Reporting Summary

Nature Research 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 Research 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.

n/a | Confirmed

☐ 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 values noted. Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.

☐ 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

Claritas+ Analysis Suite was used to collect conductance measurements; MD simulations were performed using NAMD v. 2.14 and the CHARMM36 force field.

Data analysis

Following software was used to analyze data: Asylum Research v. 16, IGOR Pro v. 7, Gwyddion v2.55, Graphpad Prism v. 8 and v. 9.

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 Research 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 list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

The datasets generated during the current study are available as supplementary information and from the corresponding authors on request. Publicly available datasets used in this study: PDB 6C53, PDB SOH0
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.

[X] 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 sizes were based upon accepted conventions within the field (3 biological replicates) and no explicit power analysis were carried out. |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Data exclusions   | No data were excluded from analysis                                                                                                 |
| Replication       | All experiments were independently repeated multiple times defined in the legend and all attempts to replicate the experiments were successful. |
| Randomization     | Randomization was not applicable to the study as all samples were treated the same for both individual and network measurements. |
| Blinding          | Investigators were not blinded to group allocation during data collection or analysis as all samples were treated similarly for individual and network measurements. |

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 | Methods |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| n/a                              | n/a     |
| [X] Antibodies                   | [X] ChiP-seq |
| [X] Eukaryotic cell lines        | [X] Flow cytometry |
| [X] Palaeontology and archaeology| [X] MRI-based neuroimaging |
| [X] Animals and other organisms  |         |
| [X] Human research participants  |         |
| [X] Clinical data                |         |
| [X] Dual use research of concern |         |