

SPOTTED

Risky business; urgent care; the old college try

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Risky business

Public health experts are bracing for a **weakening of safeguards** for food and medicines during the Donald Trump presidency, *STAT* reported Tuesday.

Trump has criticized food safety regulations of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) — referring to the agency as the “Food Police.” He has promised to make it easier to import drugs manufactured in other countries as well.

Health advocates also worry that Trump will expand so-called “Right to Try” laws, which make unapproved drugs available to people with terminal illnesses. Another concern: Congress might slash the FDA’s funding.

“Between a Trump presidency and a radically pro-business Congress, the next few years may see a removal of numerous consumer protections,” **Michael Jacobson**, cofounder and president of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, told *STAT*.

SOURCES:

STAT / 22 Nov 2016

Could the FDA be dismantled under Trump?

<https://www.statnews.com/2016/11/22/fda-donald-trump/>

Urgent care

The parents of a 7-year-old with autism make a personal **plug for early intervention** in *JAMA*

Pediatrics.

Charles and Jennifer DiBona's son seemed to be developing typically until shortly before his second birthday, when he stopped speaking. At that time, he also began staring out the window for hours at a time and recoiling when they tried to touch him.

The DiBonas did not want to wait the typical six months for an autism evaluation. So they called a pediatric neurologist daily, hoping for a last-minute opening. Their strategy paid off: Their son received an autism diagnosis within two months, and began receiving services by age 2 1/2.

The early treatment, the DiBonas believe, has left their son better adjusted in elementary school than his peers with autism who began treatment when they were older.

"Our son certainly requires substantial support in school, but the degree and type of support he needs is generally less extreme and costly than that needed by many of his peers who started treatment later," they write.

SOURCES:

JAMA Pediatrics / 14 Nov 2016

Shorter wait times for autism intervention is a win-win-win for kids, parents, and taxpayers

<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2583515>

Diversity dip

The pool of Ph.D.s in the United States is becoming increasingly diverse. But the makeup of biomedical faculty **is not keeping pace** on this front, according to a new study described in *The Atlantic* on Tuesday.

Between 1980 and 2014, the number of Ph.D.s granted to individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups increased more than ninefold. But this period saw only a 2.6-fold jump in the number of assistant professors in medical schools from these groups.

No such gap appeared for whites and Asians. Both Ph.D.s and professorships about doubled for members of these groups over the 34 years.

The findings suggest that the lack of faculty diversity isn't due to a shortage of qualified candidates. Instead, hiring practices may be to blame.

"Saying that there are not enough applicants in the pool can no longer be an excuse," **Mónica**

Feliú-Mójer, vice-director of Ciencia Puerto Rico, a nonprofit for Latino scientists, told *The Atlantic*.

SOURCES:

The Atlantic / 22 Nov 2016

Science's minority talent pool is growing — but draining away

http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/11/the-minority-talent-pool-in-science-is-growing-and-draining-away/508481/?utm_source=feed

The old college try

A generation of children with **autism is arriving at college**. “Growing numbers” of teens with autism are “fanning out to campuses across the country,” *The New York Times* reported Saturday.

The trend, according to the newspaper, is a result of a spike in autism diagnoses since the 1990s along with increased access to mainstream education for children with autism.

Many of these students need extra support, and nearly 40 U.S. colleges have established programs to assist students with autism. At Western Kentucky University, for example, 45 undergraduates are enrolled in the Kelly Autism Program, which provides tutoring, instruction in organizational, social and independent living skills and advocacy services.

Andy Arnold, a 23-year-old with autism, says that Western Kentucky’s program has helped him adjust to college life. “I feel less panicky,” he told *The New York Times*. “I like getting to know people here at the center. We have something in common.”

SOURCES:

The New York Times / 16 Nov 2016

Along the autism spectrum, a path through campus life

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/20/health/autism-spectrum-college.html>

Medicine in translation

The *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) has launched an **online repository** of important papers translated into Chinese.

The resource — a partnership between the NEJM Group and Jiahui Medical Research and

Education in Shanghai, China — contains more than 250 articles published in *NEJM* and *NEJM Journal Watch* in the past five years. The translated articles focus primarily on cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

New articles are to be added weekly, accompanied by commentary from scholars in China.

“Our aim is to improve clinical practice and to strengthen the links between China and the international medical community,” write the authors of **an editorial** in Monday’s *NEJM*.

SOURCES:

The New England Journal of Medicine / 21 Nov 2016

Making an impact on clinical practice and research in china

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe1614121>

Job news

Making a career move? Send your news to **jobmoves@spectrumnews.org**.
