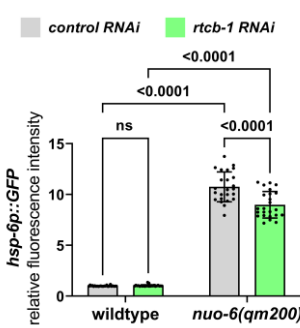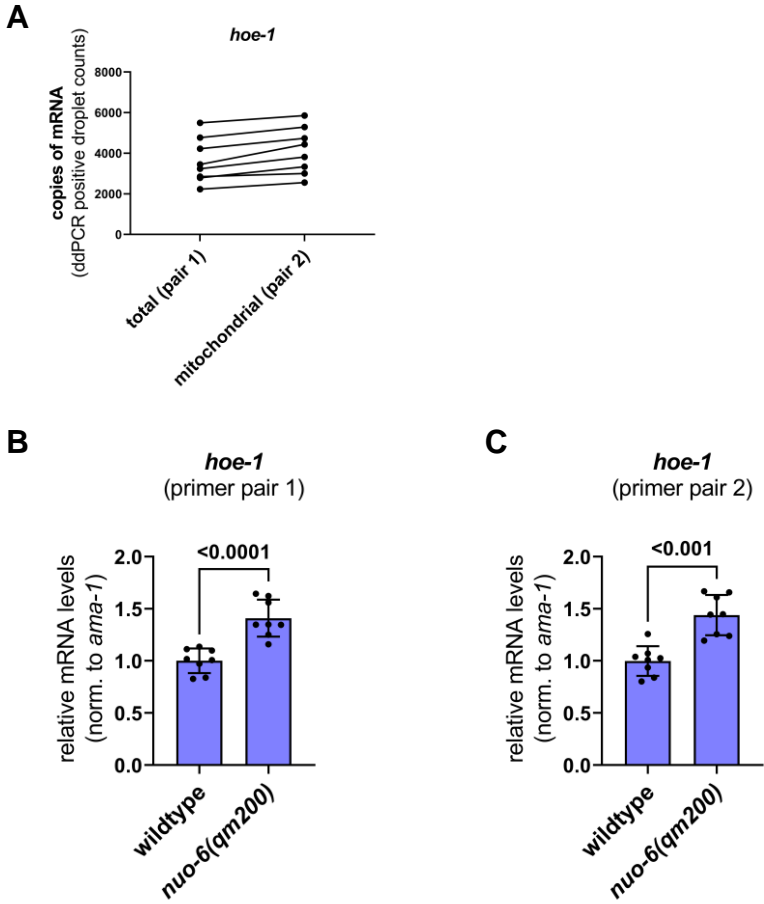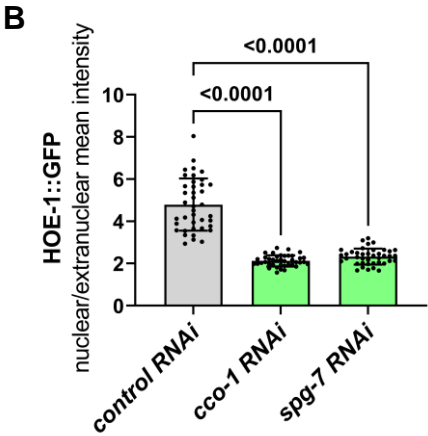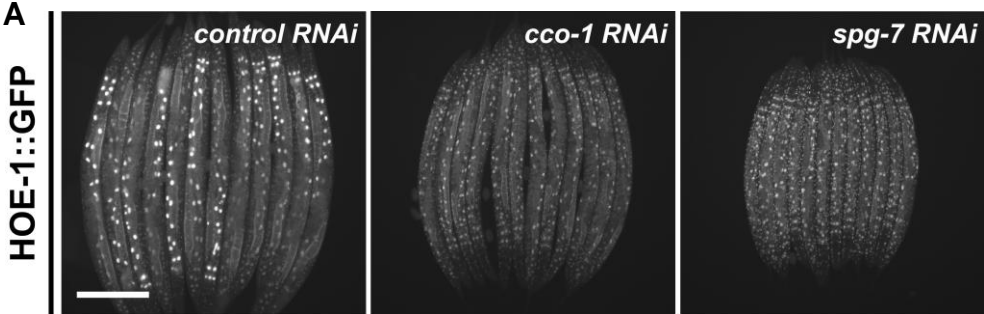ΔNES ₇₃₁AAEAAEATA

B

HOE-1(ΔNES)::GFP   TMRE
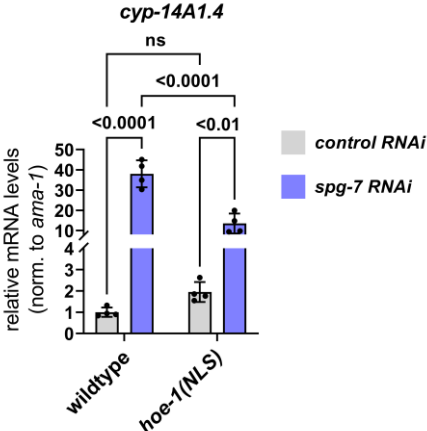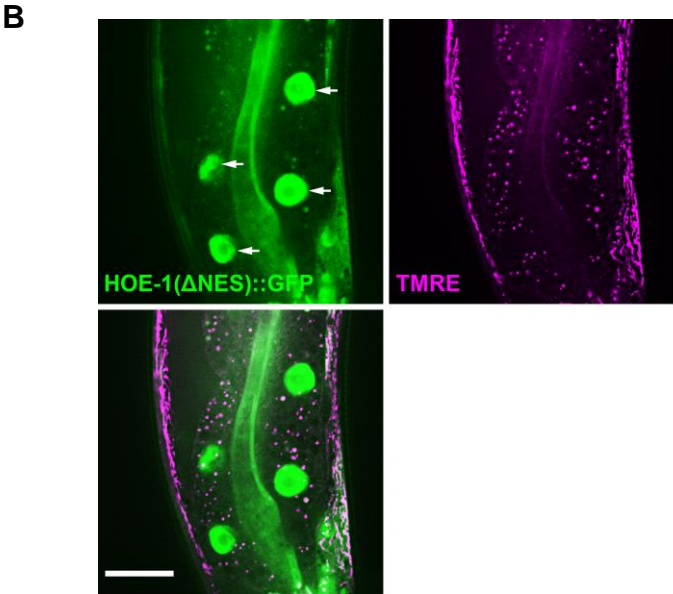
Figure 3 – figure supplement 2
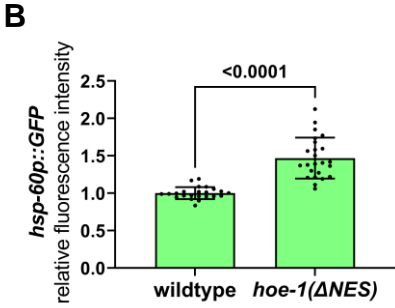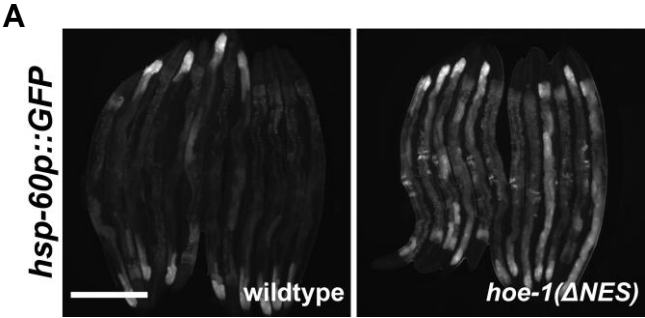
Figure 3 – figure supplement 3

Figure 3 – figure supplement 4
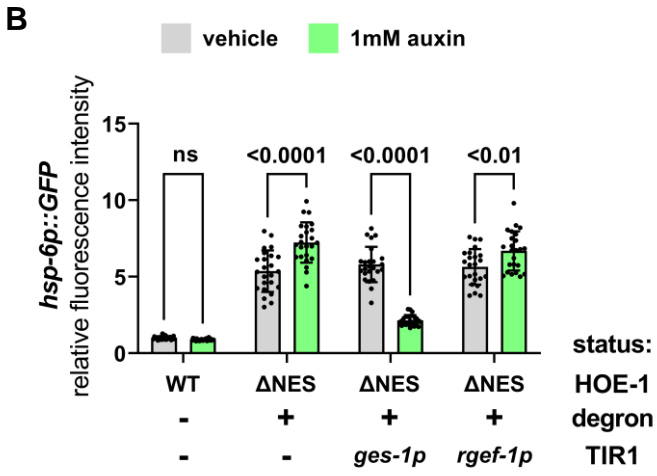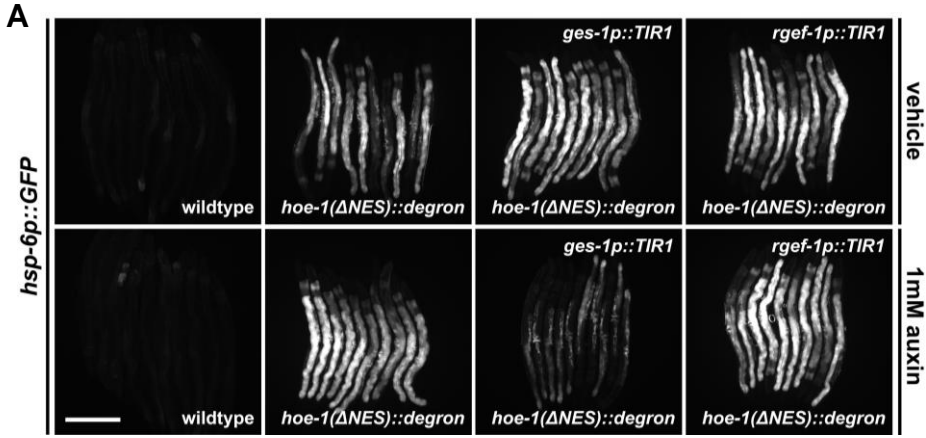
A

hsp-6p::GFP

wildtype

hoe-1(ΔMTS)

hoe-1(ΔNES)

hoe-1(ΔMTS+ΔNES)

B

Figure 3 – figure supplement 5

Figure 5 – figure supplement 1

A

Figure 6 – figure supplement 1

A

B
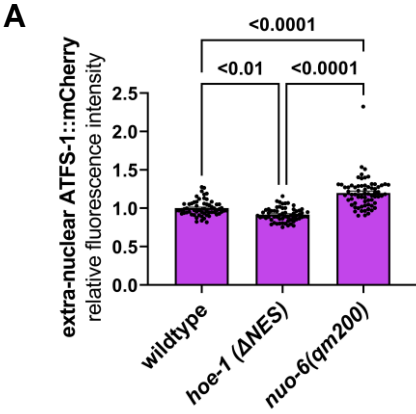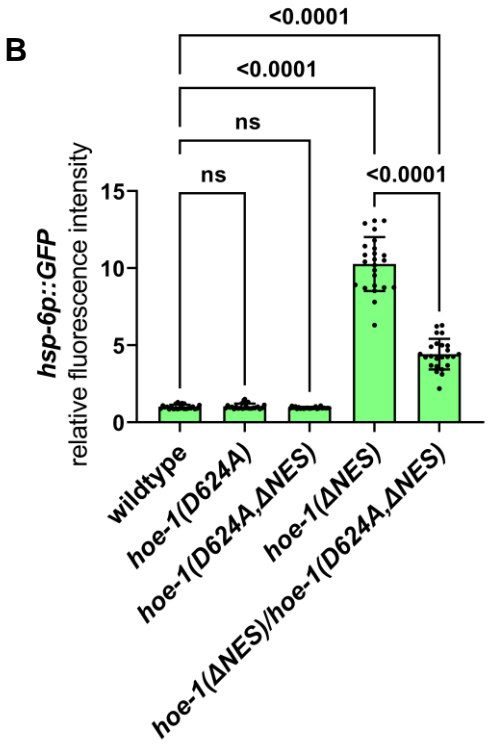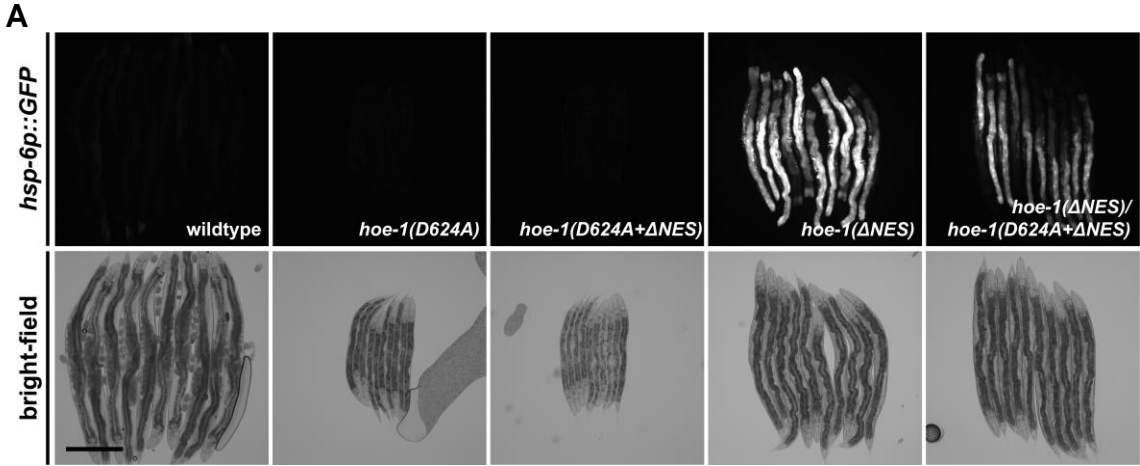
Figure 6 – figure supplement 2
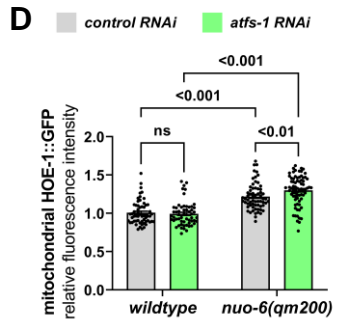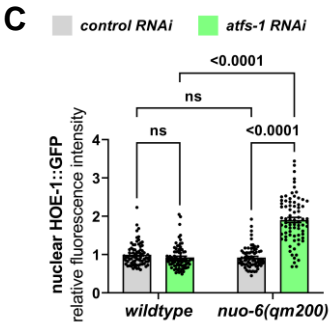
Figure 6 – figure supplement 3

A

B

C

D

E

Figure 8 – figure supplement 1

A

hoe-1

copies of mRNA
(ddPCR positive droplet counts)

8000
6000
4000
2000
0

total (pair 1)   mitochondrial (pair 2)

B

hoe-1
(primer pair 1)

relative mRNA levels
(norm. to *ama-1*)

2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0

<0.0001

wildtype   *nuo-6(qm200)*

C

hoe-1
(primer pair 2)

relative mRNA levels
(norm. to *ama-1*)

2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0

<0.001

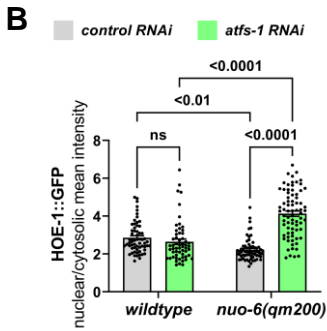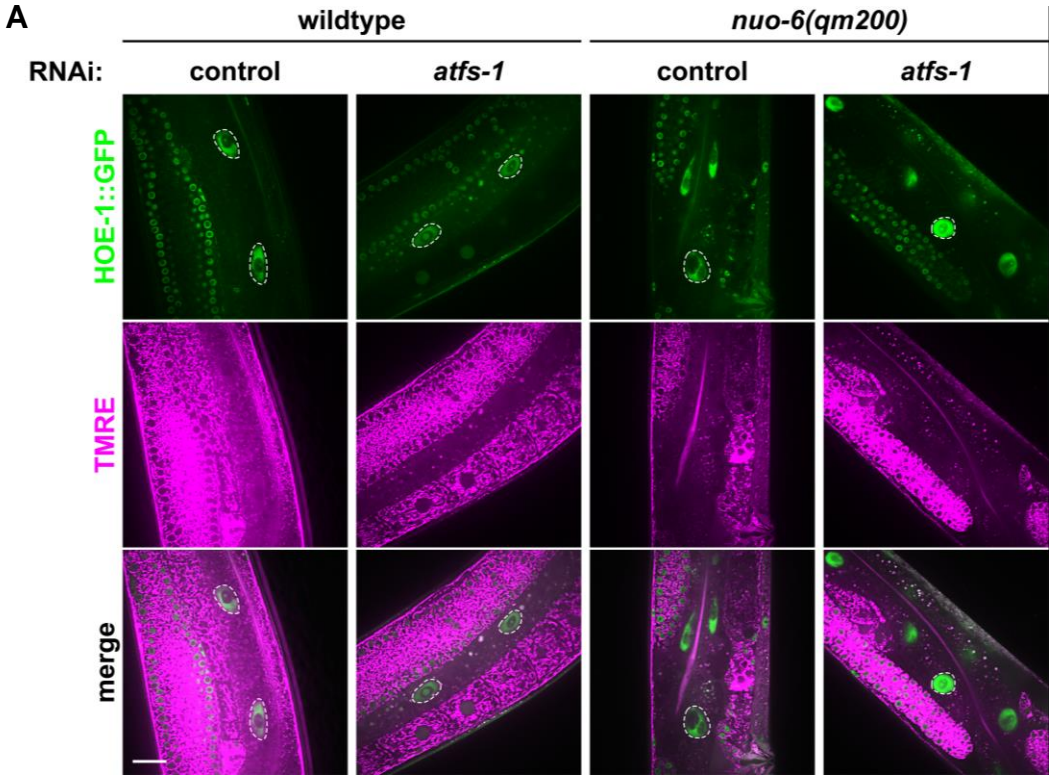wildtype   *nuo-6(qm200)*
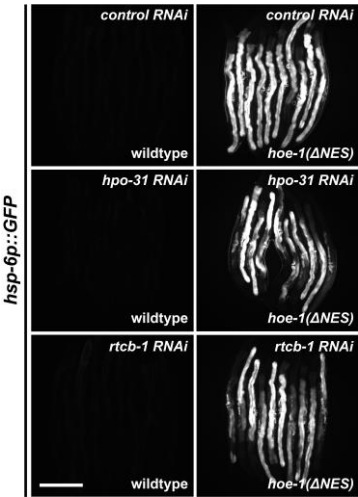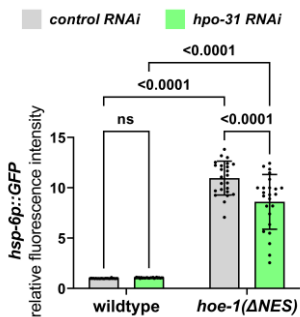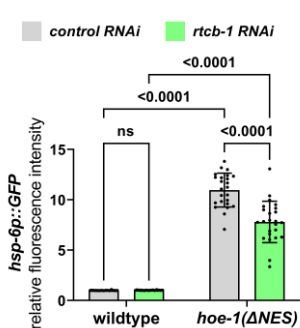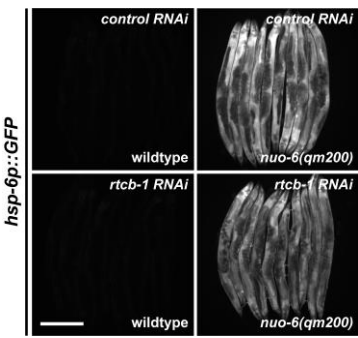
Figure 8 – figure supplement 2

Figure 8 – figure supplement 3

Figure 8 – figure supplement 4