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## Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Current Situation and Prospects

Guest Editor:

### Prof. Dr. Gerry Leisman

1. Movement & Cognition  
Laboratory, Department of  
Physical Therapy, University of  
Haifa, Haifa 3103301, Israel  
2. Department of Clinical  
Neurophysiology, Institute for  
Neurology and Neurosurgery,  
University of the Medical  
Sciences of Havana, Havana  
11600, Cuba

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Because there is no medical test for its detection the genesis of ASD is hard to uncover, and diagnosis is based on a child's behavior and developmental history. ASD, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified, and Asperger syndrome are now all included within an ASD diagnosis in addition to numerous other conditions that were formerly diagnosed separately. Are they similar or dissimilar, or, conversely, are all people on the spectrum distinct while also possessing similar traits? It is possible that the difference between ASD and other similar conditions explains the sharp increase in its incidence. Do racial differences exist? Are there variations in the prevalence of ASD by region? What, difference does breastfeeding have compared to formula? What about failure to thrive? Alcohol abuse or stress during pregnancy? How do hemisphericity and neurological asymmetries relate to ASD? Cognitive impairment and retained primitive reflexes? Developmental delays? Variations in parenting? Epigenetics?

What effective tools do medical and educational systems have to identify, assist and treat children with ASD? Do any biomarkers exist or are there any under development?



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## Editor-in-Chief

### Prof. Dr. Stephen D. Meriney

Department of Neuroscience,  
University of Pittsburgh,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Brain Sciences Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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