

NEWS, SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Double empathy, cortical-cerebellar links, public peer review

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Research roundup

- Autistic people report heightened sensory and physical experiences during pregnancy; they are also more likely than non-autistic people to have prenatal anxiety and depression. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Damian Milton, who originated the idea of the double empathy problem 10 years ago, writes with his colleagues about work in the area and future directions. *Autism*
- The sodium channel Nav1.8 appears to be an effective therapeutic target for Pitt-Hopkins syndrome, which is caused by mutations of the TCF4 gene. *Molecular Psychiatry*
- Autistic people have a distinctive pattern of neural activity between the cortex and the cerebellum during social interactions, according to a new preprint that has not been peer-reviewed. *medRxiv*
- Newborn babies show a diversity of white-matter maturation patterns, according to a large imaging study. *Neuron*
- A common mutation in the autism-linked gene NLGN3 — the R451C substitution — increases the strength of excitatory synapses while leaving inhibitory synapses unaffected. *Molecular Psychiatry*
- Autistic adolescents and young adults are more likely than their non-autistic peers to be hospitalized with a psychiatric diagnosis, and autistic women are more frequently hospitalized with anxiety, depressive or sleep disorders than autistic men are. *JAMA Psychiatry*
- People living in England who speak a language other than English or who are economically disadvantaged face barriers to accessing autism diagnoses, services and supports. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*

Uneven landscape: Access to autism services varies across England.

- Researchers should monitor short-term and long-term adverse effects of behavioral interventions for autism, two autism experts argue in a commentary. *Autism*
- Global DNA methylation patterns differ between autistic and non-autistic people, as well as between autistic people with and without fragile X syndrome. *Genes*

Science and society

- The editors of the scientific journal *eLife* consider the plusses and minuses of their 18-month practice of public reviews of preprints. *eLife*
 - A group of bioethicists shares how collaborating with neuroscientists can help address ethical concerns that arise with brain organoid research. *Nature Neuroscience*
 - Lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Pennsylvania, such as worker shortages, mean that autism programs and services for adults are severely limited. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*
 - TikTok has become a platform for young autistic voices, but it carries content that contributes to stereotypes. *The Conversation*
 - Peer review is inadequate for identifying fraud in scientific papers. *Undark*
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