Fig. 5 Regulation of stress resistance and longevity extension in yeast and worms. In yeast, glucose and other nutrients activate the Ras2/Cyr1/cAMP/PKA and the Sch9 pathways. PKA down-regulates transcription factors Msn2/Msn4, which induces the expression of heat shock proteins, catalase, MnSOD and other maintenance proteins. Activation of Sch9 results in a major decrease in stress resistance via unidentified mediators. Mutations in RAS2, SCH9 and CYR1 increase multiple stress resistance systems, decrease mitochondrial superoxide levels, delay aconitase inactivation and extend longevity. Analogously, in worms, insulin/IGF-I-like signalling activates the daf-2/age-1/AKT-1/AKT-2 pathway, which downregulate transcription factor DAF-16. The latter activates several stress resistance proteins including MnSOD and catalase. Mutations in daf-2 and age-1 increase thermotolerance and oxidative stress resistance and extend survival.

