

East Coast

United States Google Alerts for April 2021, News for Autism

Month. Researched by Ronda Fletcher Marchant Smart

Sorry, Google didn't send me anything from some news stations, and not everything from the news station that they did send. I just did the Google Alerts that were sent for the month of April 2021.

DC

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

“The vision of NIEHS is to use environmental health sciences to understand human disease and improve human health.” They talked about a symposium April 12 on funding, and a guest lecture April 28, 2021. The symposium is on “early career researchers” and scientists in environmental health sciences. Marla Broadfoot is a writer for the **NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liason**. Broadfoot, Marla. (May 2021). *Autism Awareness Month spotlights the next generation of researchers*. Environmental Factor Your Online Source for NIEHS News. <https://factor.niehs.nih.gov/2021/5/feature/1-feature-autism/index.htm>

The news from **the IACC** (Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee) is a proclamation by President Biden (a UN Secretary statement, the Cherokee Nation signing, the ACL talking).

I recognize that symbol of the White House. It was the one I clicked on when joining groups on LinkedIn. I was to join groups to show my professionalism and expertise. I spent all day answering the question by the White House, Michelle Obama was asking. She wrote back. She wanted to use my material. They wanted me to work with a group they were associated with, a puppet group, in Florida, I assume to be Jim Henson and the Muppets. She liked my 4 characters in my format for personality. She wanted me to move forward on it with them, I didn't. I did give permission for them to use my material, and did hear the Surgeon General stating my material on the television in shock one afternoon while I was working. (2021, April 5). *Autism Awareness month 2021*. IACC Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. <https://iacc.hhs.gov/meetings/autism-awareness-month/2021/>

Maryland

Blue lights show support for the month. (2021, April 16). *Blue lights shining to support autism awareness*. **Bay Times and Record Observer**. https://www.myeasternshoremd.com/qa/opinion/editorials/blue-lights-shining-to-support-autism-awareness/article_08493e6d-014a-547e-9145-d57a6346f1b4.html

What is it like to live with or have a child living with, a number of behaviors?

No two people are alike. They do not know if interventions help kids thrive. Ivanhoe Newswire. (2021, April 13). *National Autism Month: How Much Do You Know About It?* **2ABC WMAR Baltimore**.

<https://www.wmar2news.com/news/local-news/national-autism-month-how-much-do-you-know-about-it>

Yale University. They are trying to understand why boys are having this dimension more than girls.

The one big difference between girls and boys is that boys are less socially connecting. Gender differences come out about 18-months along with personality. Belli, Brita. (2021, April 16). *Female protective effect: Researchers find clues to sex differences in autism*. **Science Daily**. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210416145830.htm>

Virginia

Rates are low for 24-hour care (people are not paid enough), Medicaid waiver waitlists are extensive, thousands are on waiting lists. Antoine, Anthony. (2021, May 4). *Caregiver honored for work with Autism community*. **CBS12 On Your Side**. <https://www.nbc12.com/2021/05/04/caregiver-honored-work-with-autism-community/>

This article is about Samantha Ribeiro Matos and her two sons she has had placed in this category. (2021, April 21), *Autism Education and Support is Goal of Local Family*. **The Weston Democrat**. https://www.wvnews.com/westondemocrat/lifestyles/autism-education-and-support-is-goal-of-local-family/article_f2ce2b61-b87c-562b-b826-9646946ae57f.html

Lindsey Rowe Parker wrote a children's book, *Wiggles Stomps and Squeezes Calm My Jitters Down*. She has her daughter placed in this category. The artist for the book was also placed in this category. The book is not necessarily about children in this category. (2021, April 24). *Virginia author sheds light on autism with children's book*. **CBS News 10**. <https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2021/04/24/virginia-author-sheds-light-on-autism-with-childrens-book/>

Dalton Stroman Jr. was placed in the category by his parents as he had lower social skills. The school tested him in the 2nd grade. He did not have lower intelligence. He was playing sports but was not as aggressive as some others. He was shy. He has social anxiety from being less socially aggressive.

People have differing degrees of different dimensions, one of which is social skills. Dalton talks about being torn down by people. People who are labeled are often torn down by others thinking they are above those being labeled. Being labeled as something negative is always harmful. Madhavan, Neel. (2021, April 13). *The X's and O's of autism: Richmond's Stroman shines on the spectrum*. **Richmond County Daily Journal**. <https://www.yourdailyjournal.com/sports/100226/the-xs-and-os-of-autism-richmonds-stroman-shines-on-the-spectrum>

Star City, Roanoke, VA, had a feast Sunday to raise money for this, for children to go to camp. Davila, Alexis. (2021, April 25). *213 Lux Lounge hosts brunch for Autism Awareness Month*. **CBS News 10**. <https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2021/04/25/213-lux-lounge-hosts-brunch-for-autism-awareness-month/>

Historic America, Virginia, and Colonial Williamsburg talk about people with less social ability. Local police are trained. Feser, Molly. (2021, April 30). *Autism Awareness Month: Local police departments work residents on the Autism Spectrum*. **WYDaily, Daily News for Southeast Virginia**. <https://wydaily.com/local-news/2021/04/30/autism-awareness-month-local-police-departments-work-with-residents-on-the-autism-spectrum/>

Disability Scoop

The IACC (Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee) has been advising the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and coordinating federal activities. In 2017 they recommended looking at evidenced-based services, treatments, and lifespan. 10% of the funding went to understanding services people need, and when they get older, says senior author of the study at Ohio State Health and Rehab Sciences, a study in an autism journal. 90% of national funds went to biological research. Do you treat the sick person with what's being done presently which is not found to be effective, or find out what's going on? Is it about research on caregiving tactics for harmed individuals, or finding what is going on that they came to be needing care?

They're thinking that funding these research grants is going to solve the problem.

The committee is under the NIMH. They have been responsible for reducing deaths from mental illness. They have been putting grants in the way of doing this. Susan Daniels of NIMH said the IACC needs to seat a new committee, as of September 2020. Diament, Michelle. (2021, April 26). *Government Ignoring Recommendations On Autism Funding, Study Finds*. Disability Scoop.

The Autism Coordinating Committee is to advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services, where the NIMH has been doing this. The goal of a new 20-site network across the country is to put research into practice faster.

NIHM said the category of autism is not accurate, the symptoms talked about, the behaviors. They are not valid in clinical trials. They do not have the understanding needed to move forward on a new system to send out to the public about this dimension of people. They actually said to stop labeling kids in 2013.

But it's about the money, being funded, being paid for treating kids with whatever may or may not work. People did not stop using the category as advised, but went ahead.

A lot of these are animal studies. NIHM says we are not animals, they should not be applied to people, and not to small children. ABA is very Pavlovian dog-oriented, and has yet to prove of any value, if not harming the small children, causing more of what they supposedly intended to stop.

Presently research has found that the category of autism is not as good as a dimension approach and degrees and a norm population, instead of clinical diagnosis.

The new 20-site network across the country appears to be a groupthink project. Groupthink is a concept, forcing harmony, to discourage individuality and independent thought. It is pressure to go with the group. I think some people are group-oriented and more socially skilled, they are putting down the others less socially skilled, and are in charge of the group, being group-oriented, so individuals, even their own small children are not being supported.

It's hard to understand when you don't have the correct system in place, as yet, but this was not found to be accurate, autism category, symptoms, and diagnosis. (2021, May 3). *New National Health Care Network To Focus On Autism*. Disability Scoop. <https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2021/05/03/new-national-health-care-network-to-focus-on-autism/29321/>

Groupthink: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/groupthink>

Connecticut

With the local autism support nonprofit Families United in **Newtown** (FUN), Rosenthal, a First Selectman read aloud on Facebook Live supporting this. My Brother Charlie is a book based on the author's son, Holly Robinson Peete.

A lot of people like Jack Warner on Families United in Newtown talk about people having the same abilities as others, people with lower social skills.

(<https://www.facebook.com/FamiliesUnitedinNewtown/videos/268410314931420/>)

The NIMH is talking about a dimension and degrees of a dimension rather than the diagnosis system. Voket, John. (2021, April 19). *Read Aloud Webcast, Upcoming Movie Matinee Promote Autism Awareness*. **The Newtown Bee**. <https://www.newtownbee.com/04192021/read-aloud-webcast-upcoming-movie-matinee-promote-autism-awareness/>

Massachusetts

A 13-year old fell asleep on a school bus, not getting out for 6 hours. He was identified as having lower social skills.

I'm not sure if that's the identifier for falling asleep on a bus. I fell asleep on the new train system and found myself in the roundhouse with no one around. The doors were not locked, however, and I found a ladder to get down. Manzoni, Mike and Kaithlin McKinley Becker. (2021, May 1). *13-Year-Old Mass. Boy With Autism Left on School Bus for 6 Hours, Aunt Says*. **NBC Boston 10**. <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/13-year-old-boy-with-autism-left-on-worcester-school-bus-for-6-hours-aunt-says/2369568/>

This is tracking of young children (toddlers) eye movements with a device. Children being classified with lower social skills focused on the toy, instead of the woman on a computer screen. Kent, Jessica. (2021, April 28). *Mobile App Uses Machine Learning to Screen Toddlers for Autism*. **Health IT Analytics**. <https://healthitanalytics.com/news/mobile-app-uses-machine-learning-to-screen-toddlers-for-autism>

Palestine **Texas** supports this. (2021, April 24). *Autism Support Group is hosting a special Autism Awareness Month program*. **Palestine Herald Press**.

https://www.palestineherald.com/education/autism-support-group-is-hosting-a-special-autism-awareness-month-program/article_515423ca-a499-11eb-903e-a31af2bb9a5d.html

These kits are named after Carter Severs, a 6-year-old with this in Michigan. (2021, May 4). *Donation arms Tyngsboro Police officers with autism kits*. **The Sun**. <https://www.lowellsun.com/2021/05/04/donation-arms-tyngsboro-police-officers-with-autism-kits/>

Maine, Bangor

People taking part in the walk were family members or those in the category. **MacDougall, Alexander**. (2021, April 28). *Walk for autism held at Houlton Visitor Center*. The County. <https://thecounty.me/2021/04/28/news/walk-for-autism-held-at-houlton-visitor-center/>

New Jersey

Nancy Doyle, an organizational psychologist specializing in neurodiversity, a social entrepreneur says “unlike some other awareness campaigns” this month is not universally like by the community.

This is what I found. I sat at a booth April 2021 at the WE LIFT UVU Women’s Entrepreneur Event and there were three groups of people interested in what I had. The first was a new baby family. They weren’t that interested and didn’t believe anything was wrong with their baby. The second were individuals that had been diagnosed. I saw them as very distressed with the placement, not alright. The third were families, members of families, where some individuals in the families had been placed in the category. It was not distress but alarm for members of the family by the parent and siblings. They wanted to know more. They were harmed, as stated by Thomas Insel in 2013, May 15, in speaking to a psychologist convention telling them it was harmful to individuals, families and communities to be labeling, testing, and diagnosis, that they were to stop it. That was when he was the Director of NIHM. That was when they threw out the DSM as the categories did not pan out in clinical trials. There was too much variance.

Nancy posted a video by Sarinah O’Donoghue on the BBC:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/13rLW7FHQPD4P4cSKLNvzVg/an-autistic-persons-take-on-autism-awareness-week-acceptance-is-more-important-than-awareness> She suggests we don’t need to be eradicated of this or cured or treated. She suggests supporting people of less social skill. She suggests that most messages on the internet are not typical of people with this. She suggests people are all different. Many people are traumatized by this celebration of a month for this category who have been placed in this. Doyle, Nancy. (2021, April 28). *Autism Acceptance Not Awareness: A Perspective Shift Is Needed*. **Forbes**. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/drnancydoyle/2021/04/28/autism-acceptance-not-awareness-a-perspective-shift-is-needed/?sh=55d456d31eec>

There is a lot of bullying in school, Dr. Malia Beckwith, says. Not being included can be high with people of lower social skills.

She suggests a movement for change in the category.

The NIMH still hasn’t decided about this as being a category. Bloom, Susan. (2021, April 14). *Autism Acceptance Month: Creating a more inclusive future*. **Jersey’s BEST**.

<https://www.jerseystbest.com/family/autism-acceptance-month-creating-a-more-inclusive-future/>

The Ocean County Library is hosting a resource fair through April. The Event keynote will be Dr. Temple Grandin. Pepenella, Lori A. (2021, April 15). *Autism Awareness Month Recognized With Program from Dr Temple Grandin*. **Ocean County News**. Tap Into Little Egg Harbor & Tuckerton.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/little-egg-harbor-and-tuckerton/articles/autism-awareness-month-recognized-with-program-from-dr-temple-grandin>

The Ocean County Library is hosting a resource fair through April. Vosseller, Bob. (2021, April 9). *Education, Entertainment Available for Autism Awareness Month*. **Jersey Shore Online**.

<https://www.jerseyshoreonline.com/ocean-county/education-entertainment-available-for-autism-awareness-month/>

Autism at work schemes have been found to not change the difference in being included, “It is often the case that well intentioned inclusion schemes end up still reflecting the existing hiring biases of a business.” Doyle, Nancy. (2021, April 15). *Inclusivity In The World Of Tech: The Effectiveness Of Autism At Work Programmes*. **Forbes**. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/drnancydoyle/2021/04/15/inclusivity-in-the-world-of-tech-the-effectiveness-of-autism-at-work-programmes/?sh=f74cad05c49e>

To support what is being represented as a nationwide effort, the city of South Plainfield Mayor proclaimed the month, although the senior center is closed. They are having a PopBox Players Sensory Friendly Theatre for all children and another program for parents and caregivers. Caruso, Victoria. (2021, April 13). *Mayor Anesh: April 2021 is National Autism Awareness Month in South Plainfield*. **Tap into South Plainfield**. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/south-plainfield/sections/government/articles/mayor-anesh-april-2021-is-national-autism-awareness-month-in-south-plainfield>

Officers are given a kit for dealing with special needs people. Ruiz, Michael. (2021, May 2). NJ police department's autism awareness project equips officers with sensory tool kits. **Fox News Channel**. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/roselle-park-police-nj-autism-emergency-sensory-tool-kits>

Police are given noise-reducing earmuffs, sunglasses, stress balls, fidget toys, dry-erase boards for non-verbal communication for special needs individuals. (2021, May 1). *Roselle Park Police Department Deploys Sensory Communication Kits*. **Tap into Reselle/Roselle Park**. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/roselle-roselle-park/sections/police-and-fire/articles/roselle-park-police-department-deploys-sensory-communication-kits>

Rutgers University opens a new building. (2021, April 8). *Rutgers opens adult autism services community center*. **ROI-NJ.com**. <https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/08/education/rutgers-opens-adult-autism-services-community-center/>

Warren, NJ, had a meet and greet fundraiser breakfast for special needs. Tarrazi, Alexis. (2021, April 16). *Warren Police Visit Mt. Bethel Village For Autism Awareness Month*. **Warren, NJ Patch**. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/warren/warren-police-visit-mt-bethel-village-autism-awareness-month>

In the 30's and 40's many believed mothers who were cold, intellectual, and unemotional had children with autism. Marga Vicedo, a professor at University of Toronto, wrote a book, *Intelligent Love: the story of Clara Park, her autistic daughter, and the myth of the refrigerator Mother*. Clara Park was from Boston 1958 when her daughter was born. Vicedo, Marga. (2021, April 27). *What Causes Autism?* **Psychiatric Times**. <https://www.psychiatristimes.com/view/cause-autism>

A director of a center says many have stopped treating with the pandemic, but they have not. They have 10 articles, recent research: Cannabis use in pregnancy may increase risk, higher with parents with siblings with this, people mask signs, people with this may attempt suicide, they may develop substance disorders, most with this do well in middle childhood, they are at risk for mental health conditions, Melatonin may help with sleep, CBT lessens depression or cognitive behavioral therapy, the internet may give you a diagnosis. (2021, April 29). 'We can't stop': Despite pandemic, providers must continue to focus on autism, expert says. **Healio News**. <https://www.healio.com/news/primary-care/20210429/we-cant-stop-despite-pandemic-providers-must-continue-to-focus-on-autism-expert-says>

New York

Simons Foundation Research Initiative SFARI Spectrum published an article on extra support at age 6 for children with lower social skills. The study says that traits of this category are not stable in young children.

This is my understanding. Children with shyness labeled tend to have that chiseled into their understanding, where unlabeled children usually go on to develop into other things. Choi, Charles Q. (2021, April 7). *Age 6*

may represent key turning point in autism. **Spectrum**. <https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/age-6-may-represent-key-turning-point-in-autism/>

Quadrant Biosciences Inc. talk about biomarkers detecting this category, suggesting children be labeled early and treated. A saliva test and eye gaze tracking are the idea of researchers in Ohio. He is choosing intensive behavioral to stop behaviors of lower social skills in young children. The purpose is to reduce the expense of diagnosing people later where these two screens may place children in the category early and remotely without their knowledge, a saliva test and remote eye scan.

We can be labeled without our knowledge.

The problem is that there is a lack of understanding of the category as being mental illness or a defective situation, where NIMH is looking at degree and dimension as being a norm in the population, instead of going to clinical diagnosis modeling.

It has not been shown any cure or treatment that is effective in altering the social skills of some people where it may be a matter of a difference in personal choice. (2021, April 22). *Autism Biomarkers Could Save Billions in Healthcare Costs According to Recent Study*. **Cision PR Newswire**. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/autism-biomarkers-could-save-billions-in-healthcare-costs-according-to-recent-study-301275410.html>

Susan Silvestri of **the Bronx**, director of QSAC School for Students with Autism said, “I would really like my students to be able to say to someone, ‘I have autism, and this is hard for me’. There is a stigma attached. QSAC schools are not the same as public schools. There are less benefits. Special Education has changed. “I appreciate the concept of autism awareness because I think all of us could do better to go about our daily lives giving other people the benefit of the doubt,” Silvestri said.

I can support her statement, “I think all of us could do better to go about our daily lives giving other people the benefit of the doubt.” Brennan, Rose. (2021, April 25). *Awareness, advocacy essential for autism community*. **The Riverdale Press**. <https://riverdalepress.com/stories/awareness-advocacy-essential-for-autism-community,74058?>

Children do not just show signs of this category as they are putting the symptoms to be, although not found as yet to be accurate by the NIMH. They don't have the symptoms to be known, as yet, or the categories known, but

Older children also show these where they did not as younger children, or lower social skills. It may be that children hide the traits, the family supports the children, or people compensate where social difficulties become more apparent with more demands of later years. Coombs, Chelsey B. (2021, May 2). *Community Newsletter: Late-emerging autism, validation of subtypes, litter effect*. **Spectrum**. <https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/community-newsletter-late-emerging-autism-validation-of-subtypes-litter-effect/>

"We don't know if this is causal, is autism causing eating problems, or if there might be some other factor that might be influencing both autism and eating problems," said Remnelius.

This is such a good statement. A lot of research has other causes possible, and it isn't known, for sure that the one causes the other. It's hard to use research where the cause isn't sure of the other, but many may choose to

go ahead thinking they are related. Murez, Cara. (2021, May 4). *Eating Issues Common in People With Autism*. **WebMD**. <https://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/news/20210504/eating-issues-common-in-people-with-autism>

Has diagnosis criteria for sure changed the rates or was it something else? The article says the understanding has changed, but we still don't have the understanding. What could be the reason? There could be so many reasons. We don't know enough. Wagner, Bayliss. (2021, April 18). *Fact check: Autism diagnosis criteria changes have led to increased rates*. **USA Today**.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2021/04/18/fact-check-autism-diagnosis-changes-over-years-account-high-rate/7102414002/>

Infant watching a mobile device cameras track the gaze of the toddler while he watches the video from **Duke University**. There are only modest results with replication studies. They are studying children at 6 months to detect this.

We could look at all children and say they are having this, in this category. The NIMH is saying it is more of a dimension, a degree, and a norm population, instead of a clinical diagnosis model. It's still a question if this dimension is mental illness or a defect. Hess, Peter. (2021, April 26). *Gaze-tracking app predicts autism diagnosis in toddlers*. **Spectrum**. <https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/gaze-tracking-app-predicts-autism-diagnosis-in-toddlers/>

SPARK (Simons Foundation Powering Autism Research for Knowledge) was launched 5 years ago to look at data, thousands of individuals being placed in the category, looking at behavior and biology generating genomic data for researchers. We are looking at 19,000 genes to find connections to this lower social skills working with 31 medical schools. We found this is hundreds of conditions that vary widely with individuals. Genes play a role in the behaviors we are looking at in individuals. There may be 500 genes related to this behavior.

I noticed the both of my oldest children from two husbands were aggressively moving forward. They would burrow into the couch as an infant. Was it genetic? They were definitely aggressive individuals. They had a different father, neither of the fathers were aggressive, but both were shy. They were both socially skilled in school classes, the clown in charge, far beyond their peers in social abilities. **Chung, Wendy**. (2021, April 30). *How big Data Are Unlocking the Mysteries of Autism. Better genetic insights can help support people across the spectrum*. **Scientific American**. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-big-data-are-unlocking-the-mysteries-of-autism/>

There is a demand with this diagnosis and treatment recommendation of ABA, using rewards to teach communication.

ABA does not cure autism. What does it do? Rewards can increase social behavior.

When my children were small, in a new school, we played a game. They would get one scoop of ice cream for each person they talked to. This would be ABA, however, it depends on how it is used. I talked with a man over an autism center in Utah. His wife had become involved with placing her children in the category and doing the walks. She went on to establish centers. Her husband talked to me confidentially or in truth about the treatment he was using and was to use, the ABA. He said it was the same idea used by the NIMH statements that we are not animals.

Many treatments or research is based on animals. Is it appropriate to use to with real persons, people, to treat them like we use on the Pavlovian dog experiments? The one therapist at the other center actually was a dog

trainer and so he got the job training 18-month old babies. It's the same thing, he said. The NIMH made statements about animal research. I only know what the man said at the center.

I used ABA on my children, but only the once when they started a new school. Jeffrey-Wilensky, Jacklyn. (2021, April 20). *Many U.S. counties lack autism therapists*. **Spectrum**.
<https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/many-u-s-counties-lack-autism-therapists/>

Greta Thunberg (who is on the spectrum category) says, autism isn't "something you have," nor is it a disease. "It simply means that you are a bit different"...

The NIMH says it is a degree and dimension, that people may share a dimension, that no two individuals are the same.

Low and high functioning labels Greta says can harm people, people have different characteristics, she says. Is neurotypical a better label than ASD? Everyone has different preferences, she says.

I believe this is an accurate statement of hers.

People placed in this group are not incompetent. You should ask how someone wants to be described, she says. Neela-Stock, Siobhan. (2021, April 18). *What you should know about autism*. **Mashable**.
<https://mashable.com/article/what-to-know-about-autism/>

They had a walk. A detective has a niece in this. Cohen, Jason. (2021, April 20). *41st Precinct holds 5th annual Autism Walk*. **Bronx Times**. <https://www.bxtimes.com/41st-precinct-holds-5th-annual-autism-walk/>

I think this was a really good article on how the diagnosis of what is being autism came about. The child was observed virtually and the psychologist saw what she was looking for in signs. One of the signs is looking you in the eye. People who are outgoing or group-minded don't have a lot of inner thought, they have no problem looking others in the eye. Is this a sign that a child will become bizarre in his behavior as he becomes older? The signs or symptoms were not found valid that are in the DSM by clinical tests, so they are not considered to be accurate. The diagnosis is not chosen of autism, the category from the DSM. They are choosing to look at a dimension, degrees of a dimension and a norm population rather than clinical diagnosis and the sick model.

Dattaro, Laura. (2021, April 19). *Virtual autism assessments are likely here to stay*. **Spectrum**.
<https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/virtual-autism-assessments-are-likely-here-to-stay/>

Children wore blue in **Seaford, NY**, special needs children. They were given a puzzle piece which is to represent the mystery of what is being called autism. Barmash, Jerry. (2021, May 3). *Seaford Manor Elementary School Puts Spotlight On Autism*. **Patch**. <https://patch.com/new-york/wantagh/seaford-manor-elementary-school-puts-spotlight-autism>

Michelle Failla, of **Ohio State University**, says women have more pain, anxiety and gastrointestinal problems, then men. Living at home have less pain. Jeffrey-Wilensky, Jacklyn. (2021, May 4). *Pain keeps autistic women and girls home from work, school*. **Spectrum**. <https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/pain-keeps-autistic-women-and-girls-home-from-work-school/>

He read to the children at the Family Services Schools. Students did art contests and took a “kindness pledge”. They had special real-life superhero readings for the month. (2021, April 28). *Lt. Governor Hochul and Bronx students celebrate Autism Awareness Month*. **BronxTimes**. <https://www.bxtimes.com/lt-governor-hochul-and-bronx-students-celebrate-autism-awareness-month/>

East Greenbush, NY, middle school worked on t-shirts to wear to fund the autism society. Siegal, Chelsea. (2021, April 19). *Local middle school supports Autism Awareness Month*. **News 10 ABC**. <https://www.news10.com/community/giving-on-10/local-middle-school-supports-autism-awareness-month/>

A family with a person on this had a fun run. What is the stigma? “Autism people are still good people”, they say. The category is a negative category, someone that is defective in their social interactions. These people deserve “love, kindness, and respect”, where they are “special” being defective with this, is the thinking.

This is not the thinking of the NIMH looking at this correctly. They are seeing it as a dimension with degrees that individuals have, looking at a normal population and not a diagnosis symptom model. No two individuals, all of us, are the same. Flaks, Rob. (2021, April 25). *Jog with Hudson 5k in support of Autism research and awareness*. **12 News WBNG.com**. <https://wbng.com/2021/04/25/jog-with-hudson-5k-in-support-of-autism-research-and-awareness/>

Foot Locker has Puma and Diadora brands making an adaptive sneaker to raise autism awareness. Ron Funches, an actor, has a son on this and is an advocate for the sneaker. Autism Speaks promotes solutions, advocating and supporting, understanding and accepting, advancing research for interventions for this. (2021, April 27). *Foot Locker, Inc. Partners with Puma and Diadora for Autism Acceptance Month*. **Cision PR Newswire**. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/foot-locker-inc-partners-with-puma-and-diadora-for-autism-acceptance-month-301277939.html>

Alicia, mother of a boy in **Syracuse, NY**, with a 24-year old brother, and a 4-year old, started a Facebook group, CNY Families of Autistic/Special Needs Children. Bachman, Justin. She grew up with a brother with autism. (2021, April 16). *CNY Mother uses experience to advocate for those with autism*. **Spectrum News 1**. <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/human-interest/2021/04/16/cny-mother-autism-awareness-advocacy>

The Kelberman Center is in the **Mohawk Valley and Central New York**. The Humpf family have three boys, one is in this. They are involved with fund raising for the center. (2021, April 20). *April is Autism Awareness Month*. **Rome Sentinel**. <https://romesentinel.com/stories/april-is-autism-awareness-month,113642>

Rhode Island

In 1970 the autism society began an awareness campaign, now they are choosing to change that to the word “acceptance”. The Autism Society of Northern Virginia, offers resources. (2021, April 7). *April is Autism Acceptance Month*. **Prince William Living**. UVA Health System. Novant Health. <https://princewilliamliving.com/april-is-autism-acceptance-month/>

Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College

Rodessa says, “media autism is an oversimplified version of real autism”. Her examples are of the movie, *Music*, directed by songwriter, Sia, with Kate Hudson, and *Rain Man* with Dustin Hoffman, and Sheldon on the *Big Bang Theory*. Rodessa has been placed in the category by someone.

This category is about social skills. If what I’m seeing is correct, Rodessa is gifted in math and music and moved from Hawaii to Pennsylvania (near Philadelphia) to **Swarthmore College**. She is stating, being on the “autistic scale” that this portrayal is entirely inaccurate, of herself. She is not like the symptoms described. She is not like the category described. This is the understanding of NIMH, the symptoms and category are not accurately portraying people.

She has identified with autism month and is speaking about the music she likes and the image of what she sees from her stand, it’s not accurate, what is being said, she says. Caguioa, Rodessa. (2021, May 1). *media autism vs. real life autism (or, why Music sucks)*. **The Phoenix**. <https://swarthmorephoenix.com/2021/05/01/media-autism-vs-real-life-autism-or-why-music-sucks/>

Butler, PA, school district is observing this. They are wearing blue and accepting donations. Friel, Tyler. (2021, April 15). *Mars Observing Autism Awareness Month*. **Butlerradio.com**. <https://butlerradio.com/mars-observing-autism-awareness-month/>