



**IL MITOCONDRIO:  
IL SEGRETO DELLA LONGEVITA'**  
**Energia per la vita**

**MILANO, 16 Febbraio 2020**

*Autismo ... da una prospettiva sistemica*

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# Disturbo dello spettro autistico (ASD)

- 🔹 Disturbo del neurosviluppo caratterizzato da
  - 🔹 *Difficoltà nella comunicazione e nella interazione sociale*
  - 🔹 *Interessi ristretti e comportamenti ripetitivi*
- 🔹 3 livelli di gravità
- 🔹 Esordio nei primi anni di vita

DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL  
MANUAL OF  
MENTAL DISORDERS  
FIFTH EDITION

DSM-5™

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

# AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

Grave disabilità  
intellettiva

AUTISMO  
CLASSICO



QI normale o elevato

HFA  
SINDROME DI ASPERGER



## Into, and Out of, the “Valley of Death”: Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Peter Szatmari, M.D., Tony Charman, Ph.D., John N. Constantino, M.D.

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY  
VOLUME 51 NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 2012

community setting. Granting agencies are now recognizing that the enormous investments they make in funding research have not always led to improved outcomes, and are requiring that applicants demonstrate plans for traversing the Valley of Death (although they may not phrase it that way) into their research proposals. As the pace of scientific discovery increases with re-

Journal of the American Academy of  
**CHILD & ADOLESCENT  
PSYCHIATRY**

Volume 52 | Number 4 | April 2013

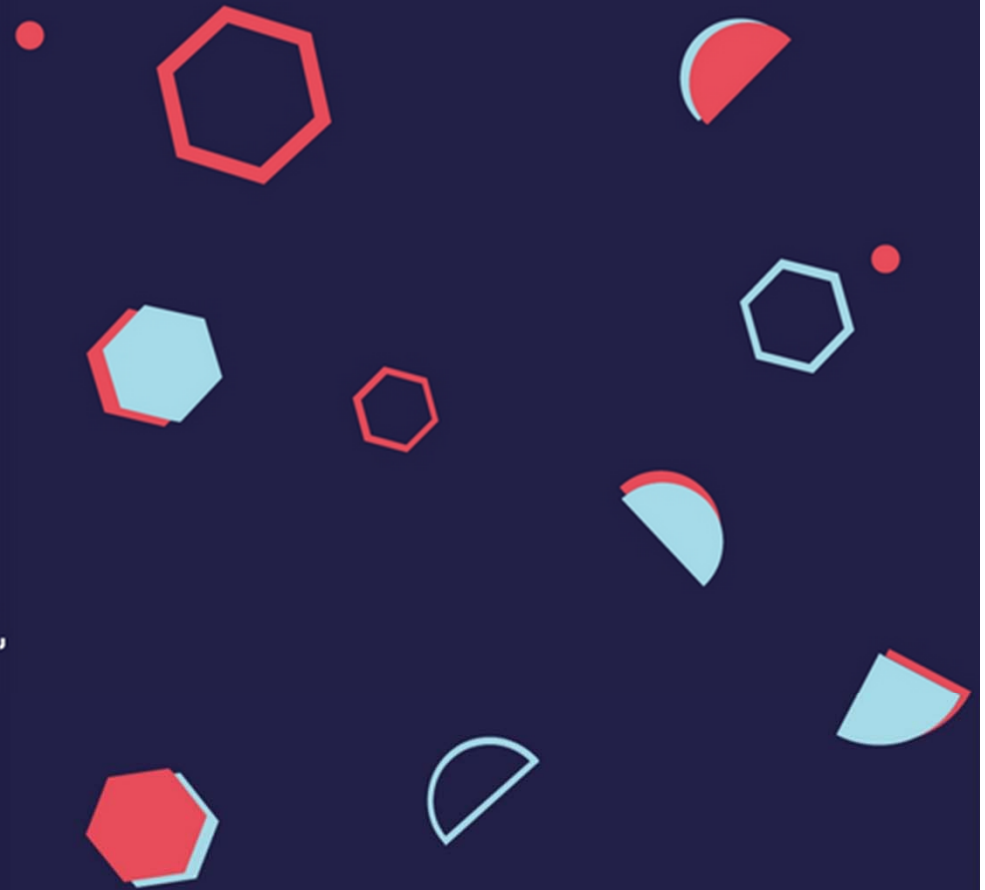


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Advancing the science of pediatric mental health and promoting the care of youth and their families

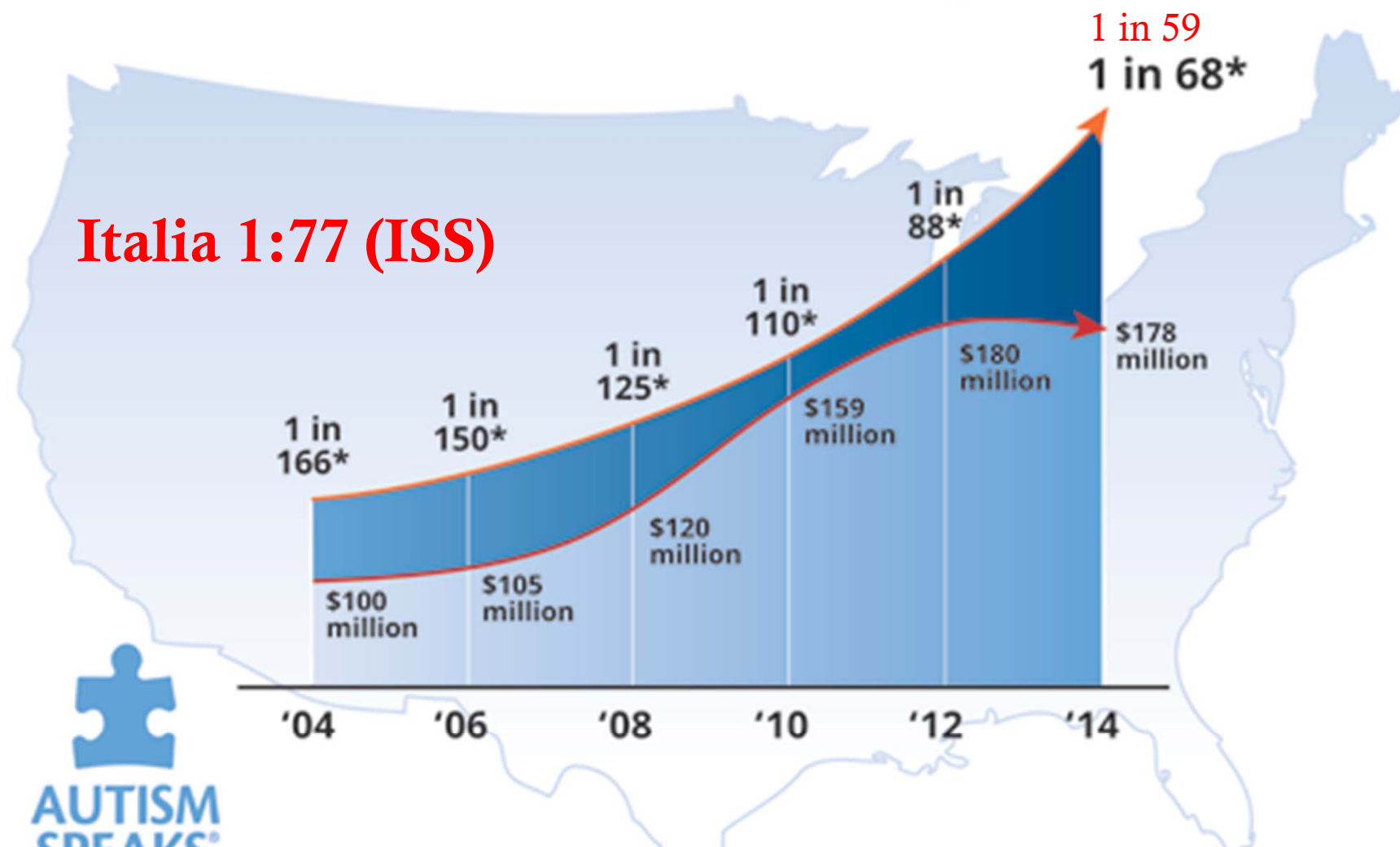
# Medicina Coerente

Modelli sistemici per una  
medicina più efficace, umana,  
individualizzata



# Autism on the Rise

Estimated Autism Prevalence and NIH Funding for Autism Research



**Italia 1:77 (ISS)**



**15-20 % tra disabilità neuropsichica e/o disturbi psichici**

\* CDC prevalence estimates are for 4 years prior to the report date (e.g. 2014 figures are from 2010)

X CONGRESSO NAZIONALE FIMP 2016

1000 Giorni

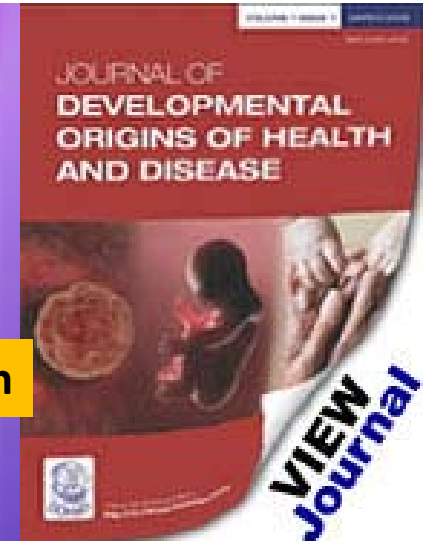


29 SETTEMBRE  
1 OTTOBRE 2016

CENTRO CONGRESSI  
PISA



..recently, the *fetal programming mismatch theory* has been transformed into the **key-moodel theory of DOHAD**..



**Obesity/Metabolic Syndrome**

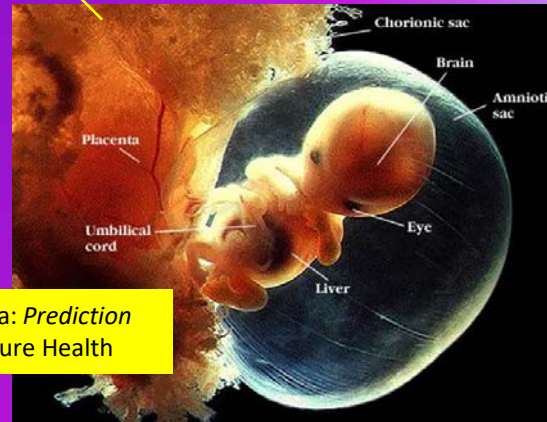
**Cardiovascular Diseases**

**Obesogens**

**DOHAD**

**Hypertension**

*Multiorgan Effects of Endocrine Disruptors*



**Pesticides**

**OBESITY  
DIABESITY  
PANDEMICS**

*In Vitro Fertilization*

Placenta: Prediction of Future Health

**Asthma and allergies**

*Materno Fetal Stress*

**Developmental Time Windows of Vulnerability**

**Lung Development** ↓

**Reproductive Diseases/Dysfunctions**

**Neurobehavioral Deficits and Diseases**

**Semen Abnormalities**

**CANCER**

**Psychiatric Diseases**

E. Burgio  
erburg@libero.it



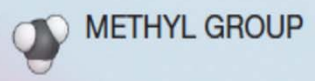


CHROMOSOME

- EPIGENETIC MECHANISMS**  
are affected by these factors and processes:
- Development (in utero, childhood)
  - Environmental chemicals
  - Drugs/Pharmaceuticals
  - Aging
  - Diet

**The genome**  
is a *complex network*  
made up of  
**DNA sequence,**  
+  
**dynamic and responsive structure of histones**  
+  
**"epigenetic" cloud of molecules**  
(methyl and acetyl groups, enzymes, transcription factors, microRNAs )

- HEALTH ENDPOINTS**
- Cancer
  - Autoimmune disease
  - Mental disorders
  - Diabetes

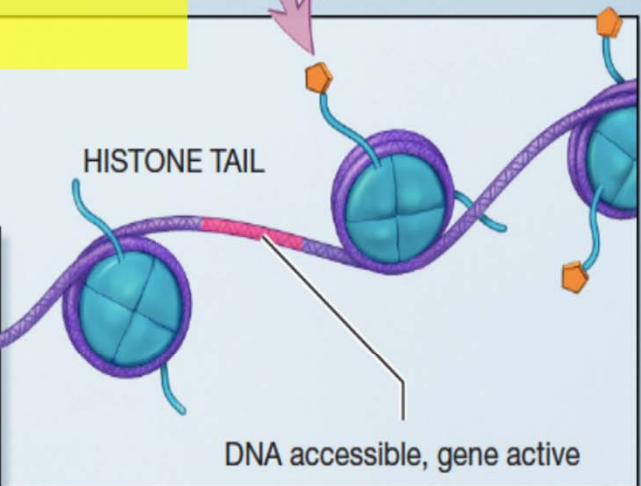
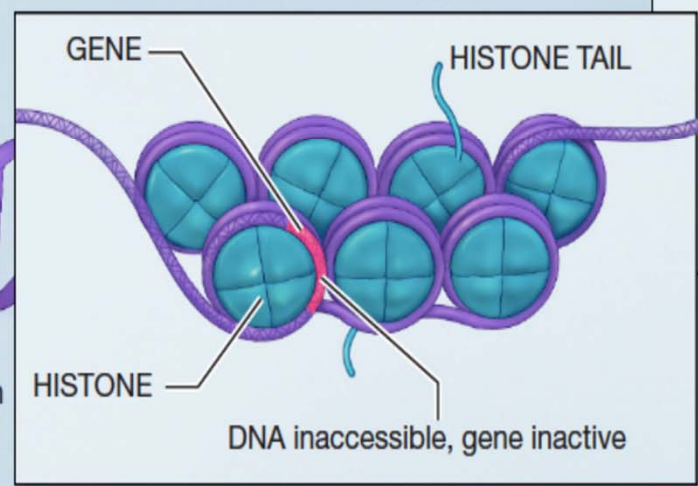


**DNA methylation**  
Methyl group (an epigenetic factor found in some dietary sources) can tag DNA and activate or repress genes.

DNA



EPIGENETIC FACTOR



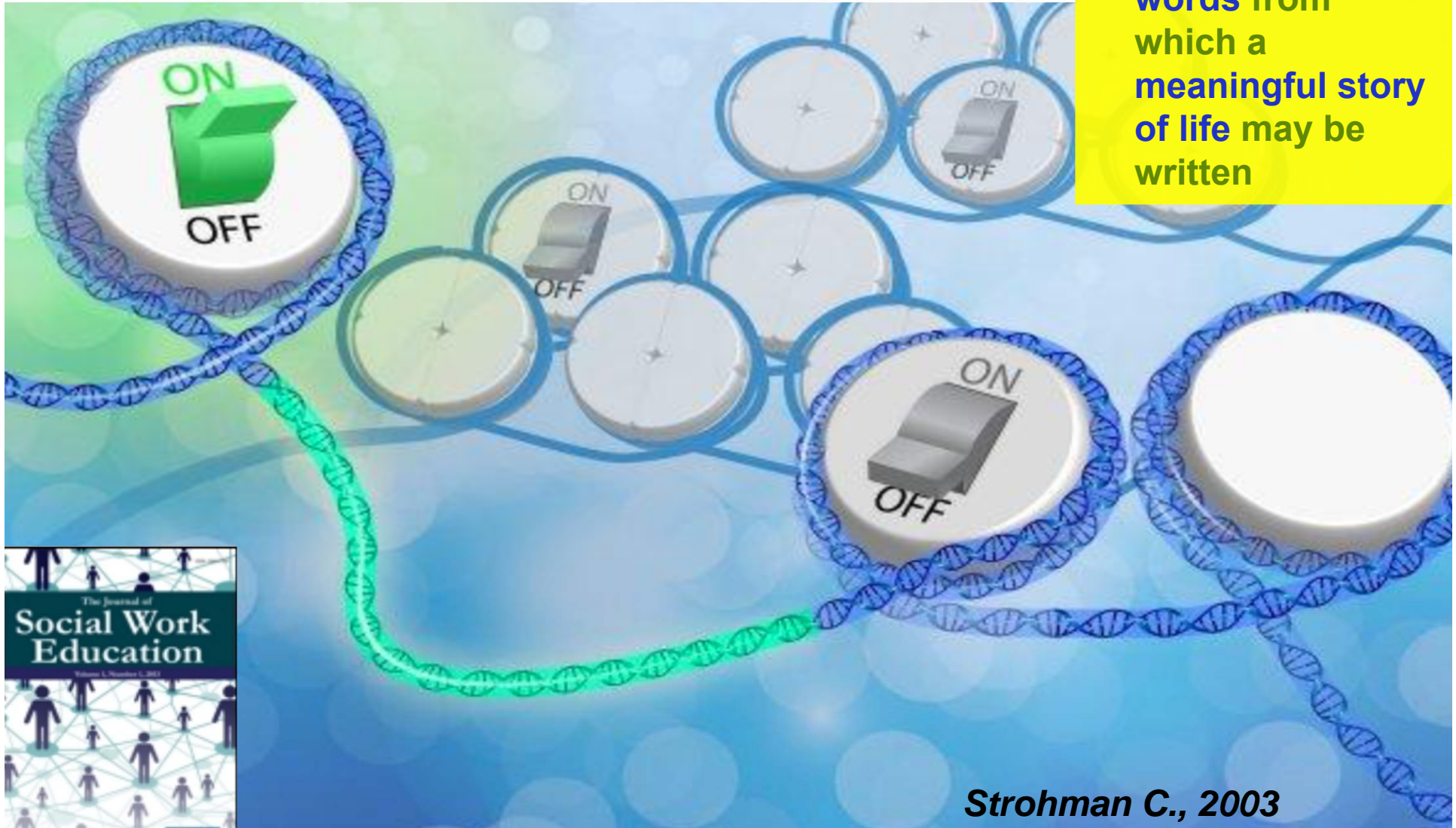
**Histone modification**  
The binding of epigenetic factors to histone "tails" alters the extent to which DNA is wrapped around histones and the availability of genes in the DNA to be activated.

Histones are proteins around which DNA can wind for compaction and gene regulation.

# Genetic Determinism as a Failing Paradigm in Biology and Medicine

Richard C. Strohman

- Genes need to be told to switch **OFF** and **ON**
- DNA is a **random collection of words** from which a **meaningful story of life** may be written

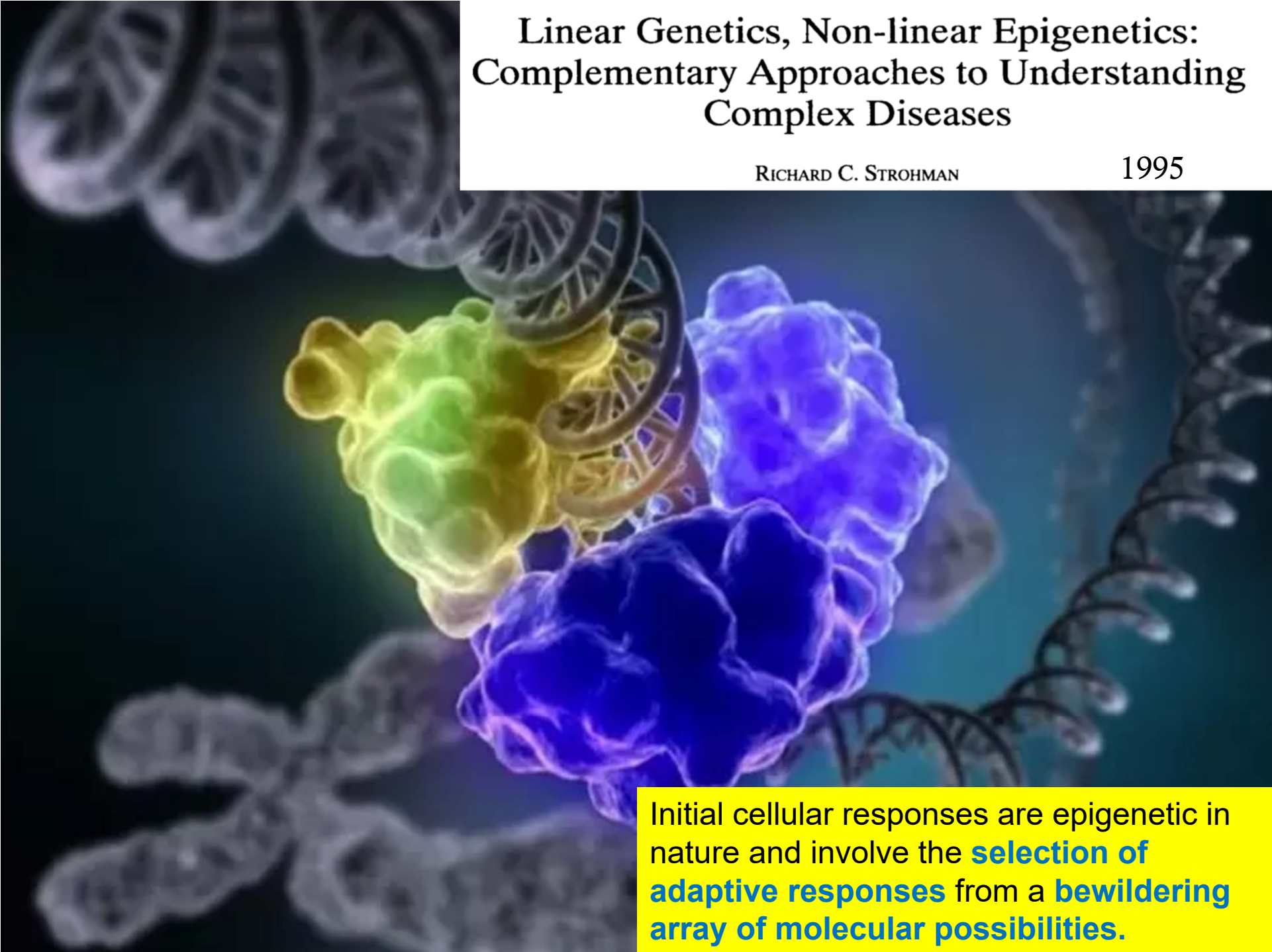


*Strohman C., 2003*

# Linear Genetics, Non-linear Epigenetics: Complementary Approaches to Understanding Complex Diseases

RICHARD C. STROHMAN

1995



Initial cellular responses are epigenetic in nature and involve the **selection of adaptive responses** from a **bewildering array of molecular possibilities**.



- DIET
- DRUGS
- MICROBIOTA
- SOCIAL INTERACTIONS
- STRESS (HORMONES)

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

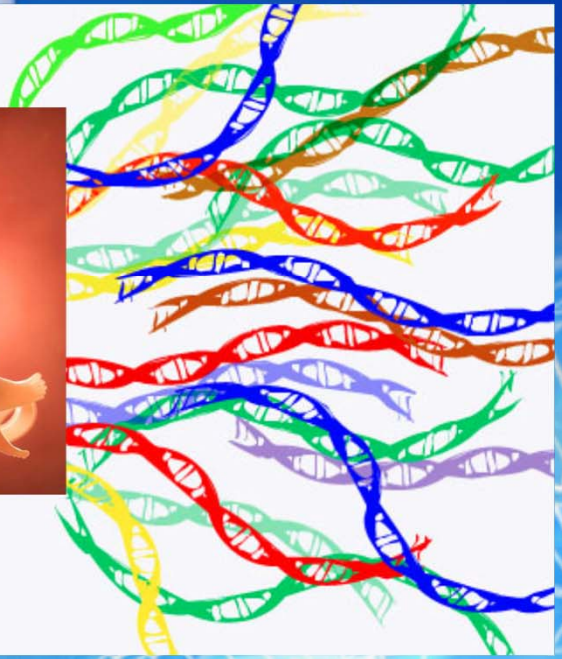


ULTRAFINE PARTICLES

HEAVY METALS



genetics.

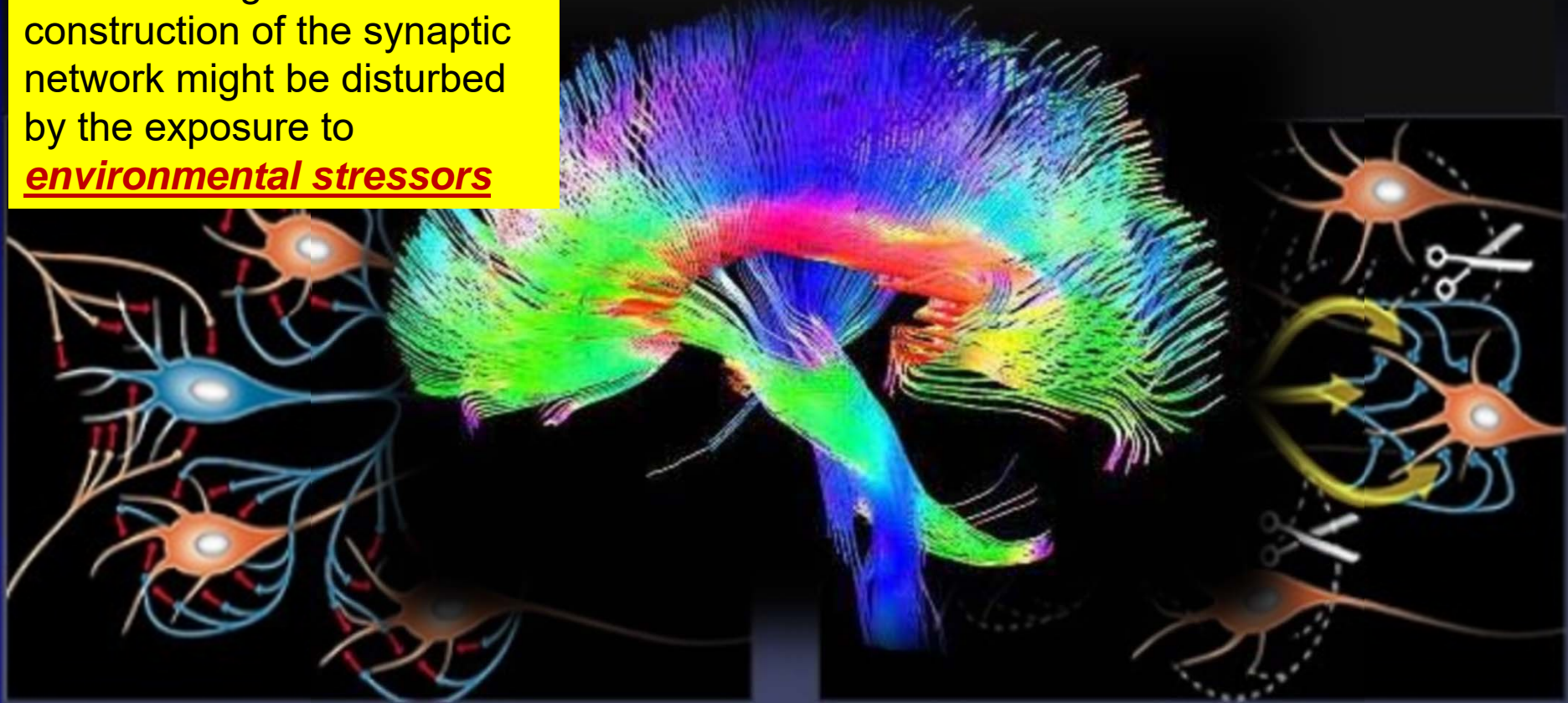


***ENVIRONMENT*** is as a restless stream of information interacting with cells [membrane / transmembrane receptors, signal transduction proteins, nuclear receptors, genome (**DNA + Epigenome**)] forcing them to adapt



# Nerve Proliferation... ...and Pruning

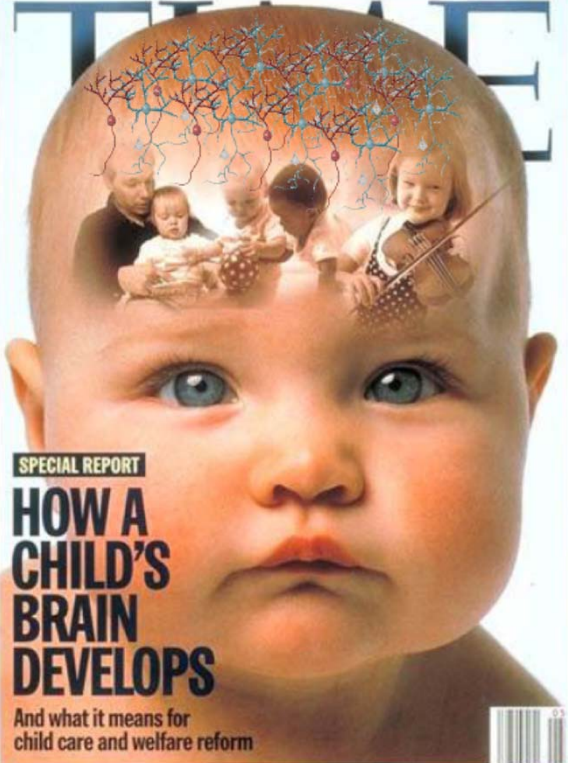
Neuronal migration and the construction of the synaptic network might be disturbed by the exposure to *environmental stressors*




The *Individual* wiring



**TIME**



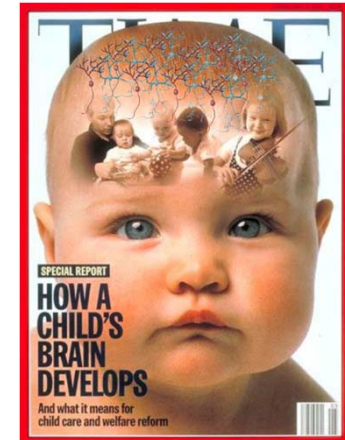
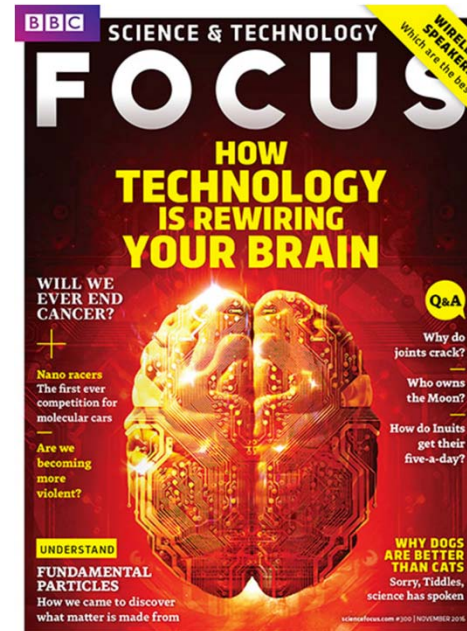
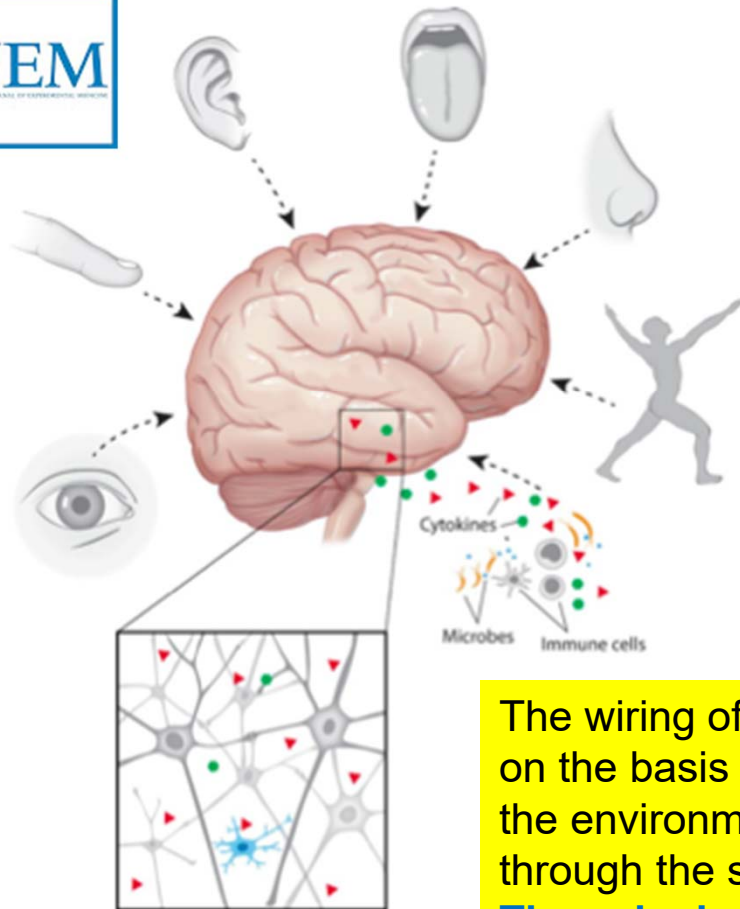
**SPECIAL REPORT**  
**HOW A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS**  
And what it means for child care and welfare reform



# Immune system: The “seventh sense”

Jonathan Kipnis

The Rockefeller University Press  
J. Exp. Med. 2018 Vol. 215 No. 2 397–398  
<https://doi.org/10.1084/jem.20172295>

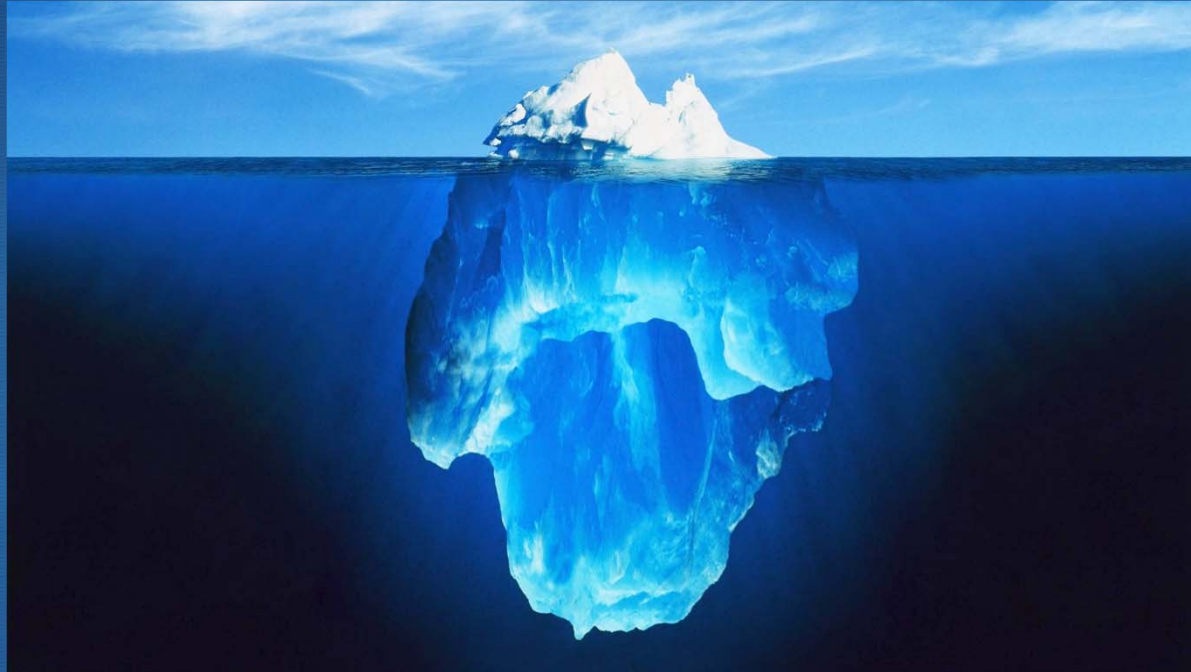


The wiring of the nervous system takes place on the basis of the experiences provided by the environment, which reach the brain through the senses.  
**These include the immune system.**

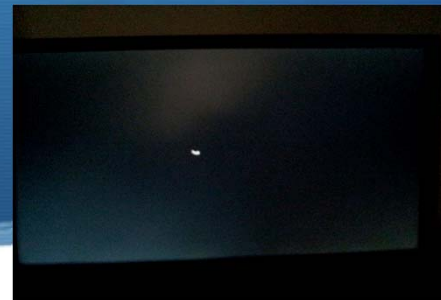
The brain is our computing machine that integrates stimuli from the environment and orchestrates responses to these stimuli. Here, I propose that the defining role of the immune system is to sense microorganisms and to inform the brain about them.

# From AUTISM ...

BEHAVIOR



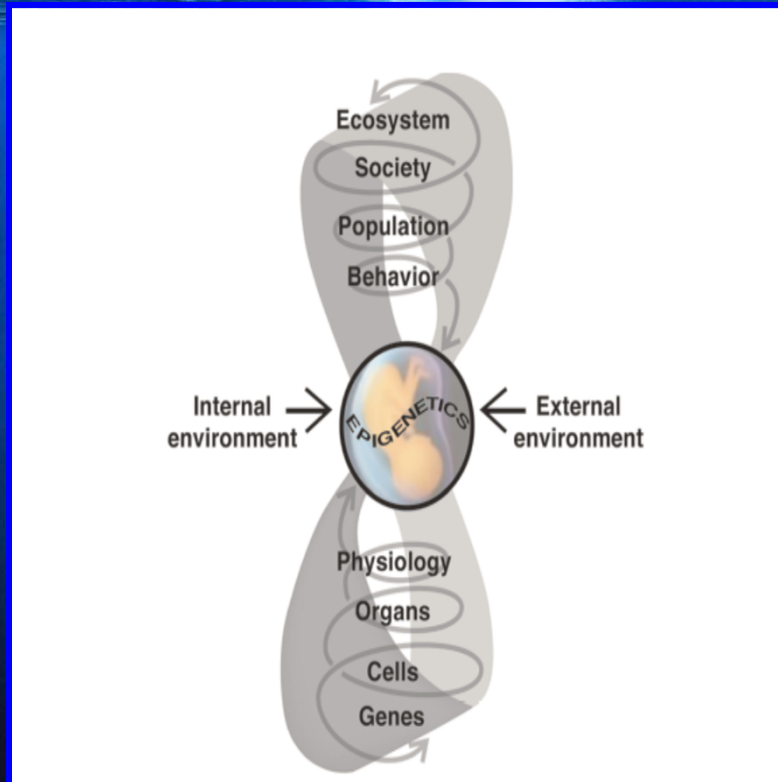
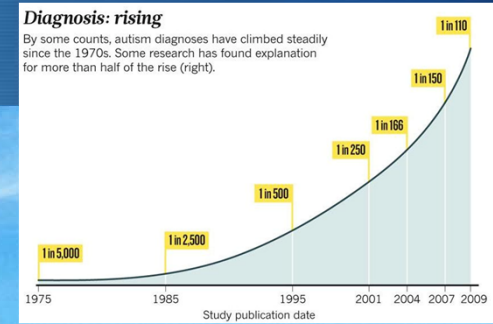
GENETICS





# ... to AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

BEHAVIOR  
COMORBIDITIES

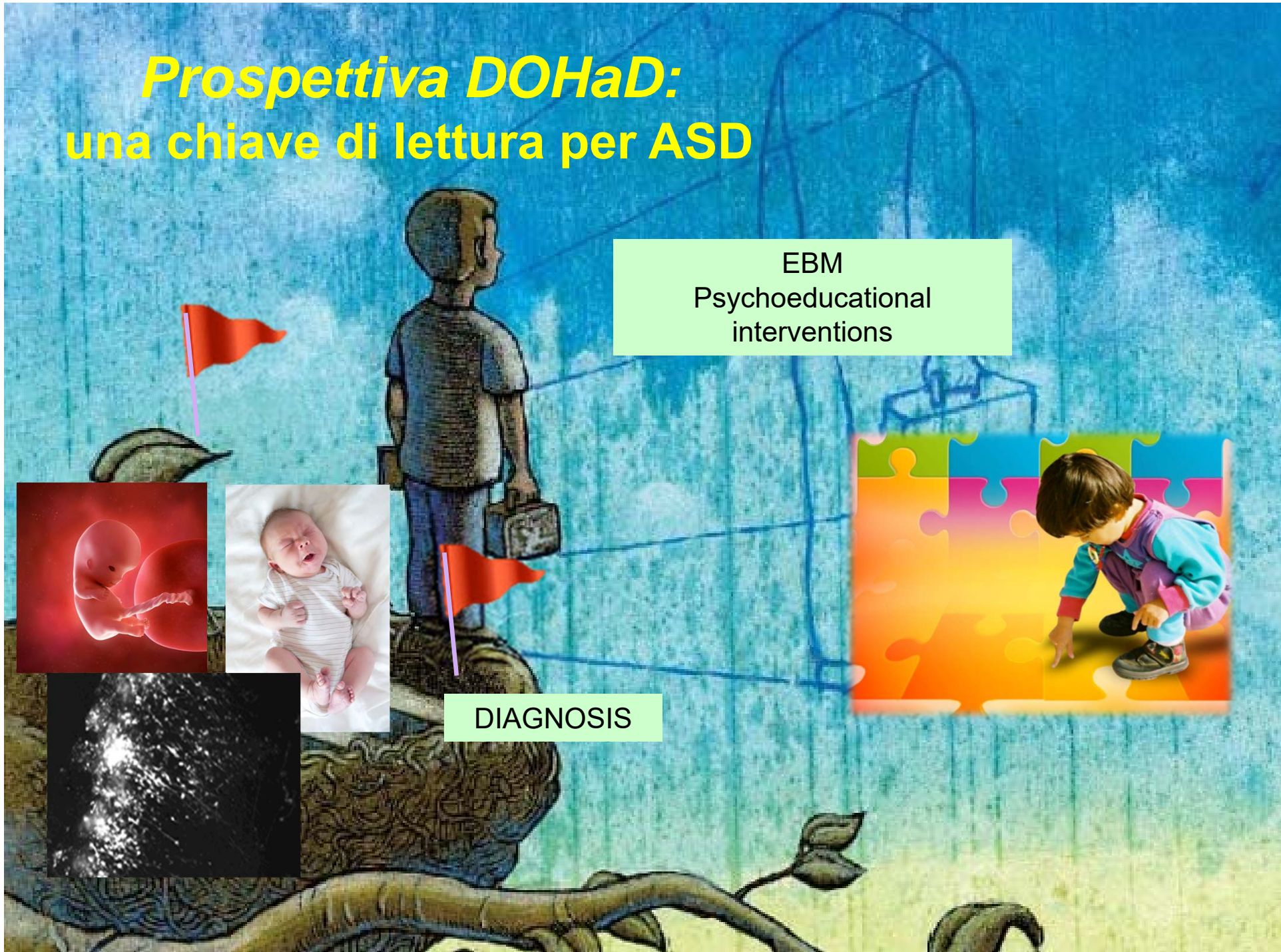
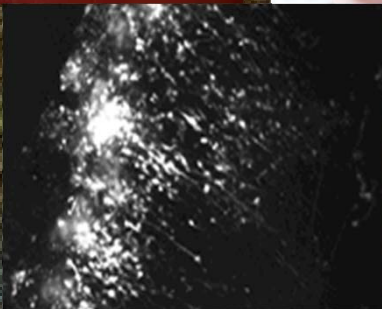
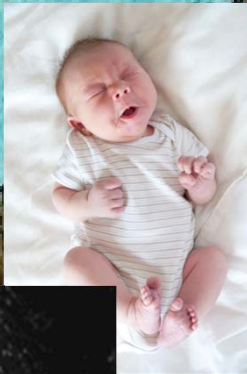
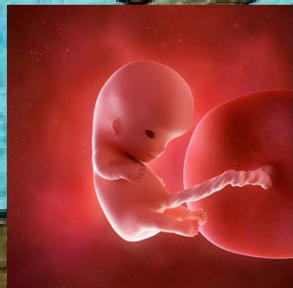


FLUID NETWORK

# Prospettiva DOHaD: una chiave di lettura per ASD

EBM  
Psychoeducational  
interventions

DIAGNOSIS



## Extremely low gestational age and very low birthweight for gestational age are risk factors for autism spectrum disorder in a large cohort study of 10-year-old children born at 23-27 weeks' gestation

Robert M. Joseph, PhD; Steven J. Korzeniewski, PhD; Elizabeth N. Allred, MS; T. Michael O'Shea, MD; Tim Heeren, PhD; Jean A. Frazier, MD; Janice Ware, PhD; Deborah Hirtz, MD; Alan Leviton, MD; Karl Kuban, MD; for the ELGAN Study Investigators

**CONCLUSION:** Our study confirms that low gestational age is associated with increased risk for autism spectrum disorder irrespective of intellectual ability, whereas severe fetal growth restriction is strongly associated with autism spectrum disorder without intellectual disability. Maternal report of cervical-vaginal infection is associated with increased risk of autism spectrum disorder with intellectual disability, and peripartum maternal fever is associated with increased risk for intellectual disability without autism spectrum disorder.









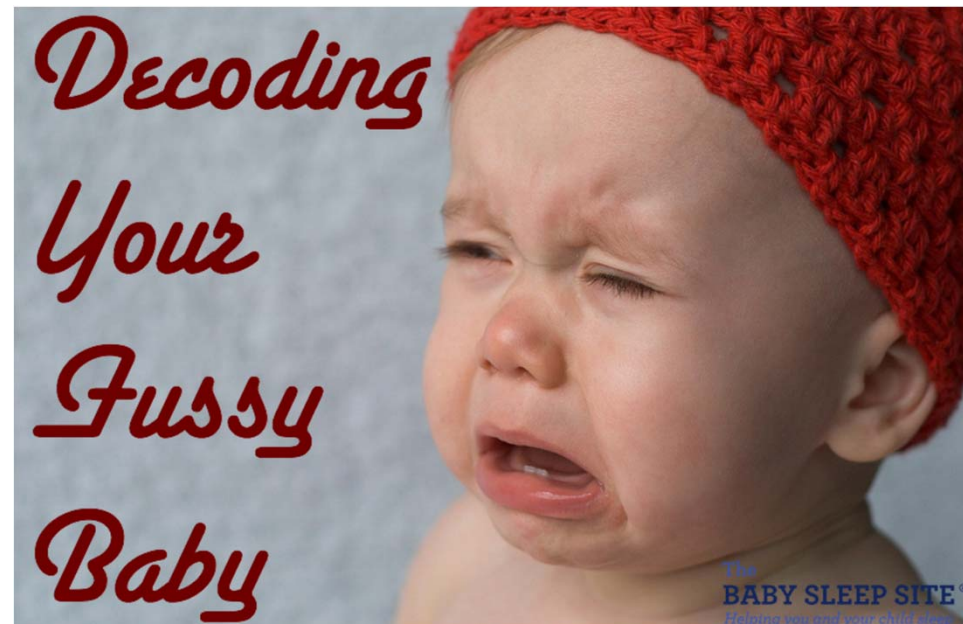
## Original Article

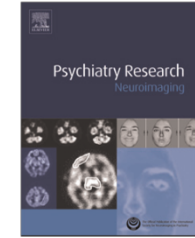
**Infant colic or early symptom of autism spectrum disorder?**

Özlem Bağ,<sup>1</sup>  Sevay Alşen Güney,<sup>3</sup>  Nagihan Cevher Binici,<sup>3</sup> Tuba Tuncel,<sup>5</sup> Aslıhan Şahin,<sup>2</sup> Emel Berksoy<sup>6</sup> and Çiğdem Ecevit<sup>4</sup>

The rate of persistent crying was significantly higher in the ASD group than in the control group (32% vs 9%,  **$P < 0.001$** ). The **relative risk** of persistent crying was **4.40 in ASD**. The likelihood of being **misdiagnosed with IC** in this group was **78%**.

Conclusion: Infants with excessive crying should be very thoroughly evaluated before being diagnosed with IC. In particular, persistent crying in infants (i.e. excessive crying with late onset and long duration) **may be an early symptom of ASD.**





## Head circumference and brain size in autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Roberto Sacco <sup>a,\*</sup>, Stefano Gabriele <sup>a</sup>, Antonio M. Persico <sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Unit of Chi

<sup>b</sup> Mafalda Lu

### A B S T R A C T

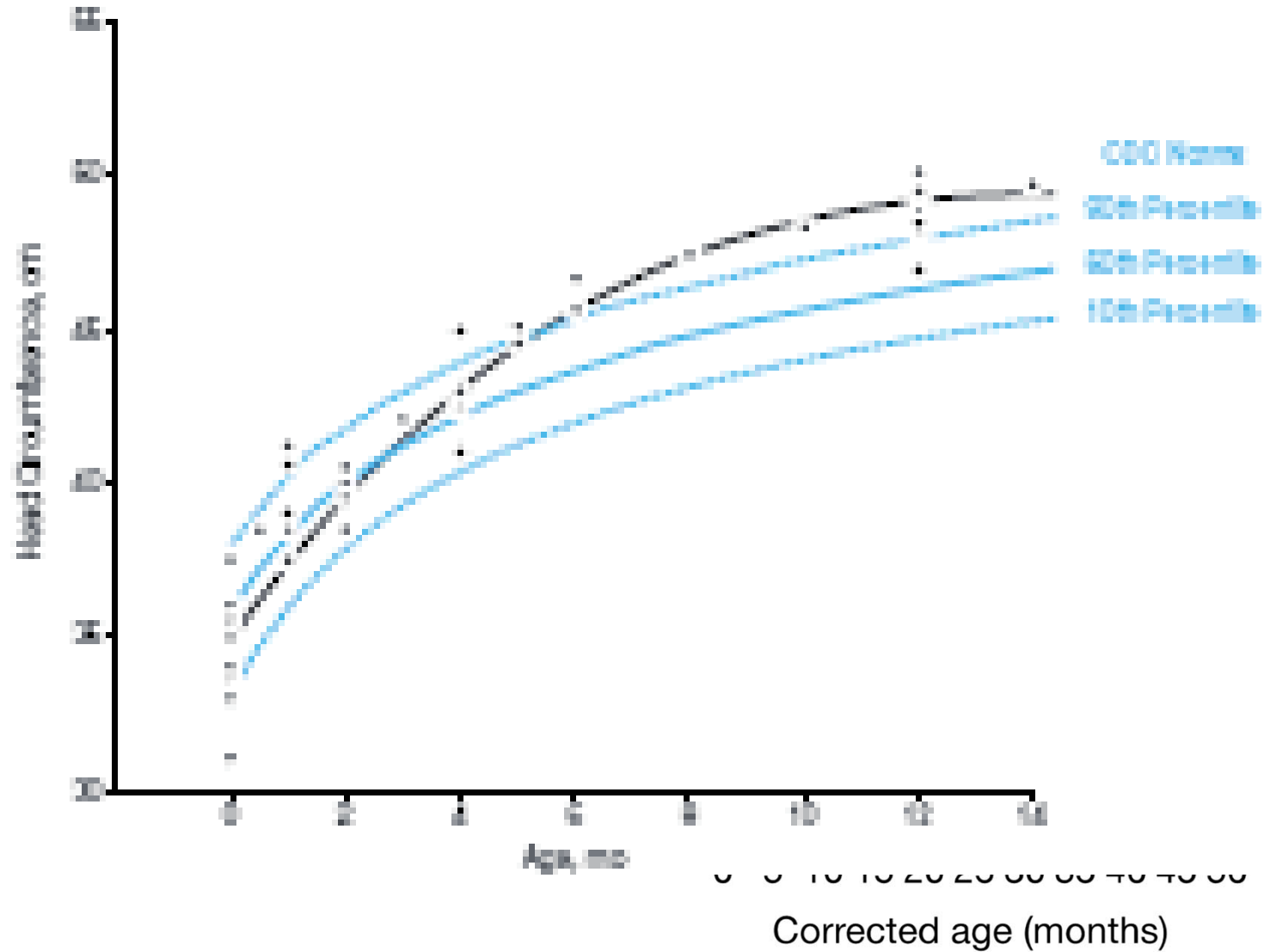
Macrocephaly and brain overgrowth have been associated with autism spectrum disorder. We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to provide an overall estimate of effect size and statistical significance for both head circumference and total brain volume in autism. Our literature search strategy identified 261 and 391 records, respectively; 27 studies defining percentages of macrocephalic patients and 44 structural brain imaging studies providing total brain volumes for patients and controls were included in our meta-analyses. Head circumference was significantly larger in autistic compared to control individuals, with 822/5225 (15.7%) autistic individuals displaying macrocephaly. Structural brain imaging studies measuring brain volume estimated effect size. The effect size is higher in low functioning autistics compared to high functioning and ASD individuals. Brain overgrowth was recorded in 142/1558 (9.1%) autistic patients. Finally, we found a significant interaction between age and total brain volume, resulting in larger head circumference and brain size during early childhood. Our results provide conclusive effect sizes and prevalence rates for macrocephaly and brain overgrowth in autism, confirm the variation of abnormal brain growth with age, and support the inclusion of this endophenotype in multi-biomarker diagnostic panels for clinical use.

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# LETTER

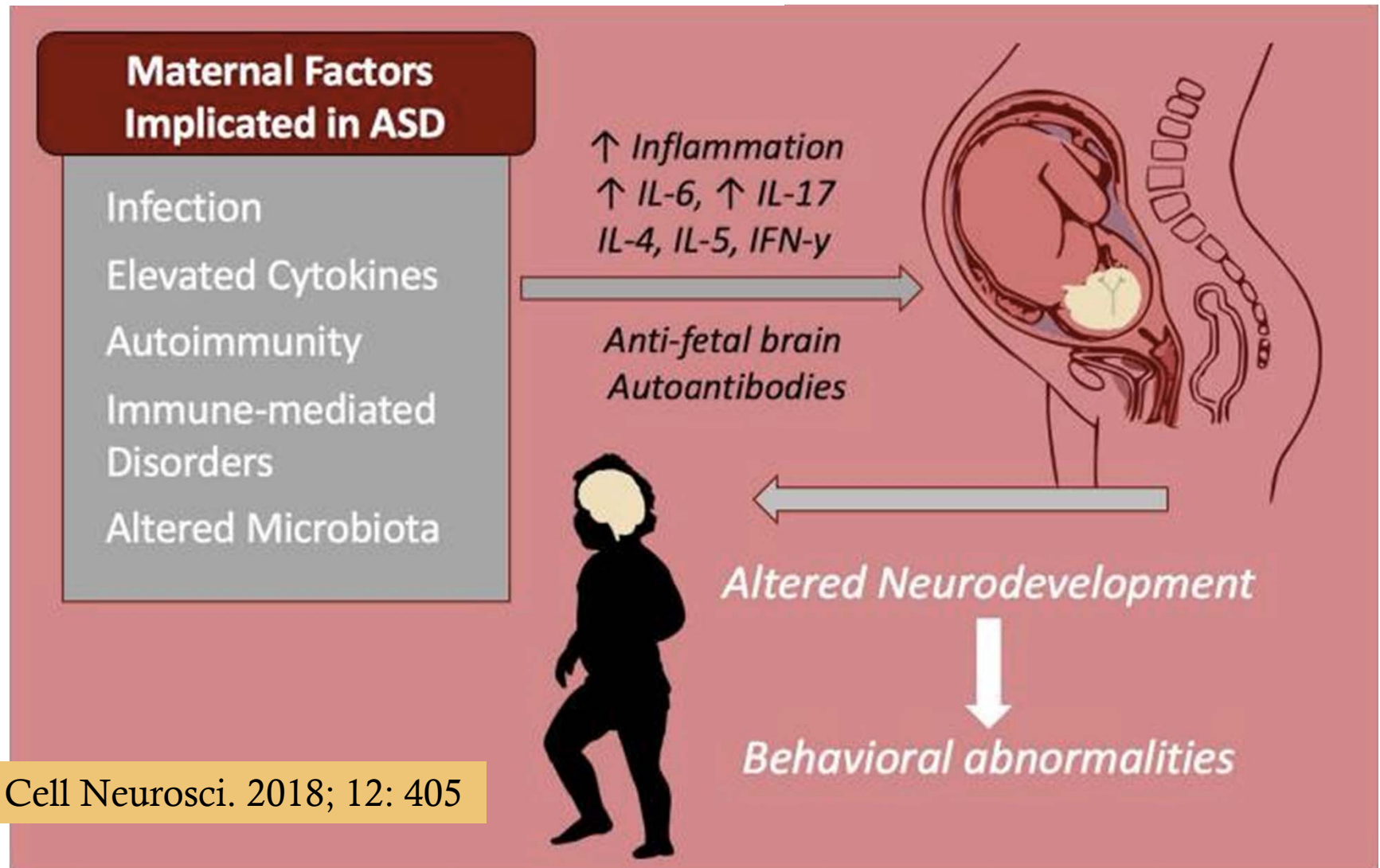
doi:10.1038/nature21369

**nature**  
International weekly journal of science



# Immune Dysfunction and Autoimmunity as Pathological Mechanisms in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Heather K. Hughes<sup>1,2</sup>, Emily Mills Ko<sup>1,2</sup>, Destanie Rose<sup>1,2</sup> and Paul Ashwood<sup>1,2\*</sup>





# Placental adaptive responses and fetal programming

Leslie Myatt



The metabolic activity of placental mitochondria leads to oxidative stress even in normal pregnancy which is exacerbated further in IUGR, diabetic and pre-eclamptic pregnancies and may also give nitrate stress known to lead to covalent modification and hence altered activity of proteins. **Hypoxia, oxidative and nitrate stress all alter placenta development** and may be a general underlying mechanism that links altered placental function to fetal programming.

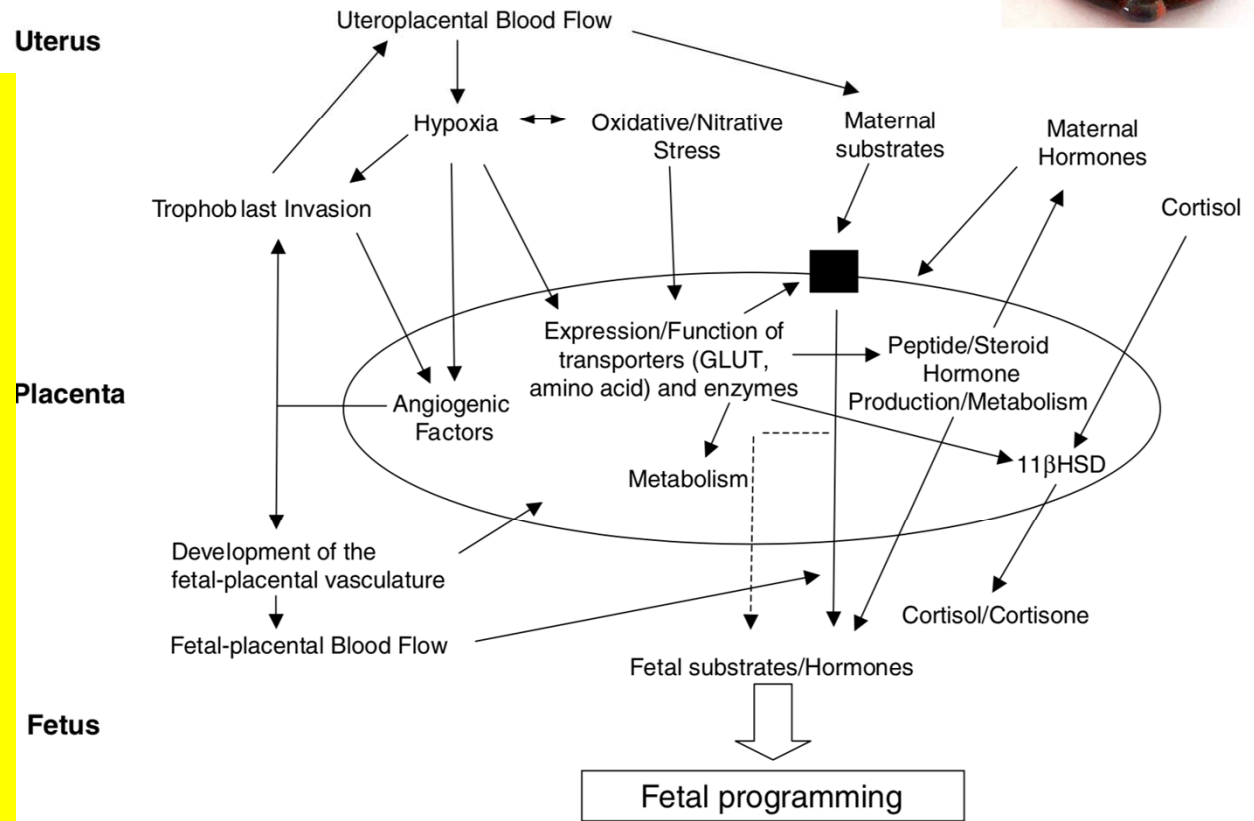


Figure 1  
Placental adaptive responses and fetal programming.



Review

# The Role of Nitric Oxide, ADMA, and Homocysteine in The Etiopathogenesis of Preeclampsia—Review

Weronika Dymara-Konopka \* and Marzena Laskowska

## • NO PATHWAY ROLE

- confers autocrine/paracrine effects in the placenta
- regulates feto-placental vascular reactivity
- main vasodilator in the placenta
- involved in trophoblast invasion and apoptosis, platelet adhesion in the intervillous space
- promotes embryo survival and tissue remodeling
- regulates vasculo and angiogenesis
- downstream mediator of VEGF, FGF and angiopoietin-1 and possibly upstream regulator via HIF-1

- maintains endothelial cell barrier integrity
- a key transmitter for endothelium-dependent regulation of vascular tone
- inhibits the adhesion and activation of platelet aggregation
- acts as an anticoagulant
- contributes to decrease in vascular resistance observed during early pregnancy in response to expanded blood volume
- supports growing need of organ perfusion during pregnancy
- abolishes toxic activity of superoxide ions
- correlates with concentrations of anti and proangiogenic molecules

## STAGES OF PE

### 1. Abnormal placental invasion

incomplete, restricted to superficial layers of decidua  
inadequate access to oxygen and nutrients for placenta and fetus  
reduction in uteroplacental perfusion pressure  
placental ischemia/hypoxia

### 2. Maternal endothelial dysfunction

endotheliosis  
endothelial dysfunction  
generalised multisystem vasospasm  
reduced plasma volume  
oxidative stress  
hyperinflammatory and antiangiogenic state

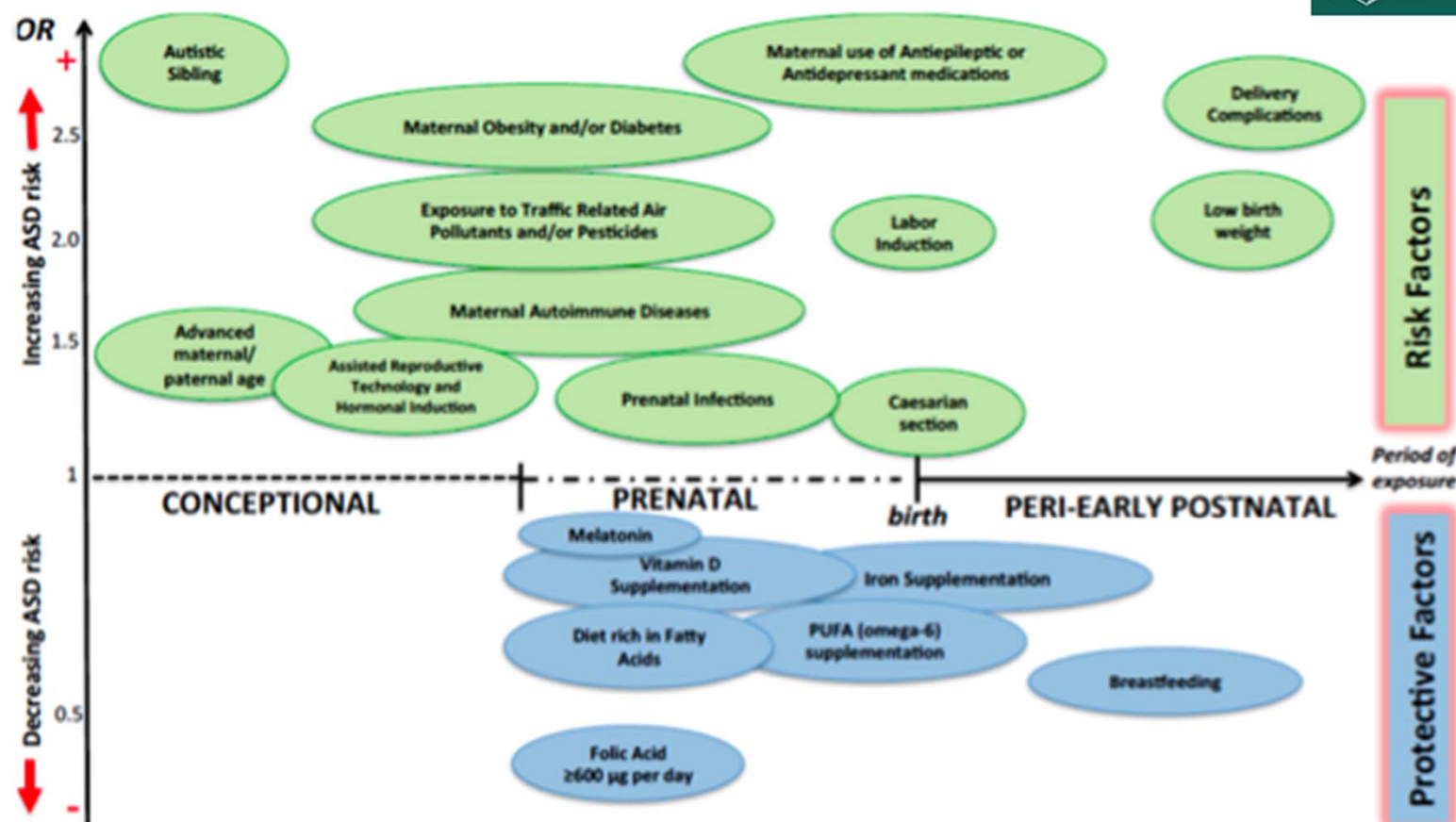




Review

## Risk and Protective Environmental Factors Associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Evidence-Based Principles and Recommendations

Leonardo Emberti Gialloreti <sup>1,\*</sup>, Luigi Mazzone <sup>2</sup>, Arianna Benvenuto <sup>2</sup>, Alessio Fasano <sup>3</sup>, Alicia Garcia Alcon <sup>4</sup>, Aletta Kraneveld <sup>5</sup>, Romina Moavero <sup>2,6</sup>, Raanan Raz <sup>7</sup>, Maria Pia Riccio <sup>8</sup>, Martina Siracusano <sup>1,9</sup>, Ditz A. Zachor <sup>10</sup>, Marina Marini <sup>11</sup> and Paolo Curatolo <sup>2</sup>



Original Article

Cite this article: Grossi E, Migliore L,  
Muratori F (2018) Developmental risk factors

# Pregnancy risk factors related to autism: an Italian case-control study in mothers of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), their siblings and of typically developing children

E. Grossi<sup>1</sup>, L. Migliore<sup>2</sup> and F. Muratori<sup>3,4</sup>

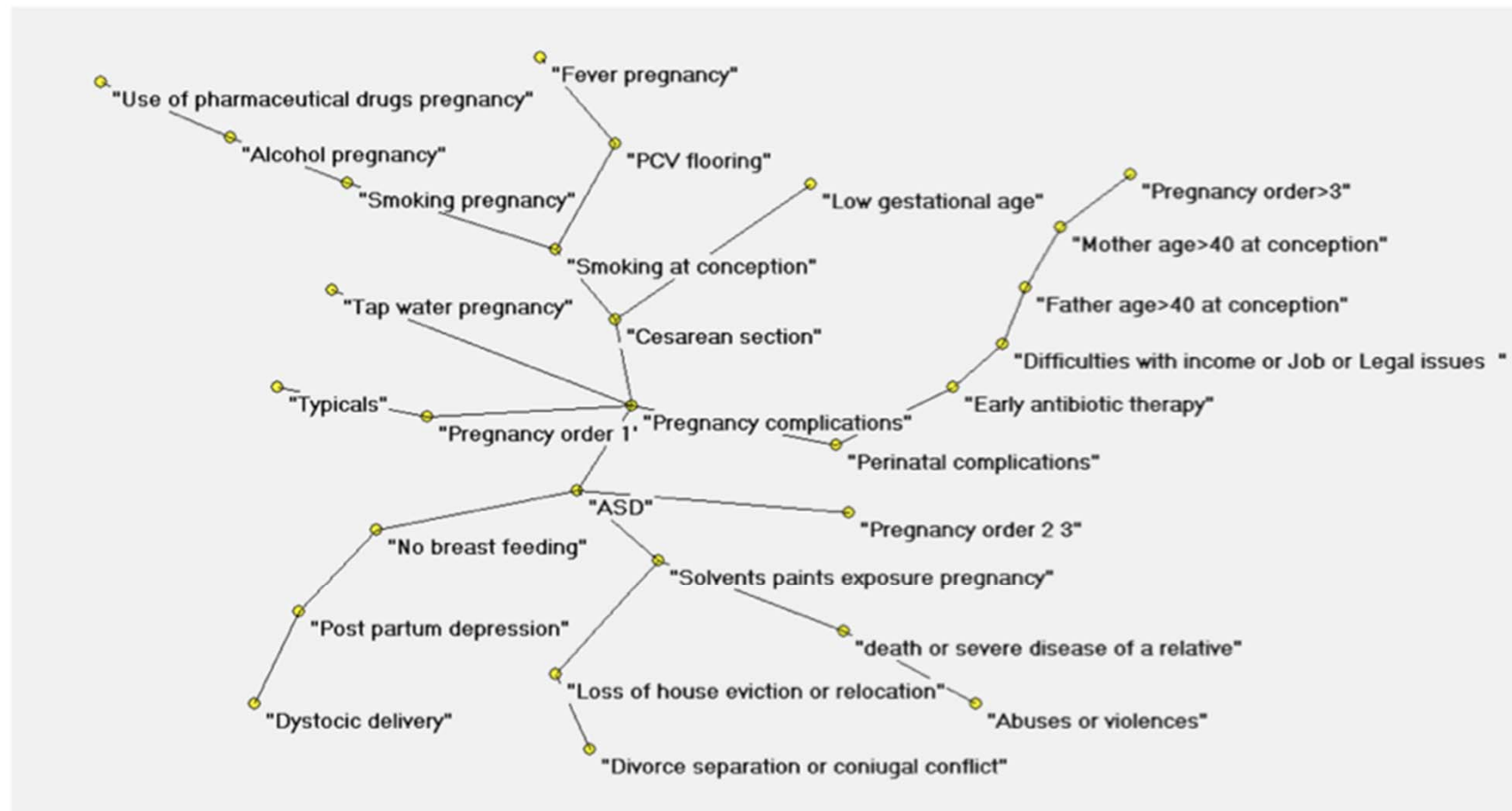
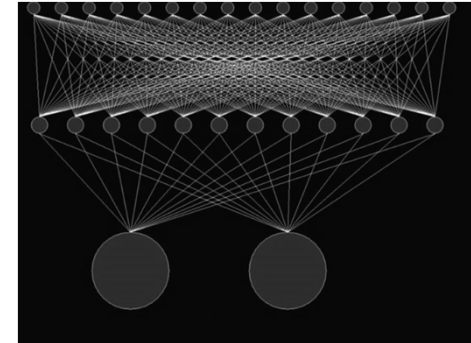


Fig. 3. Semantic connectivity map of factors on study. See text for areas description.

REVIEW

# Maternal immune activation: Implications for neuropsychiatric disorders

Myka L. Estes, A. Kimberley McAllister\*

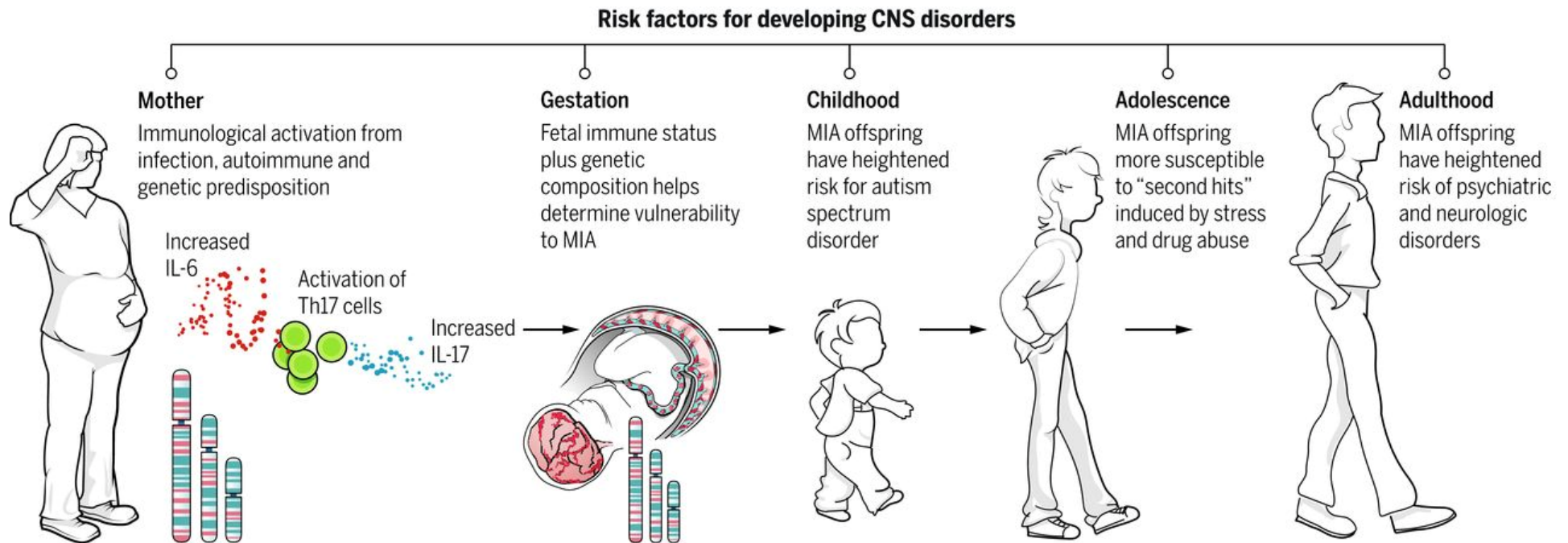


Science

Vol 353, Issue 6301  
19 August 2016

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[Advertising \(PDF\)](#)  
[Classified \(PDF\)](#)  
[Masthead \(PDF\)](#)

traiettoria di fragilità possibile VS fotografia di un danno inevitabile e irreversibile



# An open issue:

Regressions

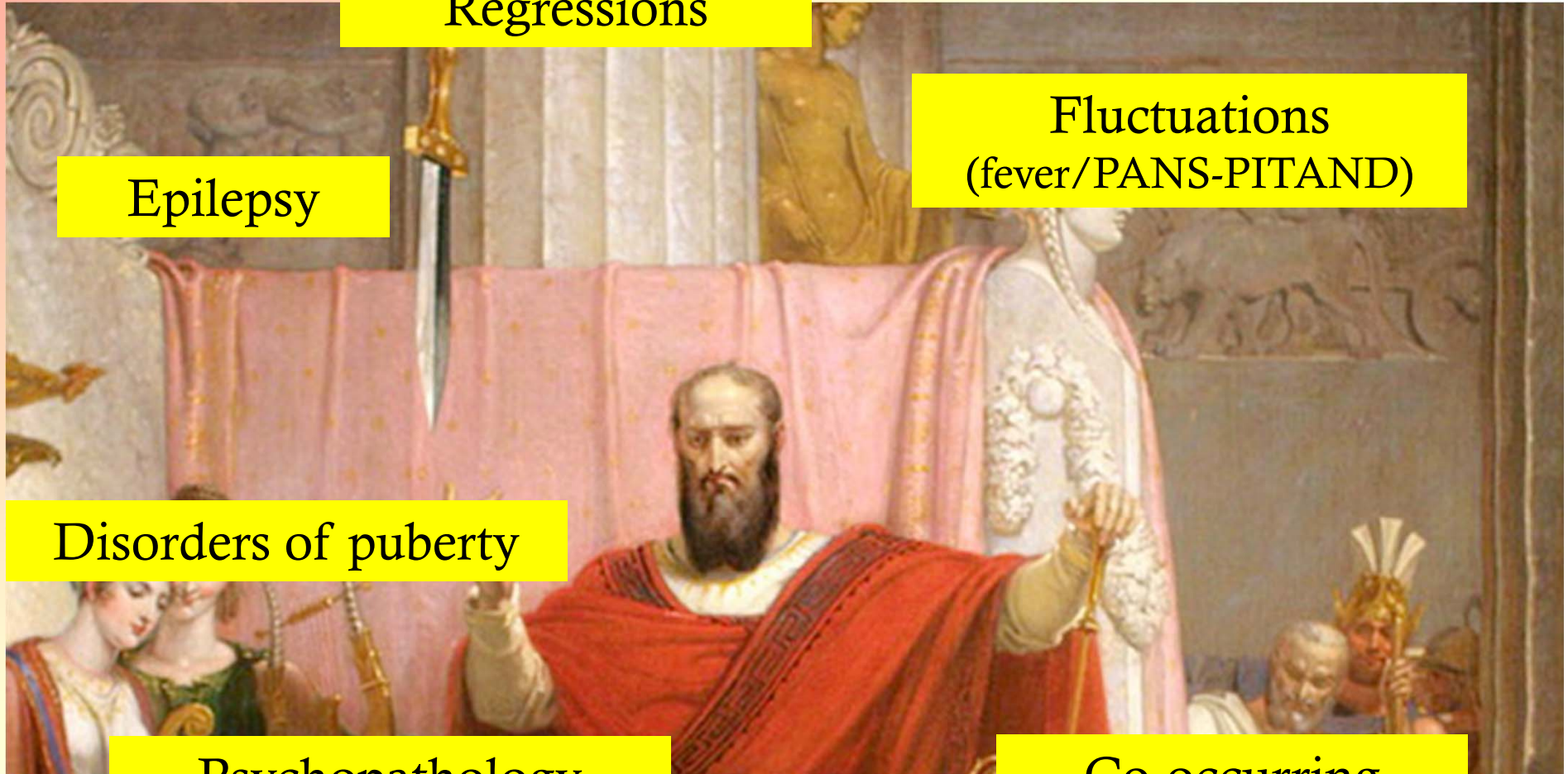
Epilepsy

Fluctuations  
(fever/PANS-PITAND)

Disorders of puberty

Psychopathology

Co-occurring  
medical conditions



GENETIC/GENOMICS

EPIGENETIC/EPIGENOMICS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
FACTORS

NEUROINFLAMMATION

**IMMUNE  
RESPONSE**

OXIDATIVE STRESS

GUT-BRAIN AXIS


MITOCHONDRIAL  
IMPAIRMENT



Research in ASD:  
WHAT TOPICS?

## Original Article

## Neuroglial activation and neuroinflammation in the brain of patients with autism

Diana L. Vargas MD, Caterina Nascimbene MD, Chitra Krishnan MHS,  
Andrew W. Zimmerman MD, Carlos A. Pardo MD 

*“... We demonstrate an active neuroinflammatory process in the cerebral cortex, white matter, and notably in cerebellum of autistic patients. Immunocytochemical studies showed **marked activation of microglia and astroglia, and cytokine profiling** indicated that macrophage chemoattractant protein (MCP)-1 and tumor growth factor- $\beta$ 1, derived from neuroglia, were the most prevalent cytokines in brain tissues. CSF showed a unique proinflammatory profile of cytokines, including a **marked increase in MCP-1**. Our findings indicate that innate neuroimmune reactions play a pathogenic role in an undefined proportion of autistic patients, suggesting that **future therapies might involve modifying neuroglial responses in the brain**”*



# ASD and immune dysfunction

Genetic associations with immune-related genes

Family history of autoimmune diseases

Maternal infections, inflammation and autoimmunity infection during pregnancy

Autoantibodies directed toward CNS proteins

Elevated serum titres of antibodies

Inadequate quantity and quality of serum immunoglobulins

Alterations of mitogen-induced proliferation

Reduced number of total lymphocytes

Impairments of the CD4/CD8 T cells ratio

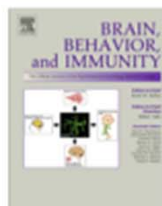
Defective T cell activation

Reduced NK cytotoxicity

Alterations in the Th1/Th2 cytokine balance

Dysregulation in apoptosis mechanisms





Full-length Article

## Multiple inflammasome complexes are activated in autistic spectrum disorders



Marina Saresella<sup>a,\*</sup>, Federica Piancone<sup>a</sup>, Ivana Marventano<sup>a</sup>, Martina Zoppis<sup>a</sup>, Ambra Hernis<sup>a</sup>, Michela Zanette<sup>a</sup>, Daria Trabattoni<sup>b</sup>, Matteo Chiappedi<sup>e</sup>, Alessandro Ghezzo<sup>f</sup>, Maria Paola Canevini<sup>d</sup>, Francesca la Rosa<sup>a</sup>, Susanna Esposito<sup>c</sup>, Mario Clerici<sup>a,c</sup>

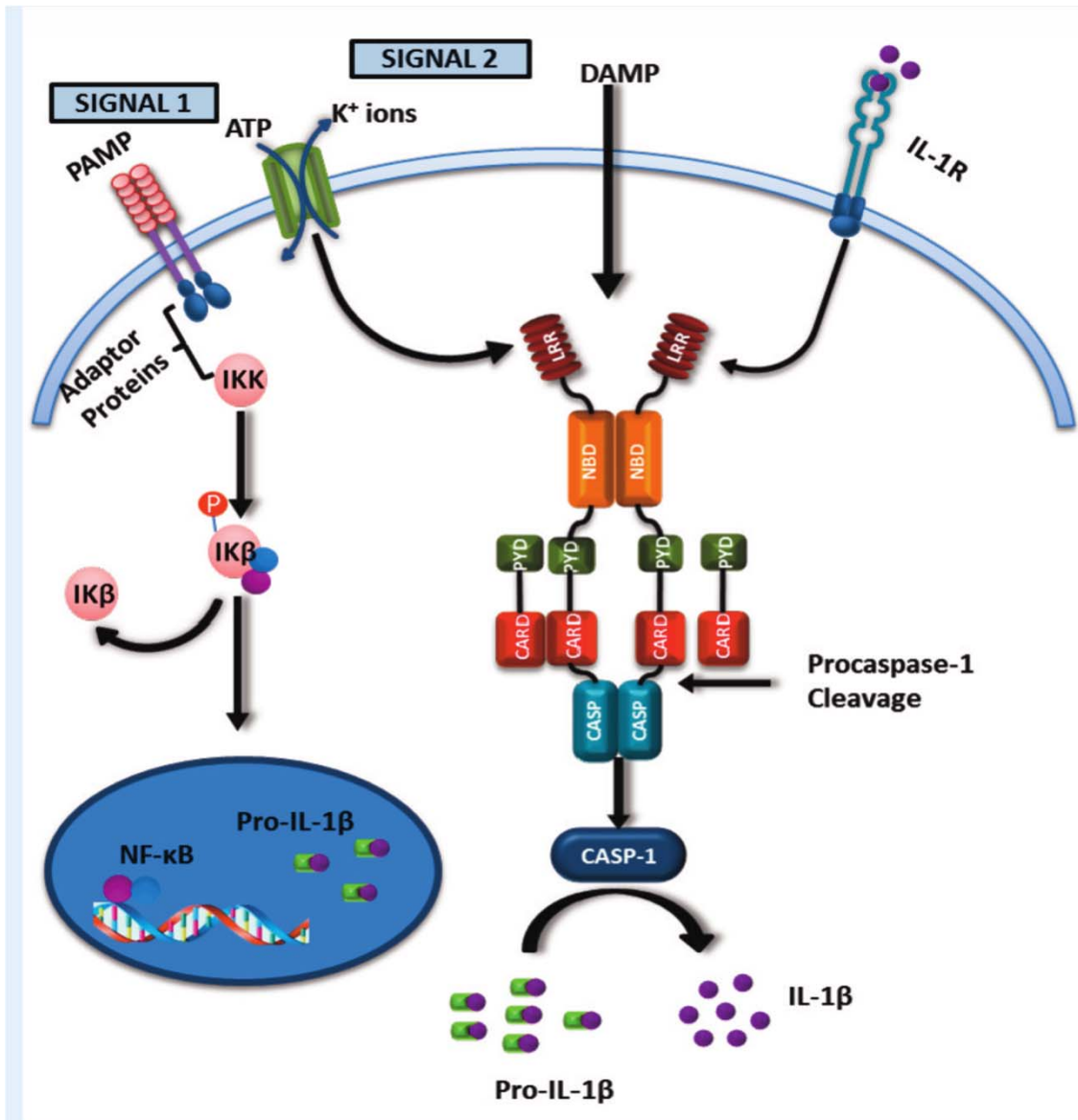
### A B S T R A C T

**Background:** Inflammasomes are multimeric protein platforms involved in the regulation of inflammatory responses whose activity results in the production of proinflammatory cytokines. Because neuroinflammation is observed in autistic spectrum disorders (ASD), a neurologic condition of childhood resulting in a complex behavioural impairment, we analyzed the inflammasomes activity in ASD. Additionally we verified whether alterations of the gastrointestinal (GI) barriers might play a role in inflammasomes activation.

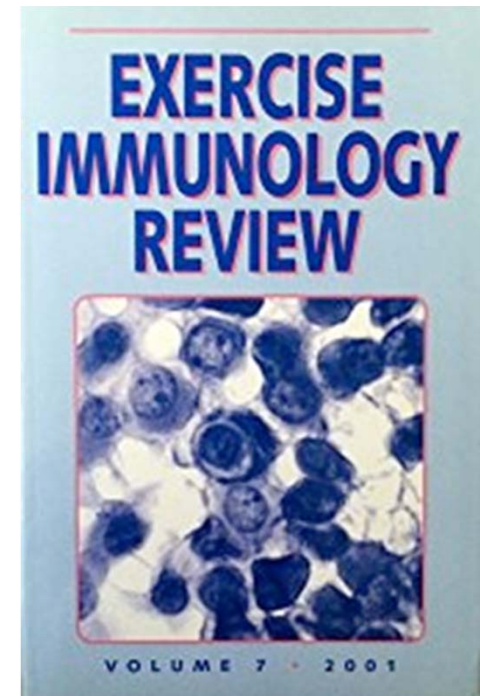
**Methods:** The activity of the inflammasomes, the concentration of the inflammasomes-derived proinflammatory cytokines interleukin (IL)-1 $\beta$  and IL-18, and serum parameters of GI damage were analyzed in 25 ASD children, 23 healthy siblings (HS) and 30 unrelated age-matched healthy controls (HC).

**Results:** A significant upregulation of the AIM2 and the NLRP3 inflammasomes and an increased production of IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-18 that was associated with a consistent reduction of IL-33, an anti inflammation cytokine were observed in ASD alone. Notably, in a possible immune-mediated attempt to dampen inflammation, IL-37, a suppressor of innate inflammatory responses, was significantly augmented in these same children. Finally, intestinal fatty acid binding protein (IFABP), an index of altered GI permeability, was significantly increased in serum of ASD and HS.

**Conclusions:** These results show that the inflammasomes are activated in ASD and shed light on the molecular mechanisms responsible for ASD-associated neuroinflammation. The observation that GI alterations could be present as well in ASD offers a possible link between such alterations and neuroinflammation. Therapeutic strategies targeting inflammasome activation could be useful in ASD.



**Figure 5** - Schematic illustration of NLRP3 inflammasome activation and subsequent intracellular signalling that produces a pro-inflammatory outcome.



*S. Horsburgh et al, 2015*

# The Relationship Between Microbiome, Gut, and Brain

Clinical Therapeutics/Volume 37, Number 5, 2015

***Review Article***

**Gut Microbiota: The Conductor in the Orchestra of Immune–Neuroendocrine Communication**

Sahar El Aidy, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; Timothy G. Dinan, PhD<sup>1,3</sup>; and John F. Cryan, PhD<sup>1,4</sup>

Microbiota & probiotics

Sphincters

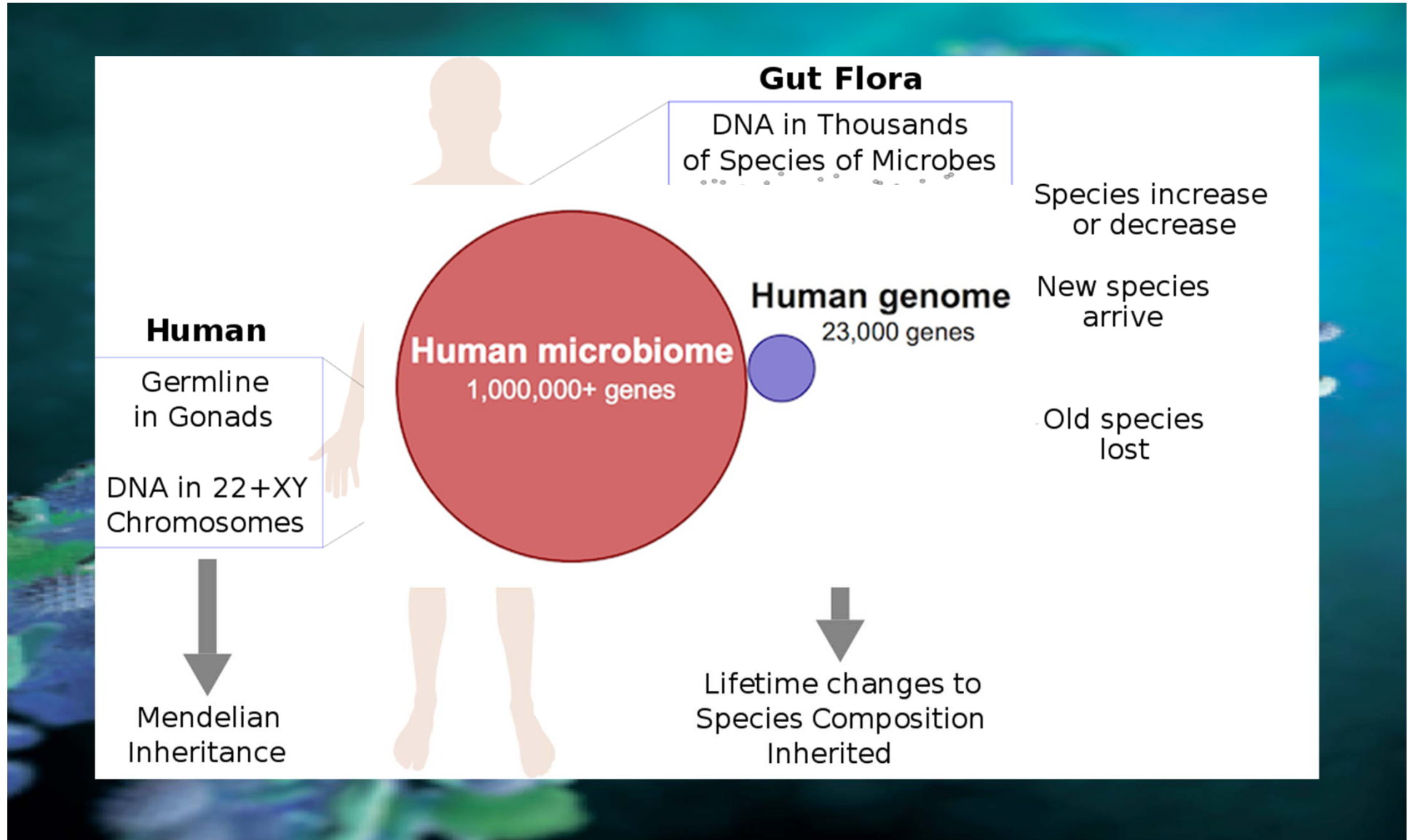
Pelvic pathways

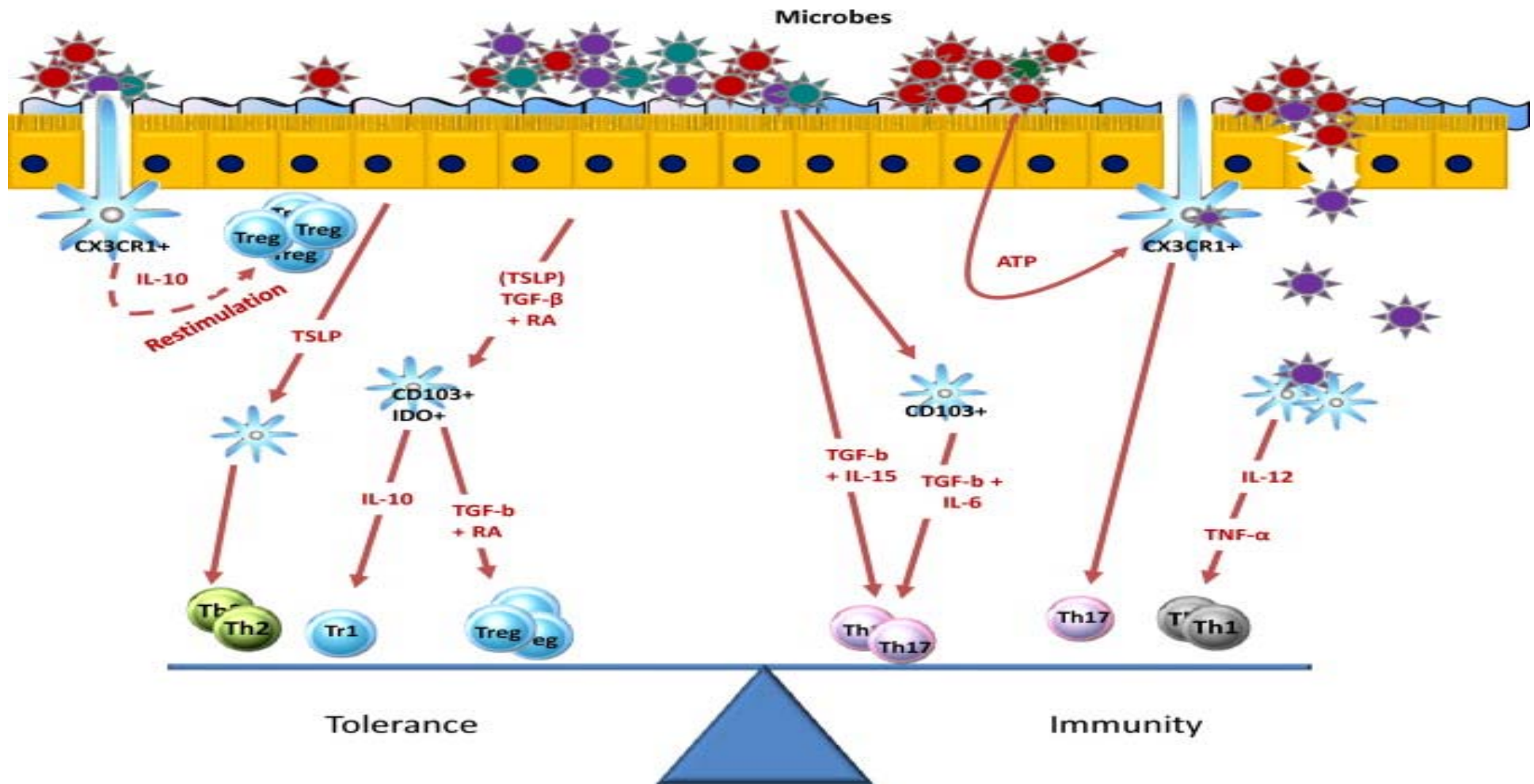
defecation centre

Gut-brain axis

Brain-gut axis

# Hologenome → Holobiont



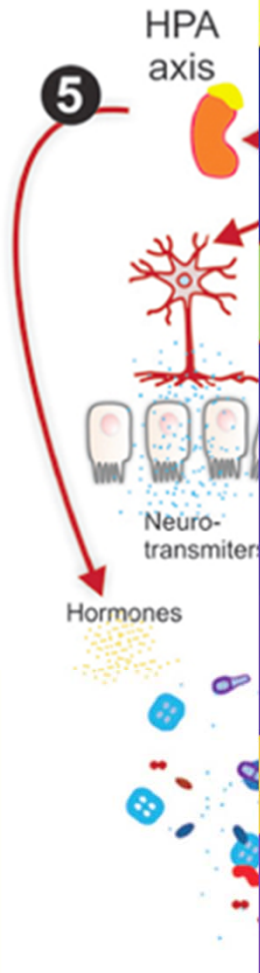


### *Rescigno M*

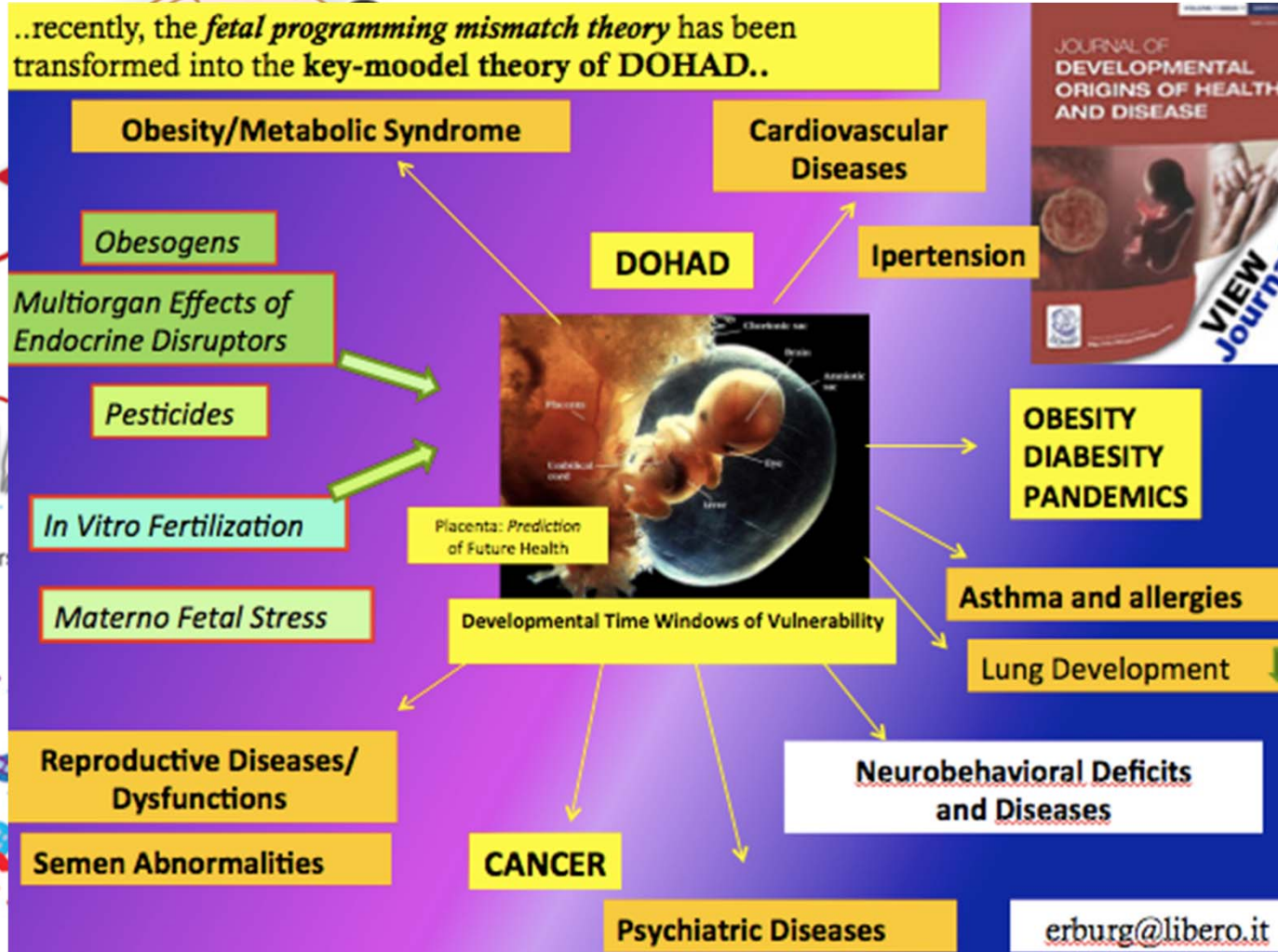
How the interplay between antigen presenting cells and microbiota tunes host immune responses in the gut

Seminars in Immunology, Volume 24, Issue 1, 2012, 43 - 49

A



B



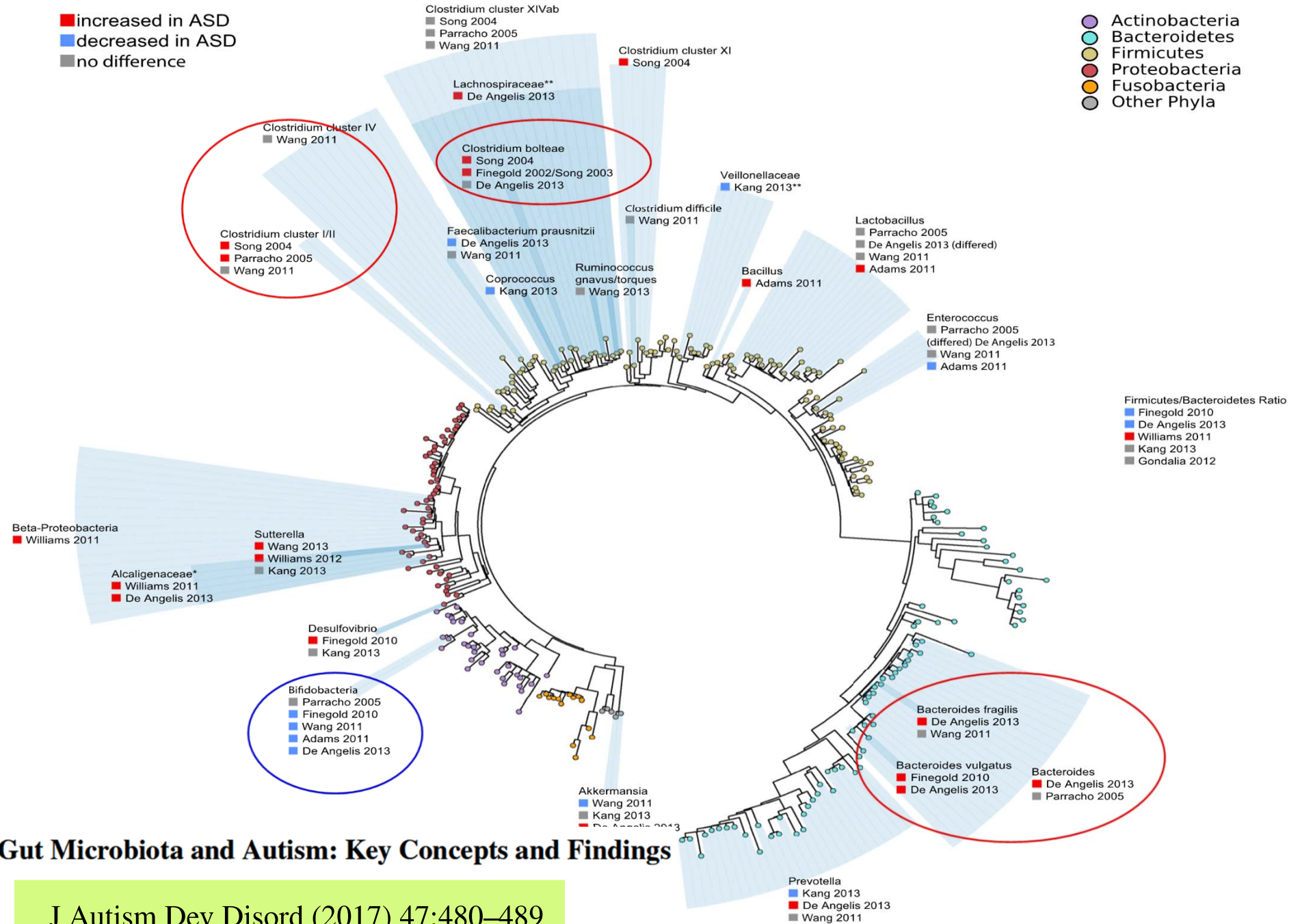
Gut microbiota

sm

Multiple sclerosis

cardiovascular

cancer

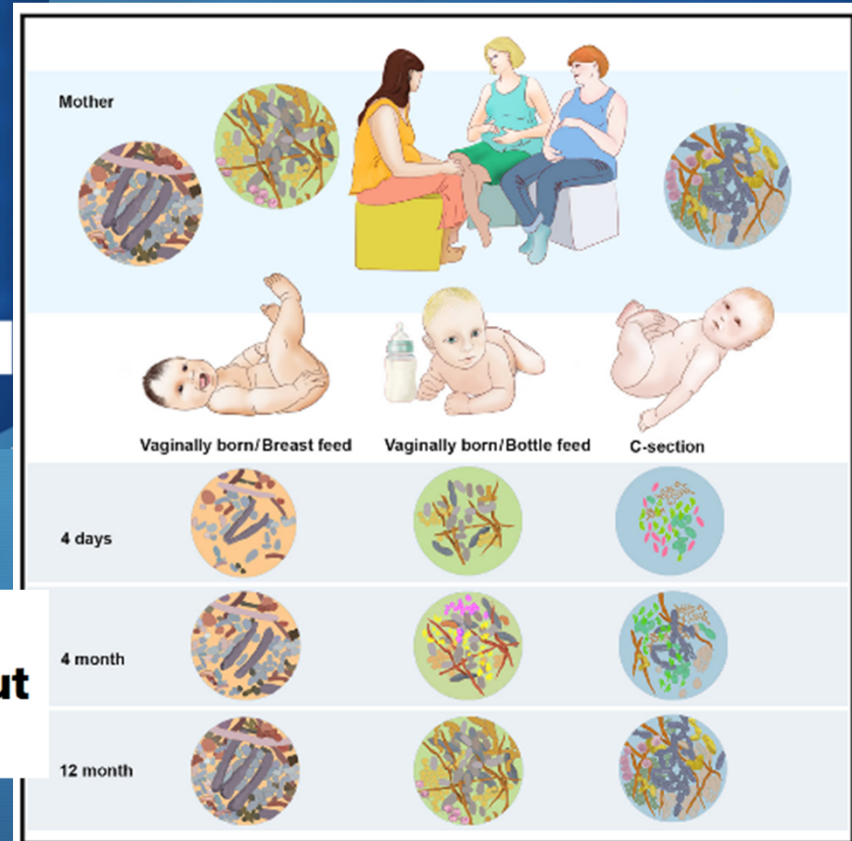
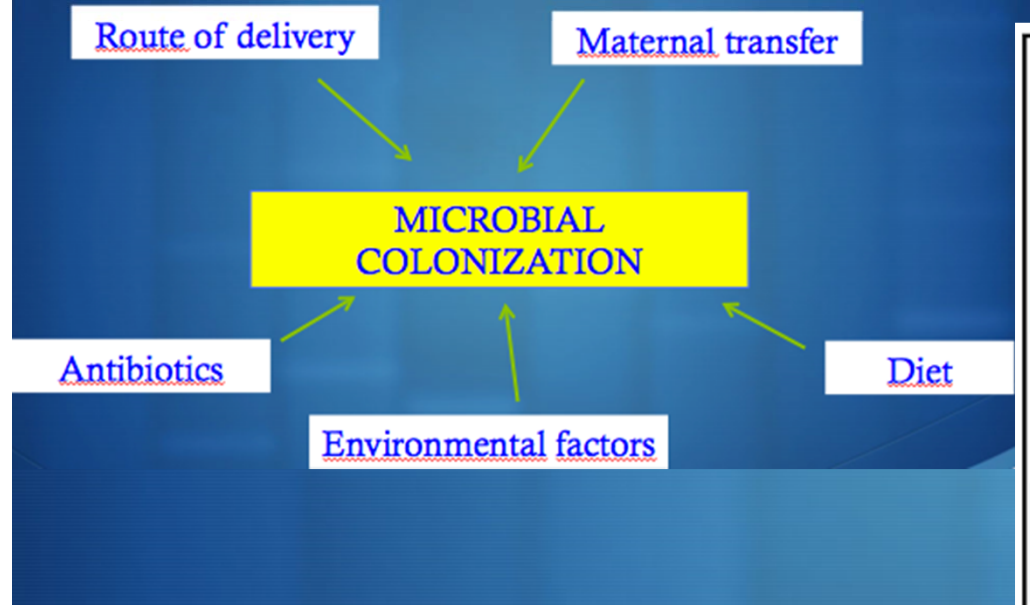


## Gut Microbiota and Autism: Key Concepts and Findings

J Autism Dev Disord (2017) 47:480–489



# The gut microbiota is shaped in early infancy



## Cell Host & Microbe

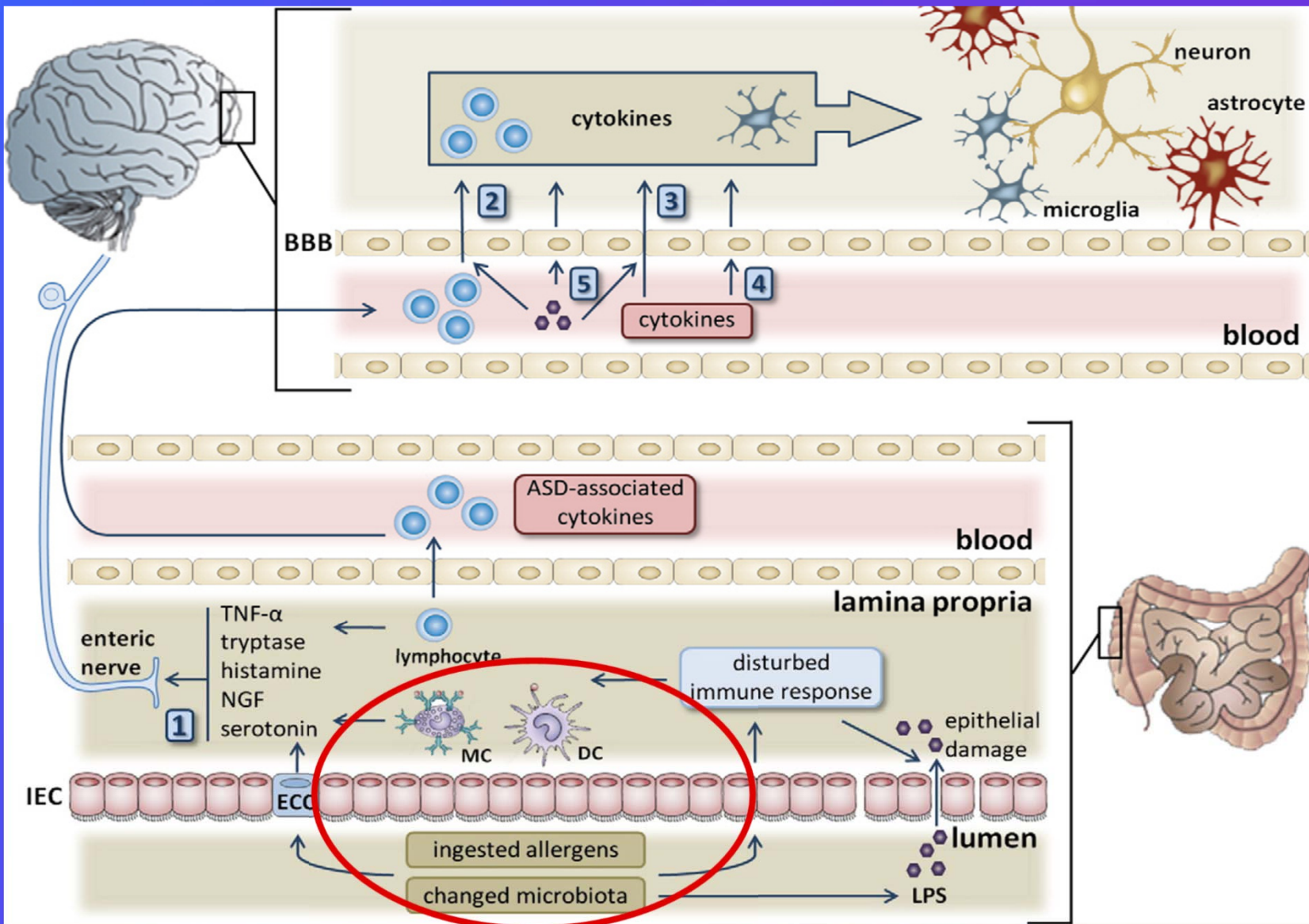
### Dynamics and Stabilization of the Human Gut Microbiome during the First Year of Life

Bäckhed et al., 2015, Cell Host & Microbe 17, 690–703

May 13, 2015 ©2015 Elsevier Inc.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2015.04.004>

# Gut-brain axis



Review

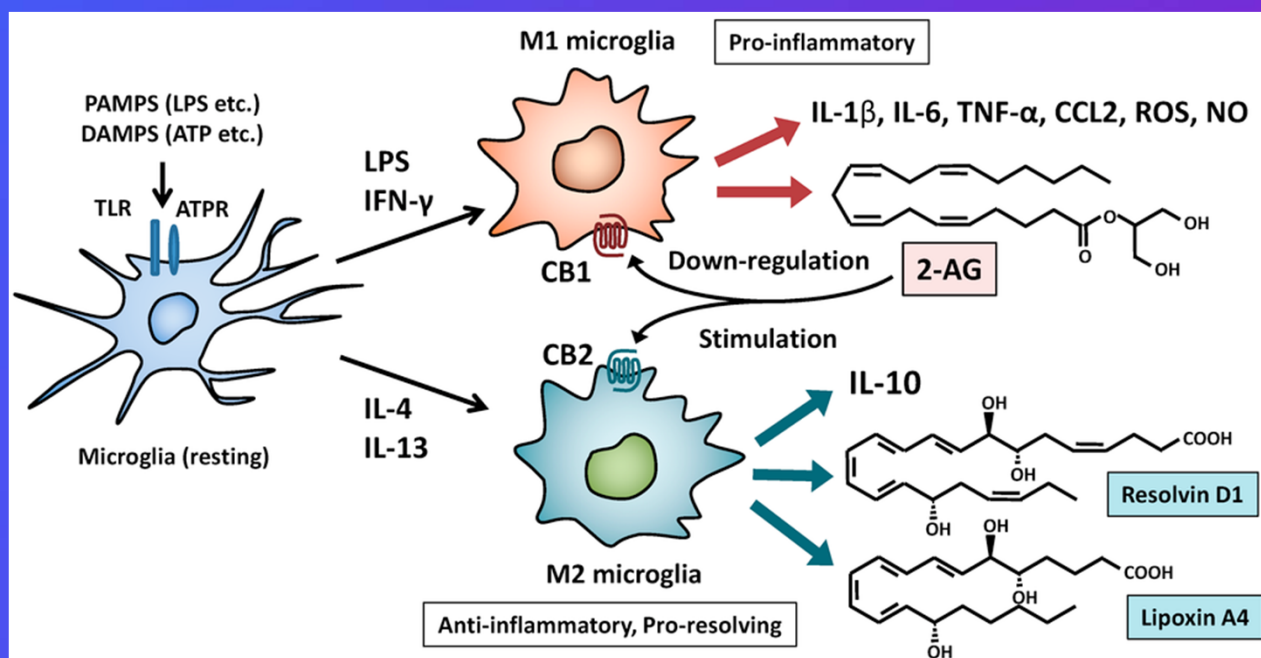
## Role of Microglial M1/M2 Polarization in Relapse and Remission of Psychiatric Disorders and Diseases

Yutaka Nakagawa<sup>1</sup> and Kenji Chiba<sup>2,\*</sup>

*Pharmaceuticals* **2014**, *7*, 1028-1048; doi:10.3390/ph7121028



Microglia are nervous system-specific immune cells serving as tissue-resident macrophages influencing brain development, homeostasis, response to injury and repair.

As influenced by their environment, microglia assume different phenotypes and shift functions to maintain tissue homeostasis



Article

# Effects of *Lactobacillus plantarum* PS128 on Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Taiwan: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial

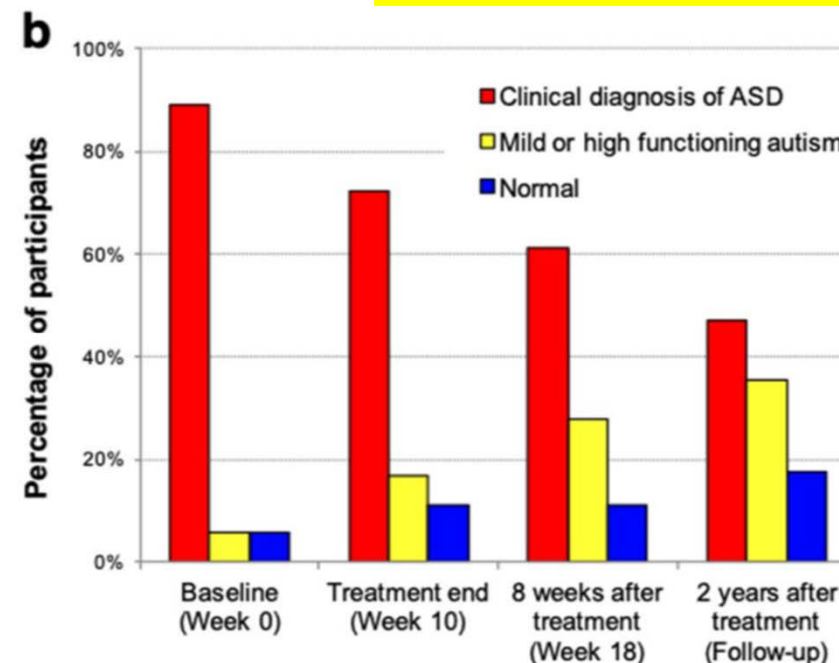
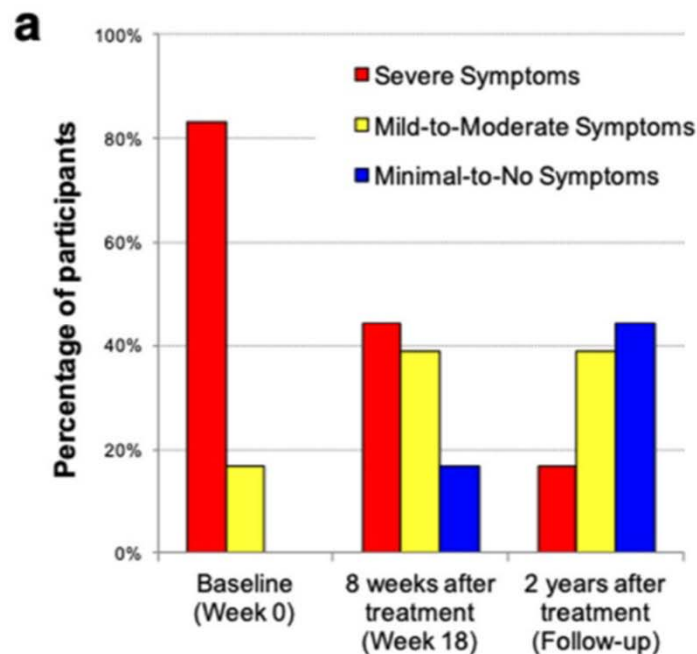
Yen-Wenn Liu <sup>1,2</sup>, Min Tze Liong <sup>3</sup> , Yu-Chu Ella Chung <sup>4</sup>, Hui-Yi Huang <sup>5</sup>, Wu-Shun Peng <sup>1</sup>, Yun-Fang Cheng <sup>1</sup>, Yu-Siou Lin <sup>6</sup>, Yu-Yu Wu <sup>7,\*</sup> and Ying-Chieh Tsai <sup>1,2,\*</sup> 

**Abstract:** This four-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study investigated the effects of *Lactobacillus plantarum* PS128 (PS128) on boys with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) aged 7–15 in Taiwan. All subjects fulfilled the criteria for ASD diagnosis of DSM-V and the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R). Questionnaires used for the primary outcome measure include the Autism Behavior Checklist-Taiwan version (ABC-T), the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) and the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL). The Swanson, Nolan, and Pelham-IV-Taiwan version (SNAP-IV) and the Clinical Global Impression-improvement (CGI-I) were used for the secondary outcome measure. The results showed that PS128 ameliorated opposition/defiance behaviors, and that the total score of SNAP-IV for younger children (aged 7–12) improved significantly compared with the placebo group. Additionally, several elements were also notably improved in the PS128 group after 28-day consumption of PS128. Further studies are needed to better clarify the effects of PS128 for younger children with ASD on broader symptoms.

## Long-term benefit of Microbiota Transfer Therapy on autism symptoms and gut microbiota

Dae-Wook Kang, 2018

Two years after treatment was completed, most improvements in GI symptoms were maintained, and autism-related symptoms improved even more after the end of treatment. Important changes in gut microbiota at the end of treatment remained at follow-up, including significant increases in bacterial diversity and relative abundances of *Bifidobacteria* and *Prevotella*. Our observations demonstrate the long-term safety and efficacy of MTT as a potential therapy to treat children with ASD who have GI problems, and warrant a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in the future.



# NONCELIAC GLUTEN AND WHEAT SENSITIVITY

## Nonceliac Gluten Sensitivity



Alessio Fasano<sup>1</sup>



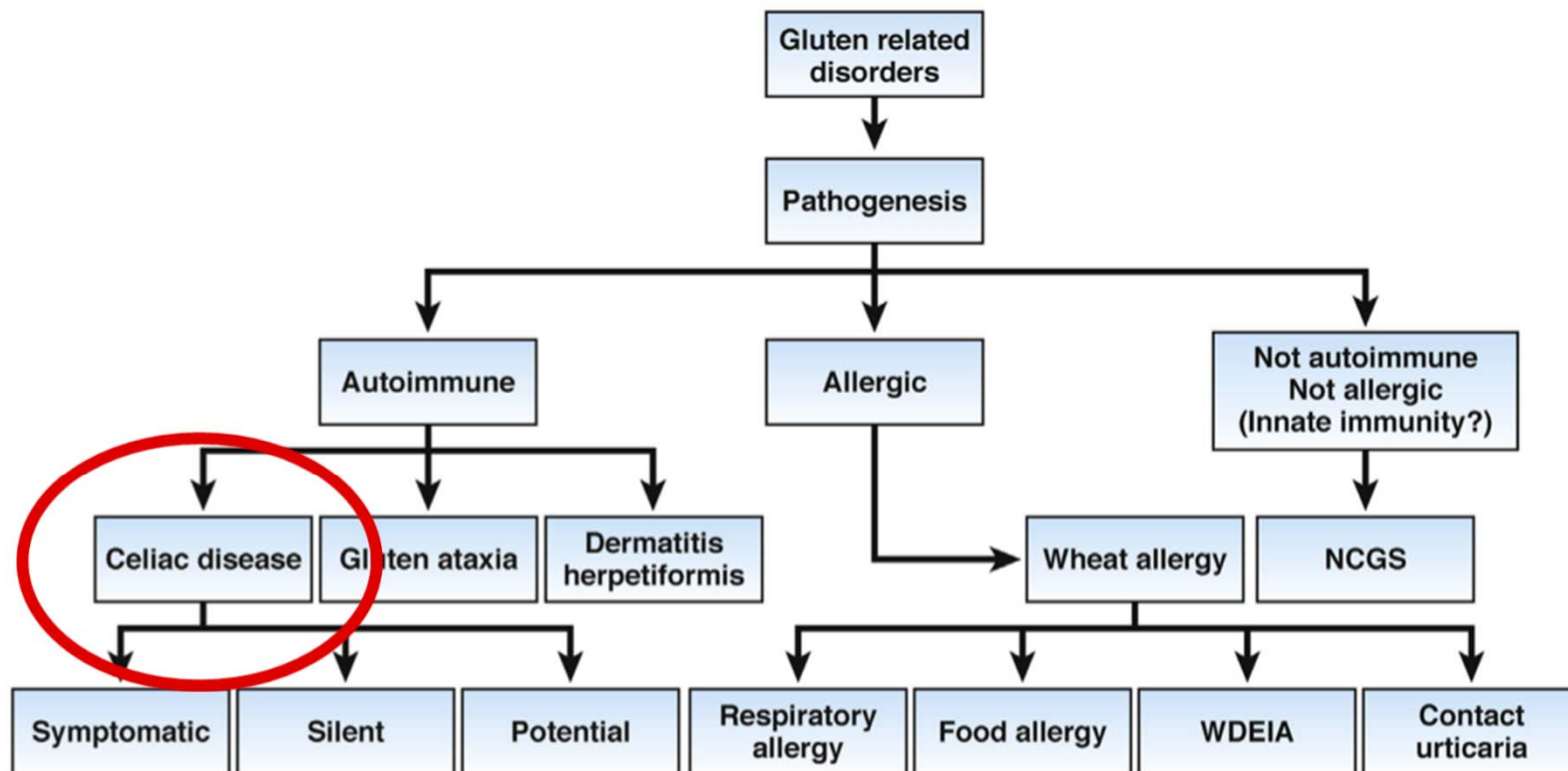
Anna Sapone<sup>1,2</sup>



Victor Zevallos<sup>3</sup>



Detlef Schuppan<sup>2,3</sup>



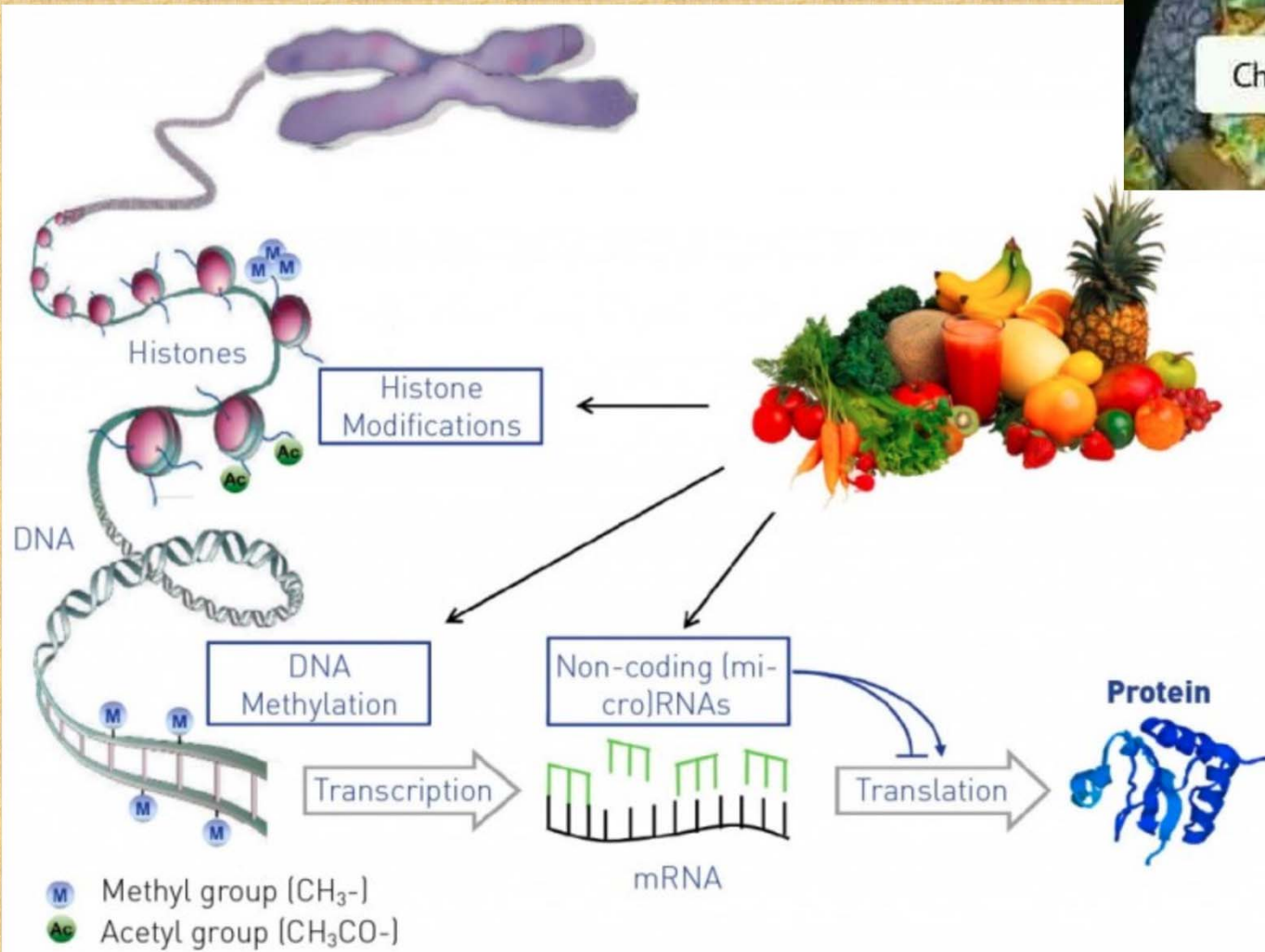
*Review*

## Non-Celiac Gluten Sensitivity: The New Frontier of Gluten Related Disorders

Trends in publication on celiac disease (CD) and non-celiac gluten sensitivity (NCGS) during the last decades.

Timeline	CD	NCGS	NCGS/CD ratio
1950–1970	2632	6	1:438
1971–1990	4915	118	1:43
1991–2010	9498	733	1:13
2011–2013	2014	188	1:10

# Diet and Lifestyle Before, During Pregnancy and in Early Years







### Post-mortem findings in ASD Brains

- Evidence of chronic brain inflammation
- Activated microglia
- ↑ Inflammatory cytokines
- Altered blood-brain barrier

### Common Immune Mediated Co-morbidities

- Allergies
- Asthma
- Type I Diabetes
- GI Dysfunction and inflammation
- Celiac Disease
- Gut Dysbiosis

### Peripheral Immune Dysfunction

- ↑ Activated Monocytes
- Dysfunctional NK cells
- ↑ Dendritic cells
- Altered T cell profiles
- Deficient Regulatory T Cells
- ↑ Inflammatory Cytokines
- ↑ Autoantibodies targeting brain, CNS, GI, various cellular components

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# PATHOLOGY

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To understand and measure emotional qualities is very difficult. Psychologists and educators have been struggling with that problem for years but we are still unable to measure emotional and personality traits with the exactness with which we can measure intelligence.

—ROSE ZELIGS in *Glimpses into Child Life*\*



## AUTISTIC DISTURBANCES OF AFFECTIVE CONTACT

By LEO KANNER

**S**INCE 1943, the condition has been far, the consideration necessarily impose. For the same children of the considered a and further c



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# Patterns of Risk for Multiple Co-Occurring Medical Conditions Replicate Across Distinct Cohorts of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Kimberly A. Aldinger, Christianne J. Lane, Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, and Pat Levitt

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may present with multiple medical conditions in addition to ASD symptoms. This study investigated whether there are predictive patterns of medical conditions that co-occur with ASD, which could inform medical evaluation and treatment in ASD, as well as potentially identify etiologically meaningful subgroups. Medical history data were queried in the multiplex family Autism Genetic Resource Exchange (AGRE). Fourteen medical conditions were analyzed. Replication in the Simons Simplex Collection (SSC) was attempted using available medical history data. In the AGRE cohort, conditions such as epilepsy, autism spectrum disorder, and intellectual disability were enriched in unaffected family members. Further analysis of these medical conditions in children with ASD, the presence of each medical condition in each direction. These risk patterns for conditions such as seizures and sleep problems and other conditions co-occurring, but behavioral symptoms were not increased. These findings indicate the need for specific patterns of medical conditions in children with ASD. *Autism Res* 2015, 8: 771–781. © 2015 The Author(s). Published by International Society for Autism Research.

**Keywords:** gastrointestinal disorders, epilepsy, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability



(GID), sleep problems, allergy and conditions. GID and seizures were presented in both AGRE and SSC. Patterns in both samples. For a child approximately 2-fold odds ratio in addition, there was increased risk for vas not predictive of the other conditions of co-occurring medical symptoms with ASD will benefit from evaluation of family members. *Autism Res* 2015, 8: 771–781. © 2015 The Author(s). Published by International Society for Autism Research.

# Gastrointestinal Symptoms in Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Meta-analysis



PEDIATRICS Volume 133, Number 5, May 2014

**AUTHORS:** Barbara O. McElhanon, MD,<sup>a</sup> Courtney McCracken, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Saul Karpen, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> and William G. Sharp, PhD<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia; and <sup>b</sup>Marcus Autism Center, Atlanta, Georgia

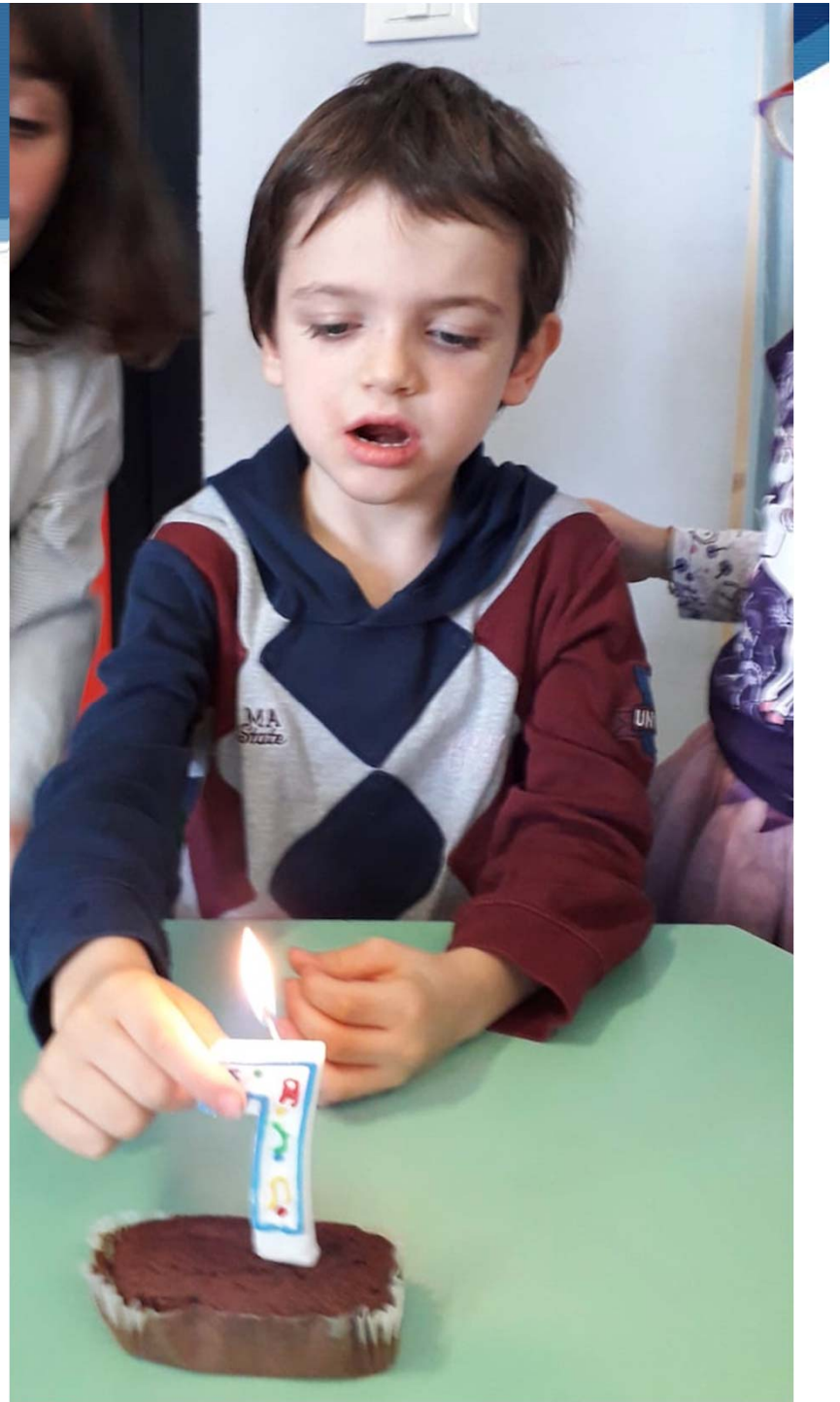
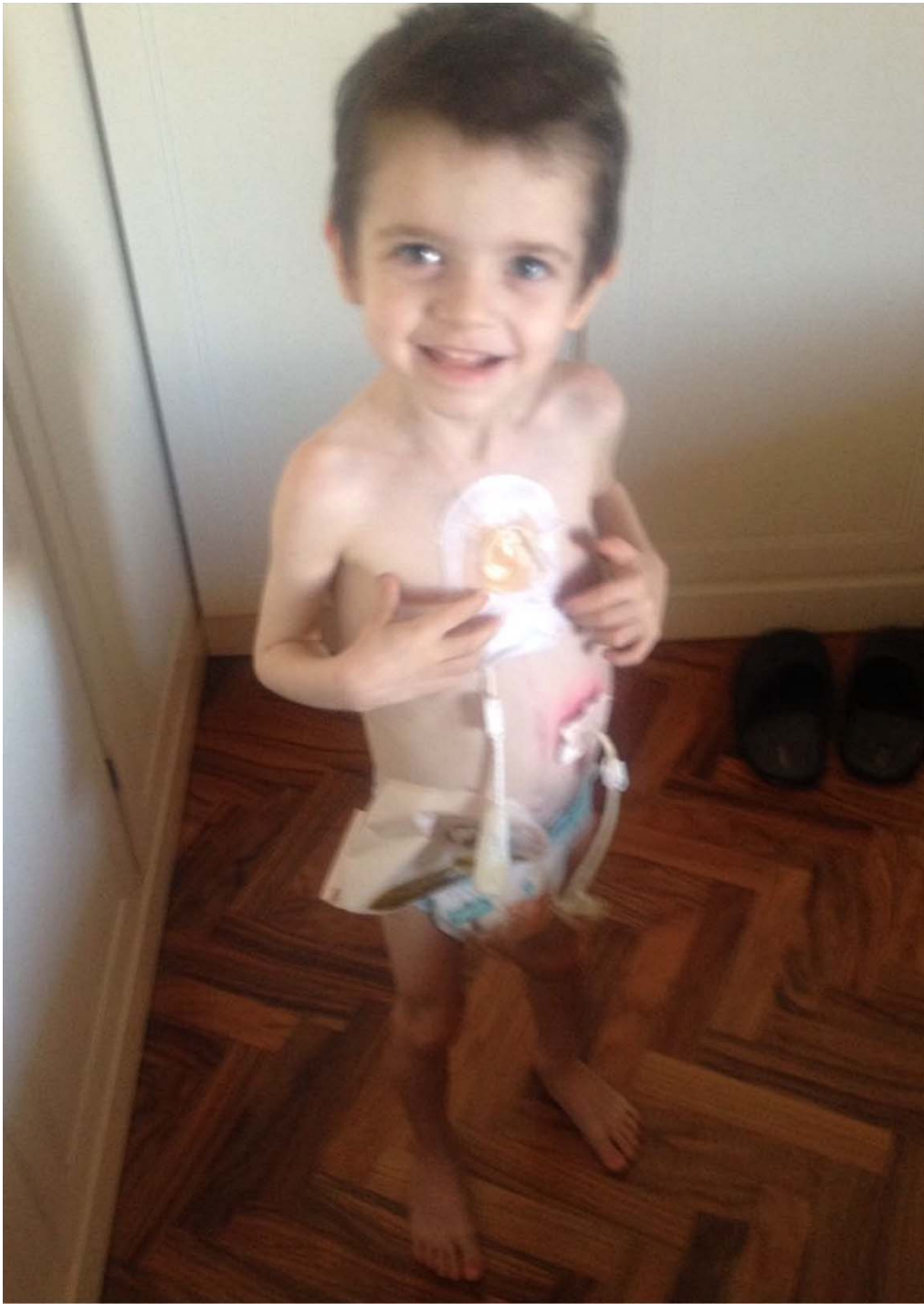
## KEY WORDS

autism spectrum disorder, constipation, digestive disorders, GI

- Sintomi GI **4X**
- Diarrea **>3X**
- Stipsi **>3X**
- Dolore addominale **>2X**







New Online

Views **141** | Citations **0** | Altmetric **56**

## Research Letter

ONLINE FIRST

October 28, 2019

# National Prevalence of Pain Among Children and Adolescents With Autism Spectrum Disorders

Daniel G. Whitney, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Danielle N. Shapiro, PhD<sup>1</sup>

» [Author Affiliations](#)

*JAMA Pediatr.* Published online October 28, 2019. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.3826

Pain is a leading contributor to the global morbidity and disability burden.<sup>1</sup> Pediatric pain is especially problematic, as it may impede healthful development into and throughout adulthood.<sup>2</sup> For children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), pain is a highly understudied area, perhaps owing to the misguided historical impression that children with ASD have lower pain sensitivity.<sup>3</sup> However, recent evidence has contradicted this perspective<sup>4</sup> and indicated that pain may be implicated in pathogenesis of poor health outcomes in children with ASD.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, this study sought to provide recent national estimates of the prevalence of pain among children and adolescents with ASD.

# Sintomi gastrointestinal in ASD

- ◆ ASD **GI +** : maggiore ansia, irritabilità e ritiro sociale (Nikolov et al. 2009).
- ◆ I problemi comportamentali (comportamenti autolesivi, aggressività, irritabilità, disturbi del sonno) potrebbero essere **manifestazioni di fastidio o dolore** ad origine gastrointestinale (Buie et al. 2010).
- ◆ Elevata **correlazione** tra la disfunzione/patologia intestinale e la **severità dell'autismo** per i domini di linguaggio, comportamenti e interazione sociale. (Adams et al. 2011).





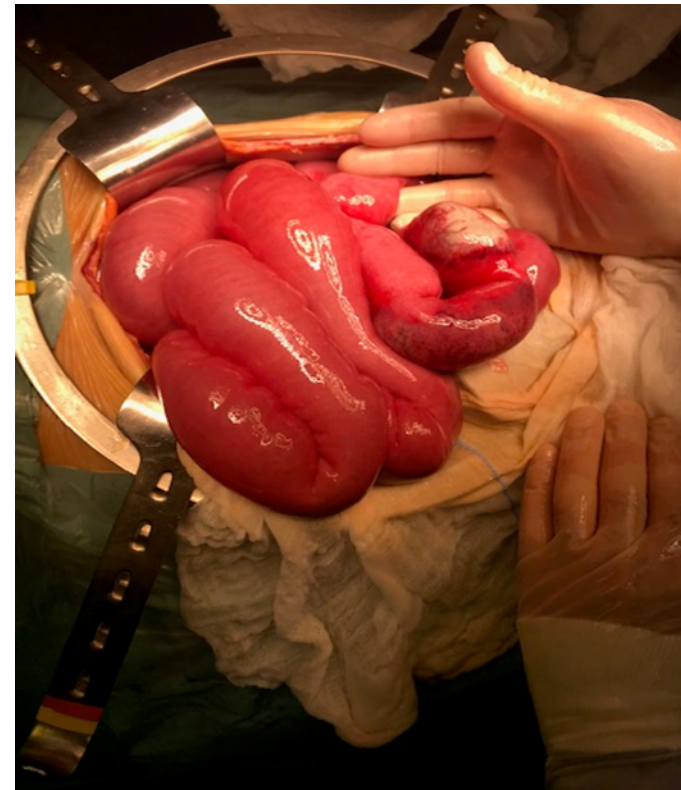
G.A. 15 a

Paziente autistico con storia di stipsi moderata con un alvo ogni due giorni, non precedenti interventi chirurgici né ricoveri per patologie organiche.

Trasferito in data **24.12.18** da altro nosocomio per occlusione intestinale.

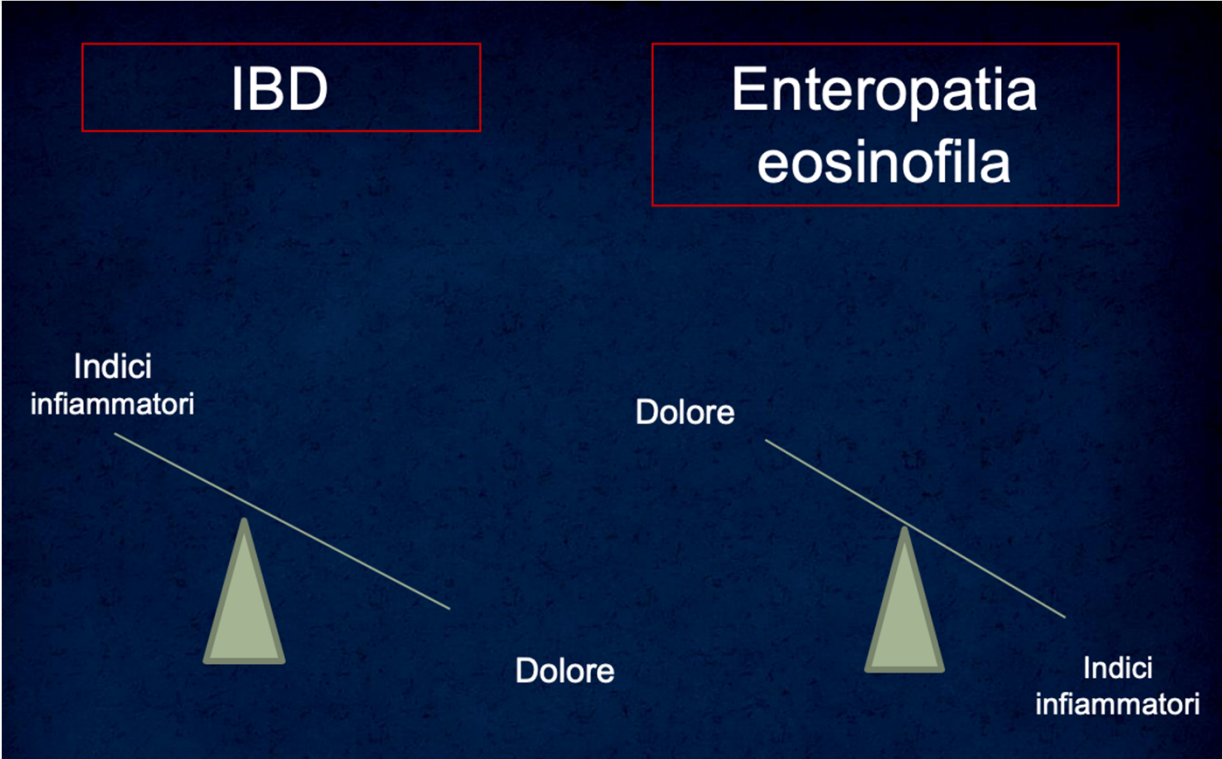
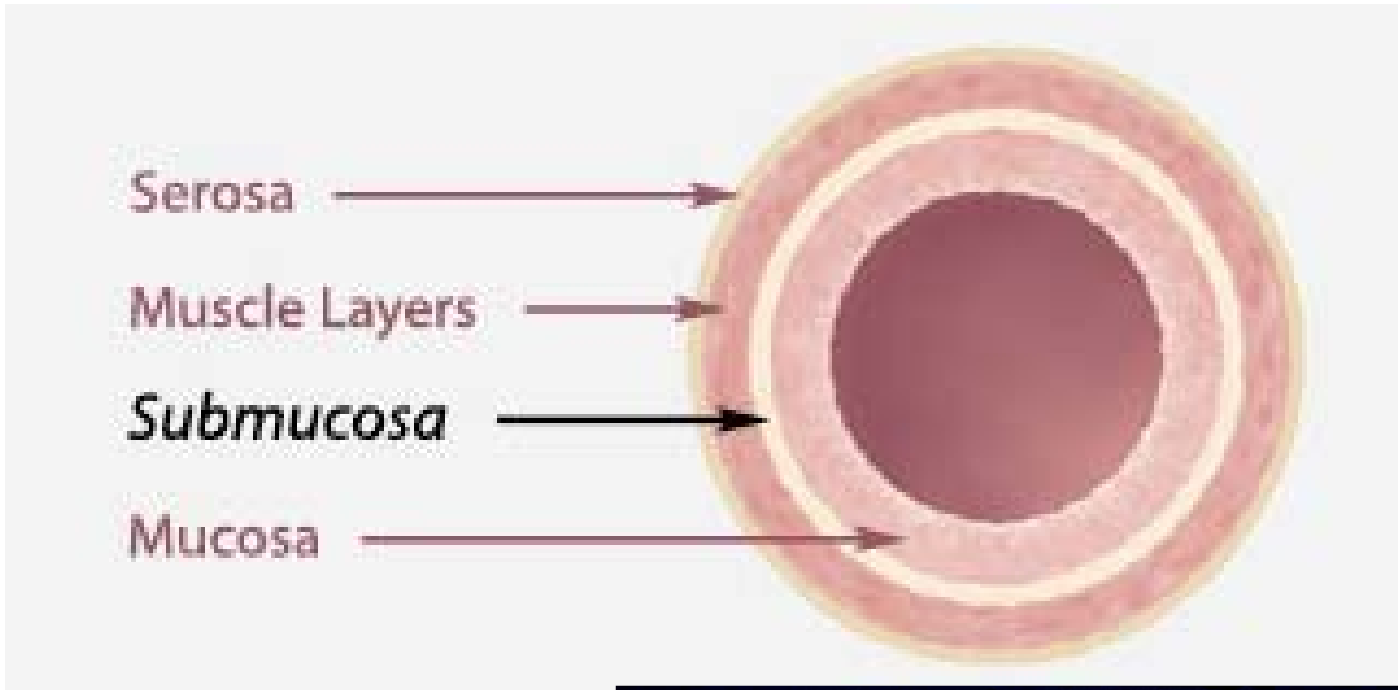


Si osserva sovradistensione delle anse intestinali, con diffuso ispessimento delle pareti dell'intestino tenue e del colon, cui si associa pneumatosi parietale in sede digiunoileale medio-distale e del tratto prossimale del colon discendente



Intervento chirurgico in urgenza di laparotomia esplorativa  
Riscontro di necrosi trasmurale di circa 150 cm.  
Eseguita resezione parziale leale ,  
confezionamento di stomia Ileale a stomi separati

*Dott G Selvaggio, Ospedale Buzzi, Milano*



# Eosinofilia ed Enterocolite

## Materiale Inviato

- A Biopsia duodeno
- B Biopsia stomaco
- C Biopsia esofago distale

## Materiale inviato

- A Biopsia cieco
- B Biopsia colon destro
- C Biopsia colon trasverso
- D Biopsia colon sinistro
- E Biopsia sigma
- F Biopsia retto

## Diagnosi

A) Due campioni di mucosa del grosso intestino sede di flogosi cronica interstiziale, con componente eosinofila (141 eosinofili nel campo più densamente infiltrato, 40x) e microaggregati linfoidi dotati talora di centro germinativo.

Linfociti T CD3+ intraepiteliali: 15/100 cellule epiteliali.

B) Due campioni di mucosa del grosso intestino in frammenti con caratteri analoghi ad A) (138 eosinofili nel campo più densamente infiltrato, 40x).

Linfociti T CD3+ intraepiteliali: 18/100 cellule epiteliali.

C) Due campioni di mucosa del grosso intestino in frammenti con caratteri analoghi ad A) (90 eosinofili nel campo più densamente infiltrato, 40x).

Linfociti T CD3+ intraepiteliali: 18/100 cellule epiteliali.

D) Due campioni di mucosa del grosso intestino in frammenti con caratteri analoghi ad A) (143 eosinofili nel campo più densamente infiltrato, 40x).

Linfociti T CD3+ intraepiteliali: 15/100 cellule epiteliali.

E) Perviene un campione di mucosa del grosso intestino con caratteri analoghi ad A) (73 eosinofili nel campo più densamente infiltrato, 40x).

Linfociti T CD3+ intraepiteliali: 15/100 cellule epiteliali.

F) Due campioni di mucosa del grosso intestino in frammenti con caratteri analoghi ad A) (124 eosinofili nel campo più densamente infiltrato, 40x).

Linfociti T CD3+ intraepiteliali: 14/100 cellule epiteliali.

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# Pain



F. Balzola



Pain



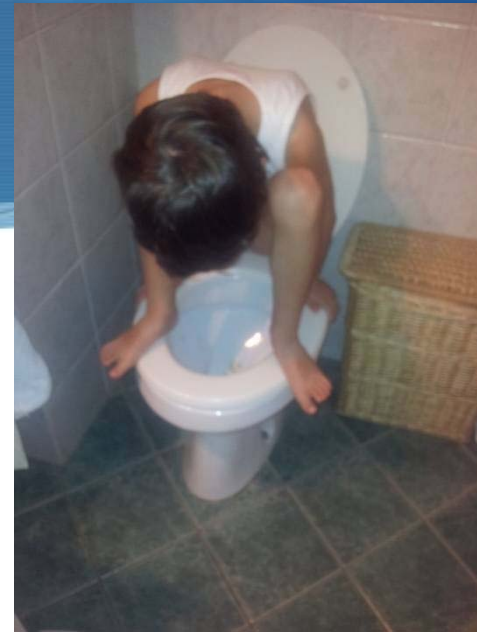
F. Balzola

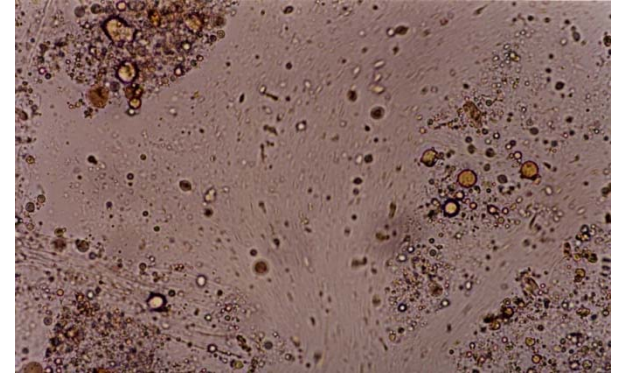
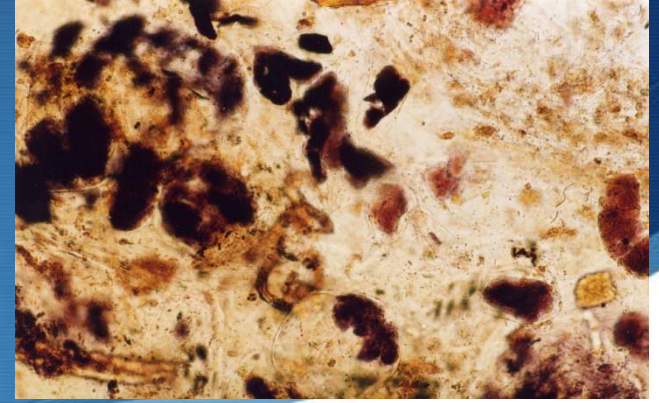
# self-injuring and self-stimulatory behaviors



F. Balzola

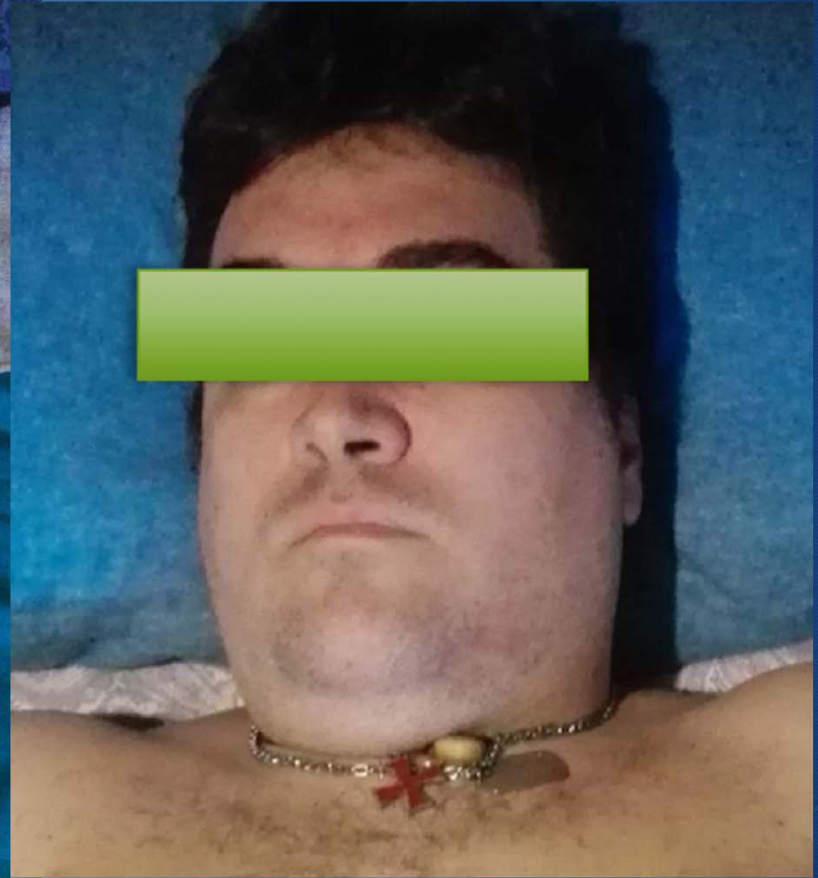
# Increase in the abdominal press







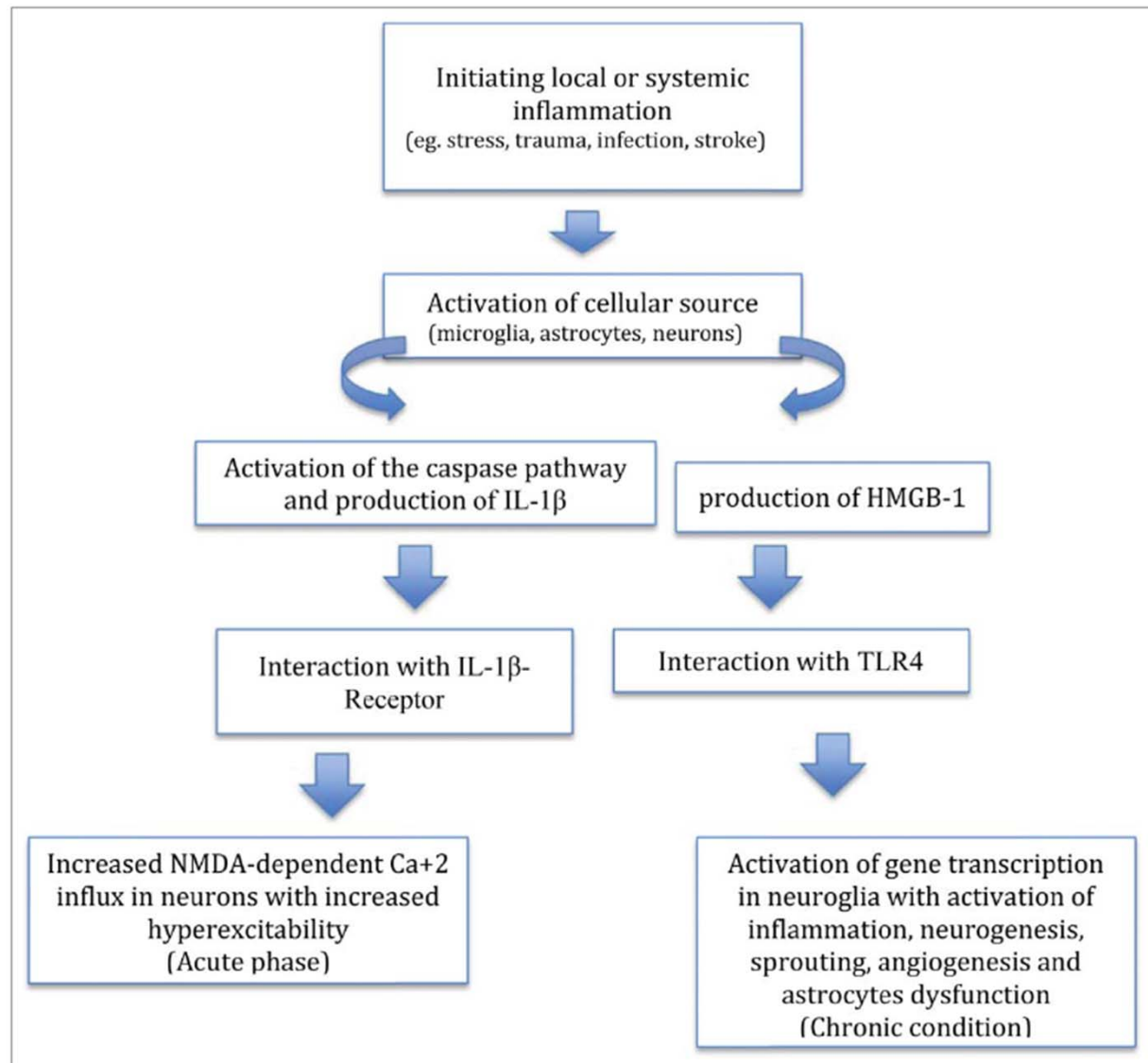






# Epilepsy and innate immune system: A possible immunogenic predisposition and related therapeutic implications

Nassim Matin, Omidreza Tabatabaie, Raffaele Falsaperla, Riccardo Lubrano, Piero Pavone, Fahad Mahmood, Melissa Gullotta, Agostino Serra, Paola Di Mauro, Salvatore Cocuzza & Giovanna Vitaliti



*Martin N., 2015*

ARTICLE

PEDIATRICS Volume 120, Number 6, December 2007

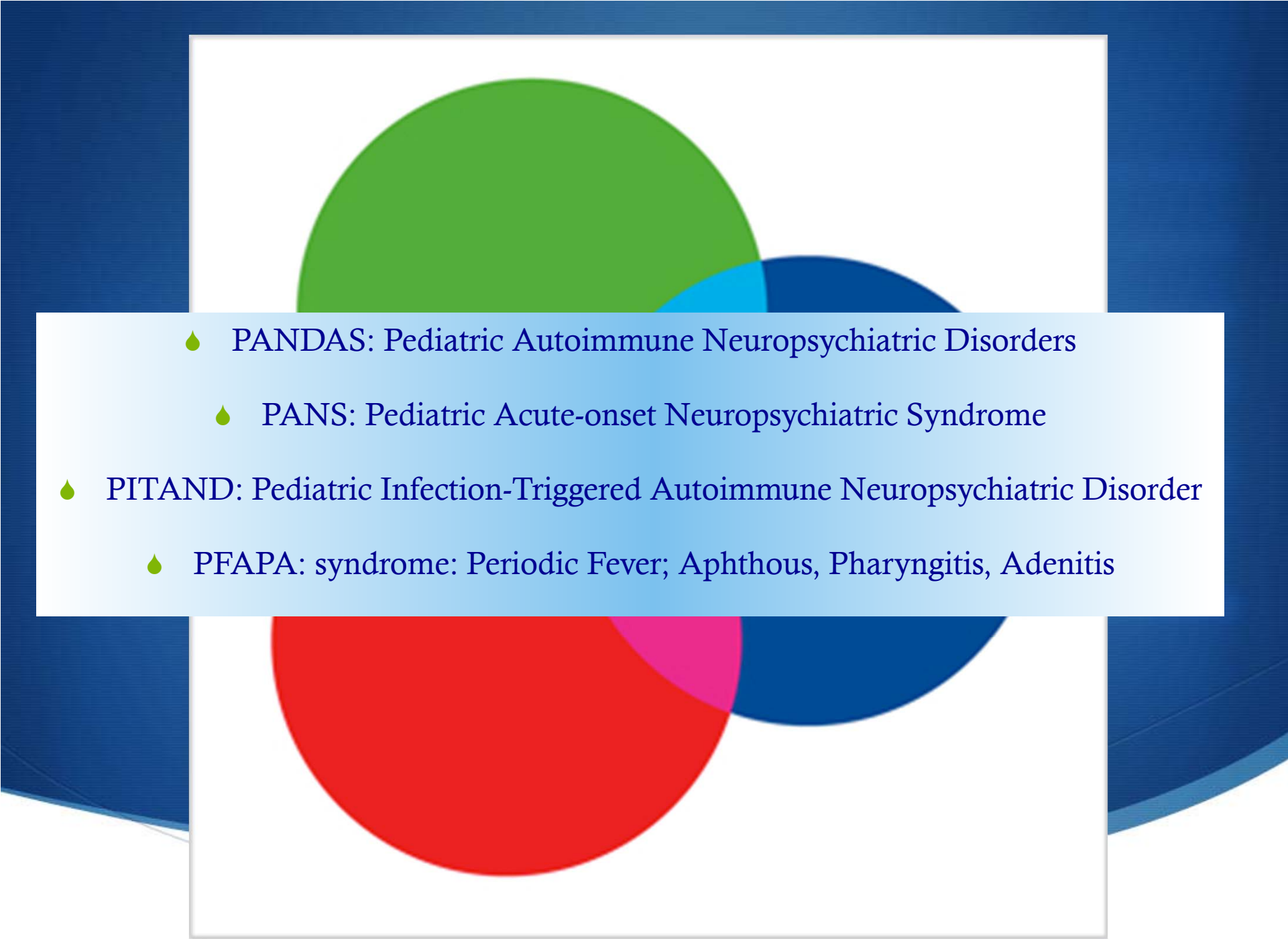
## Behaviors Associated With Fever in Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders

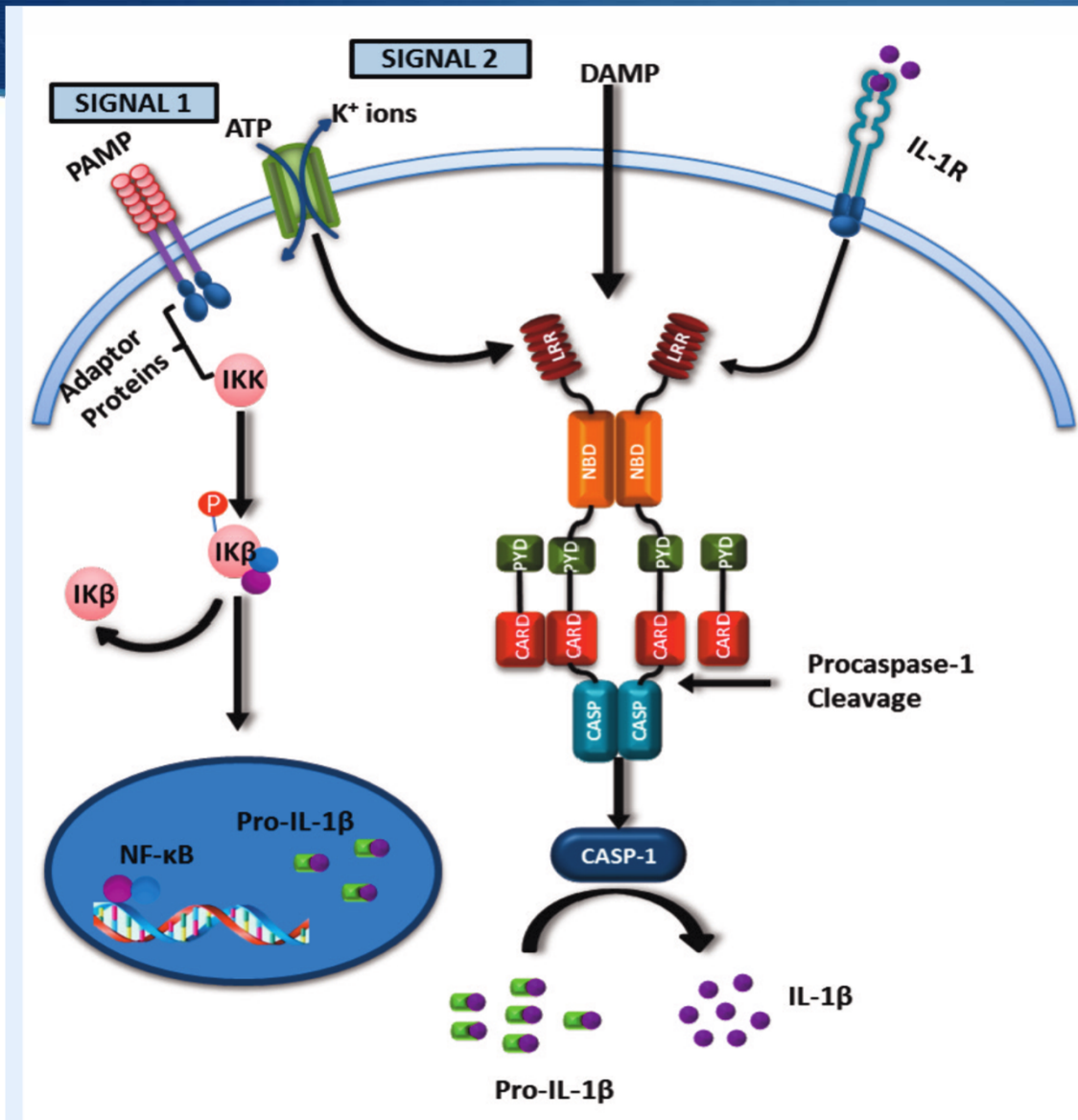
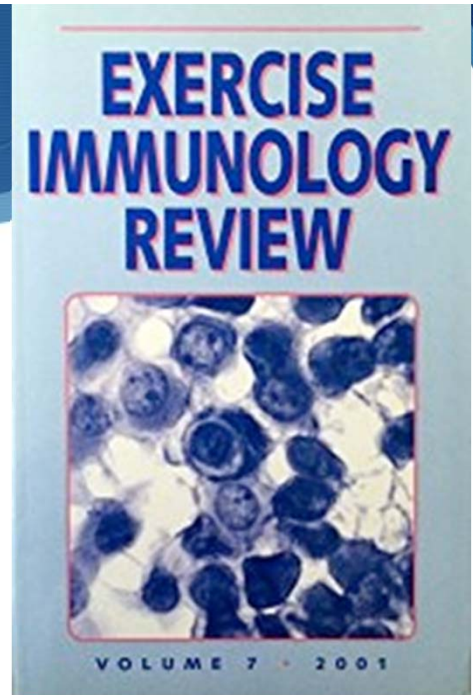
**Laura K. Curran, PhD<sup>a,b</sup>, Craig J. Newschaffer, PhD<sup>c</sup>, Li-Ching Lee, PhD<sup>a</sup>, Stephen O. Crawford, MHS<sup>a</sup>, Michael V. Johnston, MD<sup>b</sup>, Andrew W. Zimmerman, MD<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland; <sup>b</sup>Department of Neurology and Developmental Medicine, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, Maryland; <sup>c</sup>Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Drexel University School of Public Health, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The authors have indicated they have no financial relationships relevant to this article to disclose.

... more research is needed to prove conclusively fever-specific effects and elucidate their underlying biological mechanisms (possibly involving immunologic and neurobiological pathways, intracellular signaling, and synaptic plasticity).

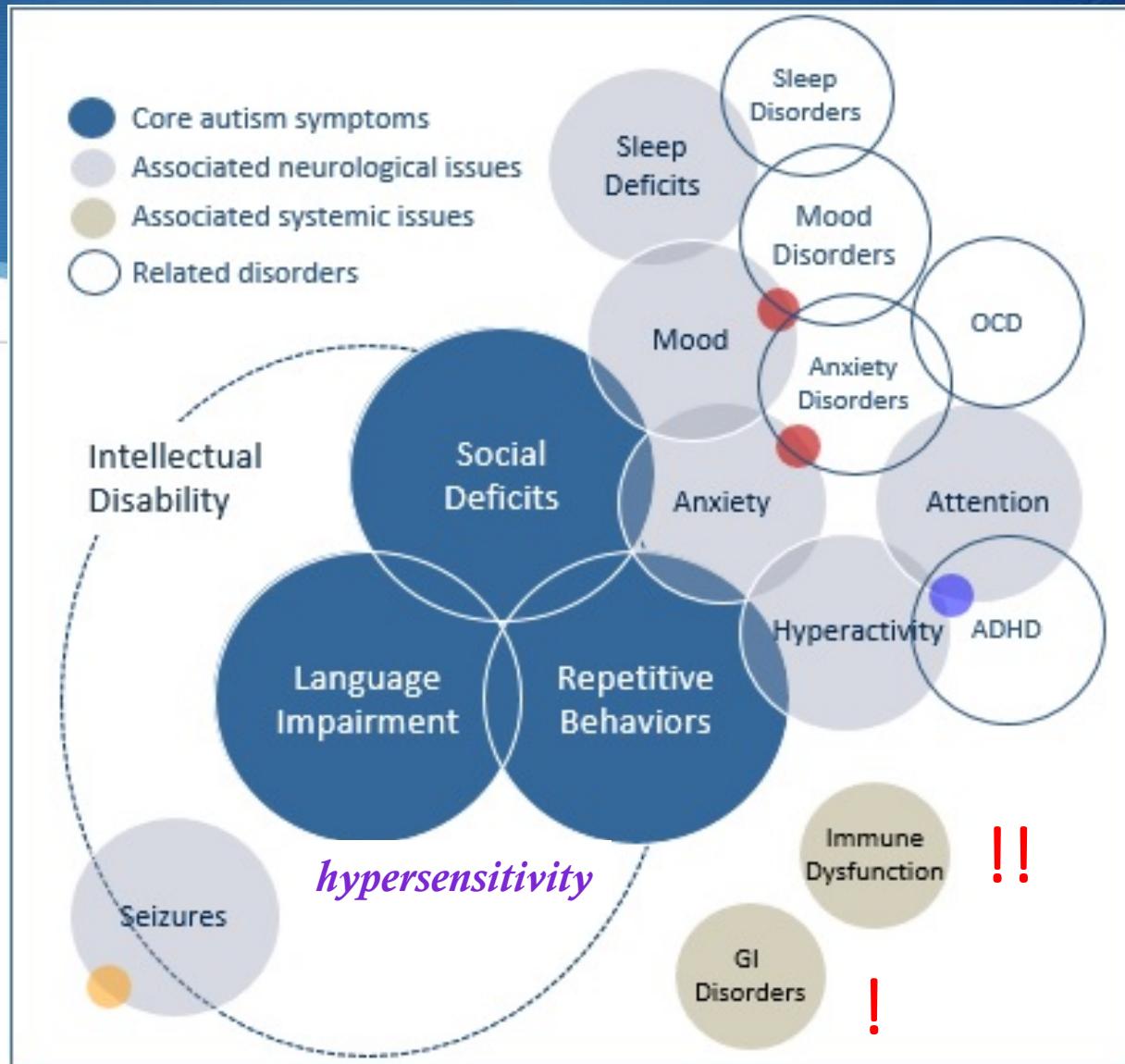
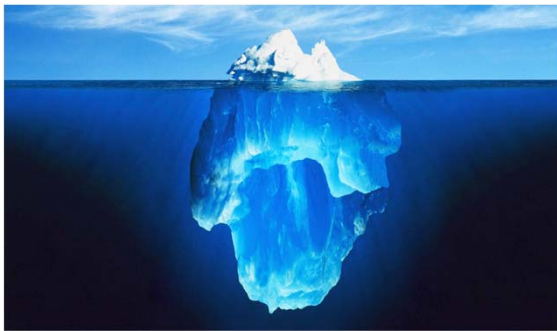
- 
- ◆ PANDAS: Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders
    - ◆ PANS: Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome
  - ◆ PITAND: Pediatric Infection-Triggered Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder
    - ◆ PFAPA: syndrome: Periodic Fever; Aphthous, Pharyngitis, Adenitis



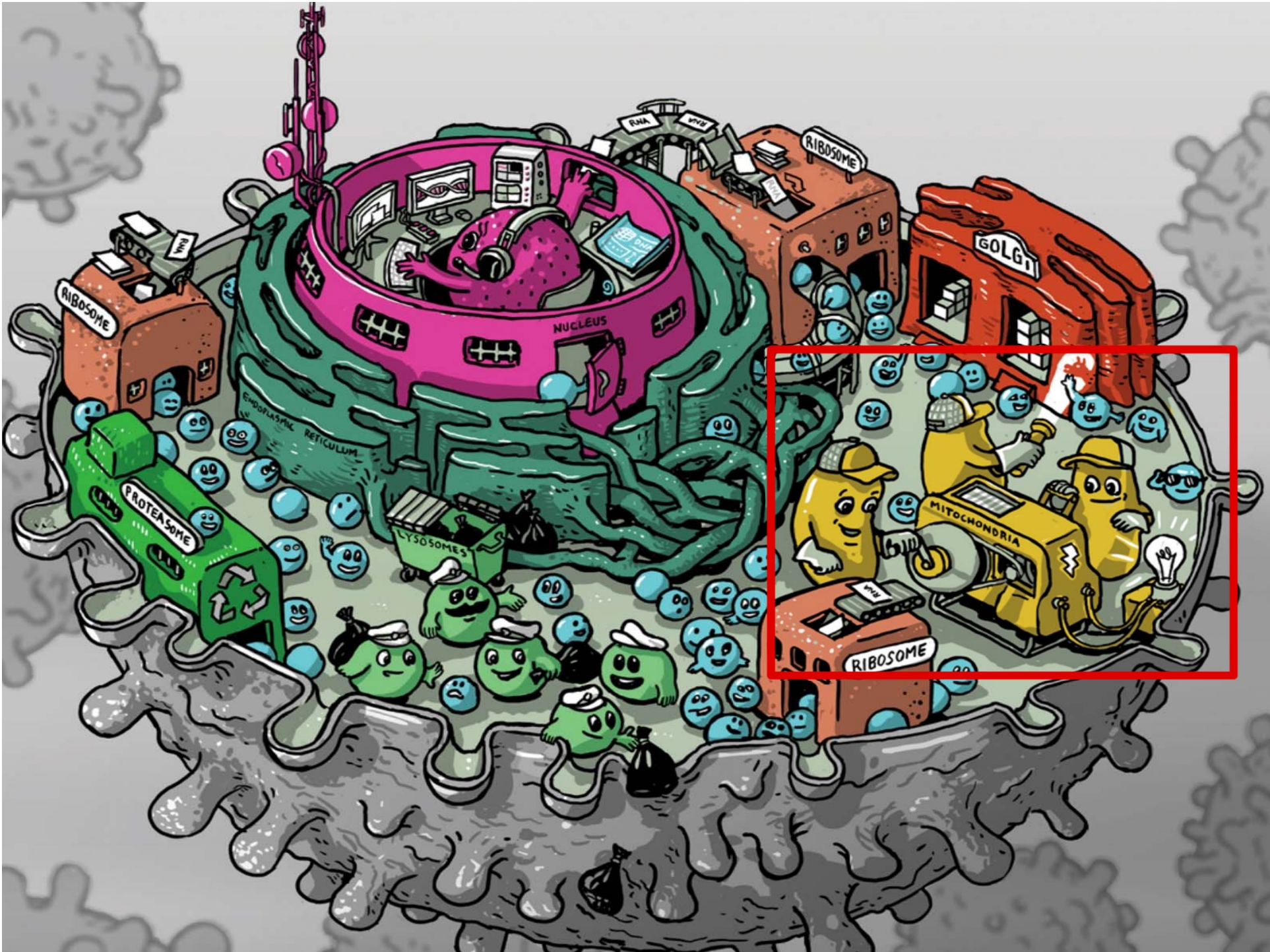
**Figure 5** - Schematic illustration of NLRP3 inflammasome activation and subsequent intracellular signalling that produces a pro-inflammatory outcome.

*S. Horsburgh et al, 2015*

People with ASD  
have an **early**  
and **systemic**  
(whole body)  
disorder







## My Experience Learning About Autism

我对自闭症的认识经历

Mi experiencia de aprendizaje sobre el autismo

Daniel A. Rossignol, MD, *United States*

Volume 2, Number 6 • November 2013 • [www.gahmj.com](http://www.gahmj.com)

I remember the first time I heard the word “autistic.” I was 10 years old, and my mom mentioned that someone had a child who was autistic. I was confused because I mistook her description as “artistic.”

### *Isaiah & Joshua*

GLOBAL ADVANCES IN HEALTH AND MEDICINE

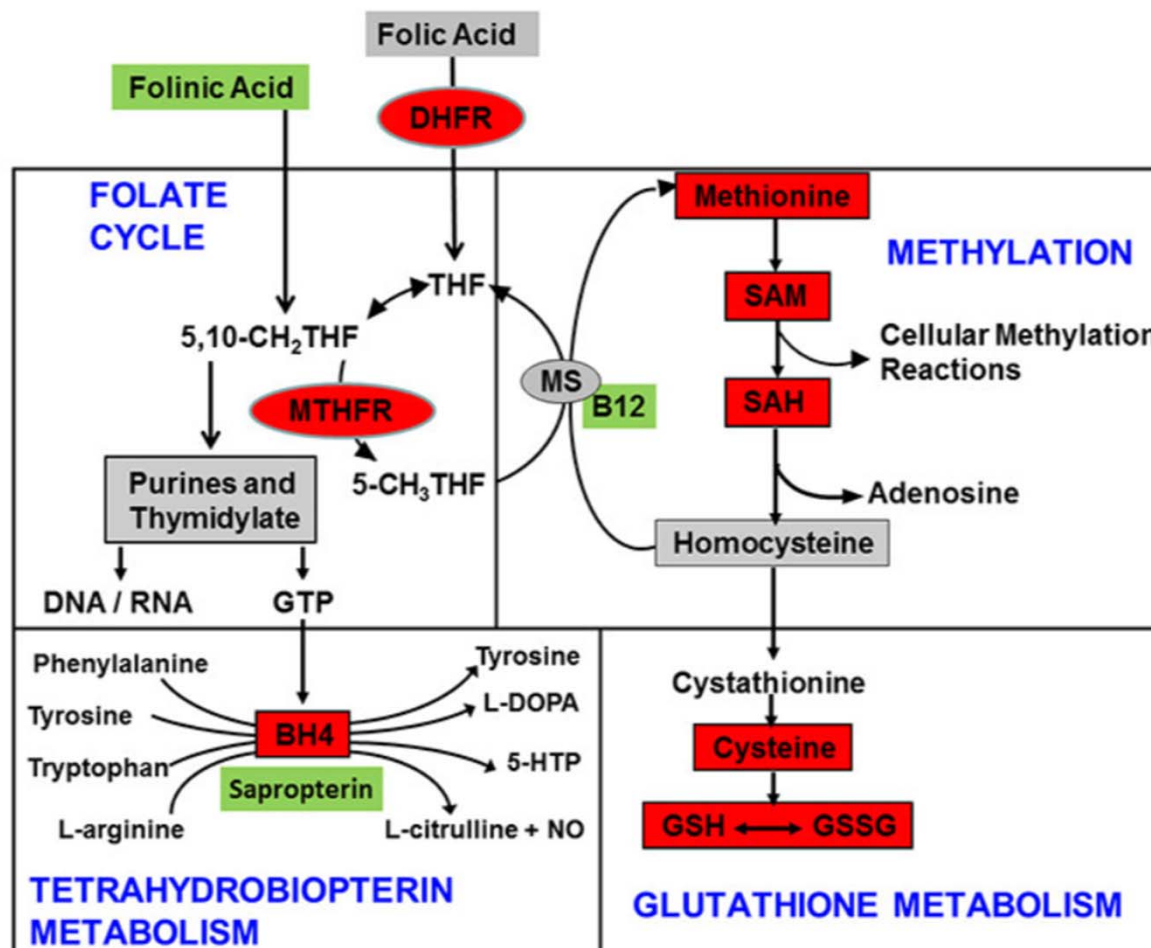
Volume 2, Number 6 • November 2013 • [www.gahmj.com](http://www.gahmj.com)



My research interest is now focused on metabolic and other problems that may contribute to autism symptoms and that are also treatable.<sup>63</sup> These conditions include mitochondrial dysfunction,<sup>64-67</sup> inflammation,<sup>68</sup> oxidative stress,<sup>68</sup> environmental toxicant exposures,<sup>68</sup> and seizures.<sup>69</sup> A great deal of information has been learned about autism since my children were diagnosed. Every day, more and more studies concerning autism are appearing in the literature. Several recent studies have reported “recovery” or the loss of autism in some children.<sup>56,70-73</sup> These factors as well as reports of recovery in some children give me a great deal of hope for the future concerning autism.

Metabolic pathways  
disrupted in ASD

A



**Metabolites**

THF	TetraHydroFolate
SAM	S-Adenosyl methionine
SAH	S-Adenosyl homocysteine
GSH	Reduced Glutathione
GSSG	Oxidized Glutathione
NO	Nitric Oxide
BH4	Tetrahydrobiopterin

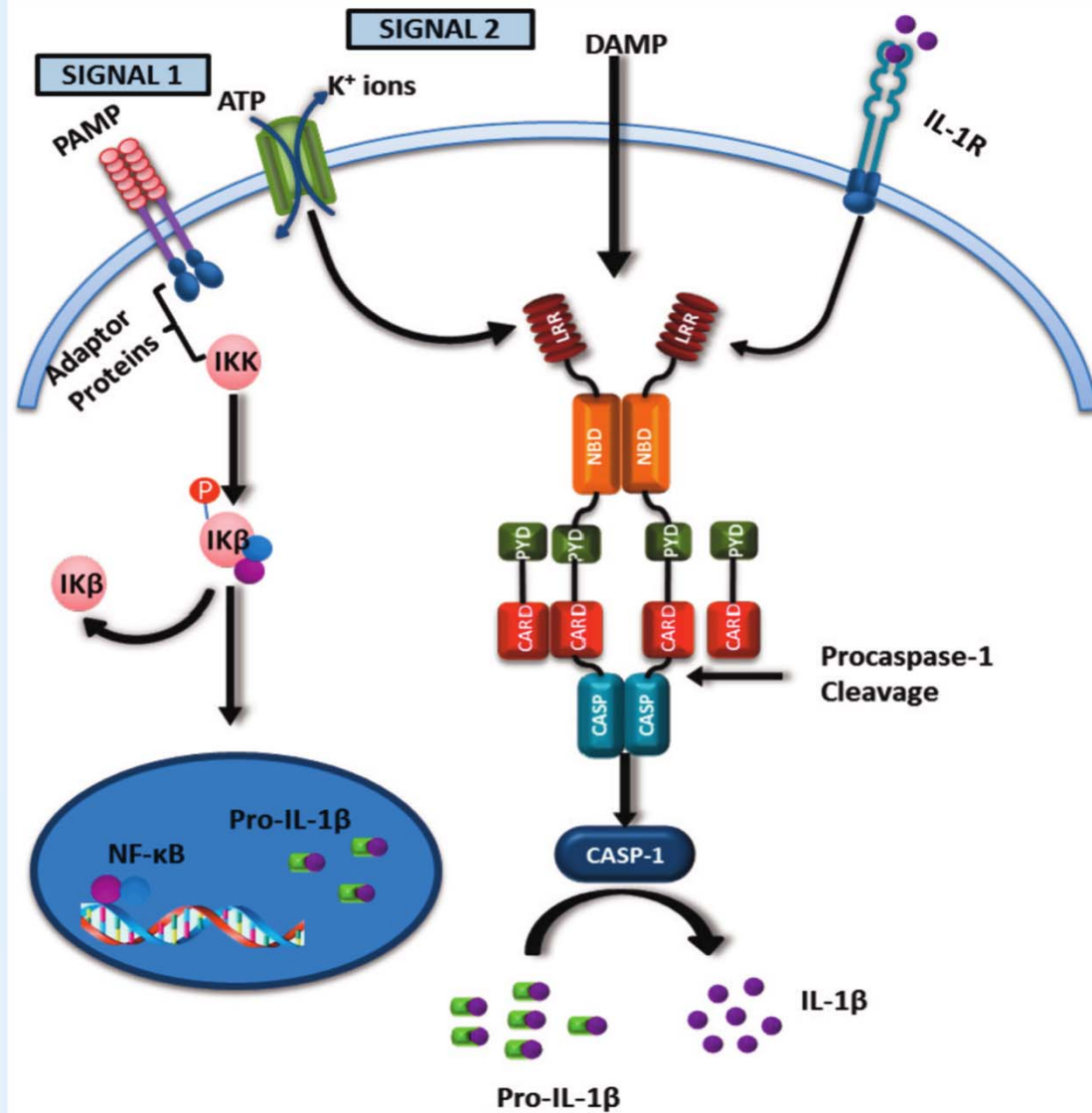
**Enzymes**

DHFR	Dihydrofolate Reductase
MS	Methionine Synthase
MTHFR	Methylenetetrahydrofolate Reductase

**Figure Key**

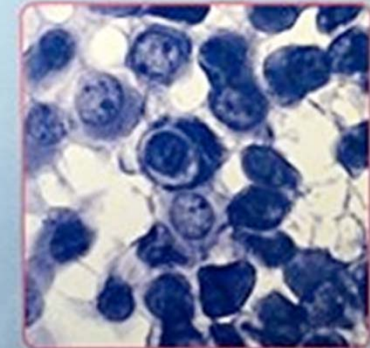
Blue text outlines one of the four pathways related to folate metabolism  
Ovals represent enzymes  
Boxes represent metabolites  
Red indicates metabolites and enzymes repeatedly noted to be abnormal in autism  
Green highlights important metabolites

*M.L.Delhey 2018*



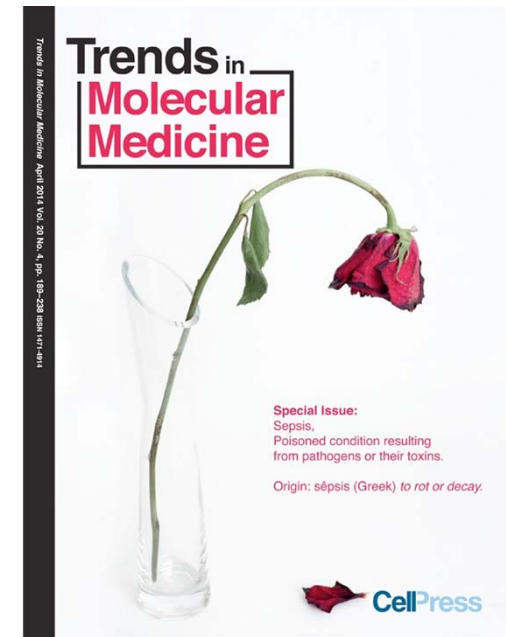
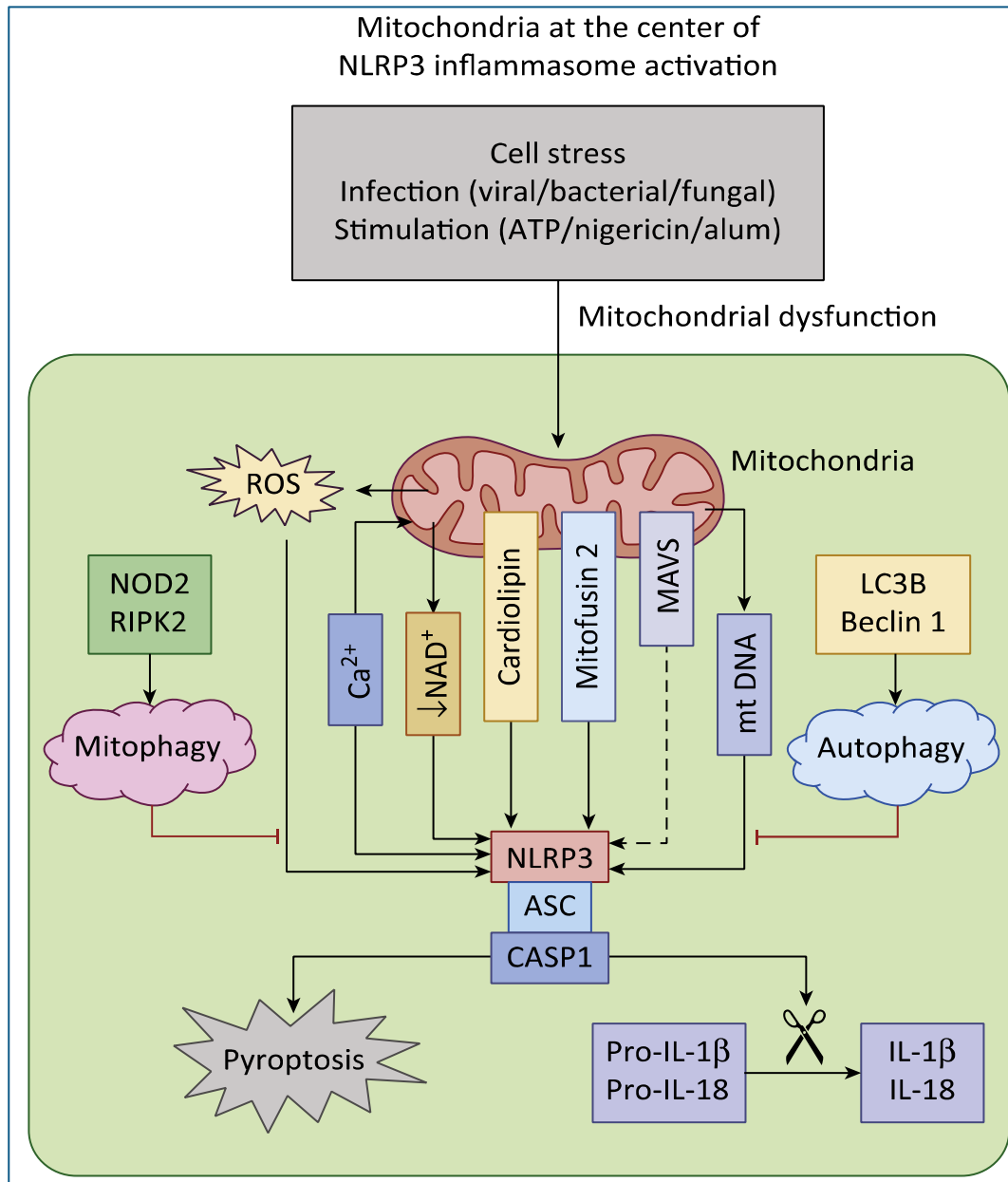
**Figure 5** - Schematic illustration of NLRP3 inflammasome activation and subsequent intracellular signalling that produces a pro-inflammatory outcome.

# EXERCISE IMMUNOLOGY REVIEW



VOLUME 7 • 2001

*S. Horsburgh et al, 2015*

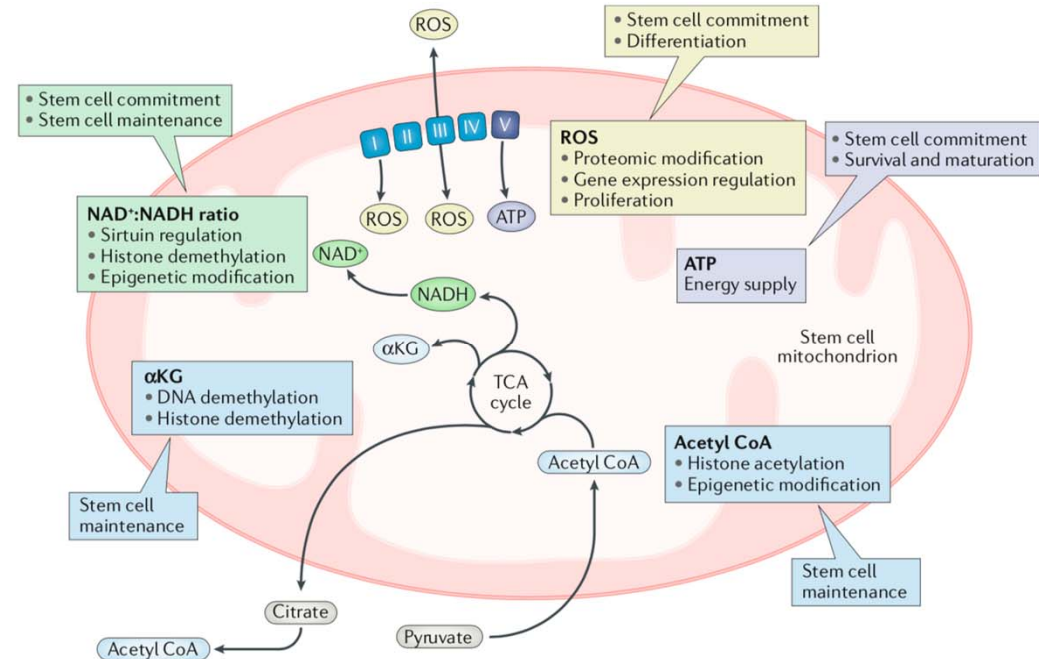


*Gurung et al, 2015*

# Mitochondria as central regulators of neural stem cell fate and cognitive function

Mireille Khacho<sup>1</sup>, Richard Harris<sup>1,2</sup> and Ruth S. Slack<sup>2\*</sup>

Abstract | Emerging evidence now indicates that mitochondria are central regulators of neural stem cell (NSC) fate decisions and are crucial for both neurodevelopment and adult neurogenesis, which in turn contribute to cognitive processes in the mature brain. Inherited mutations and accumulated damage to mitochondria over the course of ageing serve as key factors underlying cognitive defects in neurodevelopmental disorders and neurodegenerative diseases, respectively. In this Review, we explore the recent findings that implicate mitochondria as crucial regulators of NSC function and cognition. In this respect, mitochondria may serve as targets for stem-cell-based therapies and interventions for cognitive defects.



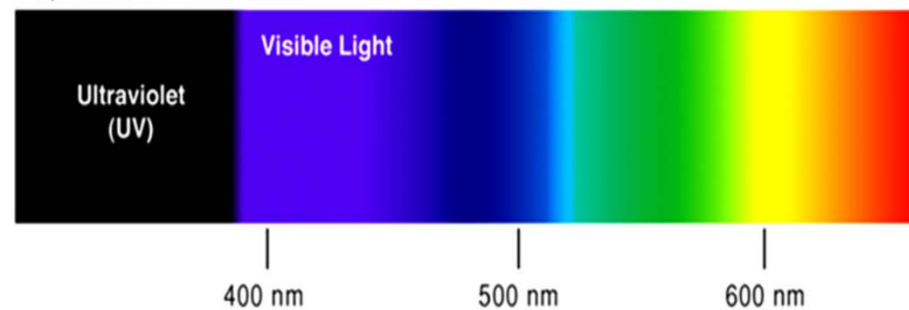
# Mitochondrial emitted electromagnetic signals mediate retrograde signaling

Georgios Bagkos, Kostas Koufopoulos, Christina Piperi \*

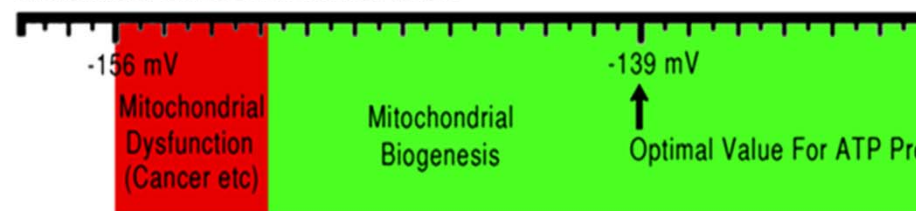
*Department of Biological Chemistry, University of Athens Medical School, Athens, Greece*

Mitochondrial membrane potential (**MMP**) and the accompanied strong electromagnetic field (**EF**) **might be a key regulatory factors of nuclear activity**. Mitochondrial emitted EFs extend in long distance and affect the function of nuclear membrane receptors. Depending on their frequencies, EFs can directly **activate or deactivate different groups of nuclear receptors and so determine nuclear gene expression**. One of the key features of the above hypothesis is that nuclear membrane receptors, besides their own endogenous or chemical ligands (hormones, lipids, etc.), can also be activated by electromagnetic signals.

Biophotons E/Fields



Mitochondrial Membrane Potential Values

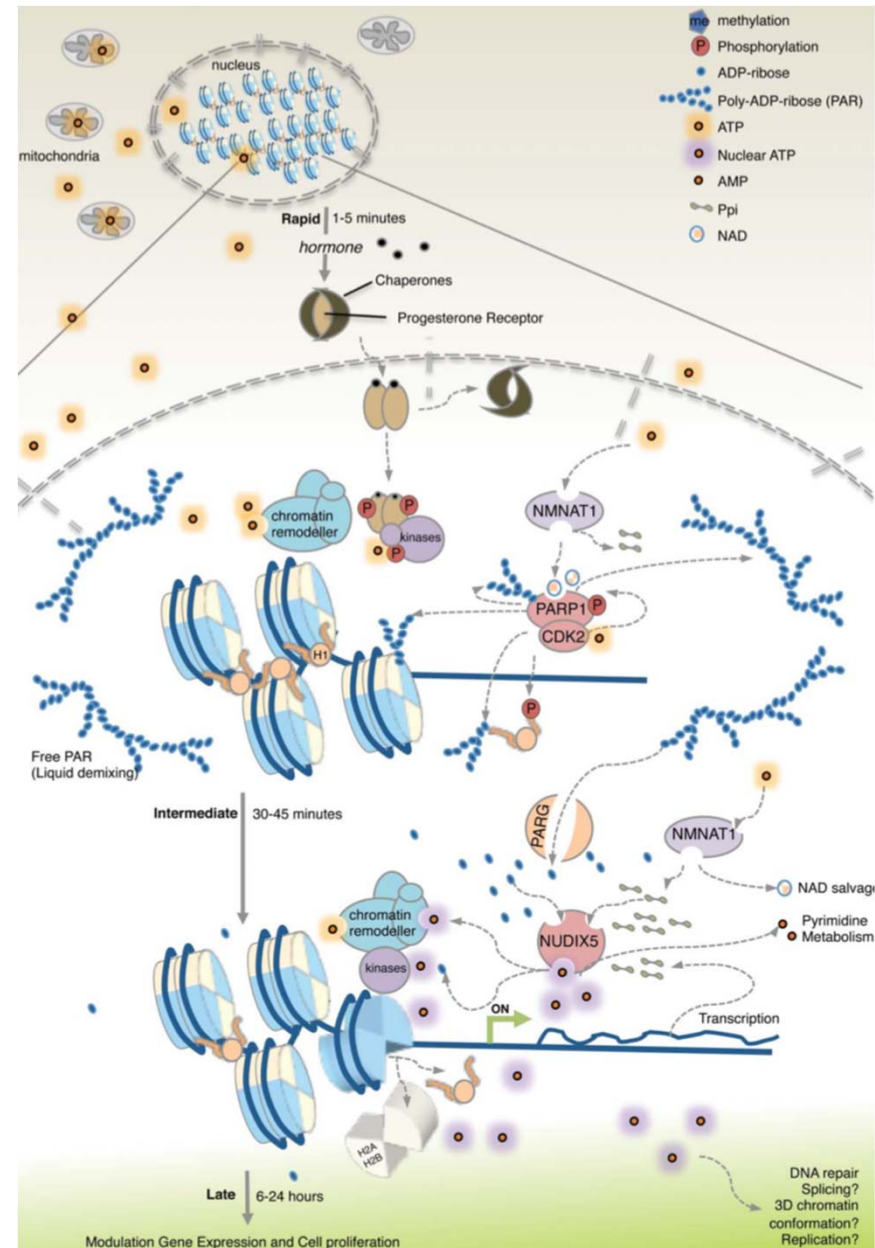


# Insight into the machinery that oils chromatin dynamics

NUCLEUS  
2016, VOL. 7, NO. 6, 532–539  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19491034.2016.1255392>

Roni H. G. Wright <sup>a,b</sup>, Narcis Fernandez-Fuentes <sup>c</sup>, Baldomero Oliva <sup>b</sup>, and Miguel Beato <sup>a,b</sup>

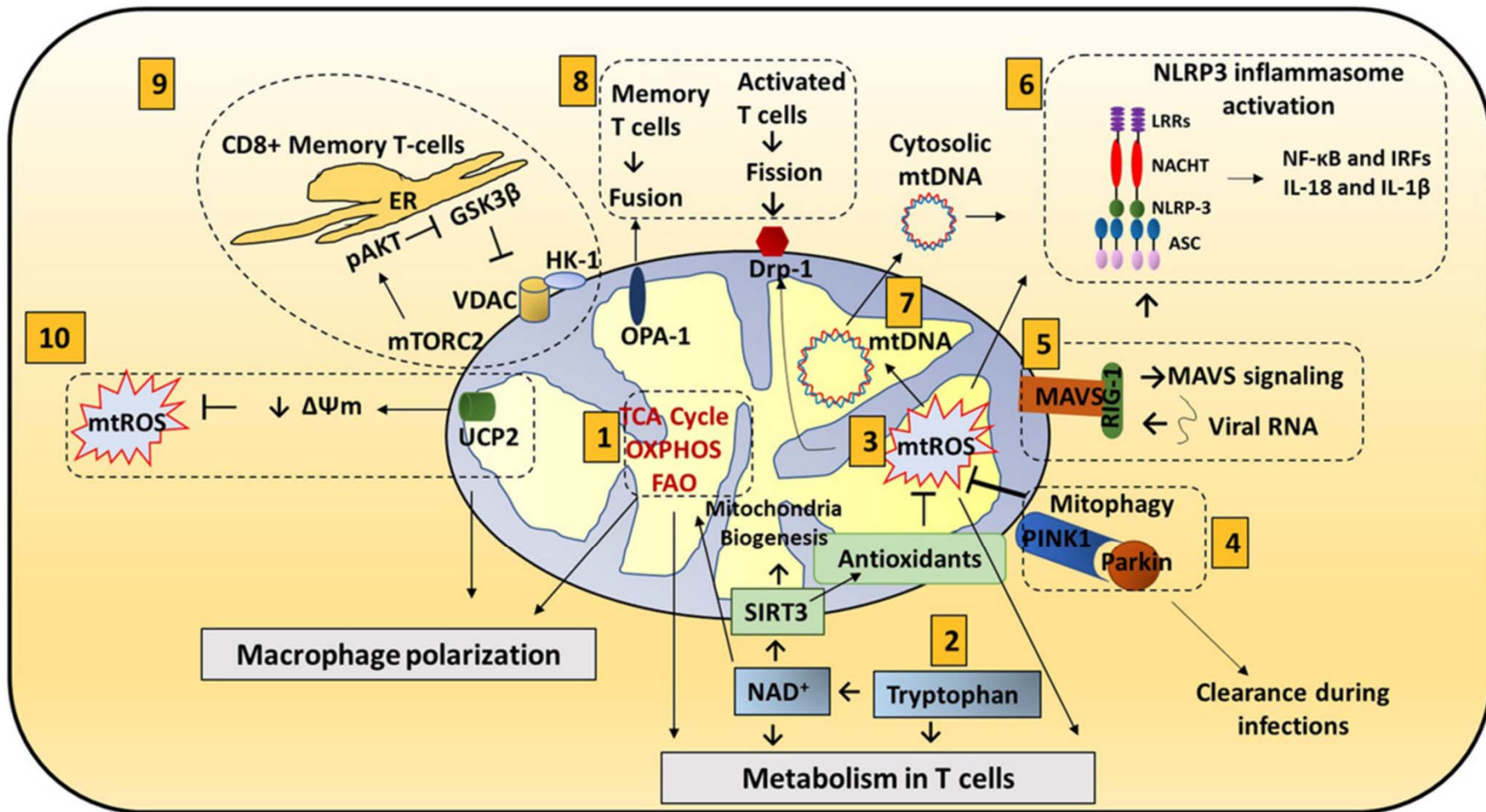
Storing information within chromatin allows selective access to specific DNA sequences by regulating the various levels of chromatin structure from nucleosomes, to chromatin fibers, loops and topological associating domains (TADs) using mechanisms that are being progressively unravelled. However, **a relatively unexplored aspect is the energetic cost of changing the chromatin configuration to gain access to DNA information.**





# Diverse Roles of Mitochondria in Immune Responses: Novel Insights Into Immuno-Metabolism

Angajala et al, 2018



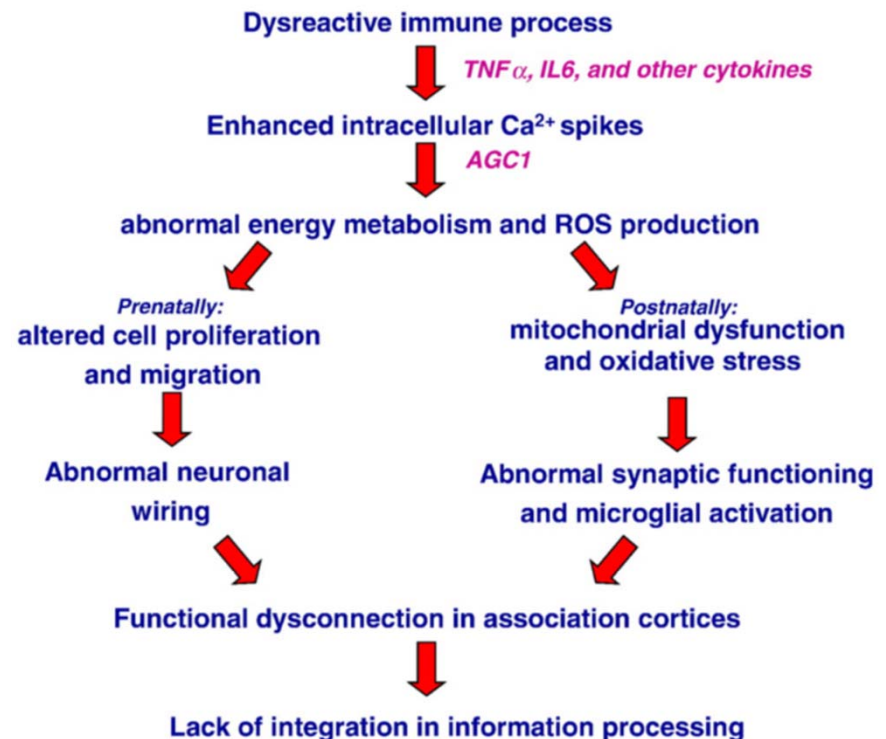
# Clinical and Molecular Characteristics of Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Autism Spectrum Disorder

Shannon Rose<sup>1</sup> · Dmitriy M. Niyazov<sup>2</sup> · Daniel A. Rossignol<sup>3</sup> · Michael Goldenthal<sup>4</sup> · Stephen G. Kahler<sup>1</sup> · Richard E. Frye<sup>5,6</sup>

Two major metabolic abnormalities associated with ASD are mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress. The inter-connection between these two metabolic abnormalities is well known: **oxidative stress causes mitochondrial dysfunction and dysfunctional mitochondria produce ROS.**

Both intrinsic and extrinsic stressors can cause detrimental effects by increasing ROS and/or reducing mitochondrial function.

**In children with ASD, the reduced form of GSH, the major intracellular antioxidant responsible for maintaining redox homeostasis and reducing ROS in the cytosol and mitochondria, is usually deficient**



# Oxidative Stress and Erythrocyte Membrane Alterations in Children with Autism: Correlation with Clinical Features

Alessandro Ghezzi<sup>1,9</sup>, Paola Visconti<sup>2</sup>, Provvidenza M. Abruzzo<sup>1,3,9</sup>, Alessandra Bolotta<sup>1,3</sup>, Carla Ferreri<sup>4</sup>, Giuseppe Gobbi<sup>2</sup>, Gemma Malisardi<sup>5</sup>, Stefano Manfredini<sup>5</sup>, Marina Marini<sup>1,3\*</sup>, Laura Nanetti<sup>6</sup>, Emanuela Pipitone<sup>7</sup>, Francesca Raffaelli<sup>6</sup>, Federica Resca<sup>2</sup>, Arianna Vignini<sup>6,9</sup>, Laura Mazzanti<sup>6</sup>

June 2013 | Volume 8 | Issue 6 | e66418

*Research Article*

## Oxidative Stress in Autistic Children Alters Erythrocyte Shape in the Absence of Quantitative Protein Alterations and of Loss of Membrane Phospholipid Asymmetry

Alessandra Bolotta <sup>1,2</sup>, Michela Battistelli<sup>3</sup>, Elisabetta Falcieri<sup>3</sup>, Alessandro Ghezzi <sup>1</sup>,  
Maria Cristina Manara <sup>4</sup>, Stefano Manfredini <sup>5</sup>, Marina Marini <sup>1,2</sup>, Annio Posar <sup>6,7</sup>,  
Paola Visconti <sup>7</sup> and Provvidenza Maria Abruzzo <sup>1,2</sup>

Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity  
Volume 2018, Article ID 6430601, 11 pages  
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/6430601>

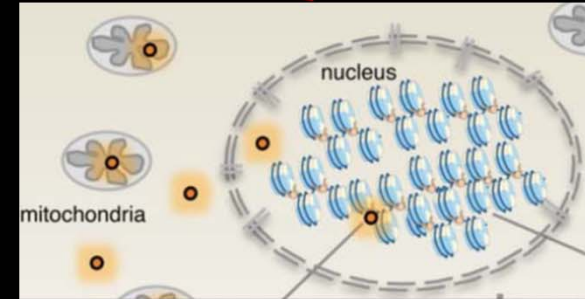
# EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

Modulazione della disponibilità di ossigeno nella  
persona con autismo:  
*dalla prevenzione primaria alla disabilità grave*

Gravidanza

Neonato e lattante a rischio

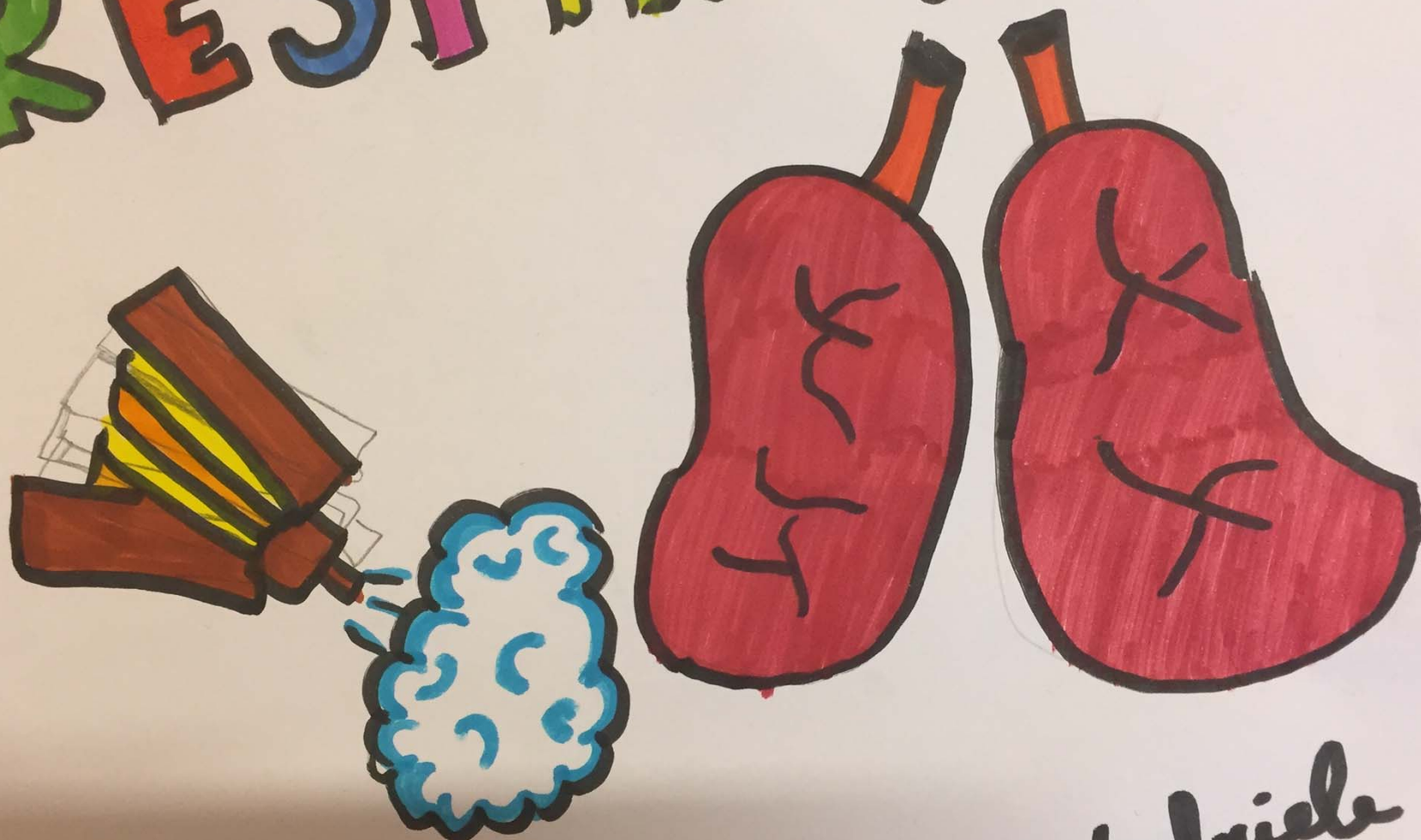
Persone con autismo



Insight into the machinery that oils chromatin dynamics

EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE  
THE POLICE  
Words and Music by STING

RESPIRA!



Gabriele F.



NEUR

GUT

CS

E STRESS

SD:  
CS?

... AND HOW ?

**SYSTEMIC PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FRAMING OF THE NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS: GLIA (GRUPPO DI LAVORO INTERDISCIPLINARE PER L'AUTISMO, MEANING "THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP FOR AUTISM")**





C. Panisi<sup>1</sup>, E. Burgio<sup>2</sup>, R. Pintus<sup>3</sup>, S. Vendemmia<sup>4</sup>,  
E. Grossi<sup>5</sup>, V. Fanos<sup>3</sup>

The interpretation of the ASD according to the pathogenetic key of DOHaD is the precondition for the building of GLIA (Gruppo di Lavoro Interdisciplinare per l'Autismo, meaning "the interdisciplinary workgroup for autism") in the SIPO. Among the main objectives, there is the beginning of effective strategies of primary prevention and the individuation of biomarkers for early diagnosis.



## Original Article

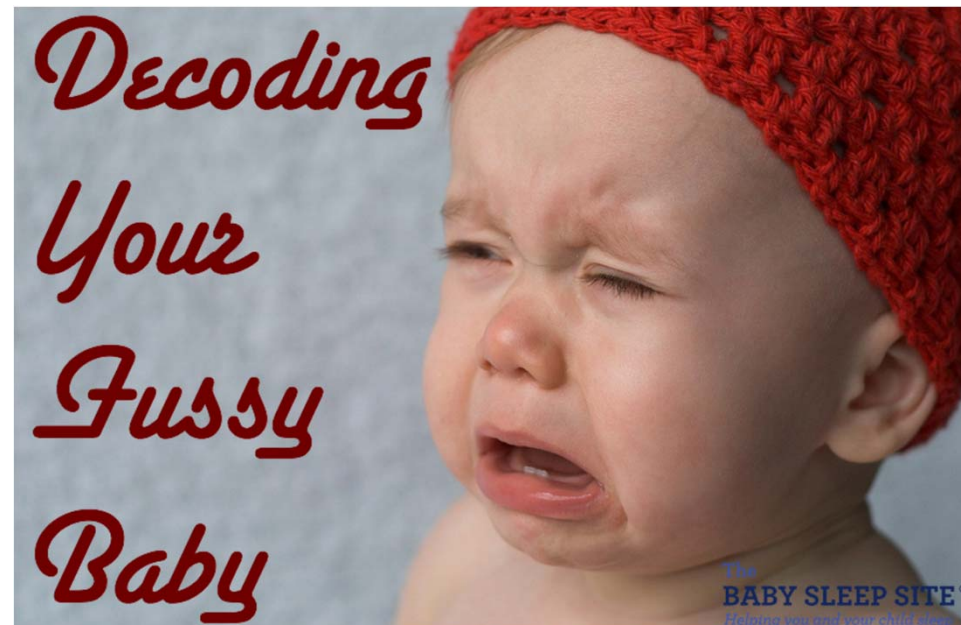
**Infant colic or early symptom of autism spectrum disorder?**

Özlem Bağ,<sup>1</sup>  Sevay Alşen Güney,<sup>3</sup>  Nagihan Cevher Binici,<sup>3</sup> Tuba Tuncel,<sup>5</sup> Aslıhan Şahin,<sup>2</sup> Emel Berksoy<sup>6</sup> and Çiğdem Ecevit<sup>4</sup>

The rate of persistent crying was significantly higher in the ASD group than in the control group (32% vs 9%, **P < 0.001**). The **relative risk** of persistent crying was **4.40 in ASD**. The likelihood of being **misdiagnosed with IC** in this group was **78%**.

Conclusion: Infants with excessive crying should be very thoroughly evaluated before being diagnosed with IC. In particular, persistent crying in infants (i.e. excessive crying with late onset and long duration) **may be an early symptom of ASD.**

?

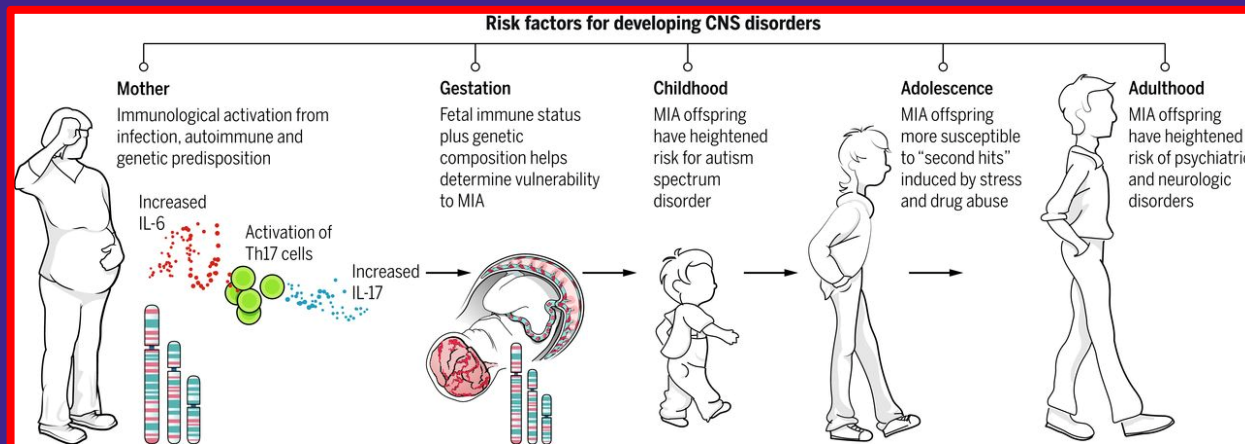
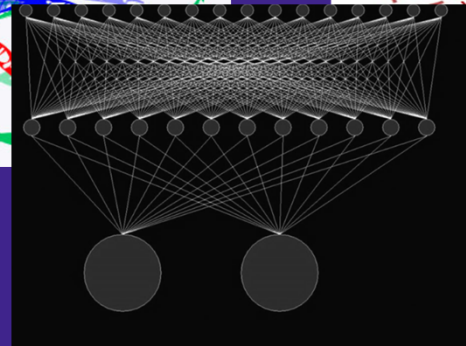
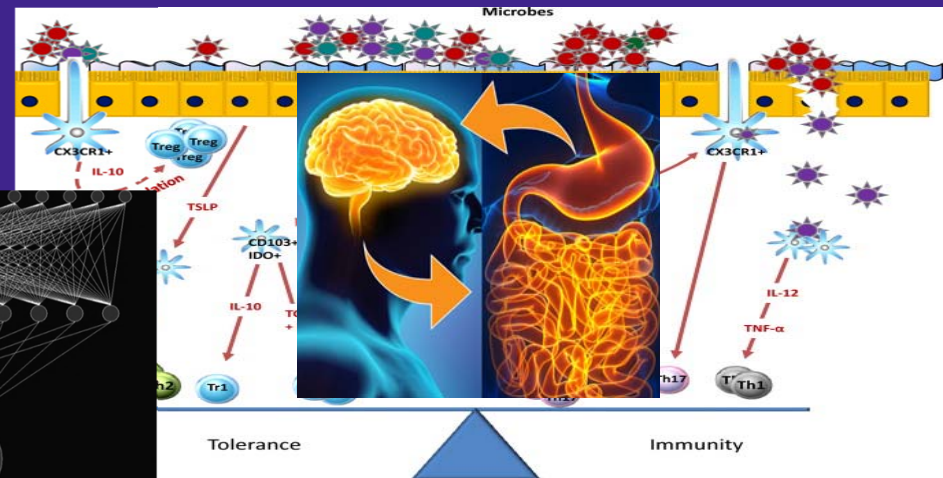
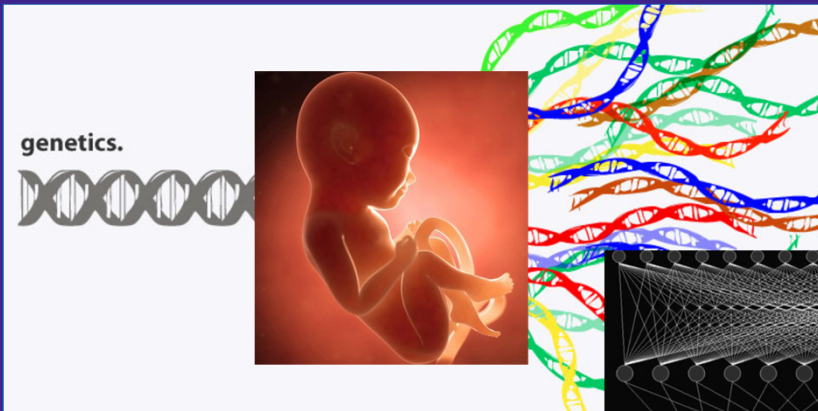




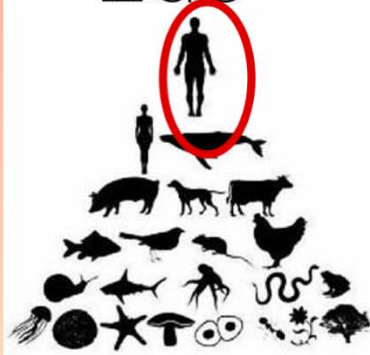
# Autism Spectrum Disorder: suggestions for a paradigm shift

Panisi C, Burgio E, Ghezzi A, Grossi E, Guerini F, Marini M, Migliore L, Saresella M, Fanos V

*Working Paper*



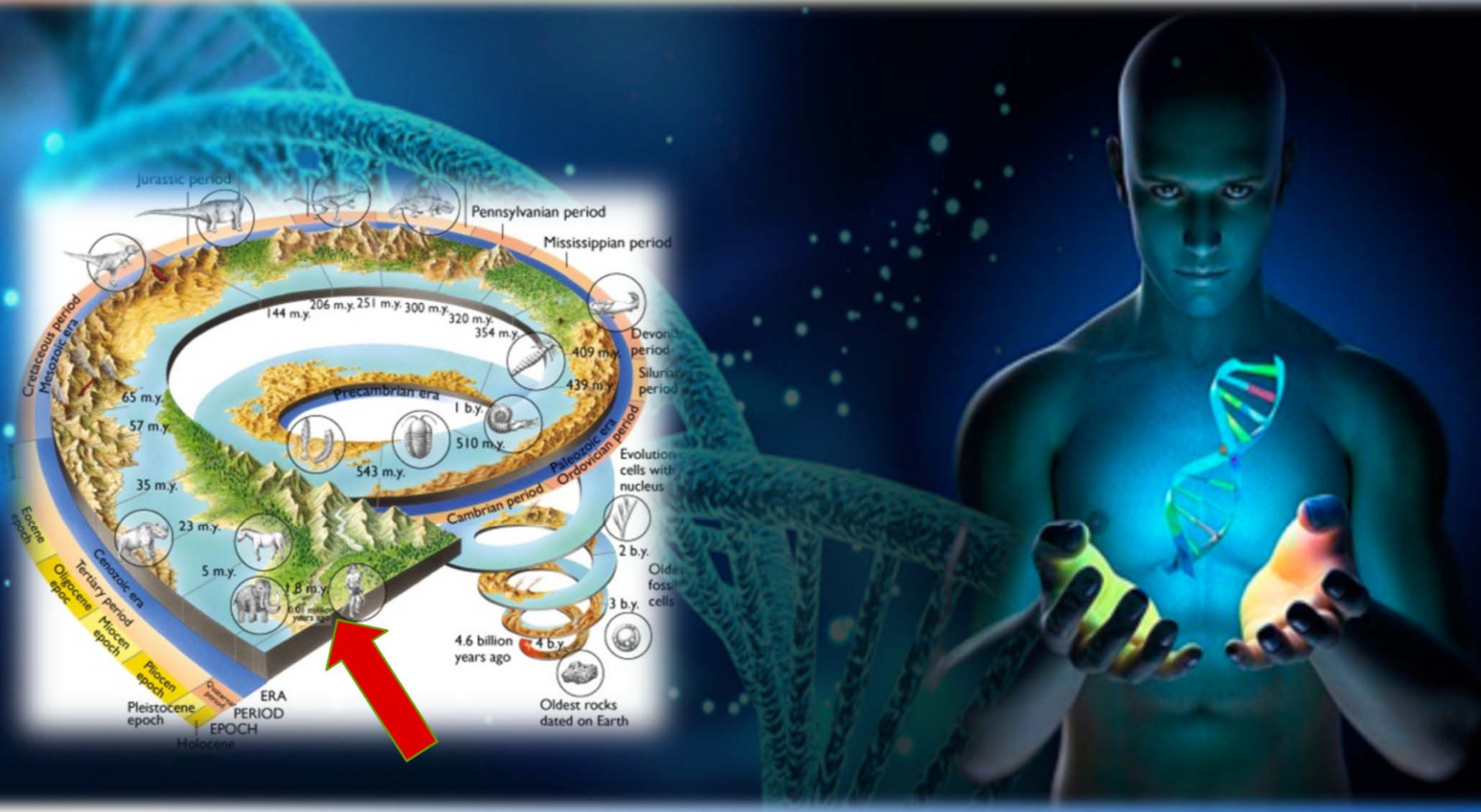
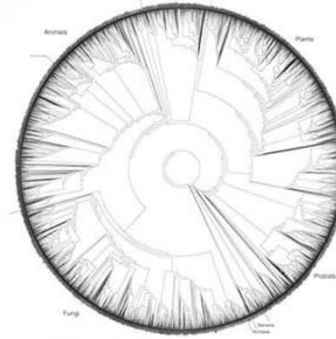
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15 February 2001

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## the human genome

### Nuclear fission

Five-dimensional energy landscapes

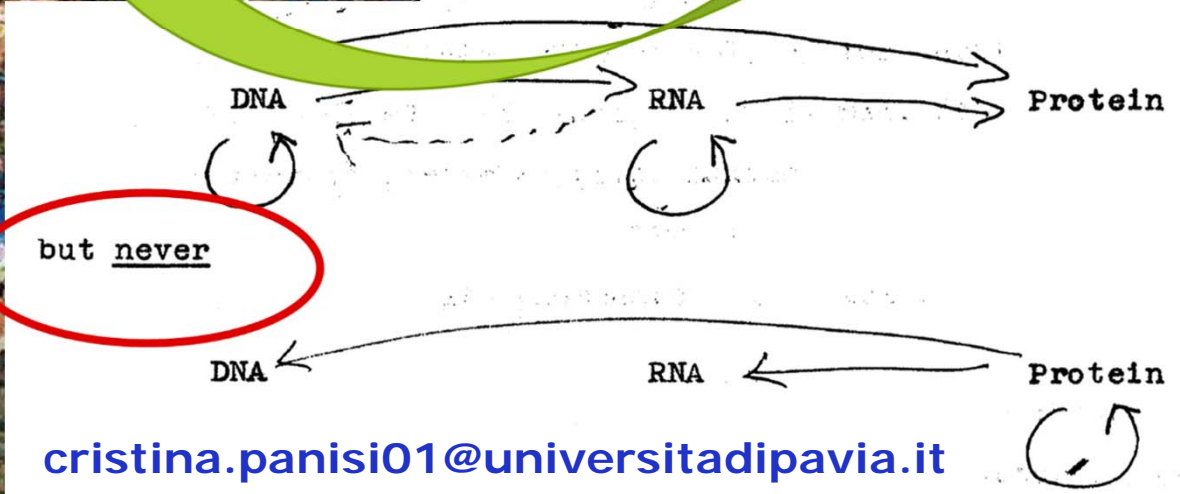
### Seafloor spreading

The view from under the Arctic ice

### Career prospects

Sequence creates new opportunities

naturejobs  
genomics special



[cristina.panisi01@universitadipavia.it](mailto:cristina.panisi01@universitadipavia.it)

