

## SPOTTED

# Spotted around the web: Week of 6 May 2019

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## WEEK OF MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>

### Research roundup

- Autism can accurately be diagnosed in children as young as 14 months old. [\*JAMA Pediatrics\*](#)
- An enzyme called SETD2 may play an important role in embryonic development by regulating chemical modifications to DNA in immature egg cells. [\*Nature Genetics\*](#)
- Genetic variants associated with neurodevelopmental conditions, such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, may affect multiple brain circuits and cognitive traits in children. [\*The Lancet Psychiatry\*](#)
- Many autistic teenagers receive fewer support services with each passing year in high school, leading to a “post-high school service cliff.” [\*Autism Research\*](#)
- Male prairie voles exposed to oxytocin at birth are unusually social as adults, suggesting that the hormone, commonly used to induce labor in people, has long-term developmental effects. [\*Science Advances\*](#)
- Musicians with perfect pitch — the ability to identify or create a specific musical note without a reference tone — have brain connectivity patterns like those of autistic individuals. [\*Molecular Autism\*](#)

### Science and society

- An online public school in Colorado is helping autistic children learn at home, where they are most comfortable. [\*KSAT 12\*](#)
- Neuron-sized electrodes may soon record from animal brains for long periods of time without causing tissue damage. [\*Science\*](#)
- Scientists are on the hunt for anti-CRISPR proteins and chemicals that turn off the gene-editing tool. [\*MIT Technology Review\*](#)

- Scientists have highlighted an investigational drug to treat Angelman syndrome as a breakthrough, but investors have doubts. **STAT**
- The social interactions, constant email and chat notifications and other distractions of a typical office can make it difficult for 'neurodivergent' individuals to thrive in a traditional work environment. **Vice**
- Ultra Testing, a New York-based software testing company, actively hires people on the spectrum and fosters their talents, which may include the ability to focus and to recognize patterns. **Fast Company**
- Rapid advances in genomic technology may put clinicians at risk of lawsuits. **Science**

## Autism and the arts

- Helen Hoang's novels feature autistic individuals — like herself — who live full lives, fall in love and find happiness. **NPR**
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