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
- 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 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

No software was used.

Data analysis

Stata version 15 (Stata Corp LP, College Station, TX, USA)

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms, software that was 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 authors declare that all the data included in this study are available within the paper and its supplementary information files.

Field-specific reporting
Life sciences study design

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

| Sample size | No sample size was necessary for a systematic review |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Data exclusions | Articles were excluded if the article was not written in English. Abstracts, conference articles, pre-prints, reviews and meta-analyses were not considered because the aim of this review was to appraise the methodology, reporting standards, and quality of primary research studies being published in peer-reviewed journals. Studies that investigated the accuracy of image segmentation or predicting disease rather than identification or classification were excluded. |
| Replication | The search strategy for the meta-analysis is shown in the supplementary material |
| Randomization | This is not relevant to a systematic review |
| Blinding | This is not relevant to a systematic review |

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
  - Eukaryotic cell lines
  - Palaeontology and archaeology
  - Animals and other organisms
  - Human research participants
  - Clinical data
  - Dual use research of concern

### Methods

- n/a
- Involved in the study
  - ChIP-seq
  - Flow cytometry
  - MRI-based neuroimaging