

1 Brief Communication

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3 **RPS25 is required for efficient RAN translation of *C9orf72* and other**
4 **neurodegenerative disease-associated nucleotide repeats**

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25

26 **Abstract**

27 Nucleotide repeat expansions in the *C9orf72* gene are the most common cause of amyotrophic lateral
28 sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD). Unconventional translation (RAN translation) of
29 *C9orf72* repeats generates dipeptide repeat proteins that can cause neurodegeneration. We performed a
30 genetic screen for regulators of RAN translation and identified small ribosomal protein subunit 25
31 (*RPS25*), presenting a potential therapeutic target for c9ALS/FTD and other neurodegenerative
32 diseases caused by nucleotide repeat expansions.

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35 The most common genetic cause of ALS and FTD is a mutation in the *C9orf72* gene^{1,2}. The
36 mutation is an expansion of the repetitive nucleotide tract GGGGCC within the first intron of *C9orf72*.
37 The expanded nucleotide repeat is translated by an unconventional form of translation, called repeat-
38 associated non-AUG (RAN) translation to produce dipeptide repeat (DPR) proteins³⁻⁷. These DPRs
39 are aggregation-prone, accumulate in the central nervous system of patients and could cause disease
40 through a protein toxicity mechanism. Insight into the mechanism of RAN translation requires analysis
41 of the sequence features promoting RAN translation⁸⁻¹⁰ and the identification of regulators.

42 We discovered that RAN translation occurs in yeast (**Fig. 1a**), indicating it exploits an
43 evolutionarily conserved process or machinery and, importantly, providing the opportunity to discover
44 genes required for this process. We designed a genetic screen to identify genes that specifically
45 affected RAN translation but not repeat RNA levels or general translation (**Fig. 1b**). We assembled a
46 library of 275 yeast mutants for genes encoding translational machinery, including ribosomal subunits
47 and other translation factors (**Supplementary Table S1**). We introduced a galactose-inducible *C9orf72*
48 66 repeat construct into each strain by transformation and used a poly(GP) immunoassay to gauge
49 levels of RAN translation. To identify hits that specifically affected RAN translation and not general
50 translation, we counter-screened hits by assessing their effect on the expression of an ATG-initiated
51 GFP construct. We identified 42 genes that either increased or decreased DPR levels without similarly
52 regulating ATG-GFP (**Fig. 1c and Fig. S1a-c**). We also performed quantitative reverse transcription
53 polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) to identify hits that affected transcription or RNA stability of
54 the repeat RNA (**Supplementary Table S1**).

55 One striking hit from our screen was the deletion of *RPS25A*. *RPS25A* encodes a eukaryotic-
56 specific, non-essential protein component of the small (40S) ribosomal subunit^{11,12}. RPS25 plays a
57 critical role in several forms of unconventional translation including IRES-mediated translation and
58 ribosomal shunting¹³. RPS25 mediates the direct recruitment of the 40S ribosomal subunit to the
59 Cricket Paralysis Virus IRES RNA. It also regulates translation initiation of hepatitis C virus and
60 picornaviral IRES RNAs, downstream of 40S subunit recruitment¹¹⁻¹⁴. In addition to viral RNAs,
61 RPS25 regulates several cellular IRES containing RNAs including p53 and c-myc^{13,15}. Deleting
62 *RPS25A* (*rps25AΔ*) reduced levels of RAN translated poly(GP) by 50% compared to wildtype yeast
63 (**Fig. 1c,d**). Deletion of *RPS25A* did not affect the levels of GFP or the abundance of GGGGCC repeat
64 RNA (**Fig. S1 d-f**).

65 In mammals, there is a single RPS25 homolog, ribosomal protein S25 (RPS25). To test if the
66 function of RPS25 in regulating RAN translation is conserved from yeast to human, we analyzed a

67 human cell line (Hap1) harboring a CRISPR-induced knockout of *RPS25*¹². We transfected a 66 repeat
68 construct analogous to the one we used for the yeast experiments into Hap1 *RPS25* knockout cells.
69 *RPS25* knockout resulted in ~50% reduction poly(GP) levels without affecting the levels of repeat
70 RNA (**Fig. 1e and Fig. S2a**). Because RAN translation can occur in multiple reading frames of the
71 GGGGCC repeat, we also tested effects of *RPS25* knockout on another reading frame and found the
72 Glycine-Alanine (GA) frame was reduced by over 90% compared to WT (**Fig. 1f,g**). Finally, we found
73 that *RPS25* knockout reduced Glycine-Arginine (GR) levels by ~30%, comparable to control cells not
74 expressing the GGGGCC repeat (**Fig. 1h, Fig. S2b**). The higher level of background poly(GR) signal
75 in this immunoassay, even after *RPS25* knockout, likely reflects the abundance of GR repeats in the
76 proteome (e.g., RGG/RG motifs)¹⁶.

77 To test the impact of *RPS25* knockout on global translation, we performed puromycin-
78 incorporation assays. Consistent with previous observations^{11,13}, *RPS25* knockout did not affect global
79 translation (**Fig. S2c-e**). Furthermore, *RPS25* knockout did not significantly alter cell growth rate or
80 expression of a canonically translated ATG-Clover reporter (**Fig. S2 f-j**). *RPS25* knockout had only
81 mild effects on polysome profiles, a global measure of actively translated mRNAs (**Fig. S3 a,b**).
82 Notably, while nearly all profile peak to 40S ratios remained similar, the 60S/40S and heavy
83 polysome/40S ratios were increased in *RPS25* knockout cells, providing evidence that global
84 translation is not significantly impaired in *RPS25* knockout cells. RT-qPCR analysis from RNA
85 associated with different fractions of the polysome profile, illustrated that there is no decrease in heavy
86 polysome-associated (generally thought to be highly translated) *ACTB* or GFP (**Fig. S3c,d**).
87 Importantly, there was less GGGGCC RNA associated with heavy polysomes in *RPS25* knockout cells
88 compared to wildtype (**Fig. S3e**), consistent with decreased translation of GGGGCC RNA in *RPS25*
89 knockout cells. These data are consistent with a role of *RPS25* as a regulator of RAN translation of the
90 *C9orf72* repeat expansion.

91 How generalizable is the effect of *RPS25* knockout on RAN translation? Is *RPS25* required for
92 efficient RAN translation of other nucleotide repeat expansions? First, we generated *ATXN2* CAG
93 repeat constructs, mutating all ATG codons upstream of the CAG repeats and placing a myc/his tag in
94 frame with poly-Alanine (poly(A)) RAN products (**Fig. S4a,b**). We then generated a HeLa cell line
95 with a CRISPR-induced mutation in *RPS25*, which markedly reduces levels of *RPS25* (**Fig. S4c-h**).
96 Consistent with other repeats, we only detect poly(A) and poly(Q) products in the longer *ATXN2* CAG
97 repeat lengths (CAG58 and 108, **Fig. 1i-k**). Expression of both of these reading frames was reduced in
98 the *RPS25* mutant HeLa cell line (**Fig. 1i-k and Fig. S4g-i**). Next, we tested RAN translation of mutant
99 huntingtin protein (Htt). *RPS25* reduction in HeLa cells reduces poly(A) RAN products expressed

100 from unmodified HTT CAG repeats but does not significantly reduce the expression of poly(Q) which
101 initiates from the native ATG codon of *HTT* (**Fig. S4j-l and Table S2**). Thus, RPS25 is required for
102 efficient RAN translation of both CAG and GGGGCC repeats.

103 To extend our findings to a more clinically relevant system, we next asked if RPS25 regulates
104 RAN translation of *C9orf72* repeats expressed from their endogenous context and at physiological
105 levels in cells obtained from humans with ALS. We analyzed cultured induced pluripotent stem cells
106 (iPSCs) from two healthy subjects and three ALS patients with *C9orf72* repeat expansions. Reduction
107 of RPS25 levels by siRNA significantly reduced the levels of poly(GP) compared to the non-targeting
108 control (**Fig. 2a,b, Fig. S5a,b, and Table S3**). Importantly, RPS25 reduction did not influence the
109 number of RNA foci (**Fig. 2c-e**) or levels of the different *C9orf72* alternative transcript variants,
110 including transcripts specifically harboring the GGGGCC repeat (**Fig. 2f,g**), indicating RPS25
111 functions at the level of translation without impacting repeat RNA transcription, stability, or foci
112 formation. RPS25 reduction did not alter endogenous *C9orf72* protein expression (**Fig. S5c**). Thus,
113 RPS25 regulates the endogenous RAN translation of *C9orf72* nucleotide repeat expansions in the
114 poly(GP) frame.

115 We next tested if inhibiting RPS25 could mitigate neurodegenerative phenotypes caused by
116 *C9orf72* repeat expansions *in vivo*. We used transgenic *Drosophila* engineered to express 36
117 GGGGCC repeats under the control of the inducible elav-GeneSwitch driver. Consistent with previous
118 reports¹⁷, neuronal expression of 36 repeats resulted in the production of DPRs (**Fig. 3a,b**) and
119 shortened lifespan (**Fig. 3c**). Reducing the expression of *Drosophila* RpS25 using RNAi lowered
120 poly(GP) levels (**Fig. 3a,b and Fig. S6**) and significantly increased the lifespan of 36 repeat-
121 expressing adult, male flies (**Fig. 3c and Fig. S7a,e,g**). Notably, as a control, we reduced RpS25 in
122 flies engineered to express 36 Glycine-Arginine dipeptide codon-optimized repeats driven from an
123 ATG (36GR) and not in the context of a repetitive GGGGCC tract¹⁷ and therefore do not undergo
124 RAN translation. Reducing RpS25 levels did not rescue the shortened lifespan of 36GR flies (**Fig. 3d**),
125 providing evidence that RpS25 functions upstream or at the level of production of the toxic DPRs.
126 RpS25 RNAi did not affect the lifespan of WT male flies (**Fig. 3c and Fig. S7f**). Thus, RpS25
127 regulates RAN translation in the poly(GP) frame and the pathogenicity of *C9orf72* GGGGCC repeats
128 in the nervous system of *Drosophila*.

129 Finally, to extend our studies to human neurons, we tested the impact of lowering *RPS25* levels
130 on survival phenotypes in motor neurons from patients with ALS harboring
131 endogenous *C9orf72* GGGGCC expansions. We used transcription factor mediated reprogramming to
132 generate induced motor neurons (iMNs) from iPSCs from patients with *C9orf72* ALS and unaffected

133 individuals, as previously described¹⁸. The c9ALS patient-derived iMNs showed reduced survival after
134 glutamate addition compared to control iMNs (**Fig. 3e and Fig. S8c,f,i**). We tested two independent
135 antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) targeting *RPS25* and one non-targeting control ASO. Both *RPS25*
136 ASOs significantly increased the proportion of surviving iMNs in the c9ALS line (**Fig. 3e, Fig. S8c,f,i**
137 and **Fig. S8a**) but did not increase survival of control iMNs (**Fig. S8b**). Furthermore, both *RPS25*
138 ASOs significantly reduced the number of poly(GR) and poly(PR) foci in c9 ALS patient-derived
139 iMNs (**Fig. 3f,g, Fig. S8d,e,g,h,j,k, Fig. S9, and Fig. S10**).

140 Here, we found that *RPS25* is selectively required for the efficient RAN translation of
141 expanded GGGGCC repeat expansions in the *C9orf72* gene and CAG expansions in *ATXN2* and *HTT*.
142 We present a novel RAN translation regulator as a potential therapeutic target and suggest that
143 strategies to inhibit the function of *RPS25* could be pursued as an effective therapy for c9ALS/FTD
144 and perhaps other neurodegenerative diseases caused by nucleotide repeat expansions^{19,20}.

145

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157

158 **Contributions**

159 This work was performed and written by S.B.Y. under the mentorship of A.D.G. T.F.G. contributed
160 ELISA assays to detect RAN peptides and analyses under the mentorship of L.P. T.N., I.G., and
161 A.T. contributed *Drosophila* studies under the mentorship of L.P. and A.M.I. N.R.G. contributed to
162 polysome profiling studies and analyses, under the mentorship of M.B. R.G. contributed to RAN
163 translation studies and analyses, under the mentorship of J.D.P. Y.S. and G.R. contributed induced

164 motor neuron studies and analyses, under the mentorship of J.K.I. N.J.K. contributed to studies of
165 *ATXN2* RAN translation. L.N., S.F., and T.J.I.D. contributed to studies of *C9orf72* RAN translation.

166 **Competing Interests**

167 A.D.G. has served as a consultant for Aquinnah Pharmaceuticals, Prevail Therapeutics, and Third
168 Rock Ventures

169

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216 **Figure Legends**

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219 **Figure 1: RPS25 is required for efficient RAN translation in yeast and human cells.**

220 (a) Detection of RAN-translated DPR in yeast lysate using a poly(GP) immunoassay. Wildtype
221 (BY4741) yeast were transformed with an empty vector or constructs expressing either 2 or 66
222 *C9orf72* GGGGCC repeats (C9 2R or 66R) under the control of a galactose inducible promoter. DPR
223 production was assayed in yeast lysates using a poly(GP) immunoassay. We detected poly(GP) in the
224 C9 66R expressing yeast (two-tailed, unpaired t-test; n=3 WT and WT C9 2R transformations; n=8
225 independent *rps25ΔΔ* C9 66R transformations; ****p<0.0001; mean +/- s.e.m.). (b) Schematic of
226 yeast poly(GP) and ATG-GFP counter screen to identify RAN translation regulators. C9 40R
227 expression constructs were introduced by transformation or mating into yeast mutants from the
228 deletion collection (MATa; non-essential genes) and DAmP library (essential genes). Mutants were
229 assayed for poly(GP) levels using a poly(GP) immunoassay and counter-screened with a GFP
230 immunoassay. Data provided in **Table S1**. (c) Fold-change poly(GP)-levels of yeast mutants compared
231 to wildtype yeast expression is shown (n=3 independent transformations for each strain). (d)
232 Independent validation of *rps25ΔΔ* mutant expressing C9 66R using poly(GP) immunoassay. Poly(GP)
233 levels were approximately 50% lower in *rps25ΔΔ* compared to wildtype yeast (two-tailed, unpaired-
234 test; n=3 independent deletion strains; ***p=0.0010, *p=0.0248; mean +/- s.e.m.). (e) Immunoassay
235 shows RPS25KO in the human Hap1 cell line reduces poly(GP) levels (two-tailed, unpaired t-test; n=5
236 independent cell culture experiments; ***p=0.0002; mean +/- s.e.m.). (f) Lysates from transfected
237 Hap1 cells were immunoblotted for poly(GA) expression (HA-epitope tag). (g) Quantification of (f)
238 (uncropped blots for this and all subsequent blots can be found in **Supplemental Fig. 11**; two-tailed,
239 unpaired t-test; n=3 independent cell culture experiments; ****p<0.0001; mean +/- s.e.m.). (h)
240 Immunoassay shows RPS25KO in Hap1 cells reduces poly(GR) levels to that of Hap1 wildtype
241 transfected with empty vector. Full conditions and ANOVA statistics shown in Fig. S3 (ordinary one-
242 way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons, n=3 independent cell culture experiments;
243 ****p<0.0001; mean +/- s.e.m.). (i) Lysates from transfected HeLa cells were immunoblotted for
244 poly(Q) and poly(A) *ATXN2* RAN products. (j and k) Quantification of (i) where poly(Q) or poly(A)
245 are normalized to GAPDH. (j) *ATXN2* CAG108 RAN translated poly(Q) products are reduced in HeLa
246 cells harboring a CRISPR-induced mutation that markedly reduces level of RPS25 (RPS25KD)
247 compared to HeLa control cell (two-tailed, unpaired t-test; n=3 independent cell culture experiments;
248 **p=0.0059, n.s., not significant p=0.0946; mean +/- s.e.m.). (k) *ATXN2* CAG108 RAN poly(A)

249 products are reduced in HeLa RPS25KD mutant compared to HeLa control (two-tailed, unpaired t-test;
250 n=3 independent cell culture experiments; *p=0.0473; mean +/- s.e.m.). Additional statistical details
251 for this figure and subsequent figures are provided in **Table S4** and the **Methods**.

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255 **Figure 2: RPS25 knockdown reduces poly(GP) levels in *C9orf72* ALS patient iPSCs.**

256 Control and c9ALS patient-derived iPSCs were treated with non-targeting control siRNA or RPS25-
257 targeting siRNA. (a) Lysates from iPSCs treated with non-targeting or RPS25-targeting siRNAs were
258 immunoblotted for RPS25 expression. Quantification illustrates that RPS25 is reduced in RPS25-
259 targeting siRNAs (One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons, n=3 independent cell
260 culture experiments per iPSC line and condition; ****p<0.0001; mean +/- s.e.m.). (b) Immunoassay
261 for poly(GP) levels in c9ALS iPSCs shows reduction of poly(GP) levels in RPS25 siRNA-treated cells
262 (two-tailed, unpaired t-test; n=3 independent cell culture experiments per iPSC line and condition;
263 ****p<0.0001, **p=0.0039, *p=0.0161; mean +/- s.e.m.). See also **Fig. S5B**. (c and d) RNA FISH
264 with probe for GGGGCC (sense) RNA was used to detect and quantify sense repeat foci,
265 pseudocolored in red. Cell nuclei are indicated in blue (Hoechst 33258). Scale bar: 5µm. (c) Control
266 iPSCs derived from healthy subjects. (d) c9ALS-patient derived iPSCs. (e) Quantification of
267 normalized foci per nuclei (two-tailed, unpaired t-test; n=3 independent cell culture experiments; n.s.,
268 not significant, (c9ALS #1) p=0.7234, (c9ALS #2) p=0.0654, (c9ALS #3) p=0.8189; mean +/- s.e.m.).
269 (f) RT-qPCR of total *C9orf72* mRNA (two-tailed, unpaired t-test; n=3 independent cell culture
270 experiments; n.s., not significant, (c9ALS #1) p=0.2509, (c9ALS #2) p=0.8068, (c9ALS #3) p=0.9912;
271 mean +/- s.e.m.). (g) RT-qPCR of *C9orf72* mRNA variants harboring the repeat expansion (two-tailed,
272 unpaired t-test; n=3 independent cell culture experiments; n.s., not significant; (c9ALS #1) p=0.5289,
273 (c9ALS #2) p=0.8390, (c9ALS #3) p=0.4279; mean +/- s.e.m.).

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277 **Figure 3: RPS25 knockdown reduces RAN translation products and extends lifespan in a**
278 ***Drosophila C9orf72* model.**

279 (a) Immunoblot of fly heads expressing 36(GGGGCC) (36R) alone or together with RpS25 RNAi in
280 adult neurons, showing a reduction of poly(GP) levels in 36R flies expressing RpS25 RNAi.
281 Genotypes: *UAS-36(GGGGCC)/+; elavGS, UAS-36(GGGGCC)/RpS25RNAi {KK107958}*;

282 *elavGS/+*. (b) Quantification of blots in (a) (two-tailed, unpaired t-test; n=5 biological replicates;
283 **p=0.0015). (c) Survival curves of male flies expressing an inducible 36(GGGGCC) construct alone
284 or together with RpS25 RNAi. RpS25 RNAi resulted in a lifespan increase in the 36R flies (chi-
285 squared log-rank test; ****p<0.0001). Median lifespans: C9 36R flies, 29 days; C9 36R/RpS25-RNAi,
286 38 days. Genotypes and n: UAS-36(GGGGCC) /+; *elavGS* (n=115 flies), UAS-
287 36(GGGGCC)/RpS25RNAi{KK107958}; *elavGS/+* (n=106 flies)). In separate analyses, flies
288 expressing RpS25 RNAi alone did not alter lifespan (chi-squared log-rank test; n=83 uninduced, n=80
289 RNAi induced; n.s., not significant p=0.4766). Median lifespans: RpS25-RNAi uninduced, 59 days;
290 RpS25-RNAi induced, 61 days. Genotype: UAS-RpS25RNAi{KK107958}/+; *elavGS/+*). (d)
291 Expression of RpS25 RNAi together with AUG-driven codon-optimized 36 Glycine-Arginine repeats
292 (36GR) decreases survival of male flies (chi-squared log-rank test; ****p<0.0001). Genotypes: UAS-
293 36GR/+; *elavGS* (n=226 flies), UAS-36GR/RpS25RNAi{KK107958}; *elavGS/+* (n=180 flies). 36R
294 flies are codon optimized, driven by AUG and do not undergo RAN translation. (e) Quantification of
295 surviving induced motor neurons (iMNs) derived from a c9ALS iPSC line #4-6 and 3 control iPSC
296 lines treated with RPS25-targeting antisense oligonucleotides (ASO1 and 2) or control ASO control.
297 The survival of HB9-RFP+ iMNs was tracked by imaging after addition of 10µM glutamate.
298 Treatment of RPS25 ASO1 and ASO2 significantly increased survival of 3 c9ALS iMN lines ((log-
299 rank tests; n=3 independent iMN lines per condition per treatment; ****p<0.0001; error bars, s.e.m.).
300 (f) Relative nuclear poly(GR) quantification 3 c9ALS iMN lines treated with control or RPS25-
301 targeting ASOs (one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison; n=3 independent iMN lines per
302 condition per treatment with 20 iMNs analyzed and averaged for each n; **p=0.0055, *p=0.0105;
303 mean +/- s.e.m.). (g) Relative nuclear poly(PR) quantification 3 c9ALS iMN lines treated with control
304 or RPS25-targeting ASOs (one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison; n=3 independent
305 iMN lines per condition per treatment with 20 iMNs analyzed and averaged for each n; (ASO1)
306 **p=0.0017, (ASO2) **p=0.0034; mean +/- s.e.m.). For (f) and (g), individual data per c9ALS iMN
307 line can be found in Fig. S8 and representative immunocytochemistry can be found in Fig. S10.
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309 **Online Methods:**

310 **Yeast strains and plasmids**

311 Yeast experiments were conducted using the wildtype haploid strain BY4741 (derived from S288C).
312 For validation of screen results, deletions of *RPS25A* was generated using PCR and homologous
313 recombination to replace each open reading frame (ORF) with a NatMX resistance cassette to generate

314 the null allele, *rps25AΔ::NatMX*. Sense strand *C9orf72* hexanucleotide repeats with (GGGGCC)₂,
315 (GGGGCC)₄₀, and (GGGGCC)₆₆ described previously were used for this study²¹. The 2-micron
316 galactose promoter plasmid pAG426GAL was used for the ribosomal miniscreen and the centromeric
317 galactose promoter plasmid pAG416GAL was used for validations²². Cross validation was performed
318 using pAG426GAL GFP plasmids from the Addgene Yeast Gateway Kit (Kit #1000000011)²².
319 Plasmids were introduced into yeast strains using standard lithium acetate transformation for individual
320 transformations. For the ribosomal miniscreen, a 96-well transformation was employed^{23,24}.

321

322 **Yeast lysate preparation and immunoblotting**

323 For the ribosome miniscreen, overnight yeast cultures grown in 2% raffinose-containing media were
324 diluted into 2% galactose-containing media to induce transgene expression from a 426 GAL C940R
325 plasmid, and were further grown for 12 hours with shaking at 30°C. For individual validations, yeast
326 were prepared as above, driving expression from a 416 GAL C966R plasmid and grown in galactose
327 for eight hours. Yeast cells were harvested by centrifugation (3000xg for 5 minutes), resuspended in
328 lysis buffer [Y-PerTM Plus (ThermoFisher Scientific), 2X Halt Protease Inhibitor Cocktail
329 (ThermoFisher Scientific)], and incubated for 20 minutes at room temperature. Lysates were clarified
330 by centrifugation (10,000xg at 4°C for 10 minutes) and soluble lysates were subjected to
331 immunoassays.

332 Yeast protein lysates were quantified using bicinchoninic acid (Pierce BCA) assays and 20μg
333 of protein was loaded with 1X NuPAGE LDS sample buffer, and 50mM dithiothreitol, and denatured
334 for 10 minutes at 70°C. Samples were loaded onto 4-12% Bis-Tris gels and subjected to PAGE. Gels
335 were transferred to 0.45μm nitrocellulose membranes (Bio-Rad) using semi-dry transfer (Bio-Rad
336 Trans-Blot SD Semi-Dry Cell) and 2X, 10% methanol NuPAGE transfer buffer (Novex) at 17V for
337 one hour. Membranes were blocked in Odyssey Blocking Buffer and probed with rabbit anti-GFP
338 (1:1000, ThermoFisher Scientific A-11122) and mouse anti-GAPDH (1:5000, Sigma G8795) and
339 HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies.

340

341 **Yeast RT-qPCR**

342 For the yeast miniscreen, yeast were grown as described above. Yeast were harvested in TRIzol
343 (ThermoFisher Scientific) and RNA was extracted using a combination of chloroform and the RNA
344 Clean & Concentrator ZR-96 kit (Zymo Research) according to manufacturer's protocol. 5μL of RNA

345 was loaded for the RT reaction using the High Capacity cDNA kit (Applied Biosystems) and 1 μ L of a
346 1:10 cDNA dilution was utilized for 10 μ L qPCR reactions as described below.

347 RNA was extracted from yeast using a MasterPure Yeast RNA Extraction kit (Epicentre), including
348 DNaseI digestions. 250ng of RNA were reverse transcribed into cDNA using High Capacity cDNA
349 Reverse Transcription Kit with random primers (Applied Biosystems). cDNA products were diluted
350 1:10 and 2 μ L were analyzed by qPCR using custom primer sets and SYBR green reagent (20 μ L total
351 reaction, PCR Master mix, Applied Biosystems). Primers used: scACT1 Fwd =
352 5'ATTCTGAGGTTGCTGCTTTGG; scACT1 Rev = 5'TGTCTTGGTCTACCGACGATAG;
353 C9repeat Fwd = 5'AGCTTAGTACTCGCTGAGGGTG; C9repeat Rev =
354 5'GACTCCTGAGTTCCAGAGCTTG. The 2exp (- $\Delta\Delta$ Ct) method was used to determine the relative
355 mRNA expression of each gene.

356

357 **Poly(GP) enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)**

358 Poly(GP) levels in lysates were measured in a blinded fashion using a previously described sandwich
359 immunoassay that utilizes Meso Scale Discovery electrochemiluminescence detection technology, and
360 an affinity purified rabbit polyclonal poly(GP) antibody (Rb9259) as both capture and detection
361 antibody²⁵⁻²⁸. Lysates were diluted to the same concentration using Tris-buffered saline (TBS) and
362 tested in duplicate wells. Response values corresponding to the intensity of emitted light upon
363 electrochemical stimulation of the assay plate using the Meso Scale Discovery QUICKPLEX SQ120
364 were acquired. All responses were background corrected using the response from the negative control
365 samples. In some cases when comparing across mutants or iPSC lines, poly(GP) responses were then
366 normalized to our positive control.

367

368 **Poly(GR) enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)**

369 GR MSD immunoassays were performed as previously described using an affinity purified rabbit
370 polyclonal anti-GR antibody²⁹ with the following modification: cells were lysed in RIPA buffer
371 containing 0.5 M urea and 2X protease inhibitors (Roche cOmplete mini EDTA-free) and 180 μ g
372 protein loaded per well.

373

374 **Yeast anti-GFP enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)**

375 The yeast ribosomal mutants were counter-screened for effect on levels of eGFP in the context of a
376 Kozak sequence and ATG-initiation as a readout of general effects on translation. Yeast cells were

377 induced with galactose and lysed as previously described. Lysates were diluted 1:50 to fit in the range
378 of detection and the manufacturer's protocol was followed without changes (Abcam, ab175181).
379 Signal from mutants expressing eGFP divided by total μg of protein loaded for the ELISA was
380 normalized as a ratio of wildtype eGFP expression and compared to effect of mutants on poly(GP)
381 expression.

382

383 **Mammalian cell culture and treatments**

384 Hap1 wildtype and RPS25 knockout cell lines¹² were cultured in standard conditions using IMDM
385 (ThermoFisher Scientific) with 10% FBS and penicillin-streptomycin. HeLa cell lines were cultured
386 similarly in DMEM (ThermoFisher Scientific). For *C9orf72* GGGGCC transfections, we used
387 mammalian expression vectors under CAG promoter, empty cassette or GGGGCC₂ or GGGGCC₆₆
388 (C9 2R and C9 66R) and with 3 epitope tags/frame. Transfections of these plasmids were performed
389 with Lipofectamine 3000 (ThermoFisher Scientific) using the manufacturer's protocol. After 12 hour
390 transfection, media was replaced with fresh IMDM. Hygromycin (300 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$, Invivogen) was added at
391 24 hours for selection and cells were harvested 72 hours after transfection.

392

393 **ATXN2 RAN construct generation**

394 Variable length CAG repeats (22, 31, 39, 58, 108 repeat-length) were cloned from human *ATXN2*
395 cDNA and subsequently sub-cloned into a pCDNA6-myc-His-A expression vector using standard
396 molecular cloning techniques (the C' myc-6xHis epitope tags in frame with the poly-A encoding
397 forward reading frame). 38 bp upstream and 98 bp downstream of the CAG repeats in the human
398 *ATXN2* gene were included in the construct. All ATG codons upstream of the CAG repeat region
399 identified in any forward reading frame were mutated from ATG to AAG using site directed
400 mutagenesis (Agilent, QuikChange II Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit), or the mutations were
401 introduced with primers during PCR. Constructs were verified by sanger sequencing before
402 transfection.

403

404 **HeLa RPS25KD mutant generation**

405 HeLa cells constitutively expressing Cas9-BFP were kindly gifted by Dr. Michael Bassik. Two RPS25
406 guides were cloned and lentivirus was generated as described previously²⁷. HeLa-Cas9 cells were
407 subsequently treated with zeocin in order to select for RPS25-guide infected cells. Cells were
408 subsequently subcloned and screened via immunoblotting to find the RPS25KD clone used in this

409 study. RPS25 guide sequence provided by the Bassik laboratory:
410 CACCGTGGTCCAAAGGCAAAGTTC. RPS25 guide sequence generated using Benchling software:
411 CACCGCTTCTTTTTGGCCTTGCCCC. HeLa control cells used in our experiments were derived
412 from the same original HeLa Cas9-BFP population and infected with guides containing a safe, non-
413 gene-targeting sequence provided by the Bassik laboratory. Safe guide sequence:
414 GTCCCCCTCAGCCGTATT.

415

416 **Mammalian cell RT-qPCR**

417 24-well plates of Hap1 or HeLa wildtype or mutant cell lines were harvested using the PureLink RNA
418 Mini Kit (Life Technologies) using manufacturer's protocol. 250-500ng of RNA was used for reverse
419 transcription into cDNA using the High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (ThermoFisher
420 Scientific). cDNA was subsequently diluted 1:10 and 2 μ L was analyzed using qPCR with custom
421 primer sets and SYBR green reagent (PCR Master mix, Applied Biosystems). Primers used: C9repeat
422 Fwd = 5'AGCTTAGTACTCGCTGAGGGTG; C9repeat Rev =
423 5'GACTCCTGAGTTCCAGAGCTTG. hActin (ActB) Fwd= ATTCTGAGGTTGCTGCTTTGG,
424 hActin (ActB) Rev= TGTCTTGGTCTACCGACGATAG . ATXN2 construct Fwd=
425 TCCTCTCTAGAGGGCCCTTC, ATXN2 construct Rev= TCAATGGTGATGGTGATG. HTT
426 construct Fwd= GCAGGCACAGCCGCTGCTGC, HTT construct Rev=
427 GGTCGGTGCAGCGGCTCCTC. 18S Fwd = AGAAACGGCTACCACATCCA, 18S Rev=
428 CACCAGACTTGCCCTCCA. rLuc Fwd= TGGAGAATAACTTCTTCGTGGA, rLuc Rev=
429 TTGGACGACGAACTTCACC. The 2exp (- $\Delta\Delta$ Ct) method was used to determine the relative mRNA
430 expression of each gene.

431

432 **Mammalian cell lysate preparation and immunoblotting**

433 Hap1 or HeLa cells were transfected and treated as above prior to lysis. Cells were washed twice in
434 ice-cold 1X PBS and lysed in ice-cold RIPA buffer supplemented with 1X HALT Protease Inhibitor
435 cocktail (Pierce). Lysate was clarified at 10,000xg for 10 minutes at 4°C, and protein concentration
436 was measured using bicinchoninic acid (Pierce BCA) assays. 20-25 μ g of protein were prepared in 1X
437 SDS buffer and 2.5% beta mercaptoethanol (Sigma) and denatured for 5 minutes at 95°C. Samples
438 were loaded and resolved as previously described. Transfer was conducted as previously described
439 using 0.45 μ m PVDF activated briefly in 100% methanol (for poly(GA) analysis) and 0.45 μ m
440 nitrocellulose for all other immunoblotting. Odyssey blocking buffer was used to block and for

441 antibody solutions, with the exception of anti-His solutions that were made using 5% BSA in TBST.
442 Antibodies were as follows: rabbit anti-HA (1:1000, Cell Signaling 3724), mouse anti-GAPDH
443 (1:5000, Sigma G8795), rabbit anti-RPS25 (Abcam ab102940), mouse anti-HIS (1:1000, EMD
444 Millipore05-949), mouse anti-polyGlutamine (1:1000, EMD Millipore 5TF1-1C2), rabbit anti-C9orf72
445 (1:1000, sc-138763), rabbit poly(GP) (1:1000, EMD Millipore ABN1358) and rabbit anti-poly(A) c-
446 terminal-specific RAN antibody (1:2000, generously shared by the Ranum laboratory)³⁰
447 . For puromycin incorporation assay, 0.45µm nitrocellulose was used and antibodies include: mouse
448 anti-puromycin (1:1000, EMD Millipore MABE343) and mouse anti-GAPDH were probed on separate
449 replicate blots. Secondary antibodies include: goat anti-mouse HRP (1:5000, Fisher 62-6520), goat
450 anti-rabbit HRP (1:5000, Fisher 31462), goat anti-mouse Alexa Fluor 790 (1:20,000, Fisher A11371),
451 and goat anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 680 (1:20,000, Fisher A21109).

452

453 **Hap1 puromycin-incorporation assay**

454 Hap1 wildtype and RPS25 knockout cells were treated with 10µg/mL of puromycin for 10 minutes
455 prior to lysis and immunoblotting.

456

457 **Hap1 Clover (GFP variant) expression via flow cytometry**

458 pcDNA3.1 CMV-ATG-Clover constructs were transfected into Hap1 wildtype and RPS25 knockout
459 cells with Lipofectamine 3000. After 48 hours of transient transfection, Hap1 cells were dissociated
460 and resuspended in 1X PBS, 2% FBS, 1mM EDTA buffer and analyzed in the FITC channel for GFP
461 expression using a Guava easyCyte Single Sample Flow Cytometer (EMD Millipore). Data was
462 analyzed using Flowjo (version X 10.0.7r2) and the mean GFP signal was calculated.

463

464 **Hap1 growth curve analysis**

465 Hap1 wildtype and RPS25 knockout cells were seeded at 1.5×10^5 cells into a 12-well plate and imaged
466 with a 10X objective every 4 hours using the IncuCyte (Essen BioScience). Phase-contrast images
467 were analyzed using the IncuCyte default analysis software to compute percent confluency. Technical
468 replicate average was determined over 9 images collected throughout each well at each time point to
469 account for differences in growth depending on image point within plates. Biological average across
470 independent wells is plotted in **Fig. S2**. Area under the curve calculations and statistics were performed
471 using the GraphPad Prism analysis option for Area under the curve.

472

473 **Ribosome fractionation and RT-qPCR**

474 Hap1 wildtype and RPS25 knockout cells transfected with C9 66R plasmid were lysed in lysis buffer
475 (20mM Tris pH 7.5, 150mM NaCl, 15mM MgCl₂, 100µg/ml cycloheximide (Sigma), 1mM
476 dithiothreitol, 0.5% Triton X-100, 0.1mg/ml heparin (Sigma), 8% glycerol, 20U/ml TURBO™ DNase
477 and 200U/mL SUPERase•In™ RNase Inhibitor (Invitrogen), 1X Halt Protease and Phosphatase
478 Inhibitor Cocktail (ThermoFisher Scientific) and incubated for 30 min at 4°C. Lysates were clarified
479 by sequential 1000xg and 10,000xg spins, taking the supernatant each time. 200µL of lysate was
480 loaded onto a 10-45% sucrose gradient (20mM Tris pH 7.5, 100mM NaCl, 15mM MgCl₂, 100µg/ml
481 cycloheximide, sucrose) and centrifuged for 2.5 hours at 40,000rpm in an SW40 rotor at 4°C.
482 Gradients were fractionated on a Brandel Gradient fractionator at 30 second fraction intervals. Renilla
483 luciferase RNA spike-in was added at 50pmol/fraction and used as a normalization control. RNA from
484 each fraction was isolated with phenol-chloroform and precipitated using standard isopropanol
485 extraction. 500ng is loaded into each RT reaction, fractions were pooled and included free RNPs, 40S,
486 60S, 80S, 2 polysomes, and selected fractions from heavy polysomes (as indicated in **Fig. S3**).

487
488 **Human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) culture and treatments**

489 Ichida lab lymphocytes from healthy subjects and ALS patients were obtained from the NINDS
490 Biorepository at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research and reprogrammed into iPSCs as
491 described previously¹⁸. Target ALS patient iPSCs were obtained through the NINDS Human Cell
492 and Data Repository. The NINDS Biorepository requires informed consent from patients. Rothstein
493 lab iPSCs were collected from patients at Johns Hopkins Hospital with patient's consent and
494 deidentification. Control iPSCs derived from fibroblasts from Pasca lab were collected from patients
495 under informed consent with approval from the Stanford Human Stem Cell Research Oversight
496 (SRCO) committee. Information on patient-derived iPSCs can be found in **Table S3**.
497 Matrigel was prepared according to manufacturer's protocol in DMEM/F12, coated on plates and
498 incubated for 1 hour. Human control and patient-derived iPSCs were maintained on Matrigel (Corning)
499 coated plates using mTeSR1 (STEMCELL Technologies) medium changed every day. iPSCs were
500 dissociated with Accutase (STEMCELL Technologies) in the presence of ROCK inhibitor Y-27632
501 (Sigma) at 10µM overnight.
502 For siRNA transfections, first siRNA-lipofectamine complexes were prepared. Non-targeting and
503 RPS25-targeting siRNAs (Dharmacon, Smartpool ON-TARGETplus Smartpool: D-001810-10-05
504 and L-013629-00-0005, respectively) are prepared in the following ratios: for a 24-well plate, 13µL of

505 OptiMEM (ThermoFisher Scientific) with 1.25 μ L Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (ThermoFisher
506 Scientific). Separately, 13 μ L of OptiMEM is mixed with 9pmol of siRNA and mixed with RNAiMAX
507 mixture and incubated for 15 minutes. iPSCs were dissociated as previously and resuspended in 26 μ L
508 of the siRNA-RNAiMAX mixture prepared above and incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes
509 (maximum time is 15 minutes). Cells and siRNA mixture were then added to Matrigel pre-coated wells
510 with 0.5mL mTeSR plus Y-27632. Cells are maintained in Y-27632 for 12 hours until media was
511 exchanged for fresh mTeSR. Cells were harvested 72 hours post-transfection.

512

513 **Human iPSC RNA Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) and quantification**

514 RNA FISH was performed as previously reported²¹. iPSCs treated with RNAi as above were grown on
515 Matrigel-coated coverslips, fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilized with 0.2% Triton/DEPC-
516 PBS. Slides were dehydrated with a series of ethanol washes and incubated with hybridization
517 solution. LNA probes to detect sense (/5TYE563/CCCCGGCCCGGCC) or antisense
518 (/5TYE563/GGGGCCGGGGCCGGGG) C9orf72 repeats were prepared and diluted to 100nM. After
519 hybridization, the cells were incubated with the diluted LNA probes at 66°C for 24 h. Cells were then
520 washed and counterstained with Hoechst 33258 (1 μ g/ml, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Afterward, the
521 cells were dehydrated with ethanol washes and coverslips were mounted using ProLong Diamond
522 antifade mountant. Images were obtained on a Leica DM16000B inverted fluorescence microscope
523 with a 60X oil immersion objective. To quantify foci, 3 coverslips per treatment were analyzed and
524 >200 nuclei were counted per coverslip. Counts were used to determine average number of foci per
525 Hoescht positive nuclei since iPSCs grow in dense colonies where it is difficult to distinguish which
526 cytoplasm a particular focus resides in.

527 Foci were quantified in an unbiased manner using the MetaXpress granularity software which detects
528 foci of a determined size range compared to changes in surrounding pixel intensity. Parameters used
529 for this analysis were 2-7px in diameter and pixel intensity change of 3500 grey levels. Hoechst-
530 positive nuclei were counted using the Analyze Particle function in Fiji. In brief, all images across
531 treatments were stacked, converted to 8-bit and thresholded to the same value prior to the Analyze
532 Particle function in order to ensure that every image was quantified uniformly across conditions and
533 coverslips.

534

535 **Human iPSC and iMN RT-qPCR analysis**

536 Human iPSCs were treated with siRNAs, RNA extraction and RT were set-up as described above.
537 Human iPSC-derived iMNs were treated with ASOs for 72 hours prior to freezing in TRIzol
538 (ThermoFisher Scientific), then RNA was extracted using standard TRIzol-chloroform extraction
539 protocols. Reverse transcription reactions were setup as described above. Custom Taqman probes for
540 C9orf72 and standard Taqman probes for hActin (ThermoFisher Scientific, Hs01060665_g1) and
541 RPS25 (ThermoFisher Scientific, Hs01568661_g1) were used with the TaqMan Universal Master Mix
542 II (Applied Biosystems, 440040). Custom probes were as follows: C9 total isoforms FWD:
543 TGTGACAGTTGGAATGCAGTGA, C9 total isoforms REV:
544 GCCACTTAAAGCAATCTCTGTCTTG, C9 expansion isoforms FWD:
545 GGGTCTAGCAAGAGCAGGTG, C9 expansion isoforms REV: GTCTTGGCAACAGCTGGAGAT.

546

547 **Drosophila husbandry**

548 All flies were reared at 25°C on a 12-hr:12-hr light:dark (LD) cycle at constant humidity and on
549 standard sugar-yeast-agar (SYA) medium (agar, 15 g/l; sugar, 50 g/l; autolyzed yeast, 100 g/l; nipagin,
550 100 g/l; and propionic acid, 2 ml/l).

551

552 **Drosophila lifespan analysis**

553 Flies were raised at standard density in 200ml bottles. After eclosion, flies were allowed to mate for
554 24-48 hours. Females or males of the appropriate genotype were split into groups of 15 and housed in
555 vials containing SYA medium with or without 200µM RU486 to induce the gene-switch driver. Deaths
556 were scored and flies tipped onto fresh food 3 times a week. Data are presented as cumulative survival
557 curves, and survival rates were compared using log-rank tests. All lifespans were performed at 25°C.
558 ElavGS was derived from the original elavGS 301.2 line³¹ and obtained as a generous gift from Dr. H.
559 Tricoire (CNRS). UAS-36(GGGGCC) and UAS-36GR lines have previously described¹⁷, UAS-RpS25
560 RNAi lines P{GD10582}v52602 and P{KK107958}VIE-260B were obtained from Bloomington stock
561 center.

562

563 **Drosophila immunoblotting**

564 Protein samples were prepared by homogenizing in 2x SDS Laemmli sample (4% SDS, 20% glycerol,
565 120 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8), 200 mM DTT with bromophenol blue) and boiled at 95°C for 5 min.
566 Samples were separated on pre-cast 4%–12% Invitrogen Bis-Tris gels (NP0322), blotted onto PVDF
567 membrane, blocked in 5% milk in TBST and incubated with anti-GP polyclonal rabbit antibody

568 (1:1000)¹⁷, or mouse anti-actin (Abcam ab8224) (1:10000) followed by horseradish peroxidase-tagged
569 secondary antibody (anti-rabbit HRP, ab6721 or anti-mouse HRP, ab6789, Abcam, 1:10,000). The
570 protein standard used as a molecular weight ladder was MagicMark™ XP Western Protein
571 Standard (Thermoscientific, LC5602)

572

573 **Drosophila RT-qPCR**

574 Total RNA was extracted from 8 flies per sample using TRIzol (GIBCO) according to the
575 manufacturer's instructions. The concentration of total RNA purified for each sample was measured
576 using an Eppendorf biophotometer. One microgram of total RNA was then subjected to DNA digestion
577 using DNase I (Ambion), immediately followed by reverse transcription using the SuperScript® II
578 system (Invitrogen) with oligo(dT) primers. Quantitative PCR was performed using the PRISM 7000
579 sequence-detection system (Applied Biosystems), SYBR® Green (Molecular Probes), ROX Reference
580 Dye (Invitrogen), and HotStarTaq (Qiagen) by following the manufacturer's instructions. Each sample
581 was analysed in duplicate and values are the mean of four independent biological repeats +/- SEM.
582 Primers used were: RpS25 Fwd: AAATCGAACAGCTGACGTGC, RpS25 Rev:
583 AAAATACATTTTCAGCGGCTG.

584

585 **Conversion of iPSCs into induced motor neurons**

586 Reprogramming was performed in 96-well plates (8 x 10³ cells/well) or 13mm plastic coverslips (3.2 x
587 10⁴ cells/coverslip) that were sequentially coated with gelatin (0.1%, 1 hour) and laminin (2-4 hours) at
588 room temperature. To enable efficient expression of the transgenic reprogramming factors, iPSCs were
589 cultured in fibroblast medium (DMEM + 10% FBS) for at least 48 hours and either used directly for
590 retroviral transduction or passaged before transduction for each experiment. Retroviruses encoding the
591 7 iMN factors (*Ngn2*, *Isl1*, *Lhx3*, *Neurod1*, *Ascl1*, *Brn2*, *Myt1l*) in a pMXs backbone were added in
592 100-200 µl fibroblast medium per 96-well well with 5 µg/ml polybrene. For iMNs, cultures were
593 transduced with lentivirus encoding the *Hb9::RFP* reporter 48 hours after transduction with
594 transcription factor-encoding retroviruses. On day 5, primary mouse cortical glial cells from P1 ICR
595 pups (male and female) were added to the transduced cultures in glia medium containing MEM (Life
596 Technologies), 10% donor equine serum (HyClone), 20% glucose (Sigma-Aldrich), and 1%
597 penicillin/streptomycin. On day 6, cultures were switched to N3 medium containing DMEM/F12 (Life
598 Technologies), 2% FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, N2 and B27 supplements (Life Technologies),
599 7.5 µM RepSox (Selleck), and 10 ng/ml each of GDNF, BDNF, and CNTF (R&D). The iMN and iDA

600 neuron cultures were maintained in N3 medium, changed every other day, unless otherwise
601 noted^{15,27,32}.

602

603 **Lentivirus production**

604 All shRNA and *Hb9*::RFP-encoding lentiviruses were produced as follows: HEK293T cells were
605 transfected at 80-90% confluency with viral vectors containing the genes of interest and viral
606 packaging plasmids (pPAX2 and VSVG for lentivirus) using polyethylenimine (PEI)(Sigma-Aldrich).
607 The medium was changed 24h after transfection. Viruses were harvested at 48 and 72 hours after
608 transfection. Viral supernatants were filtered with 0.45 µm filters and concentrated by incubating with
609 Lenti-X concentrator (Clontech) for 24 hours at 4°C and centrifuging at 1,500 x g at 4°C for 45
610 minutes. The pellets were resuspended in 300 µl DMEM + 10% FBS and stored at -80°C.

611

612 **7F iMN survival assay**

613 On day 3 of iMN conversion, the cultures were incubated with scrambled or RPS25-targetting ASOs
614 (9µM) with 5 µg/ml polybrene in N3 media containing DMEM/F12 (Life Technologies), 2% FBS, 1%
615 penicillin/streptomycin, N2 and B27 supplements (Life Technologies), and 10 ng/ml each of GDNF,
616 BDNF, and CNTF (R&D). All shRNA constructs were tagged with GFP to enable specific tracking of
617 Dox-NIL iMNs expressing the shRNAs. On day 5, primary mouse cortical glial cells from P1 ICR
618 pups (male and female) were added to the transduced cultures in N3 media containing 7.5 µM RepSox
619 (Selleck). *Hb9*::RFP⁺ iMNs appeared between days 13-16 after retroviral transduction. RepSox was
620 removed at day 17 and the survival assay was initiated by adding 10 µM glutamate to the culture
621 medium for 12 hours. Cells were then maintained in N3 medium with neurotrophic factors without
622 RepSox. Longitudinal tracking was performed by imaging neuronal cultures in a Molecular Devices
623 ImageExpress once every 48 hours starting at day 17. Tracking of neuronal survival was performed
624 using SVcell 3.0 (DRVision Technologies). Neurons were scored as dead when their soma was no
625 longer detectable by RFP fluorescence. Neuron survival assays were performed in triplicate. To
626 increase clarity, similar numbers of randomly selected neurons from each trial were combined to
627 generate the quantification shown. ASO sequences as follows: RPS25-549 (ASO#2):

628 mG*mA*mG*mU*mC*T*C*A*T*T*C*T*G*T*T*mG*mC*mC*mC*mA, and RPS25-2349

629 (ASO#1): mG*mU*mU*mG*mC*A*T*T*C*C*C*G*C*T*G*mC*mC*mC*mU*mC (with

630 phosphothiorate bonds indicated by * and 2'O methylation indicated by m (gapmer design from IDT).

631

632 **DPR immunocytochemistry**

633 Control and patient-derived iMNs were treated with ASOs for 72 hours and subsequently fixed in 4%
634 paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 1 hour at 4°C, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton-X/PBS 20 minutes at room
635 temperature, blocked with 10% donkey serum in 3% BSA/PBS at room temperature for 2 hours, and
636 incubated with primary antibodies with 0.3% BSA/PBS at 4 °C overnight. Cells were then washed with
637 0.1% PBS-T and incubated with Alexa Fluor® secondary antibodies (Life Technologies) in 0.3%
638 BSA/PBS for 2 hours at room temperature. To visualize nuclei, cells were stained with DAPI (Life
639 Technologies) or Hoechst and then mounted on slides with Vectashield® (Vector Labs). Images were
640 acquired on an LSM 800 confocal microscope (Zeiss). The following primary antibodies were used:
641 rabbit anti-poly(PR) (Proteintech 23979-1-AP, 1:50), rabbit anti-poly(GR) (Proteintech 23978- 1-AP,
642 1:50). 20 iMNs were quantified per genotype per condition. For quantifications of poly(GR) and
643 poly(PR) nuclear puncta, the number of nuclear puncta were counted and divided by total nuclear area
644 as outlined in **Fig. S10**.

645

646 **Statistics**

647 Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism7 and Microsoft Excel. Statistical tests
648 included two-tailed t-test, one or two-way ANOVA and two-sided log-rank test for survival data. No
649 power analyses were conducted in order to predetermine sample size, but our sample sizes are
650 consistent those reported in previous publications^{15,17,18,21}. Data distribution was assumed to be normal,
651 but this was not formally tested. No data or animals were excluded from analysis.

652

653 **Randomization**

654 Unless otherwise stated below, samples were not randomized or blinded during experiments or
655 analysis.

656 For all poly(GP) and poly(GR) ELISAs, researchers were blinded to samples while performing and
657 analyzing ELISA data. Researchers responsible for transfecting and lysing cells were not blinded.

658 For iPSC foci image quantifications, RNA foci and nuclei were quantified in an automated manner as
659 described in the methods with no data being removed and did not require blinding.

660 For neuron survival assays, >50 neurons were selected for tracking randomly at day 1 of the assay. To
661 select 50 iMNs per condition for analysis, the survival values for 50 cells were selected at random
662 using the RAND function in Microsoft Excel. For other phenotypes, neurons were selected randomly
663 for analysis. IMN survival times were confirmed by manual longitudinal tracking by an individual who
664 was blinded to the identity of the genotype and condition of each sample. All other quantification was
665 performed by individuals blinded to the identity of each sample.

666

667 **Data Availability**

668 The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon
669 request.

670

671 **Methods-only References**

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