SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Week of 13 January 2020

BY **JILL ADAMS**

17 JANUARY 2020

WEEK OF JANUARY 13TH

Research roundup

- The more educated an autistic child's parents are, the less likely the child is to talk about suicidal thoughts, although the reasons for this trend are unclear. ***Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders***
- Sex differences in autism prevalence may have a neuronal basis that could be explored in animal models. ***Journal of Neuroscience Research***
- A new autism screening questionnaire filled out by caregivers measures 'social motivation' in children and may improve diagnosis. ***Molecular Autism***
- Autistic children who are hyperresponsive to light, sound, touch and other sensory stimuli are prone to anxiety. ***Autism Research***
- A mutation in the gene CACNA1D that increases calcium exchange in neurons has been linked to autism. ***Molecular Autism***
- People with DiGeorge syndrome, a condition associated with autism and caused by a missing piece of chromosome 22, tend to have small brains. ***Molecular Psychiatry***
- Experimental compounds decrease epileptic brain activity and improve cognitive function in a mouse model of Dravet syndrome, a condition linked to autism. ***Cell Reports***
- Doctors spend an average of 16 minutes interacting with electronic health records for every person they treat. ***Annals of Internal Medicine***
- Seizures can be triggered by changes in sleep and wakefulness in a mouse model of epilepsy associated with autism and intellectual disability. ***Biological Psychiatry***

Science and society

- To study brain activity during social interaction, researchers have fashioned a magnetic resonance imaging scanner that accommodates two people lying face to face. ***Science***

- In Connecticut, people with autism can store their driver's license and vehicle registration in a blue envelope to alert police officers to their condition during roadside checks. ***NBC Connecticut***
- A new Trump administration rule dictates that federally funded research that uses fetal tissue must undergo an ethics review, but no review board has been established. ***The Washington Post***
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is under-resourced and susceptible to political interference. ***The New York Times***
- Engineering students have created designs and prototypes of consumer products for people with autism, such as a refrigerator lock, an app that shows family restroom locations and a shower guard that prevents overflows. ***NPR***
- Racism, including that of healthcare providers, is a big factor driving health disparities between black and white children in the United States. ***Pediatrics Nationwide***
- Dozens of institutions have repeatedly failed to enter clinical trial data into a federal database as required by law. ***Science***
- A naturopath in Vancouver, Canada, has been treating autistic children using fecal transplants, a risky and unproven procedure. ***CBC News***
- Investors have backed a smartwatch for people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism that alerts wearers to their drifting attention. ***ABC13***
- A New York City school for children with autism held a conference on how to transition to independent life as an adult. ***CBS New York***

Autism and the arts

- Autistic artist Kieran Castaño, who says his pointillist style relates to stimming behavior, has a show at Orlando, Florida's Mills Gallery. ***Orlando Weekly***
- Signe Land, a lawyer who was diagnosed with autism as an adult, is writing a memoir about practicing law as an autistic person. ***Minnesota Lawyer***