

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Fragile X genetics, postpartum depression, teeth problems

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WEEK OF JANUARY 20TH

Research roundup

- In children with tuberous sclerosis complex, epilepsy and language delays can both predict an autism diagnosis. *Epilepsy & Behavior*
- Enhanced cannabinoid signaling in the brain may reverse social-avoidance behavior in mice. *Journal of Clinical Investigation*
- Genetic differences in people with fragile X syndrome correspond to disparities in intellectual functioning. *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*
- Stem-cell-derived neurons may reveal how rare gene mutations interact. *Molecular Autism*
- Oman's government has started identifying students with learning problems in school, but autism awareness, diagnosis and treatment are lacking. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Parents, siblings and children of people with obsessive-compulsive disorder have elevated odds of having autism. *Psychological Medicine*
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends evidence-based approaches for diagnosing and treating Williams syndrome. *Pediatrics*
- Women with autism are more likely to experience postpartum depression than typical women. *Molecular Autism*

Science and society

- China has brought criminal charges against He Jiankui, the scientist who raised controversy when he gene-edited human embryos; many in the scientific community hope this action will serve as a deterrent. *Nature*

- Fred Gage, president of the Salk Institute in San Diego, California, is slated to receive the first achievement award given by the International Society for Stem Cell Research. **International Society for Stem Cell Research**
- The U.S. National Institute of Mental Health has planned a webinar about career pathways for young autistic adults, set to air on 27 January. **National Institute of Mental Health**
- Two Wisconsin organizations — one in Madison, the other in Milwaukee — offer support and resources for young adults and college students with autism. **The Badger Herald**
- A Nebraska woman has advocated for her state to offer handicapped parking permits to families with autistic children. **Lincoln Journal Star**
- A clinical trial to test a new drug for extreme eating behavior associated with Prader-Willi syndrome is recruiting participants. **Foundation for Prader-Willi Research**
- Children with autism may have more cavities than typical children do, perhaps related to hygiene, diet and medication. **The Conversation**
- A woman in Cary, North Carolina, has challenged her local library's policy requiring her to stay with her adult autistic son at all times. **WTVD**
- The U.S. National Center for Mobility Management has planned a webinar about transportation services for young autistic adults, set to air on 11 February. **National Institute of Mental Health**
- A specialist-care school in England offers virtual reality to help autistic students acclimate to real-world experiences, such as getting on an airplane. **The New York Times**

Autism and the arts

- A high school student with autism in Louisville, Kentucky, has self-published a comic-book series called "The Adventures of Fro-Man and Dubstep Boy." **Louisville Courier Journal**
 - A performance venue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, hosts a monthly open-mic event for autistic musicians of all ages and abilities. **Next Pittsburgh**
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