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Spotted around the web: Week of 30 July 2018

BY **EMILY WILLINGHAM**

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WEEK OF JULY 30TH

Research roundup

- Asperger syndrome and ‘high-functioning autism’ have different clinical profiles, according to this study. ***Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders***
- Home-based sensory interventions show promise for helping autistic children in developing countries. ***Indian Journal of Pediatrics***
- In this tiny study, Greek-speaking children on the spectrum can recognize the parts of a compound word but struggle to discern its meaning. ***Clinical Linguistics & Phonetics***
- A zebrafish model of 22q11.2 deletion syndrome has yielded insights into how related cardiovascular and craniofacial changes arise. ***Cell Reports***
- Seven people carrying mutations in a relatively unexplored gene have many neurological differences, including seizures, neurodevelopmental regression and coordination difficulties. ***American Journal of Human Genetics***
- Meet the scutoid, a newly described cell shape that might explain how epithelium can be sculpted into organs during development. ***Nature Communications***
- The medical conditions that co-occur with autism form some previously unreported co-occurring combinations themselves in autistic children. ***Academic Pediatrics***
- Researchers have unveiled the Psychiatric Cell Map Initiative, an ambitious plan to map interacting molecular pathways for neurodevelopmental conditions. ***Cell***
- If you apply magnetic resonance imaging in children, how about trying the ‘Kitten Scanner’ to eliminate the need for sedation? Caveat: the study excluded autistic children. ***Journal of Child Health Care***
- One in eight children ages 2 to 9 years in India has a neurodevelopmental condition. ***PLOS Medicine***
- A study of sex-based differences in restricted and repetitive behaviors among children with autism finds decreased rates of some stereotyped behaviors in subpopulations of girls. ***Autism***

- A new review offers a repository of important studies addressing gender dysphoria and sexuality among people with autism. ***Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders***
- People who identify as trans or nonbinary and who also have autism tend to have higher levels of self-reported autism traits than those who identify with their assigned sex. ***Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders***
- At least some parts of the leopard gecko brain can regenerate. ***Scientific Reports***
- If lizards aren't your thing, how about a nice video showing how the mouse brain determines how to act on what it sees? ***STAT***

Science and society

- Social-media bots have gained notoriety for their role in voter manipulation, but are they also manipulating attitudes about public health? ***U.S. News & World Report***
- Researchers in resource-poor areas describe the many obstacles — from bombings to utility outages — that they encounter in their work. ***Nature***
- The U.S. National Institutes of Health has delayed by more than a year the implementation of its policy on basic research involving people. ***Science***
- Disability community advocates are concerned about how Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh would treat cases involving the Americans with Disabilities Act. ***Rewire.News***
- Children reunited with their parents after forcible separation at the U.S. border are showing signs of trauma and persistent mental-health issues. ***The New York Times***
- A judge has ruled that the Trump administration cannot give migrant children psychotropic drugs without parental consent. ***The Washington Post***
- Donald Trump has at long last selected a White House scientific adviser: meteorologist Kelvin Droegemeier. ***Nature***
- The European Medicines Agency has recommended granting pediatric-use marketing authorizations for two drugs, including one to treat insomnia in children with autism or Smith-Magenis syndrome. ***European Medicines Agency***
- "NeuroTribes" author Steve Silberman reminds *Guardian* readers that Leo Kanner likely did not arrive at the clinical entity we call 'autism' independently of Hans Asperger. ***The Guardian***
- With the release of a child molester and one-time high-profile geneticist from prison, journalist Daniel Engber asks, "Can or should a man's monstrosity be separated from his science?" ***Slate***

Autism and the arts

- In August, London theater-goers can seek out autism-friendly performances of “Aladdin” and “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child,” the latter of which runs more than five hours in total. ***GoodToKnow***
- A book review covers two new books, “The Disordered Mind” and “Unthinkable: An Extraordinary Journey Through the World’s Strangest Brains,” offering new perspectives on human neurology. ***Science***
- It’s a good question: Why are science-fiction settings never wheelchair accessible? ***io9***
- Pakistani artists helped build international goodwill and raise funds for the Oman Autism Society by including their art in an Oman-based fundraising exhibition. ***Times of Oman***

Publishing

- An editorial contributor to *Nature* does some hand-wringing over whether journalists can avoid inappropriately magnifying results communicated via preprint servers. ***Nature***
- At the other end of the data-control spectrum, this commentary calls for “open practices” in data sharing and publication. ***Towards Data Science***
- A cell biologist working in epigenetics was dismissed from her post last year over research misconduct, and her institution has called for retraction of five of her papers. ***The Scientist***