Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our Editorial Policies and the Editorial Policy Checklist.

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

- The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
  - Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F, t, r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
  - Give P values as exact values whenever possible.
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen’s d, Pearson’s r), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on statistics for biologists contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection

Microscopy images were collected using Leica confocal laser microscope and Andor camera. Image acquisitions were done using Andor 3.6 software.

Data analysis

IMARIS (Bitplane) 9.1.2 was used for Multi-Particle tracking. Two-Point Correlation code is customized in MATLAB, adapted from John Crocker & Eric Weeks’ IDL version. All other code and analyses were done using customized MATLAB code. MATLAB 2017a, 2019a, and 2020b were used. Image analyses and processing were done using MATLAB and ImageJ 1.53f1 (Java 1.8.0_66).

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio guidelines for submitting code & software for further information.
Data

Policy information about availability of data
All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:
- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our policy.

Source data are provided with this paper. Subsets of raw image data supporting the findings of this manuscript are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request for the entire raw image data size is too large and impossible to be uploaded.

Human research participants

Policy information about studies involving human research participants and Sex and Gender in Research.

| Reporting on sex and gender | N/A |
| Population characteristics | N/A |
| Recruitment | N/A |
| Ethics oversight | N/A |

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☐ Life sciences ☐ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

| Sample size | Sample size is determined by individual experiment trials. |
| Data exclusions | No data exclusion except we ignored the very small negative values at the end tail of the decaying two point correlation fluctuating around 0 to show the plot in log-log axes. |
| Replication | All replications are successful. All replications are repeated spanning from days to 1-2 years. |
| Randomization | Allocations are random because the entire sample is more or less uniform, and each field of view is the same. |
| Blinding | Blinding is not relevant to the study because there is no biases during purified in vitro protein experiments since each batch of protein is more or less the same. |

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.
**Materials & experimental systems**

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
|     | □ Antibodies           |
| x   | □ Eukaryotic cell lines|
| x   | □ Palaeontology and archaeology |
| x   | □ Animals and other organisms |
| x   | □ Clinical data        |
| x   | □ Dual use research of concern |

**Methods**

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
|     | □ ChiP-seq            |
| x   | □ Flow cytometry       |
| x   | □ MRI-based neuroimaging |