

**Table S1. Rescue experiments by *ngn-1* and *hlh-2* transgenes****(A) Rescue of *ngn-1(n1921)* by *ngn-1* transgenes**

Genotype	% animals missing MI*	<i>n</i>
Wild type	0	50
<i>ngn-1(n1921)</i>	96	50
<i>ngn-1(n1921); nEx[ngn-1(+)]</i>	8	50
<i>ngn-1(n1921); nEx[ngn-1(frameshift)]</i>	94	50
<i>ngn-1(n1921); nls[ngn-1::gfp]</i>	4	50

**(B) Rescue of *hlh-2(n5053)* by *hlh-2* transgenes**

Genotype	% animals missing MI*	<i>n</i>
Wild type	0	50
<i>hlh-2(n5053)/+<sup>†</sup></i>	32	50
<i>hlh-2(n5053)/+; nEx[hlh-2(+)]<sup>†</sup></i>	0	50
<i>hlh-2(n5053)/+; nEx[hlh-2(frameshift)]<sup>†</sup></i>	26	50
<i>hlh-2(n5053)/+; nls[hlh-2::gfp]<sup>†</sup></i>	0	50

**(C) Rescue of embryonic lethality in *hlh-2(n5053)* mutants by the *hlh-2* transgenes**

Transgene present in the parent of <i>dpy-5(e61) hlh-2(n5053)</i>	% Dpy Unc progeny <sup>‡</sup>	<i>n</i>
<i>unc-13(e51)/+++</i>		
No transgene	0	647
<i>nEx[hlh-2(+)]</i>	12	348
<i>nEx[hlh-2(frameshift)]</i>	0	313
<i>nls[hlh-2::gfp]</i>	18	296

\*The presence or absence of the MI neuron was determined using Nomarski microscopy.

<sup>†</sup>We allowed hermaphrodites of genotype *dpy-5(e61) ++ unc-55(e1170)/+ hlh-2(n5053) unc-13(e51) +* with or without each transgene to self-fertilize and determined their Non-Dpy non-Unc progeny.

<sup>‡</sup>We allowed hermaphrodites of genotype *dpy-5(e61) hlh-2(n5053) unc-13(e51)/+++* with or without each transgene to self-fertilize and determined the fraction of Dpy Unc progeny.