

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Self-report accuracy, 'The Black Spectrum,' lab animal allergies

BY JILL ADAMS

12 FEBRUARY 2021

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8TH

Research roundup

- Autistic children can accurately fill out **self-report questionnaires**, a topic *Spectrum* has covered in depth, although those who have attention difficulties may provide less valid answers. ***Autism***
- Dendritic spines, a key feature of neuronal connections, appear to be altered in a number of mouse models of autism. ***The FEBS Journal***
- People with celiac disease have an increased likelihood of having autism and other conditions, such as anxiety, depression or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. ***Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology***
- Highlighting key words while reading to preliterate autistic children may boost communication skills, whether the words are accompanied by images or not. ***American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology***
- Women with a fragile X premutation may have heightened anxiety and autism traits. ***British Journal of Psychiatry***
- Mice that model Angelman syndrome have unusually few sleep spindles — neural activity bursts seen during non-REM sleep and thought to be related to memory consolidation. ***Molecular Autism***
- Researchers can readily induce febrile seizures in rat pups lacking the UBE3A gene, modeling a trait seen in people with Angelman syndrome. ***eNeuro***
- Deletion or duplication of the 1q21 chromosomal region, associated with intellectual disability, autism and schizophrenia, appears to also be linked to anxiety and mood disorders. ***Translational Psychiatry***
- Review articles in the **3 February issue** of the *Journal of Neuroscience* tee up some of the

symposia scheduled for the Society for Neuroscience meeting in November, according to the journal's editor-in-chief. [Twitter](#)

Science and society

- Universities should invest more resources to support graduate students' mental health, which has worsened during the coronavirus pandemic. [Nature](#)
- A new podcast, "The Black Spectrum," presents individual anonymous stories from neurodiverse Black and other people of color in the United Kingdom. [The Black Spectrum](#)
- A phase 2 trial of suramin in children improved scores on several autism scales and checklists, according to PaxMedica, the company running the trial. [Medscape](#)
- Anti-Asian racism has become more common during the coronavirus pandemic, leaving many Asian-American researchers feeling unsafe. [Scientific American](#)
- Many researchers who work with laboratory animals develop allergies to them. [Undark](#)

Job moves

- Tuuli Lappalainen, a geneticist at the New York Genome Center, has announced her upcoming move to the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. [Twitter](#)
-