

NEWS

# Community Newsletter: Race reporting, benchmarking, chandelier cells

BY SPECTRUM

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Here it is — your weekly update on important autism research tweets, fresh baked from the computer.

**Jessica Steinbrenner**, advanced research scientist at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her colleagues tweeted a thread via *Autism* about **their new finding**: Autism intervention research often fails to report participants' race and ethnicity, and when it does, it overlooks historically marginalized groups.

<https://twitter.com/journalautism/status/1486372571696222216>

“How can we even begin to address **#racialinequity** within **#autism** research if we don't even know the demographics of the sample/population?” Lindy J. Johnson, a doctoral student at Michigan State University in East Lansing, **asked in response**.

<https://twitter.com/lindyjjohnson/status/1486409001172615173>

**Jason Chow**, assistant professor of special education at the University of Maryland in College Park, shared a six-part thread about his new paper, in which he and his colleagues set out to establish **field- and outcome-specific benchmarks** for effect sizes to help other researchers plan their work and evaluate clinical trials.

<https://twitter.com/JasonChow/status/1486032546240647177>

In the last tweet of the thread, Chow offers a link through which the first 50 copies of the published paper are free. He also gives the link to the preprint for latecomers.

**Tony Charman**, professor of clinical child psychiatry at King's College London in the United Kingdom, tweeted **praise for the team**, as did others.

<https://twitter.com/TonyASDorAFC/status/1486598718631591938>

**Sarabeth Broder-Fingert**, assistant professor of pediatrics at Boston University in Massachusetts, forecast widespread use of the recommendations, joking that it was too bad future citations of Chow's work in grants wouldn't **boost his H-index**, a measure of academic impact.

<https://twitter.com/sbroderfingert/status/1486181467524898819>

(Elsewhere on Twitter this week, autism researchers congratulated Chow's colleague on the work, **Micheal Sandbank**, assistant professor of special education at the University of Texas at Austin, on her upcoming **move to join the faculty** at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.)

<https://twitter.com/MichealSandbank/status/1486094337838653445>

**Noah Sasson**, professor of psychology at the University of Texas at Dallas, **tweeted a reminder** that "it's not hard" to be careful to not frame studies of autism traits as studies of autism.

<https://twitter.com/Noahsasson/status/1486343279117582337>

And for a visual treat, swing through this **Twitter thread** from the Allen Institute to see chandelier cells in all their glory, extending onto pyramidal neurons in layer 2/3 of the mouse visual cortex and fluorescing into action.

<https://twitter.com/AllenInstitute/status/1485662813938851841>

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 [news@spectrumnews.org](mailto:news@spectrumnews.org).

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