

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Week of 2 December 2019

BY JILL ADAMS

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 2ND

Research roundup

- Cultural barriers make it difficult for African-American parents to get information and services for their autistic children from white healthcare providers. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*
- Mothers of adolescents with autism plus a second mental health condition experience stress, and struggle to find good care for their children, according to a small study. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*
- Children with autism and those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder share many of the same rare mutations. *Nature Neuroscience*
- Fenfluramine, a discontinued appetite suppressant, may decrease the frequency of seizures in people with Dravet syndrome who don't respond to other medications. *JAMA Neurology*
- Practicing yoga may improve autistic children's motor and imitation skills. *Physical Therapy*
- Women with an altered FMR1 gene — a 'premutation' that does not result in fragile X syndrome — differ from controls in how they look at faces. *Physiology and Behavior*
- A mouse model of fragile X syndrome shows unusual firing patterns even at the level of single neurons. *eNeuro*

Science and society

- Young people with autism should be screened for substance use disorder, says a group of clinicians. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*
- Autistic college students benefit from on-campus support services. *USA Today*
- Families with newly diagnosed autistic children in the United Kingdom often wait longer

- than the recommended three months for referral services. [BBC News](#)
- In a scientific research program, students on the spectrum get hands-on experience but do not get paid for their work. [Popular Science](#)
 - Scientists who are scooped in publishing a finding still get plenty of citations, particularly if they are employed by a high-ranking institution. [Nature](#)
 - Two patient-advocacy groups and two research institutes plan to build a database of clinical treatments and outcomes. [Angelman Syndrome Foundation](#)
 - Autism researcher Terje Falck-Ytter of Uppsala University in Sweden has been named a Wallenberg Academy Fellow. [Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation](#)
 - A vocational training program offers adults with autism experience in creating audio and video content about autism. [Autism News NetWORK](#)

Autism and the arts

- Autistic actor Madison Kopec, a high school senior from South Bend, Indiana, is set to appear in a staged reading of a new musical, "Indigo." [South Bend Tribune](#)
- The Kennedy Center plans to present work by Malcolm Corley, an artist with autism from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as part of its 2019 touring exhibition of emerging young artists. [Penn Live](#)

Funding news

- More and more scientific funding agencies are using a lottery system to award research grants. [Nature](#)
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