

NEWS, SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Antipsychotic side effects, online training, protein predictions

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Research roundup

- More than half of autistic 8-year-olds miss out on early-intervention programs, and many come from underserved communities, according to data collected over 10 years in New Jersey. *JAMA Pediatrics*
- People with copy number variants in the 22q11.2 chromosomal region have distinct neuroanatomical traits that change over time in ways that relate to diagnoses of autism or psychosis. *Molecular Psychiatry*
- People with variants of the ADGRL1 gene may have any of a range of neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism; a mouse model shows stereotyped behaviors, unusual locomotor activity and altered synapse formation. *American Journal of Human Genetics*
- Autistic children may be more vulnerable than children with other disabilities to disruptions in daily routines, support services and sleep — and were especially so earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic. *PLOS One*
- Antipsychotic drugs tend to cause significant weight gain in people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, according to a review of studies. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*
- A protein that helps move lipids within cells — phosphatidylinositol transfer protein — seems to be a key regulator in the migration of cortical neurons during development and may play a role in neurodevelopmental conditions. *Cell Reports*
- Online training for parents of autistic children compares favorably with in-person training to reduce parents' stress and improve children's emotional control and flexibility. *Autism*
- Depression is associated with autism traits in adolescents, and social standing at school plays a role in that link. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*

Folding fix: An artificial-intelligence tool has predicted the 3D structure of some 200 million proteins.

Image courtesy of DeepMind

- Differences in the Rho-GTPase signaling pathways, implicated in autism's cognitive traits, are also involved in the development of motor circuits. [Molecular Psychiatry](#)
- Psychiatrists in the United States receive few hours of training and little hands-on exposure to people with autism or intellectual disability, even though both conditions are associated with other psychiatric conditions. [Autism](#)

Science and society

- An artificial-intelligence tool from the company Deep Mind has predicted the shape of 200 million proteins. [The New York Times](#)
- Researchers have developed a freely accessible computer-based program to help autistic children develop their attentional skills. [University of Birmingham](#)
- Autism researcher Micheal Sandbank pointed out an error in one of the *Lancet* Commission report's tables. *Spectrum* covered [the report](#) last December. [Twitter](#)
- A man in Seattle, Washington, describes getting an autism diagnosis at age 34, after years of misdiagnoses and medications, when his therapist used a screen created for children and adolescents. [The Seattle Times](#)
- The International Society of Psychiatric Genetics urges caution on embryo screening for psychiatric conditions until the clinical, social and ethical implications are better understood. [The Lancet Psychiatry](#)
- Implanting human neurons into animal brains could lead to important research discoveries but also raises ethical questions. [Nature](#)

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