

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Week of 25 March 2019

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WEEK OF MARCH 25TH

Research roundup

- Children born in the autumn have a slightly increased risk of autism, at least in Sweden and Finland. *European Journal of Epidemiology*
- Poor adaptive skills in infancy are associated with an increased likelihood of being diagnosed with autism as a toddler. *Molecular Autism*
- School systems in the United States label some children as autistic who do not meet clinical criteria for the condition. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*
- School-age children with autism tend to overestimate their academic performance. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Girls with epilepsy are at a higher risk of being diagnosed with autism than are those in the general population. *Epilepsy and Behavior*
- Specific gut microbiome profiles in infancy correlate with communication, social and fine-motor skills in 3-year-old children. *JAMA Network Open*
- Having a multidisciplinary team of clinicians decreases wait times for appointments and speeds diagnosis of autism in toddlers. *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*
- To explain the effects of loneliness, researchers propose a model of neural systems that maintain social connections. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*
- Exposure to two languages has no adverse effect on the language abilities of autistic toddlers. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Science and society

- A gallery of images produced by biomedical researchers is on display at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *STAT*

- Board members of an autism charity profit from the unfounded and debunked ‘treatments’ the charity promotes. *Jezebel*
- A group of 800-plus scientists call for “the entire concept of statistical significance to be abandoned.” *Nature*
- Medications for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder vary in their propensity to induce psychotic side effects. *STAT*
- Scientists find evidence of new neuron growth in human brains, but many remain skeptical. *Scientific American*
- Sun bears, which do not live in social groups, use facial expressions to communicate, suggesting the behavior is more widespread in the animal kingdom than scientists thought. *The New York Times*
- A new app is designed to help police officers and other first responders know how to interact with people who have disabilities. *Saint Cloud Times*
- A U.K. advertising watchdog group orders homeopaths to stop peddling an unproven and potentially harmful autism ‘cure.’ *BBC*
- Chinese-American scientists call out scientific and political policies that amount to racial profiling. *Science*
- The anti-vaccine movement creates a huge burden for the healthcare system to care for people with illnesses that vaccines prevent. *Wired*
- The Trump administration’s budget cuts Special Olympics funding, including a program in which students who have disabilities team up with typical students in various sports. *The Washington Post*

Autism and the arts

- The Royal Shakespeare Company continues to sell out its ‘relaxed performance’ shows, which accommodate audiences with autism and learning disabilities. *Broadway World*
- Art galleries in a Connecticut town plan to feature autistic artists for World Autism Month. *The Westerly Sun*

Funding news

- A U.K. charity evaluates gaps in funding for autism research. *Autistica*