

Special Issue

Let's Talk about Autism Spectrum Disorders: Current Scientific Evidence

Message from the Guest Editor

The frequency of ASD diagnoses has increased dramatically in the last decade. Once considered rare, the current estimates of prevalence suggest that 1:45 in children in the United States (2.2%) and Europe is diagnosed with an ASD. Although individuals with ASD are very different from one another, the disorder is characterised by core features in two areas—social communication and restricted, repetitive sensory–motor behaviours—irrespective of culture, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic group. ASD results from early altered brain development and neural reorganisation. While the specific causes of autism spectrum disorders have yet to be found, many risk factors identified in the research literature can contribute to their development. These risk factors include genetic, prenatal, and perinatal factors, neuroanatomical abnormalities, and environmental factors. It is possible to identify general risk factors, but it is much more difficult to identify specific factors.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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