Autistic Autism Theories and Identity Politics Rant, Or: Could most autism controversies be resolved by giving “Vaccine Injury” its own entry in the DSM?

Guest post by Don Depresso’s author | 1/17/2017 at 1:17 PM PST

(Note to prevent confusion: I usually post as my comic character, Don Depresso, but I’m posting this as myself so that fewer potential readers will dismiss it due to mistakenly profiling the author as a white cismale. I have no problem with white cismales, but I’m not one of them, in case that’s something you care about. Anyway...)

PREFACE:
Now that Autism is finally getting popular, I can no longer use the excuse of stigma to avoid blogging about it. My only good reason to feel nervous about the topic now is identity politics. (Ugh, identity politics. Like, How much should I worry about being politically correct on my own blog? What if my sense of humor offends people, and is Asperger’s syndrome a legitimate excuse for compulsively making jokes out of clinical-sounding words no matter how serious the subject matter? What if I show this to people I know in real life, and then I never hear from them again but can’t tell if it’s because of the blog post or something else awkward I’ve done? What if people on the Internet accuse me of giving autism a bad name and say that my diagnosis should be revoked for lack of compliance with the P.C. police?)

Autism is generally a controversial topic, and some of my ideas on it are particularly out there; nevertheless, I’m going to take the creative leap and post this incomplete, informal collection of my theories on possible etiologies and other aspects of the condition we call “autism.”

There is no particular thesis or structure to this, so you can just skip to a different part if it starts to bore you. I expect that most people who read this whole thing will disagree on some points. Comments are welcome if you have them, whether or not you agree with me. My opinions are all works-in-progress anyway.

And, yes: *Vaccines*, *psychic abilities*, and *Highly Sensitive Persons* (HSPs) are all included in the discussion.

(I intend to fill in more citations later, as several are still missing from research that I remember reading but not where I read it. In the meantime, please do your own research on everything that interests you, and don’t trust me or anyone else to tell you the truth.)

Autistic identity politics rant mostly at end.

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**BACKGROUND:**

I’ve been compiling thoughts and theories about autism for my next book—*Don Depresso, Not Otherwise Specified* (DD-NOS)—since 2014.

My predominant feeling about the autism spectrum, especially Asperger’s and anything savantism-related, is that it’s fascinating—unquantifiably rad, even—and I’ve thought so since well before I got diagnosed as an adult with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Level 1, Requiring Support.

(I’m grateful for the autistic experience as well as for the official diagnosis to reference every time someone shames me for a faux pas that I hadn’t noticed committing; namedropping “autism,” it turns out, is an extremely powerful psychic self-defense tactic that typically induces shocked facial contortions and confused apologies and subsequent avoidance on the part of the shamer [good, stay away!]).
I'm still working on the book, and I occasionally post excerpts and graphics from it on this blog. This is one of them. It's experimental prose, not peer-reviewed research.

AUTISM STUFF COPIED FROM JOURNAL AND LOOSELY TIED TOGETHER WITH MULTISTRANDED ADHD-PI THREAD:

“Do vaccines cause autism?”

I don't know. I don't believe that most people know, even though most people seem to say, “Of course not.” The nebulous definition of “autism” and strong push in the neurodiversity community to avoid pathologizing it makes the question no simpler to answer.

I believe there is a compelling case that vaccine safety deserves closer examination by researchers not affiliated with pharmaceutical companies. Additionally, I believe there is a compelling case that vaccine formulae would be safer if all potentially toxic substances other than the immunization target virus were eliminated; without heavy metal additives such as thimerosal and aluminum adjuvants, the possibility of a link to neurodevelopmental changes would seem far less likely.

(My personal stance on vaccines is pro-choice. I support vaccine research and availability, but I would never criticise someone for choosing to not get their child or themselves vaccinated. Forced or socially pressured vaccinations are a form of assault and a violation of the basic human right to control one’s own body, in my opinion.)

Based on research that I have so far reviewed, these are some things that I currently believe are true and/or have questions about regarding that topic:

I. Most people who have been vaccinated are not diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

II. There are autistic people who have never been vaccinated, a subject Denise Parry discusses in “Episode [2.5] – do you prefer to be referred to as a person with autism or autistic?” of the Sex Drugs and Sustainability podcast (Sonya & Anza, 2017).

MP3 link: http://traffic.libsyn.com/sexdrugsandsustainability/SDS_2-5.mp3

III. When the DSM-IV was updated to the DSM-5 in 2013, individual diagnoses that had formerly been listed under Pervasive Developmental Disorders—including 299.00 Autistic Disorder, 299.80 Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified, 299.80 Asperger's Disorder, 299.80 Rett's Disorder, and 299.10 Childhood Disintegrative Disorder—were removed and
their symptoms all lumped together into a single, umbrella diagnosis of “299.00 Autism Spectrum Disorder” with five (rather general) variation specifiers (paraphrased from American Psychiatric Association).

IV. The DSM-5 diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder spans a wide range of characteristics and functioning abilities. If there happened to be any subgroups with distinct syndromes stemming from specific causes, vaguely labeling all such cases as “Autism Spectrum Disorder” with the limited specifiers available in the DSM-5 would likely slow down the identification of such subgroups.

V. Autism diagnosis rates seem to be rising in multiple parts of the world. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s latest report—released in 2016 but based on data from 2012, prior to the DSM-5 update—estimates an ASD prevalence of one in 68 children; interestingly, although the CDC’s national prevalence estimate had not changed significantly since the previous surveillance year of 2010, “ASD prevalence increased by 16% in Wisconsin and by 12% in New Jersey and decreased by 19% in Missouri.” (Christensen, 2016).

VI. Overall, vaccine injections routinely given to children and/or pregnant mothers have increased in quantity and frequency with continual introduction of new formulae over the decades.

VII. Sometimes when quantitative research confuses, anecdotal research can help clarify.

VIII. Many people who believe in an autism/vaccine link are parents of children who changed drastically within a couple of weeks after a vaccination. Changes often include losing previously gained abilities to speak and make eye contact, high-pitched screaming for long periods, head-banging, and developing physical problems such as severe allergies and food intolerances that eventually lead to a distended appearance of the abdomen that some call “Buddha belly.” For examples of stories from such families, watch some of the numerous videos on the VaxXed YouTube channel (for the uninitiated, how about beginning your vaxploration in Wisconsin, New Jersey, Missouri, Oregon, California, Louisiana, or Florida?).

IX. Although some critics argue that the documentary VaxXed: From Cover-up to Catastrophe (Wakefield, 2016) is unscientific because it was directed by discredited doctor Andrew Wakefield and banned from multiple festivals, I recommend watching it with an open mind; it’s standard for whistleblowers in any field to be publicly shamed, so why not skip the hearsay and see for yourself what makes the film so controversial?

It’s at least a mentally stimulating watch for a rainy day, whether or not you agree with the science.

X. In Social Media Madness on Cafecito Break Podcast, Rosangel and
If people express an opinion that ... does not conform to the narrative of the establishment of mainstream media, they are censored, and they are bullied.
(Perez & Perez, 2017, at 14m15s)

XI. Some vaccine formulae have been positively correlated with autism, but interpretations of existing studies vary. In the paper A comparison of temporal trends in United States autism prevalence to trends in suspected environmental factors, Nevison describes some confounding factors involved in researching a possible link between vaccines and autism (emphasis added):

A possible confounding factor in the postnatal thimerosal analysis is the administration of flu shots to pregnant women, which increased in the late 1990s/early 2000s around the same time that thimerosal was being phased out of children's vaccines. Many flu shots still contain 25 μg Hg and thus may be leading to increased prenatal exposure. Anti-D Immune Globulin products, which contained up to 65 μg Hg per dose in the 1990s, were another prenatal source of thimerosal. Beginning in 1991, these shots were recommended routinely for RH-pregnant women (about 11% of the population), who often received two or more doses during their pregnancy [59]. However, thimerosal was removed from these immune globulin products around 2001, creating a competing trend in prenatal exposure from that due to flu shots. An additional complication is that the relative impact of prenatal and postnatal thimerosal is difficult to compare quantitatively, due to uncertainties in the degree of protection provided by the mother and in the sensitivity in the timing of fetal development to Hg [60].

Other vaccine indices, including cumulative aluminum adjuvants and cumulative total number of immunizations, continue to correlate strongly with autism trends (Figure 5, Additional file 1: Figure S7-S8). 
Aluminum is a demonstrated neurotoxin that can induce neuroimmune disorders and cellular oxidative stress [61, 62]. Several recent studies have described biological mechanisms by which aluminum could contribute to autism and have emphasized the need to consider the interaction of aluminum and vaccines with other pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics and the antipyretic...
pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics and the antipyretic acetaminophen [34, 63, 64, 65, 66]. The upward trend in aluminum adjuvant exposure is also notable in that very young infants have experienced the largest relative increases from the early 1980s to 2005. Newborns have seen essentially an infinite increase due to the hepatitis B birth dose, the receipt of which has been linked epidemiologically to increased autism risk [67], while 2 month-olds have seen about a 3-fold increase in aluminum adjuvant exposure (range 2.5 to 5.7, depending on the Al content assumed for DPT and DTaP, which varies widely among different manufacturers [33]) (Additional file 1: Figure S7b). However, with the exception noted above, most epidemiological studies have found no correlation between vaccines and autism, although these studies have focused specifically on either thimerosal or the MMR vaccine rather than on aluminum [35, 68, 69].

(My opinion: Like, why can’t they just stop putting metal in the vaccines, so then people will stop wondering?)

Aluminum (Al), the most commonly used vaccine adjuvant, is a demonstrated neurotoxin and a strong immune stimulator. Hence, adjuvant Al has the potential to induce neuroimmune disorders.

(Tomljenovic, et al., 2011)

XII. People with “high-functioning” forms of autism are probably far more likely than people with severely disabling forms of autism (e.g., the symptom cluster associated with the now-defunct diagnosis of Childhood Disintegrative Disorder) to participate in activist communities and online discussions about social justice and the appropriateness, or lack thereof, of considering autism causality.

When the disability aspect is extreme, it is usually the parents of the autistic person who are going online to seek support from other parents of autistic kids/adults, and who hear about vaccine controversies well before hearing about neurodiversity. In general, from what I can see, self-representing autistic adults and parents of autistic people tend to live in completely separate worlds and to care about completely separate issues.

XIII. Laura Spurl (Spurler? Sperl? Sperler? [sp?]) is one autistic adult with a psychology degree who believes that vaccines caused her autism:
Interviewer: “As a person, age 30, with autism, do you believe that vaccines caused your autism?”

Laura: “Yeah. I believe... Yeah. Considering when I, you know, had gotten them and when I was diagnosed, I don't have doubt in my mind that that's what caused my autism—because I've done research on my own too on backgrounds of different theories.”

I: “Well, you should be a spokesperson for that because people at Autism Speaks sometimes ... Autism Society of America [inaudible] ... they ... Are you still working for them?”

L: [Shakes head.]

I: “They wouldn't have had you as a speaker at any of their things, but we, the people here, we would love you to speak out because you speak so well, and you tell your story so well, and we're not represented. So what's happened to all of our children is not represented because most of our children don't/aren't able to speak, and if they can speak, they're just not able to do what you're doing. So you really should think about that.”

L: “I've always wanted to do something like that because I knew I had a unique perspective of—part of why I present so well is because I've also pushed myself because I wanted to be so much normal, but I pushed myself. I'm just that type of, I guess, Type A-ish person where I reach a goal, and, okay, now what's the next? I always stretch my comfort zone a little bit.”

(“#VaxXed #Wisconsin #dtp #dtap #hearingloss,” 2016, at 13m57s)

XIV. Multiple studies support a heterogeneous cluster of hereditary factors involved in autism, some of which may overlap with hereditary tendencies towards introversion (Chapnik, R., 2015).

XV. Hooray, you've read this far! Now it's gonna get weirder. Some people (first a little voice in my own head, and then a week later Laura Eisenhower coincidentally describing a similar theory on YouTube [Leak Project, 2017]) surmise that eugenicists may wish to induce autism not to eliminate it, but to move the species towards transhumanism via the artificial evolution of autistic supersoldiers. (Sounds far-fetched, but if you consider historical uses of vaccines for eugenics research in Nazi as well as American laboratories, and Hans Asperger's paper titled Die ‘Autistischen Psychopathen’ im Kindesalter...
Asperger’s paper titled "Die ‘Autistischen Psychopathen’ im Kindesalter (Autistic Psychopathy of Childhood), which spurred the coining of “Asperger’s syndrome” in 1944 Austria, it’s interesting to think about.)

XVI. Autism is often discussed in a vacuum, but let’s also talk about schizophrenia and Alzheimer’s and Crohn’s and bipolar and ADHD and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and adrenal fatigue and fibromyalgia and Lyme and microglia (Loke, et al., 2015) and all of those mysterious autoimmune conditions that Highly Sensitive Persons (HSPs) are getting these days! And electromagnetic field (EMF) sensitivity, especially in combination with metals in the body!

Well, those are too many tangents to complete in this post, so here is a quotation on autism and the immune system:

> It is also possible that the drivers of the temporal trend in autism are tied into the factors responsible for the rise in other autoimmune or hyperimmune system diseases such as asthma, Crohn’s disease, lupus, and type 1 diabetes. All of these diseases have increased in recent decades in the U.S as well as in many other countries. (Nevison, 2014)

(If I had my aluminum foil hat on, I’d probably say, “OMG. The aluminum.”)

XVII. Some metals occur naturally in the human body in small amounts.

XVIII. People with different genetic and biological makeups can have different reactions to substances (e.g., some people are allergic to nickel).

XIX. People with Rh- blood types lack a protective protein related to the Rhesus monkey and are less resistant to some toxins. Esoteric lore about Rh- bloodlines, including theories of extraterrestrial ancestry and a higher prevalence of “Targeted Individuals” (TIs) among Rh-negatives, abounds on the Web. Only recently did I learn that there is at least one special vaccine, Rhogam, for the Rh- population.

Nevison’s study, from which I quoted earlier in this post, also mentioned extra thimerosal given to Rh-negatives; here’s that part copied and pasted again:

> Anti-D Immune Globulin products, which contained up to 65 μg Hg per dose in the 1990s, were another prenatal source of thimerosal. Beginning in 1991, these shots were recommended routinely for RH- pregnant women (about 11% of the population), who often received two or more doses during their pregnancy [59].

(Nevison, 2014)

See also: VaxXed Stories: Matthew in Florida (his mom got the thimerosal shot for Rh-negatives).
Words are tricky and can easily trick us all.

If separate things are all labeled with the same name, then of course misunderstandings and social chaos will ensue.

Maybe, just maybe, there has always been a hereditary-ish, autistic personality type and cross-cultural archetype (e.g., hermit, scholar, or anything else I would consider “Bright Triad”), which would today be diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Level 1.

Maybe there are also conditions that are autism-like and are being called ASD but have distinct, as-yet-unidentified etiologies that lie more deeply in the interactions between environment, genetics/epigenetics, and especially metal alchemy than has typically been considered by researchers looking at each context in isolation (like, not just one autism spectrum, but a combination of spectra containing aluminum, mercury, barium, arsenic, oxygen, hydrogen, DNA, etc.?).

Could the phrase “vaccine injury” be more appropriate than “autism” in approximately 20-60% (wild guess) of cases?

If we acknowledged one or more environmental injury syndromes and stopped treating non-vaccine-or-otherwise-injured autistic people as part of the injured group (unless they self-identified as such), could that perhaps resolve the in-fighting about whether autism is positive or negative?

If, theoretically, something like a global eugenics and/or depopulation agenda actually existed, and experimentation on the general public had already begun, wouldn't a “spectrum disorder” be the perfect way to camouflage the victims of all that nonconsensual experimentation by mixing them in with people who have similar yet naturally occurring neurological variations? (Totally theoretically, of course. ;-))

What if there were a secret Narcissistic World Order that was trying to exterminate and silence all of the Highly Sensitive Person bloodlines by terrorizing their highly sensitive immune systems with metals?

Oh, and I haven't even mentioned the endocrine stuff and brain masculinization theories yet (Auyeung, et al., 2010)!

Just briefly: I do believe that sex hormone ratios during fetal development can influence sexual orientation and gender identity, and some Asperger's characteristics overlap with characteristics of low prenatal estrogen and/or high prenatal androgen levels (e.g., in digit ratio research, the ring finger is usually longer than the index finger in straight men, lesbians, and people with Asperger's). I don't think that's the end of the story, though.

What if small amounts of mercury, aluminum, or other elements during early childhood development can enhance some abilities, such as pattern recognition and numerical data storage, while dimming others, such as facial recognition? What if giving trace
dimming others, such as facial recognition? What if giving trace amounts of metal to infant HSPs helps them develop obscure savant skills at the expense of being able to cope with worldly stimuli?

Theoretically, what if the government wanted to create a population of highly logical yet easily exploitable people just so they could be like “ATTN! Now that robots have replaced most neurotypical workers, a special new federal disability program is handing out robot-programming jobs to autists—so come get your thimerosal shots and glyphosate snacks and move into the cubicle where you’ll unknowingly help depopulate the neurotypicals through planned robot obsolescence and fatal malfunctions in medical settings, and we’ll even give you a paycheck! [With huge fake smile]”?

What about super-psychics? What if autistic people have heightened sensory and extrasensory sensitivities?

Maybe it’s mostly “woo-woo” people like Gigi Young and Magenta Pixie who talk about autistic crystal, rainbow, and indigo children, and maybe this makes me woo-woo, but I personally think that aura color archetypes could totally be a thing (although I don’t take the labels too seriously).

From the YouTube description of Gigi Young’s video Autism:

1) Autistic kids are incarnating into certain archetypes giving them precise perspectives and gifts. There were 6/12 archetypes that represent different abilities. We will know more about this in the future. Each ability represents something that needs to be balanced in society.

2) Their consciousness is not rooted in 3rd density first, it is rooted first in higher densities and 3d second. As the global energies shift it may become easier for them to be more present.

3) Energies and treatment that is important for them to break the barriers with the above mentioned in mind.

(Young, 2016)
We had a brief conversation in the comments section.

Magenta Pixie was also cool enough to reply to my comment about her autism analysis at 10m59s in the video Disassociation versus Integration.

For more metaphysical perspectives on autism, listen to William Stillman, professional psychic with Asperger's and author of The Autism Prophecies (among other books), in The Soul of Autism with William Stillman on Explore Your Spirit with Kala:
All in all, in life in general, I see a loose web of dots that may or may not connect in a variety of possible formations. Truth remains an enigma to me, so I carve out a path through curious speculation.

What if some metals alter the balance of magnetite in the pineal gland (magnetite also existing in the abdomens of honeybees, possibly for navigation, according to Magnetic Sensing through the Abdomen of the Honey Bee [Liang, et al., 2016]), and what if that's why some people on the autism spectrum have an unusually strong or poor sense of direction?

What if heavy metals slow down the movement of all energy in the body and upset the balance of negative and positive ions, and what if that causes HSPs to go into immune system overdrive?

If, theoretically, there were a larger scheme to life and a metaphysical purpose for all of the autistic people showing up on earth right now, wouldn't it be rad if it turned out that we were here to uncover hidden truths that most neurotypical people are too full of cognitive biases from cultural programming to discover on their own?

Could autistic intelligence be a conspiracy theorist's dream, since there are growing numbers of individuals who march to the beats of their own drums (and/or foot-tapping) and thus cannot be mind-controlled nearly as easily as the rest of the population?

If every brain were an antenna, would the composition of metals inside affect the signals received? Like, if a clairaudient brain were dosed with aluminum, could its psychic hearing be drowned out by radio waves and other electromagnetic interference?

My guess = yes.
See also: Antenna experiments – human body resonance frequencies.

[The] human body resonates at multiple frequencies and these frequencies also depend on the environment. Human in free space vs. standing on the ground would have different RF characteristics like any normally used antenna. ... Ionic fluid antennas may have some special applications but human body should not be used as an antenna.

(AG1LE, 2012)

Okay, so, identity politics (since my ego is urging me to step up to the soapbox while there’s still room for my words on the Internet)...

I don’t give a flying fuck who you are, what diagnoses you have, who’s in your bloodline, who you voted for, what you ate for breakfast, what degrees you have, or what horrible things you’ve done; there’s absolutely nothing you could do to convince me that you’re less worthy of human rights, love, and respect than I or anyone else.

(Yes, that applies to even the most blood-suckingly vampiric of Machiavellian psychopaths, whom I would not wish to hang out with but would nevertheless refrain from judging, since judging is what courts are for.)

I’m lucky enough to have convenient labels for my differences and to live in an era when disability accommodations in the workplace are an option.

Not everyone has access to formal diagnoses for social difficulties, some of which can be caused simply by life rather than by a specific condition. Lacking a label for recurrent problems can lead someone to feel that they’re just a failure, as I had felt before a professional confirmed that many of my issues were related to Asperger’s.

I choose to give most people the benefit of the doubt most of the time and to assume that in their minds, they’re doing or saying what they feel is right to do or say—and if they’re violating their own morals, then it’s probably because they feel threatened in some way. If they have no morals, it’s probably due to a psychopathic personality style that neither that person nor I can do anything to change, so I choose to accept that some people are psychopathic (that doesn’t mean condoning their actions, just accepting that they exist and are human).

In the face of blatant bigotry, I can consider the possible traumas and other human reference points of an individual consumed with judgment and hatred without adopting the judgment and hatred itself.

When I think of possible conspiracies and conspirators, I imagine how stuck a blackmailed wannabe-whistleblower might feel, and how there must be a heap of guilt and sadness lurking in between the lines of any large-scale conspiracy—well, unless everyone involved is literally a complete psychopath, which I suppose is always a possibility.

I don’t believe in autistic superiority just because I have an ASD diagnosis.
I don't believe in autistic superiority just because I have an ASD diagnosis, female superiority just because I have XX chromosomes, queer superiority just because I'm attracted to females and was diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder as a kid (yeah, I used to want to be a boy but lost interest in transitioning once I became a teenager and got into punk rock and realized I could be myself without changing my body for the sake of some arbitrary social classification system), or... well, I could go on, but you probably get the idea. I'm anti-elitist.

Although I participate in communities with a strong social justice/feminism/etc. bent, I don't always feel comfortable with the ideologies espoused in such communities.

For instance, I have a hard time with the idea of some speech or people being “problematic.” Never will I win a gold medal for eggshell-walking. I'm a semi-automatic offending machine who answers honestly when asked and occasionally forgets that some people could get offended by my casually referring to myself as “crazy,” “rife with neurological dysfunction,” or “yet another stereotypical lesbian in plaid.”

Any group in which I can't make impulsive, self-deprecating jokes without pissing someone off is probably not a group with which I'll associate for long, whether the group excludes me or I walk away first.

I support neurodiversity as the acceptance of all varieties of brains and the bodies in which they're encased. Even though I've used the word “neurotypical” in this post, I rarely use that or other labels without irony, as I don't believe that “not noticeably autistic” = “neurologically typical.” Humans are way too complicated for all these binaries! Words are still fun, though, so I'll probably continue saying “neurotypical” when discussing my hypothetical eugenics conspiracy theories.

I'm guessing that I'll never be invited to share these thoughts in any predominantly queer, feminist, disability-positive, or otherwise progressive spaces, since I'm interested in a wide variety of ideas from a wide variety of sources with a wide variety of backgrounds and political beliefs, some of which are stigmatized in such spaces (e.g., no one would want to hear about any of the Christian “End Times prophecy” videos I've watched, even if they're willing to hear about the Satanism podcasts I've listened to, and I could never openly admit to agreeing with anything Donald Trump has said even though there are a few things he has said with which I do agree).

That's why, whenever I finish the book I'm writing on autism and metaphysics and a bunch of other stuff, I'll more likely self-publish it than seek out a publisher. I know that it could be a really long time before my ideas reach a receptive audience, and I'm impatient. (Oh, but if you happen to be a publisher who's interested, feel free to write me at http://dondepresso.rujic.net/ask or ruji [dot] professional [at] Gmail [dot] com!)

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gastrointestinal disease. If indeed thimerosal was linked to autism, one would expect a higher rate in the group who received the vaccine containing thimerosal compared to the group receiving the preservative free vaccine. In fact, there was no difference in rates of autism occurrence between the two groups. 17. Study after study, but who is reading them? Autism could result from more than one cause, with different manifestations in different individuals that share common symptoms. Documented causes of autism include genetic mutations and/or deletions, viral infections, and encephalitis following vaccination. Thus, our studies, although not directly addressing the controversy surrounding thimerosal and autism, and still preliminary due to small numbers of mice examined, provide, nevertheless, the first report of gender-selective toxicity of thimerosal and indicate that any future studies of thimerosal toxicity should take into consideration gender-specific differences. 8. Neuroglial Activation and Neuroinflammation in the Brain of Patients with Autism. Annals of Neurology, Feb 2005. Diana L. Vargas, MD [Johns Hopkins University].