NEWS

Sensory traits in fragile X; epidurals and autism

BY **MICHAEL FERGENSON**

30 JULY 2023

Nazim Kourdougli of the University of California, Los Angeles, linked to his team's study, "**Improvement of sensory deficits in fragile X mice by increasing cortical interneuron activity after the critical period**," published in *Neuron* 13 July. *Spectrum* **covered** a preprint version of the study in July 2022.

Hannah Dahlen of Western Sydney University linked to the study "**Association of labor epidural analgesia, oxytocin exposure, and risk of autism spectrum disorders in children**," published in *JAMA Open Network* 21 July. In April, *Spectrum* **covered** research that refutes the link.

> An interesting study out in JAMA on the association between Autism Spectrum Disorder&epidural&/or oxytocin. They found a 20% increase in ASD assoc with EDB use and a 30% increase with both EDB&oxytocin combined, but not with oxytocin alone. Caution needed. **https://t.co/Ml3wrAVRVD**
>
> — Hannah Dahlen AM (@hannahdahlen) **July 21, 2023**

Mohammad Farhan of Hamad Bin Khalifa University linked to the study "**The ortholog of human ssDNA-binding protein SSBP3 influences neurodevelopment and autism-like behaviors in *Drosophila melanogaster***," published in *PLOS Biology* 24 July.

Philip Hubbard of the Janelia Research Campus linked to the connectome resource

NeuronBridge.

The **Allen Institute** linked to the article "**A high-level explanation of the protocols necessary to implement the Expansion Selective Plane Illumination Microscopy (ExA–SPIM) pipeline**," published on its site 13 July. *Spectrum* **covered the pipeline** earlier this month.

Post by @alleninstitute

View on Threads

Benjamin Sun of the University of Cambridge described his team's preprint, "**isGWAS: ultra-high-throughput, scalable and equitable inference of genetic associations with disease**," posted on bioRxiv 27 July.

Arabella Bouzigues of the Paris Brain Institute posted about a keynote speech from the Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) annual meeting. The speech, titled "**Mapping brain functional and structural differences in ASD: moving toward precision treatment**," was given by Xujun Duan of the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China.

> Flabbergasted at this morning's keynote Xujun Duan's **#OHBM2023** ????????
>
> Her group's work suggests that FC studies are definitely relevant in **#autism** research and can help derive specific targets for brain **#stimulation** which relates to **#behavioural** improvements!! ???? **pic.twitter.com/eMmOqJR0S5**
>
> — Arabella Bouzigues (@A_Bouzigues) **July 25, 2023**

Iva Ilioska of the Donders Institute posted about her talk from OHBM, "**Multiscale heterogeneity**

of functional connectivity in autism."

> I'm a tiny bit late with this. Talk already happened, but poster is still standing today. So drop by number 426 if you'd like to chat about multiscale heterogeneity of functional connectivity in autism **#OHBM2023 https://t.co/3Zuh9GKdzH**
>
> — Iva Ilioska (@IvaIlioska) **July 24, 2023**

Gal Kepler of Tel Aviv University shared his poster from OHBM, "**Robust removal of confounds in longitudinal studies**."

Johanna Calderon of the University of Montpellier and **Nancy Beluk** of the University of Pittsburgh **replied** to posts about "**Change of heart and mind: Autism's ties to cardiac defects** ," published in *Spectrum* 21 July.

> We've come a long way in this field, but there is still so much to learn. Proud to work with such wonderful lab members who think outside the box. **@AshokPanigrahy6 @PIRC_Pitt https://t.co/iFuzex4QnP**
>
> — Nancy Hill Beluk (@NHB_SMRT) **July 22, 2023**

The **Autism Research Institute** linked to "**'A catalyst for change': NIH makes first call for research supporting minimally verbal autistic people**," published in *Spectrum* 18 July. Gene Bensinger of the Profound Autism Alliance commented about the article.

> Because nonverbal children are so little studied, and their progress is often so incremental, it's hard for research to demonstrate measurable results. A first-ever Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) is encouraging researchers to submit grant proposals. **https://t.co/pYjSFEPp8r**
>
> — Autism Research Institute (@ariConference) **July 21, 2023**

Post by @genebensinger

View on Threads

Mark Zylka of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill linked to "**'Gain-of-function' mutation spawns autism traits**," published in *Spectrum* 24 July.

> Nice article **@Spectrum** summarizing our recent paper on Ube3a GOF mutations. **@LeiXing7 @jeremy_m_simon @jasonyilab**
>
> 'Gain-of-function' mutation spawns autism traits. **https://t.co/uv4vkxoBHs**
>
> — Mark Zylka (@MarkZylka) **July 24, 2023**

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**.

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