



March 2011 Newsletter

Company News

-A heap of thanks goes out to Dan Sosa for making our new official company logo! Thank you, Dan!

-If you have a FaceBook account, please find our company page! Go to search and type in Sonnenberg Consultants. We would like everyone to join as we will be posting company updates, policies, open hours, and reminders among other things!

-Please wash your hands when entering anyone's home! We don't want to pass those invisible germs around!

Autism in Boys: Study Points to Why it's a Male Disorder

HEATHERTURGEON

WWW.BLOGS.BABBLE.COM/STROLLERDERBY

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2011



TESTOSTERONE AND CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

WE KNOW THAT AUTISM IS MORE COMMON AMONG MALES: FOR EVERY GIRL DIAGNOSED

THERE ARE FOUR BOYS WITH THE DISORDER. THERE IS MUCH DEBATE ABOUT THE HORMONAL AND GENETIC EXPLANATIONS FOR THE DISPARITY — BUT NOT MUCH IN THE WAY OF DIRECT SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE. BUT TODAY, A STUDY FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER IN WASHINGTON DC REPORTS THAT RESEARCHERS MAY HAVE FOUND ONE OF THE UNDERLYING REASONS FOR THE MALE AUTISM BIAS. IT COULD HELP EXPLAIN WHY THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER IS SO MUCH MORE COMMON FOR BOYS. HERE'S WHAT THEY FOUND: THE SCIENTISTS LOOKED AT ONE PARTICULAR GENE THAT HAS BEEN LINKED WITH AUTISM — *RETINOIC ACID-RELATED ORPHAN RECEPTOR-ALPHA (RORA)*. RORA HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE IMPORTANT IN THE CEREBELLUM, AND ON AVERAGE PEOPLE WITH AUTISM EXPRESSED THIS GENE LESS THAN OTHERS. IN ANIMAL STUDIES, MICE WITH LESS RORA EXPRESSION SHOW CHARACTERISTIC AUTISM SIGNS LIKE REPETITIVE BEHAVIORS AND DIFFICULTY WITH SPACIAL LEARNING. THE RESEARCHERS TOOK HUMAN BRAIN CELLS THAT EXPRESS THE RORA GENE AND BATHED THEM IN EITHER FEMALE HORMONES (OESTRADIOL) OR MALE HORMONES (DIHYDROTTESTOSTERONE, DERIVED FROM TESTOSTERONE). THEY FOUND THAT WHEN BATHED IN THE FEMALE SEX HORMONES, THE GENE WAS STRONGLY EXPRESSED, WHEREAS WHEN EXPOSED TO MALE SEX HORMONES,



March 2011 Newsletter

Happy Birthday!

Farrah Sonnenberg 3/2

Tom Gasparo 3/4

Amy Wilson 3/4

Erica Viola 3/8

Kari Kammerzelt 3/11

Miranda Young 3/11

Marcy DiMiceli 3/26

Barb Hain 3/28



Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 17

Laugh a little today!



"Be A Hero For Autism" now through Saturday, April 30 by making a monetary donation at any Toys"R"Us or Babies"R"Us store in North America or online at www.toysrus.com. To help kick-start the campaign, the Toys"R"Us Children's Fund also awarded Autism Speaks a \$400,000 grant.

An Irishman and an American were sitting in the bar at Shannon Airport.

"I've come to meet my brother," said the Irishman. "He's due to fly in from America in an hour's time. It's his first trip home in forty years".

"Will you be able to recognize him?" asked the American.

"I'm sure I won't," said the Irishman, "after all, he's been away for a long time".

"I wonder if he'll recognize you?" said the American.

"Of course he will," said the Irishman. "Sure, an' I haven't been away at all".