

## WEBINARS

# Webinar: Alysso Muotri discusses stem cell research in autism

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Here's how Muotri describes what he will discuss in this webinar:

*The complexity of the human brain, with its thousands of neuronal types and microcircuits, has permitted the development of sophisticated behaviors, such as language, self-awareness and consciousness. Much of humans' technological and artistic prowess has stemmed directly from the 'social brain,' which gives us the capacity to interact with each other. Understanding how the social brain forms during development can lead to insights into conditions such as autism, in which social development appears to go awry.*

*In this webinar, I will discuss why reprogrammed cells from people are an attractive research approach. They capture an individual's genome in relevant cell types. We can also re-create three-dimensional structures, or organoids, from these stem cells. These 'mini-brains' can recapitulate the organization of the different regions related to the social brain. They are simplified models of early human neurodevelopment that allow for analyses of target cells over time. They thus offer a unique opportunity to investigate cellular and molecular underpinnings of conditions such as autism. I will discuss the use of this approach in my lab to gain insights into genetic conditions and explore the impact of environmental factors on neurodevelopment.*