

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Week of 16 September 2019

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16TH

Research roundup

- The more preterm a baby is, the higher her risk of intellectual disability, autism or cerebral palsy, according to records from more than 700,000 people in Australia. *The Journal of Pediatrics*
- People with gene deletions or duplications on chromosome 16, which are linked to autism, have unusually large or small brain volumes, respectively, by age 4 and a half. *NeuroImage*
- Laboratory-grown brain organoids are a useful research tool, but as they become more sophisticated, concerns about consciousness are cropping up. *Stem Cell Reports*
- Both younger and older adults with autism traits tend to have difficulty understanding social situations. *Autism Research*
- Children whose mothers took acetaminophen during pregnancy may be more likely than others to have behavioral conduct problems as preschoolers. *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*
- Researchers have created a reference database of organisms in a typical human microbiome. *PLOS ONE*
- Neuronal death during development is not random, but determined by cell fitness. *Nature Communications*
- Female pediatricians earn less than male pediatricians, even when the number of hours worked, specialty and seniority are taken into account. *Pediatrics*
- Researchers are visualizing genes by using fluorescent proteins inserted via gene-editing technologies such as CRISPR. *Trends in Cell Biology*
- A new method helps prevent CRISPR from editing DNA it wasn't intended to target. *Nucleic Acids Research*

Science and society

- The U.K. health secretary has announced plans to sequence the 500,000 genomes in the U.K. Biobank. [Bloomberg](#)
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science has selected 125 women innovators in STEM fields to serve as role models for girls. [AAAS.org](#)
- Hiring autistic people begins with considering their needs in the interview process, such as avoiding panel interviews and vague or trick questions. [Fast Company](#)
- A developmental neurobiologist argues that the neurodiversity movement, which calls for inclusion of autistic people, marginalizes those with more profound difficulties. [Aeon](#)
- At least 12 children with autism share the same sperm donor; one mother sued the sperm bank. [The Washington Post](#)
- Many families in New York are choosing to homeschool their children, after the state ended the religious exemption for vaccines. [The New York Times](#)
- Being bullied leads to a host of poor psychological outcomes; new research reveals it also changes brain structure. [Undark](#)
- Researchers have created realistic models of human embryos from stem cells. [MIT Technology Review](#)
- A new book, “Hacking the Code of Life,” details how today’s gene-editing tools are advancing research and raising ethical questions. [Undark](#)
- The Cartoon Network is mentoring 20 autistic people in Los Angeles, California, in animation storytelling. [Disability Scoop](#)
- Boosting the number of women presenting at scientific conferences requires prolonged, consistent effort. [Nature](#)

Autism and the arts

- Artwork by an autistic high-school student in Tampa, Florida, is among nine designs chosen to represent the Special Olympics USA Games in 2022. [ABC Action News](#)
- Vancouver artist Margaux Wosk creates colorful paintings and advocates for autistic people in her social media feeds and Etsy shop. [The Mighty](#)

Publishing

- Open-access journals with high acceptance rates, such as *PLOS ONE* and *Scientific Reports*, are losing prestige and receiving fewer submissions. [Science](#)