

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Week of 3 December 2018

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 3RD

Research roundup

- Prenatal folic acid supplements may lower autism risk, according to a recent review. *Acta Paediatrica*
- Obesity in pregnant mice is tied to immune activation in the fetal brain, especially in male fetuses. *International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience*
- Stimulating a brain region above the eyes with electrodes appears to ease depression. *Current Biology*
- Although 4-year-old children with autism have lower receptive vocabulary scores than their typical peers, these scores improve as fast as those of typical children over the next several years. *Autism*
- Women with depression have an increased risk of having a child with autism, regardless of whether they take antidepressants during pregnancy, a new study suggests. *Clinical Epidemiology*
- Smoking during pregnancy does not appear to cause autism. *Translational Psychiatry*
- Autistic children are particularly vulnerable to being bullied in school, according to a French study. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*
- Autistic children often face barriers to accessing healthcare. *Autism*
- Girls with autism have a narrower range of restricted interests than autistic boys do, and their interests have a more socially oriented focus — such as people or animals. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Adults on the spectrum, who are at a higher-than-average risk of mental-health problems and self-injury, need more treatment and support that is tailored to their needs. *Autism*

Science and society

- Harvard University scientists are planning to start gene-editing sperm for in vitro fertilization amid controversy over claims of CRISPR babies born in China. **MIT Technology Review**
- A new tool kit may help crisis-center workers better communicate with autistic people who call or text a helpline for support. **American Association of Suicidology**
- Advance directives allow people with mental-health issues to legally specify the kind of treatment they want before they become too sick to voice their preferences. **The New York Times**
- Techniques that make opaque tissues crystal-clear are enabling scientists to study intact samples and better understand cellular connections, gene expression and protein functions. **Nature**
- A number of airlines are refusing to transport laboratory animals, according to a complaint filed by the National Association for Biomedical Research. **Bloomberg**
- Scientists and various other ‘thinkers’ name climate change and artificial intelligence as among their top fears for the future. **Motherboard**
- For the first time, a baby has been born to a woman who received a uterus transplanted from a deceased woman, demonstrating that the procedure is a viable option. **The New York Times**
- Two brothers on the spectrum run a comic-book shop in England that includes spaces free of sensory stimulation and offers employment opportunities for people with autism. **BBC**
- Data from a landmark study on adolescent brain development, tracking nearly 12,000 children aged 9 to 10, will be made available to researchers for further analysis. **National Institutes of Health**

Publishing

- A ‘transparent’ peer-review process does not harm manuscript turnaround times or affect the chances that a peer-reviewed study is published. **Genome Biology**
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