

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Week of 27 May 2019

BY JILL ADAMS

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WEEK OF MAY 27TH

Research roundup

- Two people with fragile X syndrome showed improvement after treatment with the diabetes drug metformin. [Molecular Genetics and Genomic Medicine](#)
- Child vaccinations increased after California's move to do away with nonmedical exemptions, but medical exemptions also increased. [The National Bureau of Economic Research](#)
- In premature babies, music enhances communication among brain regions involved in complex cognitive functions. [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#)
- Autistic college students with social anxiety tend to get higher grades than those without anxiety, whereas non-autistic students with social anxiety tend to get lower grades. [Autism Research](#)
- Looking at mice, researchers have identified 'oxidative stress' (a chemical imbalance in cells) as a possible therapeutic target for neurodevelopmental conditions. [Neuron](#)
- Early infant communication includes shifting one's gaze to direct another person's attention; babies later diagnosed with autism do this less than usual. [Biological Psychiatry](#)

Science and society

- Only one-third of psychotherapists in the United States are trained to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, which may accompany autism. [Kaiser Health News](#)
- A special issue of *Nature* takes a close look at the future of scientific research in European countries. [Nature](#)
- The label that comes with a diagnosis can help people find community. [The New York Times](#)
- A Carolina Panthers football player with an autistic cousin has become a celebrity advocate

for people with autism. *The Charlotte Observer*

Autism and the arts:

- The Edinburgh Fringe Festival is slated to feature a new play about being a “non-typical, typical teenager,” starring an autistic actor. *BBC News*
- A 19-year-old man is India’s first male model with autism. *Newz Hook*

Job moves

- Thomas Insel, who previously directed the National Institute of Mental Health, has been named ‘mental health czar’ of California by Governor Gavin Newsom. *STAT*
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