NEWS

Video: Turning the brain's social circuits on and off

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Sometimes, researchers can learn about a disorder by studying its opposite. That's the strategy taken by **Matthew Anderson**, associate professor of pathology at Harvard University.

Anderson is interested in **Angelman syndrome**, which is characterized by developmental delay and a cheerful, social demeanor. The syndrome is caused by the loss of a gene called UBE3A. Intriguingly, some individuals with autism carry the reciprocal genetic glitch: duplications of UBE3A.

In October, Anderson created mice carrying duplications of the UBE3A gene. The animals show **social and communicative problems** and **repetitive behaviors**, all core characteristics of

autism. On Tuesday, Anderson talked to SFARI.org about what these mice can teach us about autism.

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