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# Spotted around the web: Week of 7 October 2019

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## WEEK OF OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

### Research roundup

- A condition characterized by tall stature, developmental delay and intellectual disability is linked to a mutation in gene called NKAP. *American Journal of Human Genetics*
- A video game in which participants move their bodies appears to promote more social interaction among autistic children than free play does. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*
- Autistic girls display better social-communication skills than autistic boys at young ages, but with adolescence, girls fall behind boys. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*
- The genetics of a condition called specific language impairment are different from the genetics of autism. *Autism Research*
- Young autistic adults perform similarly to those with schizophrenia on a wide range of social-cognition skills. *Psychological Medicine*
- Babies born to women who had extreme nausea and vomiting throughout pregnancy are at an elevated risk for autism. *American Journal of Perinatology*
- Dysfunction in inhibitory feedback loops boosts seizure activity in an animal model of chronic epilepsy. *Journal of Neuroscience*
- Autistic adults show different brain-activity patterns upon seeing angry faces than typical adults do. *Biological Psychology*
- Cognitive behavioral therapy helps autistic children with insomnia sleep better; their parents sleep better, too. *Autism Research*
- Brain organoids seeded with certain proteins sport blood vessels and develop characteristics of a blood-brain barrier. *Nature Methods*
- Researchers use virtual reality to assess communication and collaboration among autistic children. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Children with fragile X syndrome and autism develop motor skills more slowly than children with fragile X syndrome alone. *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*

## Science and society

- Greater awareness and understanding of autism have not improved the lives of autistic people, says autism researcher Simon Baron-Cohen. [The Guardian](#)
- Disability services in California are undergoing changes in funding and goals. [Forbes](#)
- President Trump has signed the Autism CARES Act, which will dispense \$1.8 billion for autism research and support programs. [ABC News](#)
- An autistic woman contemplates her life of not fitting in, her late diagnosis and her journey of coming to terms with who she is. [Aeon](#)
- An international alliance of scientists is striving to move beyond mapping genes associated with various conditions to understanding how these genes work and how medicines might temper their action. [Science](#)
- The U.K. National Health Service has an increasing number of unfilled posts for mental health providers, especially those specializing in children's health. [BBC News](#)
- People whose brains are atypical are at a heightened risk of suicide and self-harm. [The New York Times](#)
- Autistic people who have YouTube channels seek to build community and normalize their experiences. [The Washington Post](#)
- An autism publication has created a FAQ sheet for reporters. [Thinking Person's Guide to Autism](#)
- Autism researcher Laura Orefice has won the 2019 Eppendorf and Science Prize for Neurobiology. [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#)
- Harvard University has announced a new autism center dedicated to understanding the condition at a molecular level. [Harvard University](#)

## Autism and the arts

- The Creative Talent Network will feature its training academy for autistic animators at its annual conference. [Animation Magazine](#)
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