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|  | **EDITORIAL REQUESTS:** | **AUTHOR RESPONSE:** |
| **1.** | **Data presentation:** Please ensure that data presented in a plot, chart or other visual representation format shows data distribution clearly (e.g. dot plots, box-and-whisker plots). When using bar charts, please overlay the corresponding data points (as dot plots) whenever possible and always for n ≤ 10. (Please see the following editorial for the rationale behind this request and an example <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41551-017-0079>). | |
| **2.** | **Statistics**: Wherever statistics have been derived (e.g. error bars, box plots, statistical significance) the legend needs to provide and define the n number (i.e. the sample size used to derive statistics) as a precise value (not a range), using the wording “n=X biologically independent samples/animals/cells/independent experiments/n= X cells examined over Y independent experiments” etc. as applicable. | |
| **Legends requiring revision:**   1. Please note that this information is missing in the legends of supplementary figures 1 (right panel); 5; 7a-f; 8. | **Thank you – we now define box-plots as measuring simulation replicates** |
| **3.** | Statistics such as error bars cannot be derived from n<3 and must be removed from all such cases. | |
| We strongly discourage deriving statistics from technical replicates, unless there is a clear scientific justification for why providing this information is important. Conflating technical and biological variability, e.g., by pooling technically replicates samples across independent experiments is strongly discouraged. (For examples of expected description of statistics in figure legends, please see the following <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-11636-5> or <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-11510-4>). | |
| All error bars need to be defined in the legends (e.g. SD, SEM) together with a measure of centre (e.g. mean, median). For example, the legends should state something along the lines of “Data are presented as mean values +/- SEM” as appropriate.  All box plots need to be defined in the legends in terms of minima, maxima, centre, bounds of box and whiskers and percentile. | |
| **Legends requiring revision:**   1. Please note that the box plots need to be defined in terms of minima, maxima, centre, bounds of box and whiskers and percentile in the legends of supplementary figures 1 (right panel); 5; 7a-f; 8. | **Thank you – we now define box plot limits and ranges.** |
| **4.** | The figure legends must indicate the statistical test used. Where appropriate, please indicate in the figure legends whether the statistical tests were one-sided or two-sided and whether adjustments were made for multiple comparisons.  For null hypothesis testing, please indicate the test statistic (e.g. F, t, r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P values noted.  Please provide the test results (e.g. P values) as exact values whenever possible and with confidence intervals noted. | |
| **5.** | **Reproducibility:** Please state in the legends how many times each experiment was repeated independently with similar results. This is needed for all experiments, but is particularly important wherever results from representative experiments (such as micrographs) are shown. If space in the legends is limiting, this information can be included in a section titled “Statistics and Reproducibility” in the methods section. | |
| **6.** | **Data availability:** This journal strongly supports public availability of data and custom code associated with the paper in a persistent repository where they can be freely and enduringly accessed or as a supplementary data file when no appropriate repository is available. If data and code can only be shared on request, please explain why in your data Availability Statement, and also in the correspondence with your editor. For more information, please refer to [https://www.nature.com/nature-research/editorial-policies/reporting-standards#availability-of-data](https://www.nature.com/nature-research/editorial-policies/reporting-standards" \l "availability-of-data) | |
| Please ensure that datasets deposited in public repositories are now publicly accessible, and that accession codes or DOI are provided in the "Data Availability" section. As long as these datasets are not public, we cannot proceed with the acceptance of your paper. For data that have been obtained from publicly available sources, please provide a URL and the specific data product name in the data availability statement. Data with a DOI should be further cited in the methods reference section. | **We now clarify that all code used to generate simulation data is publicly available on GitHub. (i.e. all data used in this paper can be generated using the available code)** |