

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Dementia risk, sleep anxiety, novel variant of NBEA

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Research roundup

- Autistic adults are more likely to have dementia by age 65 than non-autistic adults, according to an analysis of Medicaid records. [Autism Research](#)
- Mice missing the TSC1 gene, which is involved in tuberous sclerosis complex, in striatal neurons are unusually quick to learn a motor task. [Cell Reports](#)
- Parents have described their children's autism traits as increasingly disabling since the 1990s. [The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry](#)
- Many measures designed to assess everyday skills in young children with neurodevelopmental conditions are so sharply focused on diagnostic traits that they may miss other problems. [Autism](#)
- Microglia play a role in neurodevelopmental conditions associated with premature birth, a new review suggests. [Journal of Neuropathology & Experimental Neurology](#)
- Autistic children have more sleep problems, including sleep anxiety, than non-autistic children do, according to a large study in China. [Spectrum](#) has covered [sleep problems in autism](#) previously. [BMC Psychiatry](#)
- A novel variant of the NBEA gene, associated with neurodevelopmental delay and epilepsy, seems to be functionally equivalent to the gene's deletion. [Molecular Genetics and Metabolism](#)

Science and society

- Tech company Google has launched a program to increase hiring and support for autistic employees. [Disability Scoop](#)
- The Autism Science Foundation has announced a new two-year fellowship for recent college graduates to gain research experience. [Autism Science Foundation](#)
- More women are launching research careers today than 20 years ago, yet fewer stay in

- science compared with men, and they publish fewer papers. *Nature*
- Proponents of 'dolphin therapy' for autism admit there is no science behind the approach, but they still profit from selling their services to vulnerable children. *National Geographic*
 - A group of U.S.-based scientists has called for reducing travel restrictions for visa-carrying researchers from other countries. *Spectrum* covered the **chaos caused by such restrictions** earlier in the pandemic. *Nature*
 - Changes in health insurance for U.S. military members and their families may limit access to applied behavior analysis in nonclinical settings. *Spectrum* has reported on **how limited access** is to the common therapy in some states. *The Fayetteville Observer*
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