

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Week of 30 September 2019

BY JILL ADAMS

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30TH

Research roundup

- In children with tuberous sclerosis complex, those who develop severe epilepsy by age 2 are the most likely to have intellectual disability. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*
- A number of genes on 16p11.2, a chromosomal region linked to autism, work together to affect facial bone structure in people, rats and zebrafish. *Cell Reports*
- Between the ages of 9 and 12, multiple regions of children's brains show changes associated with self-regulation. *The Journal of Neuroscience*
- Children who have asthma along with anxiety or depression go to the emergency room more often than those who have asthma alone. *Pediatrics*
- The genetics underlying psychotic experiences in the general population overlaps with the genetics of psychiatric conditions such as schizophrenia, depression and autism. *JAMA Psychiatry*
- Researchers have created images of functional neural networks emerging in zebrafish embryos. *Cell*
- Using artificial intelligence and brain imaging during an emotional task may help identify people for whom antidepressants are likely to work. *Nature Human Behaviour*
- Transgender and nonbinary autistic children show more signs of anxiety and depression than transgender and binary children without autism. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*
- Virtual avatars that provide instructions and feedback may improve learning in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*
- Researchers have shown how understanding words in context happens in the brain. *PNAS*
- The evidence linking antidepressant use with suicide risk is weak; the same is true for the link between women's use of the drugs and having an autistic child. *JAMA Psychiatry*

Science and society

- Greta Thunberg's autism serves her incredible climate activism, with such attributes as persistence, bluntness and distaste for hypocrisy, author Steve Silberman writes. [Vox](#)
- An autistic student needed a quiet place to work: A Bellingham, Washington, school put his desk in an unused bathroom. [The New York Times](#)
- A commercial form of cannabidiol, Epidyolex, has been approved as a treatment for epilepsy in the United Kingdom, but the National Health Service has refrained from recommending it. [BBC](#)
- ReproducibiliTea, a journal club focusing on open-source science, has spread to 27 universities in eight countries since it started last year. [Nature](#)
- Physician-scientists are crucial to advancing clinical care, but fewer medical students are choosing that path. [The New York Times](#)
- A neuroscientist argues that it is time to quit the nature-versus-nurture debate on observed differences between males and females. [Aeon](#)
- A gene variant that protects against HIV infection does not affect mortality; a paper that reported it does contained errors. [STAT](#)
- A parent of a nonverbal autistic child is weary of the stories about successful autistic people and sensory-friendly spaces. [The Guardian](#)
- Scientists are attempting to make universal-donor cells that can regenerate diseased organs but that skirt problems with immune rejection. [Knowable](#)
- A cannabis compound is in clinical trials as a possible treatment for irritability and repetitive behaviors in autism. [CNN](#)

Autism and the arts

- An autistic artist in Palos Verdes, California, is illustrating a book of poems by her mentor. [Palos Verdes Peninsula News](#)
- A photographer has won the 2019 Wellcome Photography Prize for her project, a series of portraits of her autistic brother. [British Journal of Photography](#)

Funding news

- Two research centers have received nearly \$30 million to improve the quality of the reference human genome sequence. [National Human Genome Research Institute](#)
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