

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Brain coordination, SCN1A seizures, fetal tissue research

BY JILL ADAMS

23 APRIL 2021

WEEK OF APRIL 19TH

Research roundup

- Autistic people show less synchrony of neural activity during face-to-face conversation than non-autistic people. [Autism Research](#)
- Inhibitory interneurons seem to mediate heat-induced seizures in mice with mutations in the autism-linked SCN1A gene. [eNeuro](#)
- Rhesus macaques with low sociability have high rates of traumatic injury — which may reflect bullying. [Autism Research](#)
- Genetic analysis of traits associated with psychiatric diagnoses may reveal relationships between conditions such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry](#)
- Most genetic variants observed in a sample of people with intellectual disability in Finland occur spontaneously, consistent with findings in other populations. [Human Genetics](#)
- Autistic adults with depression — especially women and those with fewer depressive symptoms — generally say their current treatment is helpful, according to a survey. [Autism Research](#)
- Over the past 120 years, the percentage of U.S. physicians who are Black has increased only from 1.3 percent to 5.4 percent. [Journal of General Internal Medicine](#)
- Some psychiatrists argue that ‘sluggish cognitive tempo’ should be an official diagnosis, distinct from a form of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [STAT](#)
- Some 5- to 6-year-olds with autism have atypical brain wave activity while engaged in an executive control task. [Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging](#)
- A relationship between affective touch and temporal lobe activity appears to be largely

absent in autistic adolescents. *Translational Psychiatry*

Science and society

- Black people and other people of color are often excluded from workplace efforts to hire neurodiverse employees. *Forbes*
- The Biden administration has lifted restrictions on fetal tissue research, which includes studies on a broad range of medical conditions. *The New York Times*

Ban revoked: Researchers are now allowed to use fetal tissue in experiments.

Patrick Semansky / Associated Press

- Two members of the U.S.-based National Academy of Sciences face possible expulsion because of documented sexual harassment behavior. *Science*
 - An autism advocate says learning that she carried a known genetic variant associated with autism felt profound. *CNN*
-