

1 **Genome-wide analysis reveals distinct genetic mechanisms of diet-dependent lifespan**  
2 **and healthspan in *D. melanogaster***

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27 **ABSTRACT**

28 Dietary restriction (DR) robustly extends lifespan and delays age-related diseases across  
29 species. An underlying assumption in aging research has been that DR mimetics extend both  
30 lifespan and healthspan jointly, though this has not been rigorously tested in different genetic  
31 backgrounds. Furthermore, nutrient response genes important for lifespan or healthspan  
32 extension remain underexplored, especially in natural populations. To address these gaps, we  
33 utilized over 150 DGRP strains to measure nutrient-dependent changes in lifespan and age-  
34 related climbing ability to measure healthspan. DR extended lifespan and delayed decline in  
35 climbing ability on average, but there was no evidence of correlation between these traits across  
36 individual strains. Through GWAS, we then identified and validated *jughead* and *Ferredoxin* as  
37 determinants of diet-dependent lifespan, and *Daedalus* for diet-dependent physical activity.  
38 Modulating these genes produced independent effects on lifespan and climbing ability, further  
39 suggesting that these age-related traits are likely to be regulated through distinct genetic  
40 mechanisms.

## 41 Introduction

42 Dietary restriction (DR), the reduction in total nutrients (1, 2) or specific macromolecules (3-6)  
43 without malnutrition, is a robust method shown to extend lifespan and slow age-related  
44 dysfunction in multiple species. Genes mediating responses to dietary change are of prime  
45 interest in the development of anti-aging therapeutics (7), but surprisingly few are known.  
46 Conservation of signaling pathways and the rapidity with which lifespan studies can be carried  
47 out make research in model organisms critical to understand the molecular basis of aging and  
48 age-related diseases in humans (8-13). Some well-characterized nutrient-response pathways  
49 including the target of rapamycin (TOR) (14) and insulin-like signaling (ILS) (15) as well as  
50 sirtuins (14) have been proposed to mediate the effects of DR in species as diverse as yeast,  
51 worms, flies, and mice (16-22). However, these and other DR response pathways have largely  
52 been found through candidate-based screens. It is not clear whether these pathways are critical  
53 for conferring the diet-dependent changes in natural populations. Thus, there is an urgent need  
54 in the field to undertake whole-genome-scale studies in natural populations of multicellular  
55 organisms. In *D. melanogaster*, by varying the two components of the media, yeast extract (the  
56 primary source of protein and lipids) and sucrose, we and others have shown that nutrient  
57 composition and not just total caloric intake modulates metabolism, healthspan, and lifespan  
58 (23-25). Likewise in mice and humans, a low-protein, high carbohydrate diet has the maximal  
59 benefit of extending healthspan (3, 26). However, some animal studies have challenged the  
60 universality of the benefits of DR (27-29). A compelling explanation for these discrepancies is  
61 that natural genetic variation may influence the response to dietary change (28). There is  
62 evidence in humans that the selective pressures on the response to nutrient availability may  
63 vary across populations, resulting in natural genetic differences that may influence diabetes and  
64 obesity (30). Consistent with this notion, recombinant inbred strains of mice differ widely in their  
65 response to caloric restriction (31, 32), but the mechanisms behind this phenomenon are not  
66 understood and could be affected by natural genetic variation. Though the latter studies of DR  
67 effects across wild individuals were initially met with great enthusiasm in the field, the genes  
68 responsible for this variation have yet to be identified.

69 Measuring lifespan in response to DR has been the gold standard to identify the mechanisms  
70 that mediate the protective effects of DR in invertebrates (33, 34). An underlying assumption in  
71 the field is that if an intervention slows the rate of aging, then it would extend lifespan and also  
72 other healthspan traits (35). However, measuring lifespan has limitations as a measure of aging,  
73 and thus it is imperative also to assess healthspan to find the most promising interventions for  
74 humans (36, 37). Recent studies in humans have investigated the period at the tail end of life  
75 and how it correlates with mortality, and results have demonstrated that although disability  
76 generally increases as individuals approach death (38), the rate and severity of decline varies  
77 by case and individual (39). Studies in worms (40-43) and mice (36, 44) in select genetic  
78 backgrounds demonstrate that lifespan extension is not necessarily accompanied by an  
79 increase in healthspan. Thus these studies pose the question whether lifespan and healthspan  
80 are indeed determined by the same genetic mechanisms. Walking speed in humans, a strong  
81 indicator of health, is known to decline with age and is a predictor of mortality (45-48). Flies  
82 have an innate tendency to climb upwards in their enclosure. This climbing ability also declines  
83 with age and is widely used as a measure of healthspan (49-54). Previous studies on measuring  
84 healthspan have utilized interventions that are known to extend lifespan to examine the  
85 relationship lifespan and healthspan (35, 55), but mechanisms for healthspan extension in  
86 models without lifespan-dependent effects have not been examined. Thus, there is a need to  
87 examine the relationship between lifespan and healthspan in an unbiased manner in diverse  
88 genetic backgrounds.

89

90 Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have become the standard to determine novel  
91 genetic regulators of longevity or health in humans (56-58) and model organisms (59-71), yet it  
92 has not been used to determine how diet impacts these complex traits. To fill this gap, we have  
93 used a genome-scale dissection of nutrient-responsive effects on lifespan and age-related  
94 climbing ability in the fly, using as a tool the genetic variation present in wild fly populations. As  
95 our library of genetic diversity, we use the *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel (DGRP) (72), a  
96 population of 205 genetically distinct wild fly lines, which has been established by the Mackay  
97 lab. These lines have been successfully used for GWAS of dozens of traits, including courtship  
98 songs (73), endoplasmic reticulum stress response (74), olfaction (75), and susceptibility to viral  
99 infection (76), as well as fecundity and lifespan in flies, reared on a single diet (59). The fly  
100 model offers the opportunity for an unbiased examination of the relationship between  
101 healthspan and lifespan. Identifying genes related to these traits will provide a better  
102 understanding of the genetic architecture that optimizes lifespan and healthspan in response to  
103 dietary interventions.

104 Using the DGRP collection, we examined the diet-dependent changes in lifespan and climbing  
105 ability across ages. We observed significant variation in the diet-dependent changes in both  
106 climbing ability and lifespan across the assayed DGRP lines. We have used GWAS to discover  
107 novel genetic regulators of longevity and health. Our results failed to demonstrate any  
108 significant correlation between these two phenotypes across the strains. We also identify  
109 several genetic variants that determine either physical functionality or longevity in a diet-  
110 dependent manner. We validated the effects of *CG34351*, which we name “*jughead*” (*jgh*), and  
111 *Fdxh* for diet-dependent changes in lifespan. We also validated that *CG33690*, a previously  
112 uncharacterized gene, has a role in diet-dependent changes in physical activity, and thus  
113 propose the new name “*Daedalus*” (*dls*). In addition to ascribing novel functions to these genes,  
114 we observe that these genes independently determine lifespan or age-related climbing ability  
115 but not both together.

116

## 117 Results

118 **Genetic variation in diet-dependent changes in lifespan.** To determine the effects of genetic  
119 variation on DR-mediated changes in lifespan, we reared ~200 non-virgin females in eight vials  
120 from 161 DGRP lines on two dietary conditions that featured a ten-fold variation in dietary yeast.  
121 Our DR condition contained 0.5% yeast extract and *ad libitum* (AL) diet, 5% yeast extract as  
122 described previously (4, 77). We observed a broad range in diet-dependent changes in lifespan  
123 across the strains, ranging from a 65% reduction in median lifespan from AL to DR to a 12.5-  
124 fold increase (Fig. 1A). 83% of all lines survived longer on DR than on the AL diet (Fig. 1B). Out  
125 of the longer-lived DGRP strains on an AL diet (>35 days median lifespan), less than 46%  
126 received additional longevity benefits by DR, whereas 82% of shorter-lived strains (<35 days  
127 median lifespan) showed increased median lifespan when undergoing DR. We repeated  
128 lifespan measurements of 52 strains and saw largely reproducible median lifespans (Fig. 1C,  $R^2$   
129 = 0.57 for AL,  $R^2$  = 0.64 for DR). In agreement with prior reports (28, 31, 78), we observed that  
130 DR extends lifespan in most, but not all, strains. We also observed that overall DR was less  
131 effective in extending the lifespan of strains that were already relatively long-lived.

132 **Decline in negative geotaxis with age varies by genotype and diet.** In addition to measuring  
133 lifespan, we were interested in determining the genetic basis of functional health across the  
134 DGRP, as identifying means to alter health can substantially improve the quality of life. Because  
135 walking speed is frequently used as a marker of health and a predictor of mortality in humans  
136 (79, 80), we utilized flies' natural tendency to climb their enclosure to track negative geotaxis  
137 performance in 156 DGRP lines throughout the duration of their life in parallel to measuring  
138 lifespan, as described above. We measured the percentage of each line able to climb an empty  
139 vial wall once per week throughout adulthood (81-83) (detailed in Methods). As an index of  
140 health decline, we analyzed the day at which a given DGRP strain fell below 50% of its initial  
141 climbing ability. Some strains fell below this threshold within the first week after being placed on  
142 DR or AL while others maintained greater than 50% climbing capacity for longer than 60 days  
143 (Fig. 2A). Consistent with previous reports, we found that DR generally improved physical  
144 activity. We observed that DR delayed the age-related decline in climbing ability in 69% of all  
145 tested lines, with another 25% of lines showing no difference between the two diets (Fig. 2B).

146 Since normalizing to initial climbing ability removed the variation in the absolute climbing ability,  
147 we also analyzed the changes in the absolute percentage of flies that were capable of climbing  
148 across strains. For this trait, we recorded the day at which the percentage of surviving animals  
149 able to climb fell under 20% (Fig. 2C, Suppl. Fig. 1). DR extended the length of time above 20%  
150 climbing ability over AL in 87% of lines, with 12% of lines declining at the same day of life  
151 regardless of diet (Fig. 2D). For both climbing measures we re-tested 17 lines and found our  
152 recorded values to be reproducible (Fig. 2E-F,  $R^2$  = 0.62 for AL 50% decline and 0.63 for DR,  $R^2$   
153 = 0.76 for AL day below 20% climbing and 0.50 for DR). Together, these results indicate that  
154 DR generally improves climbing ability, but the degree to which it is beneficial varies by  
155 genotype.

156 **Lack of correlation between recorded lifespan and climbing values.** To better understand  
157 the relationship between healthspan and lifespan, we compared the relationship between  
158 median lifespan and age-related climbing ability. Separating the strains on AL into the longer-  
159 lived half of strains (>35 days median lifespan) and shorter-lived (<35 days), we found that the  
160 average day of Across the shorter-lived half of the strains on the AL diet (<35 days median  
161 lifespan) the average median lifespan was 23.9 days and the average day these strains reach  
162 half of their initial climbing ability was 19.4, meaning on average these strains maintained better  
163 than half their initial climbing ability for 81.2% of their average median lifespan. Across longer-  
164 lived strains on AL conditions (>35 days median lifespan), the average median lifespan was 38

165 days and the average normalized day of climbing decline was 22.9, 60% of the average median  
166 lifespan (Fig 3A). On the DR diet, the shorter-lived strains (<39 median lifespan) had an  
167 average median lifespan of 30.7 days and average day of climbing decline 28.2, maintaining  
168 climbing ability for an elevated 91.9% of their lives. In long-lived strains (>39 days median  
169 lifespan), the average median lifespan was 46.8 days and the average day of climbing decline  
170 was 33.9, or only 72.4% of the average median lifespan (Fig. 3B). Looking deeper into these  
171 phenotypes across the individual strains, we found no evidence of a correlation between median  
172 lifespan and 50% climbing decline on the AL across individual strains (Fig. 3C,  $R^2 = 0.05$ ), nor  
173 the DR diet (Fig. 3D,  $R^2 = 0.07$ ). Similarly, we found no correlation between median lifespan and  
174 our absolute climbing decline value (Suppl. Fig. 2, AL  $R^2 = -0.06$ , DR  $R^2 = -0.01$ ). We also  
175 looked into responsiveness of each DGRP strain to DR, and found that across all of the strains,  
176 only 50% of all strains showed >3 days improvement in both lifespan and days of life above  
177 50% initial climbing capacity in response to DR. Alternatively, 14% of strains showed opposing  
178 phenotypes, either with reduced climbing ability and increased lifespan on DR, or vice-versa.  
179 The remaining 36% showed no change in either or both phenotypes (Fig. 3E). We found no  
180 evidence of a correlation between change in climbing ability and change in median lifespan in  
181 response to DR (Fig. 3F,  $R^2 = -0.04$ ). Together, these results imply that though DR overall  
182 extends lifespan and healthspan, when examined across the individual DGRP strains these two  
183 traits fail to correlate in our data.

184 **Genome-wide association analysis.** Next, we determined the genetic basis for the phenotypic  
185 differences in median lifespan and climbing ability across the DGRP. We performed genome-  
186 wide association studies (GWAS) using a linear regression model with terms for genotype, diet,  
187 and the interaction between genotype and diet as described in the Methods (called “Interaction”  
188 terms). We identified a list of candidate loci with a minor allele frequency  $\geq 25\%$  with statistical  
189 signals of  $\leq 10\%$  FDR based on permutation analysis (Table 1, Methods). Included among the  
190 candidates for lifespan regulation, indicated in Table 1, were variants in the genes *CR32111*  
191 (three variants), *CG43203* (one variant), *jgh* (one variant), and *CG8312* (one variant). These  
192 variants were significantly associated with regulating diet-dependent changes in the day at  
193 which 75% of a population was surviving, determined through our the interaction term in our  
194 GWAS model. As regulators of median lifespan, we identified variants in *CG5888* (one variant),  
195 *CR32111* (three variants, same three as associated with 75% survival), *CG31221* (one variant),  
196 and *CR45580* (one variant) in interaction with diet. GWAS also identified a variant in *CG5888* as  
197 regulating longevity in a diet-independent manner based on genotype alone (Table 1).

198 We next searched for loci that associated with exceptional longevity (see Methods) as an  
199 additional screen for genetic variants that contributed to the extreme length of life rather than an  
200 increased median lifespan. For this, we determined the upper 15<sup>th</sup> percentile of longevity across  
201 all tested strains (>41 days median lifespan on AL and >51 days on DR) as our “long-lived”  
202 lines. This restructured “Case/Control” GWAS detected an association between DR longevity  
203 and a polymorphism in *Ferredoxin 1 (Fdxh)* as well as two variants downstream of *CG15515*  
204 and one intronic variant in *CG5778* (Table 1).

205 To further examine the relationship between lifespan and healthspan, we determined the  
206 genetic loci associated with changes in climbing ability. GWAS for the day of 50% climbing  
207 decline from initial climbing ability identified one significant polymorphism upstream of the non-  
208 protein coding gene *CR43930* (Table 1). For the day at which fewer than 20% of surviving flies  
209 could climb, GWAS identified seven polymorphisms downstream of *dls* to be significantly  
210 associated with climbing in a diet-dependent manner (Table 1).

211 **Diet and tissue-specific changes in *dls*, *jgh*, and *Fdxh*.** We conducted a preliminary RNAi  
212 screen with all of our candidate genes to determine how altered candidate gene expression

213 could impact longevity or climbing ability. With the use of the whole-body expression driver  
214 *Act5C-GS*, we induced RNAi in five of the candidate genes indicated through GWAS (Suppl.  
215 Fig. 3). We found that whole-body RNAi of *CR32111* resulted in a 10% reduction in median  
216 lifespan on DR but no change on AL (Suppl. Fig. 3A). RNAi of *CG8312* resulted in a slight, 3%  
217 reduction of median lifespan on DR and a 7% extension in life on AL (Suppl. Fig. 3B). RNAi of  
218 *CG5888* resulted in no change to median lifespan on DR and no change on AL (Suppl. Fig. 3C).  
219 RNAi of *CG31221* and observed a 26% reduction in median lifespan on DR and no change on  
220 AL (Suppl. Fig. 3D). RNAi of *CG15515* resulted in a 5% reduction of median lifespan on DR and  
221 no change on AL (Suppl. Fig. 3E). Based on FlyAtlas data, we induced RNAi of *CG5778* in the  
222 fat body with the *S106-GS-Gal4* and observed 5% reduction of median lifespan on DR and a  
223 13% reduction in median lifespan on AL (Suppl. Fig. 3F). We chose to focus further on our three  
224 other candidate genes, *dls*, *Fdxh*, and *jgh*, to determine their role in modulating diet-dependent  
225 changes lifespan and healthspan.

226 Of the seven loci downstream of *dls* associated with climbing regulation (Table 1), the most  
227 significant was found on chromosome 3L at position 16,195,836. At this locus, strains with a G  
228 allele showed significant delay in climbing decline over those with a T allele upon DR, but no  
229 difference was noted under AL conditions (Fig. 4A-B). We examined tissue specificity and  
230 mRNA expression changes in response to diet to aid in understanding the mechanism by which  
231 diet-dependent changes in phenotypes are mediate. We have previously generated data  
232 showing tissue-specific changes in mRNA translation state upon DR (33). With the use of  
233 FLAG-tagged ribosomal protein RPL13A, we pulled-down polysomes and analyzed the tissue-  
234 specific changes in mRNAs upon DR as previously described (33, 84). We observed that *dls*  
235 was moderately elevated in the germline, heart, and muscle (Suppl. Fig 4A). To test for  
236 transcriptional expression changes, we performed qRT-PCR for *dls* in body segments of *w<sup>1118</sup>*  
237 control flies raised on either AL or DR diet for 7 days and saw elevated expression in the  
238 abdomen relative to other body segments as well as a nine-fold increase in expression in the  
239 head on DR versus AL diet (Fig 4C). As there were no RNAi constructs available for this line,  
240 we used a line containing a *Minos* element insertion in *dls* (Suppl. Fig. 9) (85) for our validation  
241 experiments. With this mutant line, we observed a ~90% reduction in mRNA expression in DR  
242 conditions (Suppl. Fig. 5A-B). We saw a 19% increase in median lifespan on DR and 8% on AL  
243 in a *w<sup>1118</sup>* background over *w<sup>1118</sup>* controls (Fig. 4D) but a 7% reduction on DR and a 19%  
244 reduction in median lifespan on AL in a Canton-S background (Suppl. Fig. 6A). We found that  
245 climbing ability was consistently increased in mutants fed DR over their wildtype controls  
246 regardless of strain background, with no significant changes observed in AL conditions (Fig. 4E,  
247 Suppl. Fig 6B). In total, while the longevity effects of this mutation were mixed depending on  
248 strain background there was a significant improvement in climbing ability only observed on a DR  
249 diet (Fig. 4F, Suppl. Fig. 6C). We also tracked spontaneous activity for these flies for 24 hours  
250 (see Methods), and found that the *dls* mutant had increased spontaneous activity only on the  
251 DR diet regardless of strain background (Suppl. Fig. 8). Due to its role in regulating climbing and  
252 spontaneous activity on DR, we propose the common name *Daedalus (dls)* for *CG33690* after  
253 the mythological Greek inventor who created wings to escape incarceration by King Minos.  
254 Thus *dls*, which was identified as a candidate that influences diet-dependent changes in  
255 climbing ability, showed consistent effects on healthspan but failed to show consistent effects on  
256 lifespan. These data further argue that lifespan and age-related climbing ability are likely to be  
257 regulated by distinct mechanisms and that healthspan can be extended without a concomitant  
258 increase in lifespan.

259 Through our Interaction GWAS for longevity, we identified an intronic variant in *jgh* associated  
260 with the day at which less 75% of a strain's population was surviving (Table 1). We found that  
261 DGRP strains fed the AL diet with a G allele at a particular locus (chr. 2L, position 2,707,945)

262 showed a slightly delayed decline in 75% survival over strains with an A at that locus (Fig. 5A).  
263 Alternatively, strains with the G allele in DR conditions showed a significantly reduced 75%  
264 survival than counterparts with the A allele at the locus of interest (Fig. 5B). This gene is  
265 homologous to the human gene Regulator of G-Protein Signaling 7 Binding Protein (*RGS7BP*),  
266 and was previously noted in a GWAS screen for growth regulators of wing size (86) but has not  
267 previously been shown to play a role in longevity nor diet response. From our ribo-tag data we  
268 observed an eight-fold increase in *jgh* expression in the brain under DR conditions, as well as a  
269 2.5-fold increase in expression on DR in the fat body and Malpighian tubule (Suppl. Fig. 4B).  
270 Through qRT-PCR we found that both on AL and DR diet *jgh* is expressed in the thorax, but DR  
271 induces a 55-fold increase in expression in the head (Fig. 5C). Thus, we used a pan-neuronal  
272 RU486-inducible *Elav*-GS-Gal4 driver to examine diet-dependent changes in longevity and  
273 health. We observed a 20% increase in median lifespan on an AL diet over control flies with one  
274 *jgh* RNAi strain (v30160, Suppl. Fig. 9, Fig. 5D) and a 29% increase in median lifespan on AL  
275 with a second strain (v30163, Suppl. Fig. 6D). We propose the name *jughead* (*jgh*) for this gene,  
276 after the fictional comic book character with a propensity for overeating without suffering its ill  
277 effects. In parallel, we examined whether inhibition of *jgh* will also extend healthspan.  
278 Surprisingly, RNAi of *jgh* failed to show any significant change in age-related climbing ability  
279 (Fig. 5E, Suppl. Fig. 6E). Through qRT-PCR of the heads of flies from these crosses, we again  
280 saw elevated expression under DR conditions relative to flies raised on the AL diet, with RNAi-  
281 inducing approximately 50% reduction in the expression on AL and 70% reduction on DR.  
282 (Suppl. Fig. 5C-D). Overall we saw increased longevity on AL with *jgh* RNAi in neurons but did  
283 not see a change in the climbing ability with age (Fig. 5F, Suppl. Fig. 6F). Thus, inhibition of *jgh*  
284 only extends lifespan without significant effects on climbing ability.

285 One locus identified through our Case-Control GWAS for strains with exceptional longevity (see  
286 Methods) was position 9,364,312 on chromosome 3L, which falls in an intronic region of the  
287 gene *Fdxh*. At this locus, DGRP strains with a C or A allele showed no difference in average  
288 median lifespan on AL (Fig. 6A), but under DR the A allele proved beneficial to median lifespan  
289 (Fig. 6B). *Fdxh* is involved in ecdysteroid production in flies (87), and human homologs have  
290 been implicated in mitochondrial maintenance (88, 89). Results from RPL13A tagging showed  
291 that under DR, *Fdxh* expression was modestly increased in every tissue except the heart and  
292 neurons (Suppl. Fig. 4C), and qRT-PCR results showed that DR induces moderately increased  
293 expression in each body segment (Fig. 6C). As such, we used *Act5C*-GS-Gal4 that leads to  
294 whole-body RNAi. Inhibition of *Fdxh* resulted in a 12% reduction in median lifespan on DR with  
295 the use of one *Fdxh* RNAi line (v104499, Suppl. Fig. 9, Fig. 6D) and a 20% decrease in median  
296 lifespan on DR as well as a 19% decrease on AL with the use of another RNAi line (v24497,  
297 Suppl. Fig. 9, Suppl. Fig. 6G). Using the transgenic line v1014499 we also saw no change in  
298 climbing ability at any point in life on either diet (Fig. 6E), but using v24497 resulted in a  
299 reduction in climbing ability in the second week of adulthood on DR (Suppl. Fig. 6H). In all, we  
300 found that whole-body RNAi of *Fdxh* causes a reduction in lifespan on DR and depending on  
301 the genetic background may also cause a reduction on AL, but the age-related climbing ability  
302 was unaffected (Fig. 6F, Suppl. 6I). qRT-PCR of whole body RNAi knockdown flies showed no  
303 change between DR and AL expression, with knockdown inducing a 50% reduction in  
304 expression (Suppl. Fig. 5E-F). Combined with our results from *dls* and *jgh* validation  
305 experiments, these results suggest a genetic uncoupling of lifespan and climbing phenotypes.

306

## 307 Discussion

308 Dietary restriction remains one of the most robust methods for lifespan extension and health  
309 improvement. Its benefits are widespread, including improved responses in models of cancer  
310 (90, 91), neurodegeneration (92), and other age-related disorders (93-95). Despite these  
311 reported benefits, enthusiasm for DR has been tempered by the observation that model  
312 organisms of different genotypes respond differently to DR (32, 77), with some genotypes even  
313 showing a reduced lifespan (31) or worsened health (96). Thus, identifying the mechanisms that  
314 promote longevity but not healthspan in response to diet may not provide the most suitable  
315 targets for humans.

316 Here, we have utilized the DGRP to perform the first longevity and healthspan GWAS featuring  
317 two different dietary compositions. We found that DR was beneficial in 83% of strains' median  
318 lifespan and 87% of strains' climbing ability, while the remainder of strains showed no effect or  
319 negative effects. These results are consistent with previous findings in flies and mice, where  
320 different nutrient manipulations failed to induce universal effects across strains (97, 98). Our  
321 data also show that longevity and health are not exclusively affected by DR through the same  
322 mechanisms, as there was no statistical correlation between median lifespan and either of our  
323 climbing measures. Furthermore, through GWAS across all tested lines, we have implicated a  
324 number of new longevity and healthspan genes. In validating three of these genes, we also  
325 failed to see a correlation between lifespan and age-related climbing ability. Together these  
326 results support the argument that lifespan and healthspan are likely to be regulated by distinct  
327 genetic mechanisms.

328 The separation of lifespan and health regulation has been a topic of debate. Recent studies  
329 have suggested either that lifespan and health are uncoupled in their regulation (41, 42, 44, 99)  
330 or that they are correlated (71, 100, 101). One recent report demonstrated that known short-  
331 lived mutants frequently show a reduction in health by some measures but an extension by  
332 others, indicating the complexity of the relationship between lifespan and healthspan (43). It is  
333 conceivable that lifespan is uncoupled from healthspan as lifespan is likely to be affected by the  
334 weakest link that leads to mortality and thus may not reflect the underlying rate of aging or a  
335 particular healthspan trait. Our work here suggests that genotype is a significant contributing  
336 factor towards this relationship. One difference between our study and previous reports is that  
337 previous work has largely focused on candidate-based targets, whereas we provide the first  
338 instance of a direct comparison across a panel of ~150 strains with naturally arising genetic  
339 variation. Through our phenotypic analysis of the DGRP, we saw no correlation between  
340 climbing ability and length of life. While climbing ability is certainly not the end-all measure for  
341 health, it remains one of the most frequently used and trusted methods for assessing overall  
342 functional health (49-52, 54, 102). While others have suggested that functional health by means  
343 of physical activity should be presented in the context of maximal functionality rather than  
344 absolute activity (101), we further observed no correlation with lifespan in either of these  
345 contexts (Fig. 3, Suppl. Fig. 2). Looking further into our DGRP phenotypic data, we did not  
346 observe a correlation between lifespan and our functional health measures in general but also  
347 saw that the effects of DR were not exclusively beneficial and in some strains affected lifespan  
348 and healthspan differentially. Despite the prevailing notion in the field that lifespan-extending  
349 interventions will also extend healthspan, our data argues that lifespan and healthspan can be  
350 uncoupled quite often. Further, although DR is widely viewed as one of the most robust means  
351 for lifespan and healthspan extension (35), our data suggest that genotype significantly  
352 influences the extent and type of benefits one can derive from DR. In human studies of longevity  
353 and mortality it has been suggested that a healthy lifestyle can improve healthspan without  
354 necessarily altering lifespan, creating a compression of the period of disability (103).  
355 Understanding the genetic mechanisms which can contribute to compression or extension of

356 morbidity, particularly in response to dietary influences, will allow for more targeted approaches  
357 to diagnosing mortality and maximizing healthspan (104, 105). It is worth noting that sex-specific  
358 responses to dietary restriction have been observed across different genotypes (31).  
359 Furthermore, using walking speed as a predictor of mortality is suggested to be more effective  
360 in men than women (45, 106, 107). In our study we use female flies, and we predict that our  
361 results could differ from a study conducted entirely with males.

362 Through GWAS, we were successfully able to pinpoint loci significantly associated with lifespan  
363 or climbing regulation. Upon generating a list of statistically significant diet-dependent longevity  
364 or health-related loci, we immediately noticed the absence of loci found in genes that take part  
365 in the well-studied diet-responsive pathways involved in longevity or health, such as those in the  
366 TOR pathway (24). One reason for this could be because polymorphisms that would alter the  
367 function of these genes would likely be lethal or inhibit development to adulthood, and thus may  
368 not be well-represented in adult wild isolates like the DGRP. A second possibility is that there  
369 are many genes which influence lifespan phenotypes and genes in the ILS and TOR pathways  
370 represent only a small fraction of those. In support of this argument, over 500 genes have been  
371 identified to influence longevity in a variety of models (108), most notably those identified  
372 through screens in *S. cerevisiae* (109) and *C. elegans* (110, 111).

373 Through our climbing GWAS, we identified a novel role for the gene *dls* in absolute climbing  
374 ability and overall spontaneous activity. Our DGRP strain phenotypes showed several  
375 polymorphisms in this gene were associated with the climbing ability only on DR, a diet-specific  
376 effect that was mirrored by flies with transposon-based disruption of the *dls* gene. No biological  
377 function has been suggested for this gene, and the protein it encodes contains a conserved  
378 domain of unknown function (InterPro DUF1091). We have found that expression of this gene  
379 increases dramatically on DR in the head, potentially suggesting a neuronal mechanism  
380 influencing climbing ability. Interestingly, the longevity effect of a mutation in this gene varied  
381 depending on the strain background. We found significantly increased lifespan on both diets in a  
382 *w<sup>1118</sup>* background but significantly decreased lifespan on the AL diet in a Canton-S background.  
383 Despite these differing results, the significant increases in climbing ability and spontaneous  
384 activity on DR were observed in both backgrounds, emphasizing that this gene is not a robust  
385 modulator of longevity but appears to regulate overall physical function across multiple  
386 genotypes.

387 One novel longevity locus we identified through our analyses was in *jgh*. The homology of *jgh* to  
388 *RGS7BP* in humans suggests a role in regulating neuronal G protein signaling (112). Through  
389 our experiments, we verified a diet-specific role in lifespan regulation through *jgh*. Although we  
390 observed that knockdown of *jgh* extended lifespan on AL diet, our GWAS association effect was  
391 largest on DR. We attribute this difference to the difference between the effects of an intronic  
392 single-nucleotide polymorphism in the DGRP strains and RNAi knockdown (113). Human  
393 GWAS has previously identified *RGS7BP* as being associated with schizophrenic and bipolar  
394 disorders (114) as well as weight gain in response to antipsychotic medication (115), but a  
395 dietary link has not been previously observed. Neuronal G protein-coupled receptors have been  
396 implicated in *Drosophila* insulin-like signaling (116), providing a potential intriguing, diet-  
397 dependent mechanism for further investigation. We also observed a new role for *Fdxh* in diet-  
398 responsive longevity, which has previously been shown to regulate mitochondrial function and  
399 Friedrich's ataxia pathology across multiple species (117, 118) and ecdysteroid production in  
400 flies (87). Studies in multiple model systems (119-121) and humans (122) have shown the  
401 importance of proper Fe-S maintenance and the role of these clusters in proper electron  
402 transport in the mitochondria. Given the role of mitochondrial function in diet-dependent effects  
403 on longevity (23, 123-126), it is fitting that our screen revealed a role for a mitochondrial gene in  
404 lifespan regulation. Additionally, *Fdxh* has been observed in an array for cycling circadian genes

405 in the head (127). As circadian clocks have been implicated in diet-dependent lifespan  
406 extension (4), modulation of circadian phenotypes is another potential mechanism by which  
407 *Fdxh* could modulate diet-specific longevity. One human homolog of *Fdxh*, *FDX1L*, has been  
408 implicated in inflammatory bowel disease and Crohn's disease (128) and dermatitis (129).  
409 Another more distantly related human homolog, *COX15*, has been found in GWAS for childhood  
410 obesity (130), Crohn's disease (131), colorectal cancer (132), and cardiovascular disease (133),  
411 all of which could provide clear impacts on longevity.

412 Together, we have provided a novel approach to understanding the natural genetic factors  
413 which regulate diet-dependent changes in longevity and health. By measuring both lifespan and  
414 also an age-related component of health, climbing ability in the same strains, we were able to  
415 dissect the genetics of two age-related traits simultaneously. Our experiments, using diet  
416 manipulation, have further detailed the diversity of responses in wild strains to DR, which varies  
417 greatly by genotype both in lifespan and climbing ability. Most previous studies have examined  
418 healthspan in known longevity genes, which may be subject to confirmation bias and negative  
419 results where lack of correlation between healthspan and lifespan was obtained but under-  
420 reported. Our study utilized an unbiased approach to examine the relationship between  
421 healthspan and lifespan in over 150 strains and manipulation of candidate genes identified from  
422 this analysis. Our findings strongly argue for genetic uncoupling of mechanisms that modulate  
423 longevity and healthspan. The independence of healthspan from lifespan may have important  
424 bearing in designing dietary interventions that delay the effects of aging in humans and other  
425 species.

426

## 427 **Materials and Methods**

428 **Fly lifespan phenotyping.** DGRP lines were obtained from Bloomington Stock Center,  
429 Bloomington, IN (134). Each line was mated and developed on a standard lab diet (1.5% yeast).  
430 Two to three days post-eclosion, mated female progeny were transferred to AL (5.0% yeast  
431 extract) or DR (0.5% yeast extract) diet, as previously described (23, 135). Eight vials of 25 flies  
432 were used per diet per strain. Flies were maintained at 25°C and 65% relative humidity  
433 throughout life. Living flies were transferred to fresh vials every other day, with dead flies being  
434 recorded, until all flies were dead. One biological replicate (200 animals) was recorded for 107  
435 lines, two biological replicates for 52 other lines, and three biological replicates for two other  
436 lines.  $w^{1118}$  was also tested with each batch as an internal control. DGRP lines not tested were  
437 not viable long term in our lab.

438 **Fly climbing phenotyping.** Throughout life, climbing ability was recorded weekly on days  
439 between vial transfers for all vials containing 20 or more living flies. The negative geotaxis  
440 climbing ability test was adapted from previous methods (136). Flies were placed in an empty  
441 vial with a line 6 cm from the bottom. Flies were gently tapped to the bottom of the vial and the  
442 number able to cross the line within 10 seconds was recorded. This was repeated three times  
443 for each vial, and the percentage of live flies still climbing above the line was averaged for a  
444 given line at weekly timepoints throughout life. For normalized climbing values, weekly climbing  
445 values were normalized to the percentage of flies climbing one week following placement on AL  
446 or DR. We used the day at which flies passed below 50% of their day seven climbing value for  
447 genome-wide analysis, as well as the day at which a 20% or less of a surviving population of  
448 flies were still able to climb.

449 **Genome-wide association analysis.** We used DGRP release 2 genotypes, and FlyBase R5  
450 coordinates for gene models. As in Nelson *et al.*, 2016 (77), we used only homozygous  
451 positions and a minor allele frequency of  $\geq 25\%$  to ensure that the minor allele was represented  
452 by many observations at a given polymorphic locus. The collected phenotype and genotype  
453 data were used as input into an association test via ordinary least squares regression using the  
454 StatsModels module in Python (137). The linear model was phenotype =  $\beta_1 \times$  genotype +  $\beta_2 \times$   
455 diet +  $\beta_3 \times$  genotype  $\times$  diet + intercept. Nominal  $p$ -values denoted as “genotype” in Table 1 report  
456 the probability that  $\beta_1 \neq 0$ , and those denoted as “interaction” report the probability that  $\beta_3 \neq 0$ .  
457 For the binary “case-control” search for determinants of long lifespan, we used median lifespan  
458 thresholds of  $\geq 41$  days on AL diet and  $\geq 51$  days on DR diet, and a Fisher’s exact test comparing  
459 the long-lived and short-lived populations with both alleles at a given position. To avoid the  
460 potential for false positives at a given nominal cutoff owing to  $p$ -value inflation, we calculated  
461 false discovery rates via permutation as follows: for a given permutation  $i$ , we randomized  
462 phenotype values across DGRP lines, retaining the true diet assignment, and on this permuted  
463 data set we carried out association tests for each marker in turn as above. We counted the  
464 number of markers  $n^i$  that scored above a given  $p$ -value threshold  $t$ . We tabulated the false  
465 discovery rate (FDR) at  $t$  as the ratio between the average  $n^i$  across ten permutations and the  
466 number of markers called at  $t$  in the real data. We used an empirical FDR upper bound of 10%  
467 within a given analysis to call candidate loci of interest.

468 **Gene expression analysis.** To determine gene expression in a normal system, we sampled  
469 five whole flies, 50 heads, 50 thoraxes, or 50 abdomens from mated females of  $w^{1118}$  control  
470 strain after one week on AL or DR diet. We isolated RNA using Zymo Quick RNA MiniPrep kit  
471 (R1054) (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA). For qRT-PCR, we used Superscript III Platinum SYBR  
472 Green One-Step qRT-PCR kit from Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA (11736-051) and followed  
473 manufacturer’s instructions with a Roche Lightcycler 480 II machine. To validate the effects of  
474 RNAi or mutation on gene expression, we collected five whole female bodies or 50 heads

475 following one week on AL or DR. We then isolated RNA from these samples and performed  
476 qRT-PCR on the perturbed genes as described.

477 **Gene alteration phenotyping.** For candidate gene validation, all lines were obtained from  
478 Bloomington Stock Center (134) or Vienna *Drosophila* RNAi Center, Vienna, Austria (138) (see  
479 Suppl. Fig. 9 for list of lines used (87, 139-148)). To validate the GWAS-predicted effects of *jgh*  
480 and *Fdxh*, we used the whole-body GeneSwitch (149) driver *Act5C-GS-Gal4* (140) and the  
481 neuron-specific driver *Elav-GS-Gal4* (139) for directed RNAi. 15 virgin driver females were  
482 mated with three transgene line males in four bottles containing a standard diet. Two-three days  
483 following progeny eclosion, mated females were sorted onto AL or DR media with or without  
484 200 mM RU486 (final concentration) for RNAi activation (4, 135), and flies were maintained on  
485 these media for life. For *d/s* analysis, a *Minos* element mutant line was used for gene disruption  
486 (85). This line was outcrossed to *w<sup>1118</sup>* or Canton-S control strains for six generations using a  
487 GFP tag associated with the inserted element (144). Spontaneous activity was measured on  
488 day 5 after flies were placed on either the AL or DR diet. Three vials of 25 female flies for each  
489 condition were placed for 48 hours in a 12-hour light-dark cycle at 25°C and 65% relative  
490 humidity in a TriKinetics *Drosophila* Activity Monitor system (TriKinetics, Waltham, MA), and  
491 beam crosses were recorded for 24 hours (150). Activity was recorded for three separate  
492 biological replicates.

493

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502 C.S.N., and J.N.B. performed research; K.A.W., C.S.N., R.B.B., and P.K. analyzed data;  
503 K.A.W., C.S.N., and P.K. wrote the paper.

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## 867 MAIN FIGURE LEGENDS

868 **Figure 1. Genotype influences variation in lifespan and response to DR across the DGRP**  
869 **lines.** (A) Median lifespan of 161 DGRP lines in ascending order on AL diet (red). Adjacent lines  
870 in blue represent the same strain raised on DR diet. (B) Comparison of median lifespan on AL of  
871 each strain with its DR counterpart. Same data as in A, displayed as a scatterplot. Grey bar  
872 represents best-fit trendline. (C) Comparison of median lifespan values across biological  
873 replicates of 52 DGRP lines on AL (red) and DR (blue). N = 200 flies per strain per diet.

874 **Figure 2. Decline in climbing ability varies by genotype.** (A) The age (in days) at which a  
875 line declines to half of its initial percent of climbing flies. Data are arranged in ascending order of  
876 the strains' AL phenotypes (red). Adjacent lines in blue represent the same strain on DR diet.  
877 (B) Comparison of days below 50% maximal climbing capacity of each strain on AL versus DR  
878 diet. Grey bar represents best-fit trendline. (C) The age (in days) at which fewer than 20% of the  
879 surviving population can climb in the allotted time. Data are arranged in ascending order by the  
880 phenotype on AL diet (red) with adjacent lines representing the same strain on DR (blue). (D)  
881 Comparison of each strain's climbing data between AL and DR diets. Grey line represents best-  
882 fit trendline. (E) Comparison of biological replicates of 25 tested DGRP lines on AL (red) or DR  
883 (blue) for 50% decline in initial climbing ability. (F) Comparison of biological replicates for 25  
884 tested DGRP lines for the day at which less than 20% of surviving flies are able to climb on AL  
885 (red) and DR (blue). N = 200 flies per strain per diet.

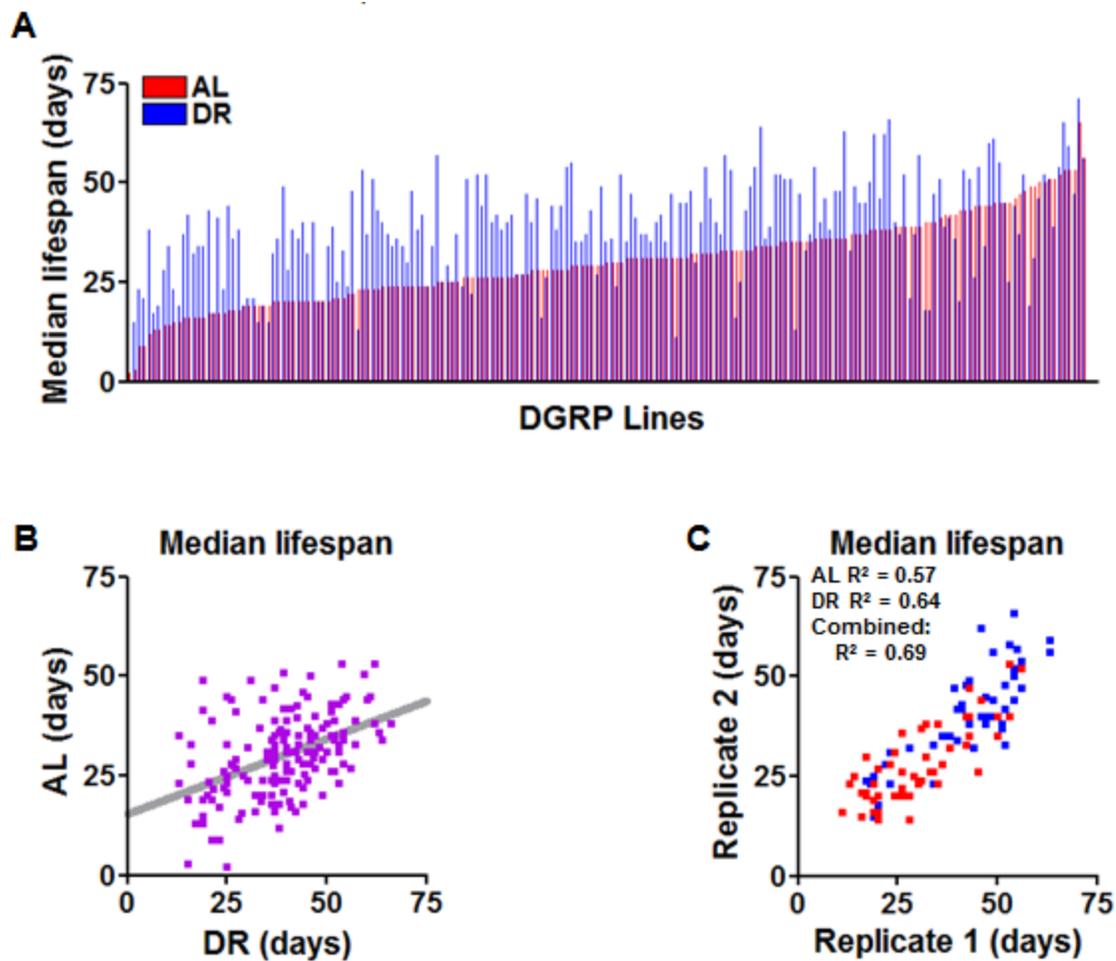
886 **Figure 3. Genotype and diet differentially influence lifespan and healthspan separately.** (A  
887 and B) Comparison of each tested strain's day below 50% of maximal climbing proportion with  
888 median lifespan, on (A) AL or (B) DR. Each bar represents a DGRP strain, ordered by median  
889 lifespan on each diet. Colored bars represent climbing half-life and white bars represent median  
890 lifespan. (C and D) Scatter plots depicting climbing ability compared to median lifespan on the  
891 (C) AL diet or (D) DR. Each dot represents a single DGRP strain. (E) Comparison of DR  
892 responsiveness with regards to median lifespan (white bars) and time above 50% initial climbing  
893 ability (purple bars). (F) Scatter plot depicting response to DR of each tested DGRP line with  
894 regards to median lifespan and amount of time above 50% initial climbing ability. Each dot  
895 represents a single DGRP strain. N = 200 flies per strain per diet.

896 **Figure 4. *Daedalus* regulates DR-specific climbing ability.** (A and B) Plot of the day at which  
897 fewer than 20% of flies climb in tested DGRP lines, split by genotype at the most significant  
898 locus downstream of *dls* on (A) AL or (B) DR.  $p < 4E-5$ , FDR = 3%. (C) Expression of *dls* in the  
899 whole body (W.B.), head, thorax (Thx.), or abdomen (Abd.) of  $w^{1118}$  control strain after seven  
900 days of adulthood on AL (red) or DR (blue). The bars displayed are expression relative to the  
901 whole body AL divided by expression for *rp49* a housekeeping gene. N = 5 flies for whole body,  
902 50 flies for heads, 50 thoraxes, and 50 abdomens repeated in biological triplicates. (D-F) The  
903 effect of *Minos* element insertion on (D) lifespan and (E) climbing ability over the course of life in  
904 a  $w^{1118}$  genetic background, and (F) the  $\log_2$  difference median lifespan and unnormalized  
905 climbing decline between mutant and controls. AL shown in red, DR in blue. Significant  
906 differences between mutant and controls are indicated by \*. \* =  $p < 0.05$ , \*\* =  $p < 0.005$ , \*\*\* =  $p$   
907  $< 0.0005$ . nc = no change, ns = not significant. N = 200 flies per condition for each mutant  
908 experiment. Data in (D-I) show collective results from three biological replicates. Error bars  
909 represent SD between replicates.

910 **Figure 5. *jughead* regulates longevity diet-dependently.** (A and B) Alignment of all 161  
911 DGRP lines according to genotype at a particular locus in *jgh* and according to the day at which  
912  $\leq 75\%$  of flies in a strain remain alive on (A) AL or (B) DR. Strains' median lifespans are  
913 represented by blue dots, black bars represent mean values across all tested strains with a  
914 given genotype and diet. Significance for diet interaction  $p < 9E-5$ , FDR = 8%. (C) Expression of

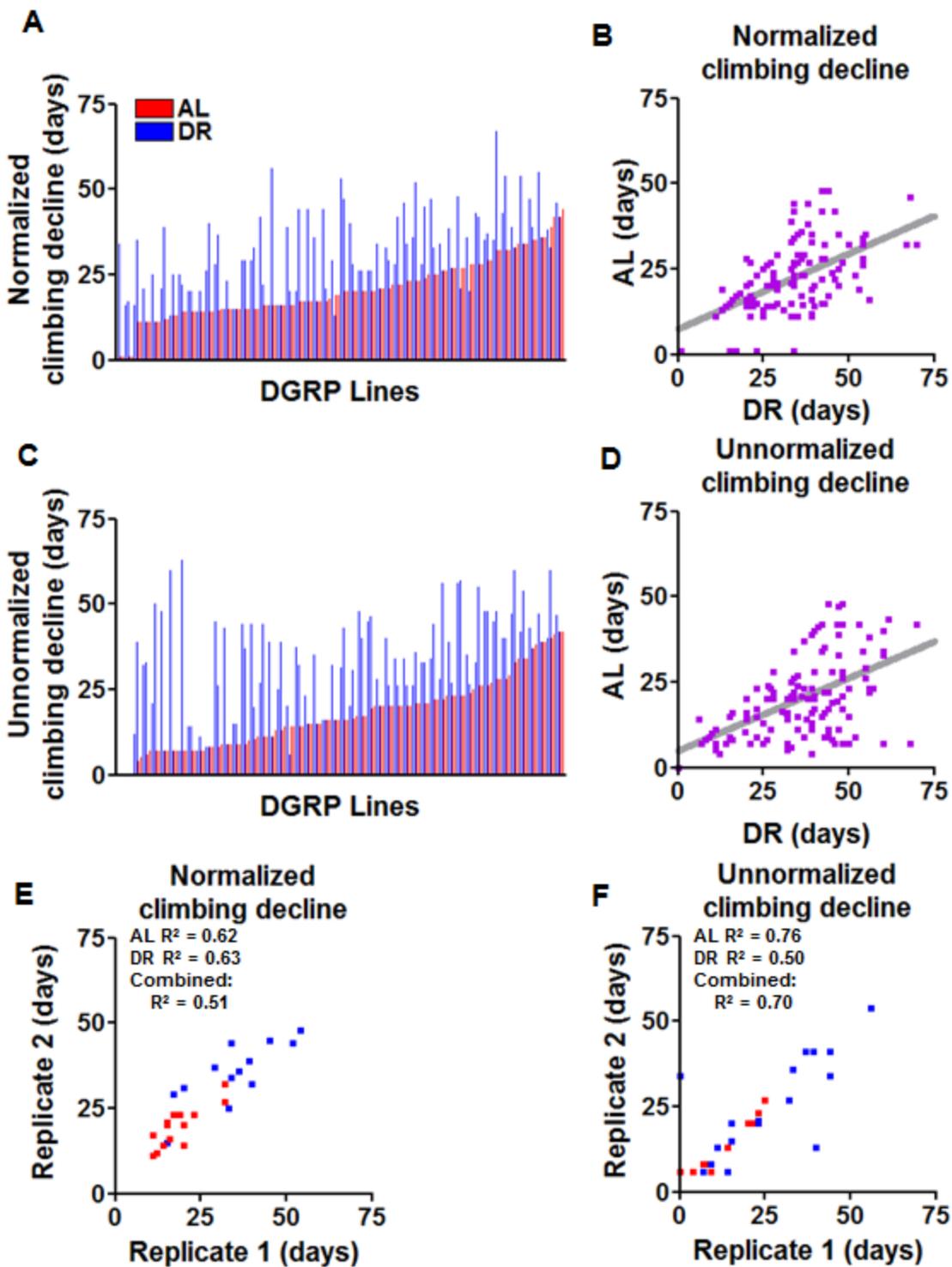
915 *jgh* in the whole body (W.B.), head, thorax (Thx.), or abdomen (Abd.) of  $w^{1118}$  control strain after  
916 seven days of adulthood on AL (red) or DR (blue). The bars displayed are expression relative to  
917 the whole body AL divided by expression for *rp49* a housekeeping gene. N = 5 flies for whole  
918 body, 50 flies for heads, 50 thoraxes, and 50 abdomens repeated in biological triplicates. (D-F)  
919 The effect of neuron-specific RNAi of *jgh* using the v30160 transgenic line in regulating (D)  
920 lifespan and (E) climbing ability over the course of life, with (F)  $\log_2$  fold-changes between RNAi  
921 and control for both median lifespan and unnormalized climbing decline values. AL shown in  
922 red, DR in blue. Significant differences between RNAi and controls are indicated by \*. \* =  $p <$   
923 0.05, \*\* =  $p <$  0.005, \*\*\* =  $p <$  0.0005, determined by unpaired t test. nc = no change, ns = not  
924 significant. N = 200 flies per condition for each RNAi experiment. Data in (D-I) show collective  
925 results from three biological replicates. Error bars represent SD between replicates.

926 **Figure 6. Ferredoxin regulates extreme longevity diet-dependently.** (A and B) Alignment of  
927 all tested lines according to median survival at a particular locus in *Fdxh* on (A) AL or (B) DR.  
928 Difference in median lifespan on DR as determined by Fishers exact test,  $p <$  3E-7, FDR = 10%.  
929 (C) Expression of *Fdxh* in the whole body (W.B.), head, thorax (Thx.), or abdomen (Abd.) of  
930  $w^{1118}$  control strain after seven days of adulthood on AL (red) or DR (blue). The bars displayed  
931 are expression relative to the whole body AL divided by expression for *rp49* a housekeeping  
932 gene. N = 5 flies for whole body, 50 flies for heads, 50 thoraxes, and 50 abdomens repeated in  
933 biological triplicates. (D-F) The effect of whole-body RNAi of *Fdxh* using the v24497 transgenic  
934 line in regulating (D) lifespan and (E) climbing ability over the course of life, with (F)  $\log_2$  fold-  
935 changes in median lifespan and unnormalized climbing decline between RNAi and controls  
936 represented. AL shown in red, DR in blue. Significant differences between RNAi and controls  
937 are indicated by \*. \* =  $p <$  0.05, \*\* =  $p <$  0.005, \*\*\* =  $p <$  0.0005, determined by unpaired t test.  
938 nc = no change. N = 200 flies per condition for each RNAi experiment. Data in (D-I) show  
939 collective results from three biological replicates. Error bars represent SD between replicates.



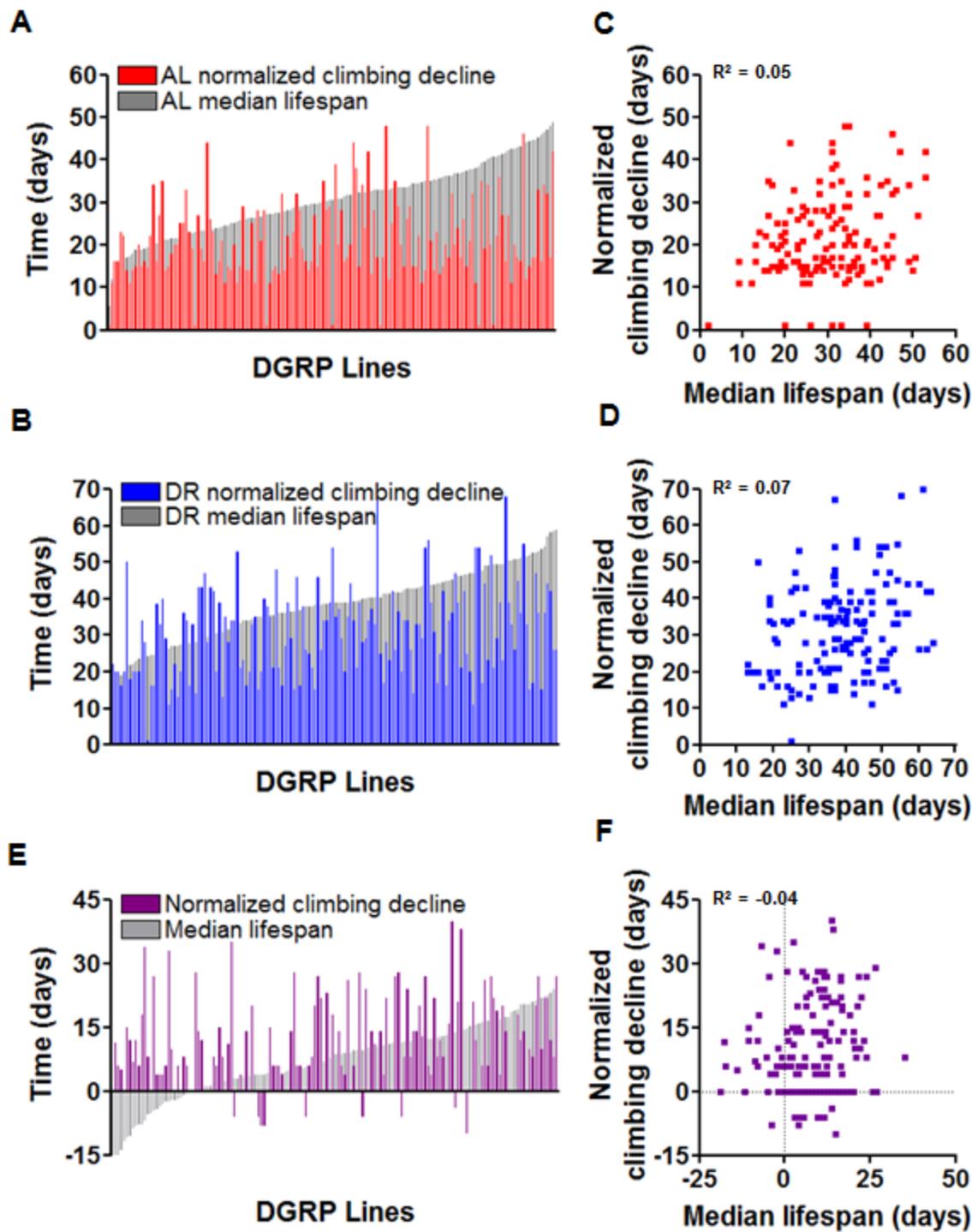
940

941 **Figure 1. Genotype influences variation in lifespan and response to DR across the DGRP**  
942 **lines.**



943

944 Figure 2. Decline in climbing ability varies by genotype.



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946 **Figure 3. Genotype and diet differentially influence lifespan and healthspan separately.**

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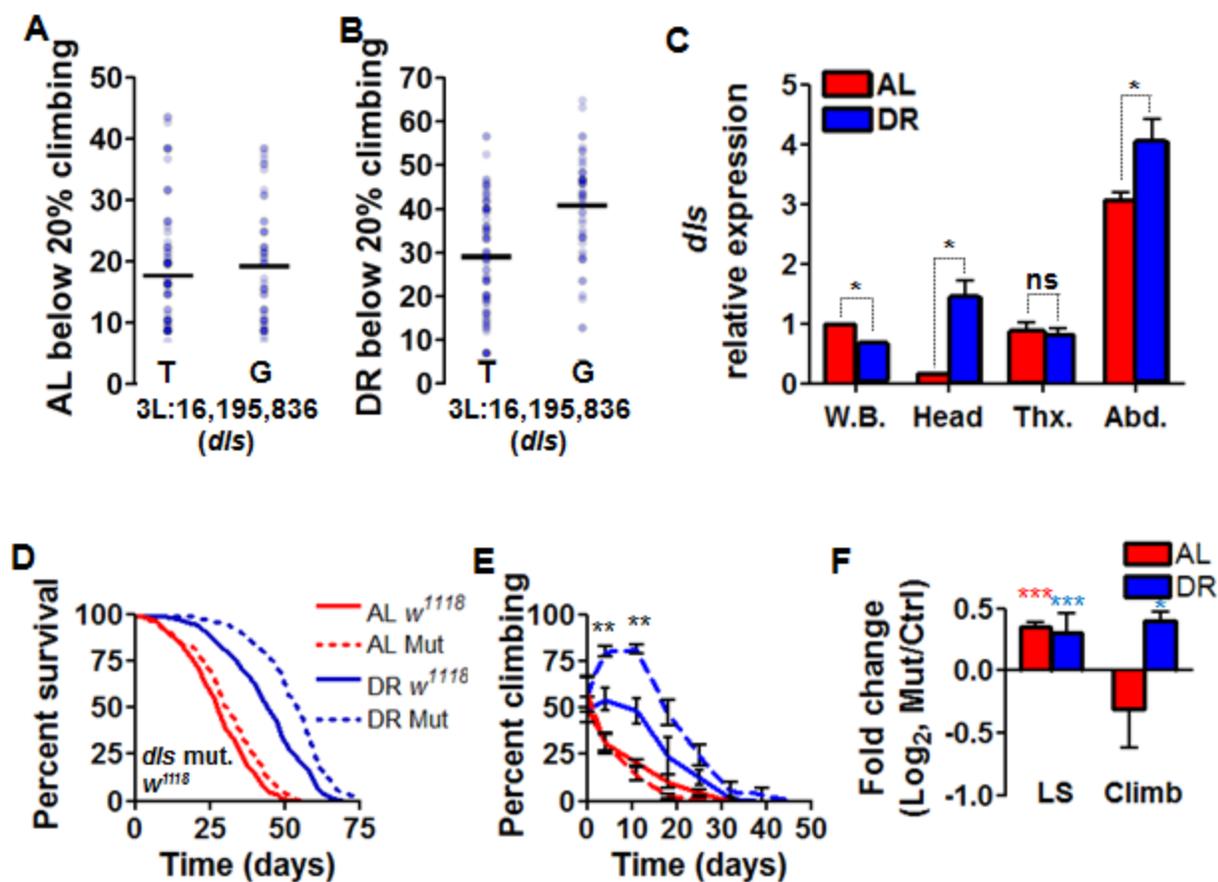
950

951 **Table 1. Lifespan and climbing gene candidates identified by genome-wide association.**

Phenotype	Gene	Marker	Effect/Location	p value	FDR	Type	Description
75% Survival	CR32111	3L:12,638,741		2.50E-05	0%		
		3L:12,638,748	3' UTR	4.16E-05	3%	Interaction	nc transcript
		3L:12,638,743		4.50E-05	3%		
	CG43203	3R:15,179,932	ns	3.39E-05	3%	Interaction	Unknown function
	CG34351	2L:4,707,945	Intron	8.34E-05	8%	Interaction	Neuronal G-protein regulator
Median LS	CG5888	3R:5,443,281	Intron	1.04E-04	10%	Interaction	PHD protein
		2L:16,447,864	Intron	4.67E-10	10%	Genotype	Leucine-rich repeat protein
	CG5888	2L:16,447,727	Intron	2.02E-10	0%	Interaction	Leucine-rich repeat protein
	CR32111	3L:12,638,741		4.81E-05	0%		
		3L:12,638,748	3' UTR	5.80E-05	0%	Interaction	nc transcript
3L:12,638,743			8.13E-05	3%			
CG31221	3R:15,265,527	Intron	7.62E-05	3%	Interaction	Low-density lipoprotein receptor	
DR Median LS	CR45580	3R:722,994	nc region	1.44E-04	10%	Interaction	nc transcript
		3L:9,364,312	Intron	2.90E-07	10%	Case Control	Ferredoxin
	CG15515	3R:25,732,829		7.60E-07	10%		
		2R:25,732,831	Downstream	1.21E-06	10%	Case Control	Unknown function
	CG5778	3R:17,935,173	Intron	1.14E-06	10%	Case Control	Unknown function
50% climbing decline	CR43930	3L:2097785	Upstream	1.50E-04	0%	Interaction	Unknown function
		3L:16,195,836		3.42E-05	3%		
Day below 20% climbing	CG33690	3L:16,195,839		3.54E-05	3%		
		3L:16,195,821		4.36E-05	3%		
		3L:16,195,833	Downstream	5.07E-05	3%	Interaction	Unknown function
	CG33690	3L:16,195,854		5.97E-05	4%		
		3L:16,195,865		1.43E-04	5%		
		3L:16,195,864		1.81E-04	9%		

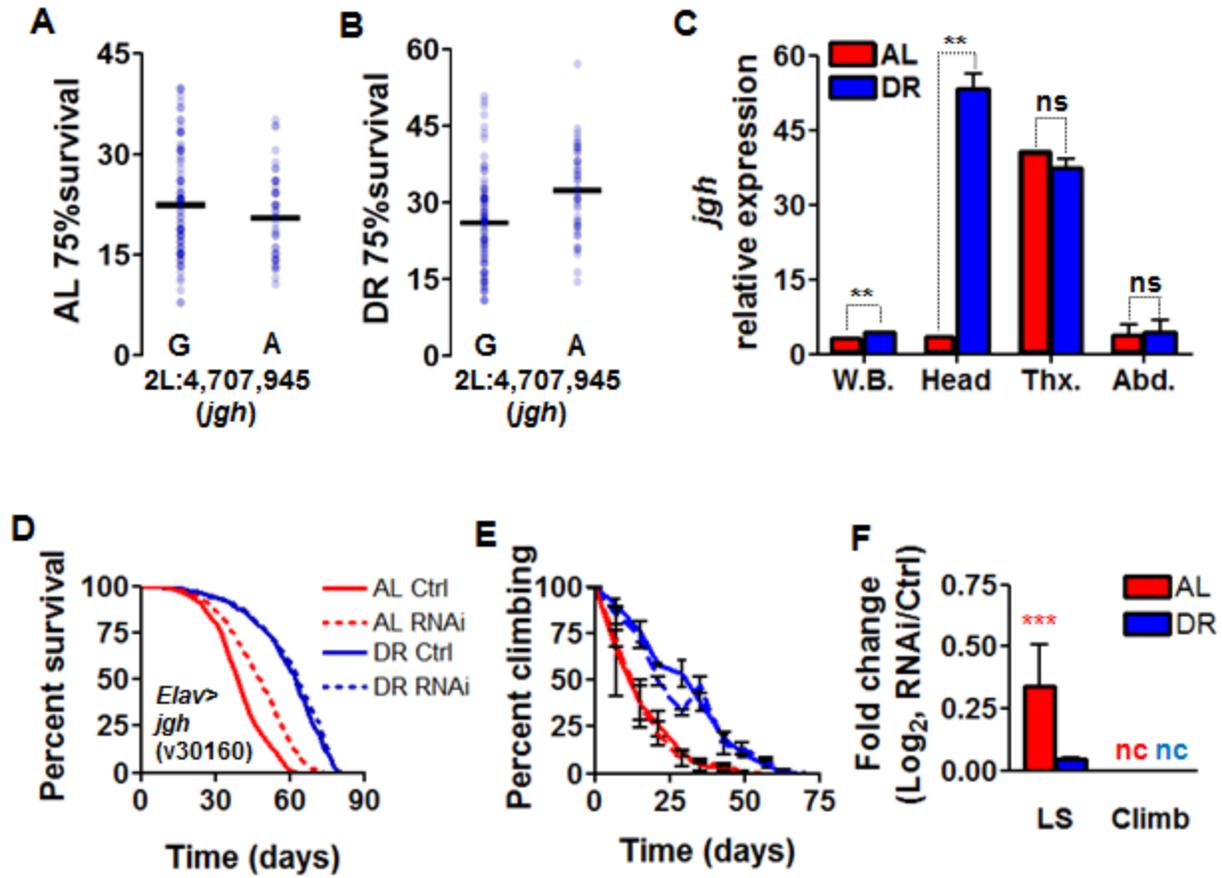
LS = lifespan; ns = non-synonymous; nc = non-coding; genotype, interaction, and case control terms detailed in Methods

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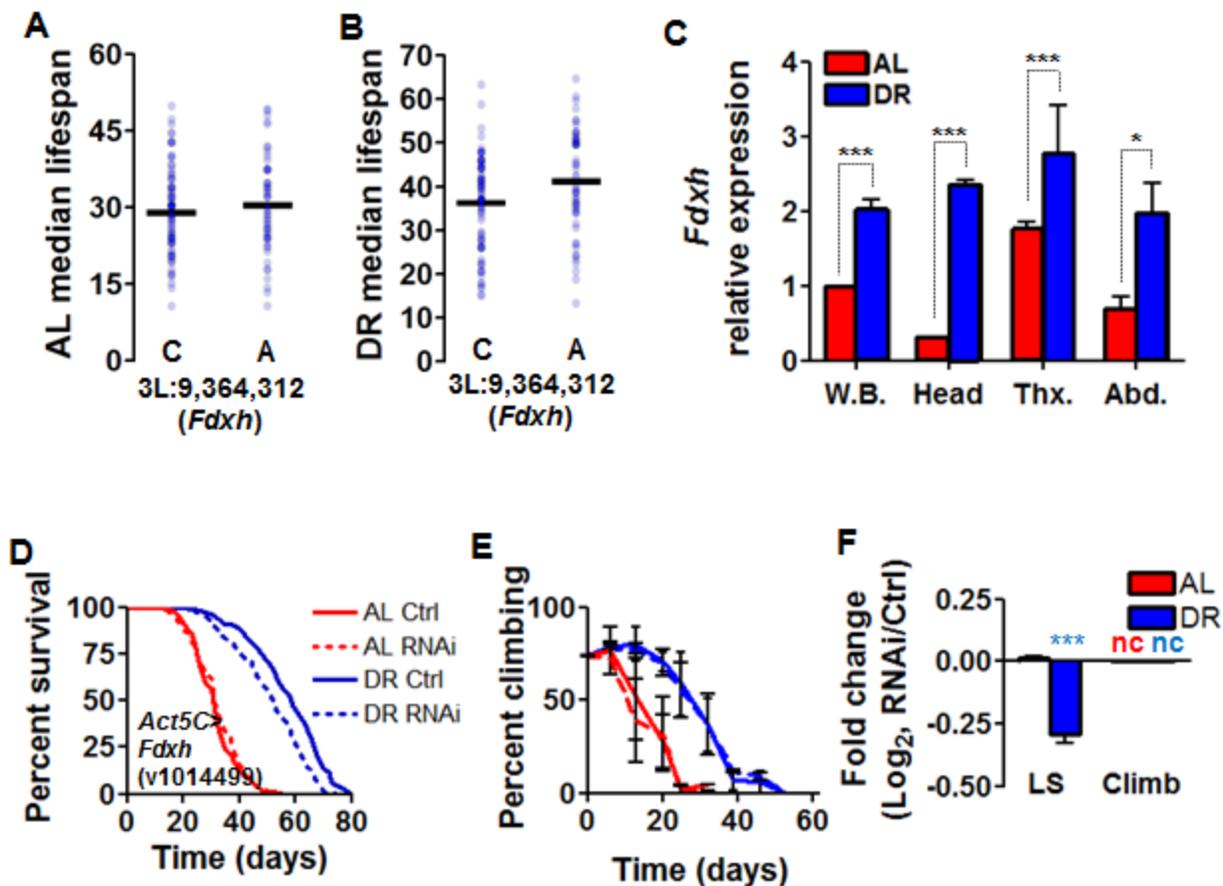
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954 Figure 4. *Daedalus* regulates DR-specific climbing ability.



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956 **Figure 5. *jugh* regulates longevity diet-dependently.**



957

958 **Figure 6. *Ferredoxin* regulates extreme longevity diet-dependently.**