

**SPECIAL REPORT SUBARTICLE**

# Quotes of the year

BY SPECTRUM

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“I’m trying to quantify awkward.”

**Ruth Grossman**, Emerson College, summing up her research on **social communication** in children with autism.

“When you have a hammer, everything looks like a nail.”

**Mark Bear**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on what he says is an overhyping of the **mTOR pathway’s role in fragile X** syndrome.

“To ban a potentially lifesaving medication for women of childbearing age is equivalent to saying that her potential unborn child is more important than she is.”

**Jacqueline French**, New York University, responding to a **partial ban** in Europe on the epilepsy drug valproate’s use in pregnant women.

“It certainly doesn’t win you friends.”

**Peter Kind**, University of Edinburgh, on his research into **pseudoreplication**, a form of statistical error that he has shown is surprisingly widespread.

“Asperger [syndrome] was put in a coffin with the DSM-5, and maybe this information will be the final nail in terms of preventing it from coming back.”

**David Mandell**, responding to new evidence linking Hans Asperger to the **Nazi regime**.

“The notion that people with autism are just wrong about themselves all the time struck me as implausible.”

**Matthew Lerner**, Stony Brook University, on the **importance of self-assessments** in autism research.

“I’m happy that I don’t have to pay for a 900-pound safe and figure out where to put it, because that was seriously an issue [before].”

**Francisco Castellanos**, New York University, after the much-awaited legalization of a **marijuana-derived epilepsy drug**.

“I scored this nose-to-butt sniffing for 10 years, but do I really understand [it]?”

**Mu Yang**, Columbia University, questioning whether researchers really know **which mouse behaviors** constitute a social act.

“I wish more people would cancel meetings with me.”

**Nicola Grissom**, University of Minnesota, revealing her **secret to productivity**.