

## SPOTTED

# Spotted around the web: Neuronal interference, effects of trauma, sensory rooms

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## Research roundup

- Children with autism are often bullied, and possibly even more so if they are resistant to change. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- The number of crisis events reported by London-area hospitals on any given day reflects the number of tweets about depression or schizophrenia the preceding week. *Scientific Reports*
- Autistic children tend to move more slowly than typical children do. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Scientists have created the world's first synthetic genome. *PNAS*
- Autistic children who experience trauma may have trouble communicating it, and their caregivers may misattribute trauma-related behaviors to autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Mutations of a gene associated with autism and schizophrenia seem to interfere with specific neuronal functions in mice. *Neuron*
- Microglia, the brain's immune cells, may play a role in forgetting. *Science*

## Science and society

- A New Jersey parent is lobbying for emergency departments to have sensory rooms and trained personnel after her suicidal autistic child was repeatedly sedated while waiting to be treated. *Cherry Hill Courier-Post*
- A school district in Indiana is using a robot to help teach students with autism, as part of a research study. *NWI Times*

- David Sabatini, who studies a cell-growth pathway that may be involved in autism, shares the Sjöberg Prize 2020. [The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences](#)
- The CureGRIN Foundation, with a new Chan Zuckerberg Initiative grant, aims to build a global research network to study GRIN-gene-related conditions, which are sometimes misdiagnosed as autism. [CureGRIN Foundation](#)
- A California program called Meristem helps people with autism transition to independent living as adults through hands-on work in farming and crafts. [Forbes](#)
- People who are born blind do not develop schizophrenia, an observation that is leading to new hypotheses about the role of vision in the condition. [Vice](#)

## Autism and the arts

- Autistic adults who participate in art therapy are exhibiting their work at a Wilmington, Delaware, gallery. [WHYY](#)
- A play about an autistic girl opens this month in Madison, Wisconsin, and features several actors who are on the spectrum. [Wisconsin State Journal](#)

## Publishing

- The editor of the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* argues for “the judicious use of person-first and identity-first language.” [Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders](#)
  - The scientific journal *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking* has published a special issue on virtual-reality interventions for autism. [Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.](#)
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