

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Researcher job prospects, telehealth, newborn screening

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Research roundup

- Genetic testing could inform psychiatric drug choice or dosing for many children and adolescents with mental health diagnoses, including autism, according to a population study in Denmark. *Pharmacopsychiatry*
- Parent reports on the Autism Spectrum Quotient Short Form reveal cultural differences between China and the Netherlands. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- A survey of authorship in biomedical journals has revealed some journals with a large percentage of papers by prolific authors, who often sit on the editorial boards. *PLOS Biology*
- Mutations linked to autism are often found in genes important for non-neuronal brain cells, according to an analysis of published transcriptomes. *Human Genomics*
- Genetic analysis of children with both autism and another neurodevelopmental condition reveals gene variants with roles in regulating gene expression or neuronal communication. *Clinica Chimica Acta*
- Parents of advanced age may be more likely than younger parents to have a child with autism, according to a birth cohort study in Taiwan. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*
- People with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome tend to have a smaller-than-usual cerebellum. *Biological Psychiatry*
- The prevalence of autism in Wales appears to be 0.51 percent of residents, according to a study of health records. *Autism*
- Autistic adults and their caregivers have found telehealth visits to be similar to in-person visits, with the added bonus of not having to leave home or interact with other people during the pandemic. *Autism*
- Mutations in the DSCAM gene, associated with autism and Down syndrome, may alter neuronal development by accelerating dendritic spine maturation. *Journal of*

Neuroscience

- An autism-linked variant of the gene ANK2 appears to act through cytoskeletal proteins to limit neuronal branching during development. [eLife](#)
- Grapheme-color synesthesia, in which people experience colors when thinking about letters and numbers, seems to correlate to autism traits, especially in people with sensory hypersensitivity. [Cortex](#)

Science and society

- Genetics researchers debate the ethics of sequencing the genomes of all newborn babies. [The BMJ](#)
 - A collaboration of advocacy groups plans to add chromosome 15 conditions, namely Angelman syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome and dup15q syndrome, to a newborn screening research program in North Carolina. [Spectrum](#) covered [newborn screening programs](#) earlier this year. [Dup15q Alliance](#)
 - The Autistic Self Advocacy Network has developed an equity plan for its organization to better serve its community. [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#)
 - The majority of research scientists around the world are pessimistic about their job prospects, according to a survey. [Nature](#)
 - The American Medical Association employs several autistic people to help with quality assurance testing via a Chicago, Illinois-based employment service. [American Medical Association](#)
 - President Joe Biden's Build Back Better bill, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives 19 November, includes \$150 billion for home- and community-based services for people with disabilities. [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#)
 - A new television series, "As We See It," featuring three autistic roommates played by autistic actors, is slated to premiere 21 January on Amazon Prime Video. [Yahoo News](#)
 - Research papers should be titled to distinguish whether the focus of study is autism or autism traits, two researchers argue. [Autism](#)
 - David Mandell is leaving his post as editor-in-chief of the journal *Autism*. [Twitter](#)
 - Autism researchers Uta Frith and Francesca Happé have eulogized Michael Rutter. [Spectrum](#) [remembered the renowned child psychiatrist](#) after his death in October. [Nature](#)
 - Psychiatrist Sheila Hollins describes her work reviewing U.K.-based cases of people detained in long-term inpatient facilities and her frustration with the government's inaction even the in face of rights violations. [The Guardian](#)
 - The Australasian Society for Autism Research's virtual conference on autism mental health and suicide prevention is set for 9 December. [Australasian Society for Autism Research](#)
 - A nonprofit organization in Colorado, where the average time to autism diagnosis is three years, works directly with families to speed the evaluation process. [KKTV 11](#)
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