

METHODS

Lifespans

Lifespans were determined at 20°C, as described (1). Animals were cultured on standard agar plates (5-8 animals per plate). Animals that crawled off the plates, exploded, or died as a "bag of worms" were censored, and were incorporated in the data set until that date, as described (2). Survival curves, mean lifespans and *P* values were calculated non-parametrically; log-rank tests were used to assess the similarity between each two groups. Statview 4.5 software (Abacus) was used for all statistical analyses.

Laser ablations

Laser ablations were performed as described (1). Successful ablation was confirmed by examining the reproductive systems of adult animals with a dissecting microscope.

RNA interference

For the RNA interference (RNAi) experiments (3), newly-hatched animals were fed bacteria (HT115) harboring either a plasmid with T7 promoters opposing each other to express dsRNA of *daf-2* (pAD48) or an identical plasmid with no insert (control vector) (pAD12). dsRNA production was achieved by administering 100ul of 0.1M IPTG to the bacterial lawn 2-3 hours before adding the worms. The animals were moved to fresh bacterial lawns every 4-7 days.

1. H. Hsin, C. Kenyon, *Nature* **399**, 362-366 (1999).
2. J. Apfeld, C. Kenyon, *Cell* **95**, 199-210 (1998).
3. A. Dillin, D. K. Crawford, C. Kenyon, *Science* **298**, 830-834 (2002).