

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: WNT pathway; Phelan-McDermid syndrome; haploinsufficiencies

BY JILL ADAMS

28 APRIL 2023

WEEK OF APRIL 24TH

Research roundup

- Intranasal oxytocin, administered twice daily for four weeks, does not improve social responsiveness in autistic children, according to a clinical trial. *Molecular Autism*
- Mice lacking the autism-linked gene NLGN4 show an altered balance of excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmission in the hippocampus. *eNeuro*
- The WNT pathway that leads to glycolysis is overactive in two mouse models of autism and can be mitigated by manipulating AXIN2, a regulator of WNT signaling. *EMBO Molecular Medicine*
- A Portuguese version of the Social Communication Questionnaire meets diagnostic validity criteria in assessing autistic children. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*
- The European Phelan-McDermid Syndrome consortium has published consensus recommendations on mental health issues across the lifespan in people with the condition. *European Journal of Medical Genetics*
- Misconduct is the primary reason for retractions of autism studies, according to an analysis of 25 retracted papers. *Health Information and Libraries Journal*
- An applied behavior analysis intervention improves communication skills more than the usual classroom strategies in autistic children with intellectual disability, according to a small study. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*
- Autistic people have thinner cerebellar cortical lobules than non-autistic people, according to an MRI study. *Psychiatry Investigation*

Cerebellum study: The lobules of the cerebellum have varying tissues and cortical thickness, which may be altered in autism.

- A variant of the autism-linked gene PTEN alters cortical neurogenesis in brain organoids derived from an autistic person but not in those derived from a non-autistic person. *American Journal of Human Genetics*
- Stress during pregnancy is linked to autism-like behaviors in children, but prenatal cannabis use does not influence either stress or autism traits, according to a small study of Black mother-child pairs. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*

Science and society

- Researchers are developing novel methods to boost protein production in clinical conditions caused by haploinsufficiency, such as Dravet syndrome, in which only one copy of the SCN1A gene is functional. *Knowable Magazine*
- The Biden administration plans to nominate Monica Bertagnolli, who directs the National Cancer Institute, to be the next director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, according to unnamed sources. *The Washington Post*
- Neuroscientist Oscar Marín of King's College London has won the 2023 ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award. *European College of Neuropsychopharmacology*
- The website Sproutflix has compiled more than 150 films featuring or created by autistic people. *Sproutflix*
- A webinar on suicidality in neurodiverse youth of color is scheduled for today, 28 April, at noon EDT; preregistration is required. *University of Pittsburgh*
- Seven neuroscientists have won the inaugural MIND prize from the Pershing Square Foundation, for their contributions to basic and translational sciences of the brain and cognition. *Business Wire*

*If you or someone you know is having suicidal thoughts, help is available. Here is a **worldwide directory of resources and hotlines** that you can call for support.*

Cite this article: <https://doi.org/10.53053/XXCW8781>
