

NEWS

Community Newsletter: Upcoming webinars, participatory research resources, research reactions

BY SPECTRUM

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Ready for your weekly recap of autism research tweets?

First up in this edition of *Spectrum's* Community Newsletter, **the cover of *The Lancet*** on 15 January featured a quote from the journal's recent commission on the future of autism care and clinical research.

On this week's cover, a quote from The Lancet Commission on the future of care & clinical research in **#autism**: <https://t.co/4GotrTcBmO>

Access the new issue: <https://t.co/VSFYpk0XVt> pic.twitter.com/XKwsUIZLJf

— The Lancet (@TheLancet) **January 14, 2022**

The issue offers a **report from the commission**, plus a **profile** of commission co-chair **Catherine Lord**, distinguished professor of psychiatry and education at the University of California, Los Angeles, and **a comment** from **Monica Juneja**, professor of pediatrics at Maulana Azad Medical College in New Delhi, India, and her colleagues. All are useful reads before tuning in to the ***Spectrum* webinar** this coming Wednesday, 26 January 2022, at 11 a.m. EST with Lord and her commission co-chair, **Tony Charman**, chair of clinical child psychology at King's College London in the United Kingdom.

Also on Wednesday at 11 a.m. EST, **Jill Silverman**, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of California, Davis, will talk about **translational biomarkers**, tweeted **Silvia De Rubeis**, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Seaver Autism Center for Research and Treatment at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City, who coordinates the center's **seminar series**. Both talks will be recorded, so you can watch one or the other later.

Next on our 2022 lineup is **@jill_silverman_** (**@ucdavis**)

Join us on **@worldwideneuro** on Wed 26th to learn about translational biomarkers of preclinical models of neurodev disorders **@worldwideneuro** <https://t.co/efdzvIE0bf>
@SeaverAutism @SinaiBrain @MountSinaiPsych <https://t.co/PmTCL8oSg0>
[pic.twitter.com/jpudJAShGV](https://t.co/pic.twitter.com/jpudJAShGV)

— Silvia De Rubeis (@DeRubeisLab) **January 13, 2022**

The International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) has launched a new initiative, the **INSAR Community Collaborator Request**, to connect autism researchers with autistic adults, among other stakeholders, to pursue participatory research, autistic researcher **Zack Williams** tweeted. Williams, an M.D./Ph.D. student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, gives details in a thoughtful thread, with links to additional resources from **Sue Fletcher-Watson**, professor of developmental psychology at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

2022 New exciting opportunity for both autistic people and autism researchers 2022 The **@AutismINSAR** Community Collaborator Request (**#ICCR**) is a new initiative that helps connect autism researchers and autistic adults (or other stakeholders) to collaborate on participatory research 1/2022 <https://t.co/v9laGNuyXS>

— Zack Williams (@QuantPsychiatry) **January 20, 2022**

Nature Medicine **starred a research paper** published in November in *Cell* that flips the link between autism and microbiome differences: Instead of causing the condition's traits, microbiome differences may result from the dietary preferences many autistic people have. *Spectrum* covered **some of the work** in October.

? Research Highlight: **#microbiome** alterations have been associated with **#autism**, but a study published in **@CellCellPress** suggests that this may be a consequence of autism-related dietary preferences, rather than a causal factor. <https://t.co/fbPRWFqQBb>

— Nature Medicine (@NatureMedicine) **January 20, 2022**

And, “The emperor has no clothes,” tweeted **Andrew Whitehouse**, professor of autism research at Telethon Kids and University of Western Australia in Perth, about a **new test for autism that was** granted ‘breakthrough device’ status by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in December. *Spectrum* covered the **agency’s announcement** last week.

No clinical validity at all for how hair analysis can diagnose a complex, neurodevelopmental and behaviourally-defined condition.
The emperor has no clothes.

FDA cites hair-based autism diagnostic aid as ‘breakthrough’ <https://t.co/QdvvXg5j4S>
Newsletters via **@Spectrum**

— Andrew Whitehouse (@AJOWhitehouse) **January 17, 2022**

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.

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