

NEWS

# Community newsletter: Brain map; communication guide

BY MICHAEL FERGENSON

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Twitter is full of distracting rabbit holes, but these two threads guided us through some riveting details, holding our attention and the attention of many others.

“GoogleMaps **for the brain!**” tweeted **Bratislav Misic**, associate professor and Canada research chair of the Network Neuroscience Lab at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, in a thread where he describes his and his colleagues’ toolbox for **contextualizing human brain maps** called neuromaps.

1? neuromaps is a toolbox for contextualizing human brain maps.

It includes a growing repo of brain maps in their original coordinate space, including microstructure, function, electrophysiology, receptors, and more ????????

[pic.twitter.com/MC0bVMted7](https://pic.twitter.com/MC0bVMted7)

— Bratislav Misic (@misicbata) **October 6, 2022**

Neuromaps promise to “enable researchers to systematically share, transform, and compare brain maps,” the team wrote in a **paper** published 6 October in *Nature Methods*.

“Neuromaps is an **indispensable tool** for understanding and rigorously annotating your imaging data. Hard to imagine how we made do without it!” tweeted **Ted Satterthwaite**, associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Check out this amazing work from [@rossdavism](#) [@JustineYHansen](#) [@misicbata](#) and an amazing team! Neuromaps is an indispensable tool for understanding and rigorously annotating your imaging data. Hard to imagine how we made do without it!!

<https://t.co/3YzWVDXtzG>

— Ted Satterthwaite (@sattertt) **October 6, 2022**

“This is such an \*incredibly\* useful tool for **human neuroscience**! Integrating structural, genetic, functional, neurotransmitter, etc. maps,” tweeted **Brad Voytek**, associate professor of cognitive science at the University of California, San Diego.

This is such an \*incredibly\* useful tool for human neuroscience! Integrating structural, genetic, functional, neurotransmitter, etc. maps. I love this paper, approach, and Python package. It's fantastic work. <https://t.co/GNnTinnZD4>

— Brad Voytek (@bradleyvoytek) **October 6, 2022**

“So grateful for [@rossdavism](#)(!), my lab, and all neuromappers for what turned out to be a very **collaborative + fun project**,” tweeted **Justine Hansen**, a graduate student studying neuroscience at Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital in Canada. Hansen also shared a link to a **blog post** describing her role in the project, which is, as she puts it, is a handy tool for letting her parents know what it is she does.

neuromaps is live!

Here's the blog post I wrote, mostly so that I can send it to my parents when they ask me what it is I do: <https://t.co/P9KyuqewDT>

So grateful for [@rossdavism](#) (!), my lab, and all neuromappers for what turned out to be a very collaborative + fun project ???? <https://t.co/m4UgUzyzC4>

— Justine Hansen (@JustineYHansen) **October 6, 2022**

The next thread we dove deep into features a guidebook for communication.

“How can we reduce the vast **health inequities** that autistic people face?” **Gemma Williams**, a research fellow at the University of Brighton in England, asked.

She answered with 10 recommendations to improve communication with autistic people in health-care settings, the output of a **project** co-produced with 17 people in the autism community, “including autistic healthcare users, autistic health professionals, researchers and non-autistic health professionals.”

A group of 17 collaborators - including autistic healthcare users, autistic health professionals, researchers and non-autistic health professionals - created this **@ESRC** funded resource. It's on the NHS Futures platform, but also available here: <https://t.co/hSmhpbOBfS>

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— Dr Gemma L. Williams ???? (@DjzemaLouiz) **October 7, 2022**

“This is very relevant to my research on **assessing for dementia in autistic people**. Dementia clinicians will be seeing autistic people in their clinics but may not be considering that,” tweeted **Lynsey Stewart**, a psychology research assistant at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

“That’s exactly it- autistic people are autistic across their whole lifespan but many older folk **missed diagnoses** when they were young,” Williams replied.

Ah this sounds like really important research. That's exactly it- autistic people are autistic across their whole lifespan but many older folk missed diagnoses when they were young. **@autismage** and I have spoken about dementia diagnoses overshadowing autism I think?

— Dr Gemma L. Williams ???? (@DjzemaLouiz) **October 7, 2022**

Amid thanks, Twitter user Healthevents Ltd pointed out, “**Communication** is a two way process. Until you understand & respect each other nothing good can happen.”

Thank you. You have brought forward the message that I have been advocating for years. Communication is a two way process. Until you understand & respect each other nothing good can happen. Healthcare is the most important area. Will share far and wide. **@OrlaUi** #autism#healthcare

— Healthevents Ltd (@healthevents1) **October 8, 2022**

Holly Radford, a psychology student at the University of Portsmouth in England, called the recommendations excellent, tweeting that they “would benefit **many other groups** of people too.”

Excellent recommendations for supporting communication with **#ActuallyAutistic** people in healthcare settings. I imagine these recommendations would benefit many other groups of people too. Great work **@DjzemaLouiz!** <https://t.co/7h2RXTPCFb>

— Holly Radford (@HRadders) **October 11, 2022**

Echoing the sentiment of the many other tweets we couldn't fit here, Iris Warchall, a physical therapist in Oakland, California, issued an imperative: “If you are a healthcare provider, you **NEED** to read this!”

If you are a healthcare provider, you **NEED** to read this! Guidelines for supporting effective communication with autistic patients: <https://t.co/pl6AP1vsQv>

— Iris Warchall, PT, DPT (@warchall) **October 8, 2022**

**Excited for Neuroscience 2022 in San Diego? Let us know your plans during the meeting by taking this one-minute **survey**.**

That's it for this week's Community Newsletter! If you have any suggestions for interesting social posts you saw in the autism research sphere, feel free to send an email to [michael@spectrumnews.org](mailto:michael@spectrumnews.org).

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