# **Environmental Causes of Autism**

May 23, 2014

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Here we are not afraid to follow the truth wherever it may lead, Nor tolerate error so long as freedom is left to combat it Thomas Jefferson

#### Systems Biology Approach to Chronic Disease.. 2007



### **Key Contributors to Chronic Diseases**



# The Environment and ASD All Chronic Disease?

- More than 200 genes associated with Autism
- Many subtypes
- Pesticides
- Toxins
- EMF
- Lessons learned from Other human retroviral Infections
- Zoonotic transmission exposures
- Heavy metals in water-Example from the Silver state
- GMO
- Vaccinations-The Anti-hygiene Theory
- Microbiome.

#### ALL ON TOP OF THE GENETICS

#### Retrovirus Phylogeny



Retroviruses Integrate into genome..forever part of DNA of host

As much as 15% of human genome is made up of endogenous Retroviruses that have been crippled by the immune system That is they are not replication competent



Genes inactivated by DNA methylation



Molecular and Cellular Biology Infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 Upregulates DNA Methyltransferase, Resulting in De Novo Methylation of the Gamma Interferon (IFNγ) Promoter and Subsequent Downregulation of IFN- γ Production

Judy A. Mikovits, Howard A. Young, Paula Vertino, Jean-Pierre J. Issa, Paula M. Pitha, Susan Turcoski-Corrales, Dennis D. Taub, Cari L. Petrow, Stephen B. Baylin and Francis W. Ruscetti *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 1998, 18(9):5166. Mechanisms of Pathogenesis:

Lessons learned from 30 years of
 Human retrovirus study

Lessons learned from 40 years of MLV study



Genus: Deltaretrovirus (complex)

<u>Genome</u>: Multiple spliced RNAs for regulatory and accessory proteins

#### Pathogenesis:

- Asymptomatic in majority of individuals
- 5-8% lifetime risk of developing types of disease:
- Adult T cell leukemia
  - Clonal malignancy of CD4+ T cells.
  - Long latency; Immune deficiency
  - Tax and HBZ needed for transformation
  - Inflammatory syndromes
    - HTLV-I associated myelopathy/Tropical spastic paraparesis
    - Uveitis
    - Arthropathy





#### Infectious vs. Mitotic transmission of HTLV-1



#### Increased Cytokine/Chemokine Production in plasma from ATL patients

Concentration in culture supernatant (pg/ml)	ATL Patient	Uninfected
IL-12p40	130	36
IL-6	2800	17
IL-1β	162	
TNF-α	600	
IP10	130	
MCP-1	770	150
MIP-1α	450	90
IL-8	8500	420

• Many cytokines such as IL-4, IL-5, IL-7 and type 1 interferons are not expressed in blood of infected patients

#### Dysregulated Cytokine/Chemokine Production plasma from ME/CFS patients

		-		
CYTOKINES/	Patient	Control	P value	FUNCTION IN INFLAMMATION
CHEMOKINES	N = 156	N=140		
IL-8	1067	11.1	<0.0001	RNase L and CMV activated
IL-13	28	86	<0.0001	Inhibits inflammatory cytokine production
ΜΙΡ-1β	1840	157	<0.0001	Elevated in Neurodegenerative disease
TNF-α	109	12.8	<0.0001	Stimulates chronic inflammation
MCP-1	468	421	0.003	Elevated in chronic inflammatory diseases
IL-7	21.1	82	<0.0001	Stimulates proliferation of B and T
				lymphocytes and NK cells
IFN-α	35	60	<0.0001	Stimulates macrophages and NK cells to
				elicit an anti-viral response
IL-6	271	29	<0.0001	Stimulates chronic inflammation
ΜΙΡ-1α	673	91	0.0062	Elevated in Neurodegenerative disease
GM-CSF	108	166	< 0.0001	Stimulates proliferation of B and T
				lymphocytes and NK cells

#### 3 B-Cell Lines Derived Directly From CFS Patients' PBMCs

- CFS patient PBMCs were cultured; 3
   samples developed into immortalized cell
   lines
- All three showed high CD20+ expression and two showed high CD23+ expression.
- All three showed strong similarity to B cells seen in patients.

Marker	MCL	WPI 1125	WPI 1186	WPI 1143
CD5	+	+	+	+
CD23	-	-	+	+
CD19	+	+	+	+
CD20	+	+	+	+
FMC7	+	+	-	-
CD3	-	-	-	-
CD4	-	-	-	-
CD7	+	-	-	-
CD8	-	-	-	-
CD10	-	-	-	-
CD38	+	+	+	+
CD45	+	+	+	+
CD56	-	-	-	-
CD122	-	-	-	-
HLA-DR	+	+	+	+
Lambda	+	+	-	-
Карра	+	+	+	+

These Cell lines were developed from CFS patients. One, (1125) developed MCL; one (1186) was developed from a bone marrow biopsy, 3<sup>rd</sup> a CLL

#### Extended PBMC cell culture without manipulation shows XMRV gag infection in samples negative for XMRV gag RNA



Electron Micrograph of gamma retrovirus isolated from ME/CFS patients blood cells



March 2009

#### **Microglia Activation in Neurodegeneration**



#### Central role of micgroglia in Neuroinflammation



Rameshe Et. Al. 2013 Mediators of inflammation

#### Model for the Induction of Neurodegeneration by one strain of MLV in an animal model



these immune pathways see in ASD and Other Chronic neurological diseases

#### Two important lessons learned from studying MuLVs

- While insertional mutagenesis by MuLVs can result in transformation of cells and the development of leukemias and lymphomas, the envelope proteins encoded by these viruses can also have profound biological effects.
   So it's important to study the biological effects of the XMRV envelope protein.
- MuLVs can be expressed in the CNS, triggering an inflammatory response that can cause severe neurological damage. Since similar inflammatory responses are associated with ME/CFS, XMRV could be playing a role.

XMRV Controversy

> What happened?

➤What did we learn?

➤Where do we go from here?



#### Schematic of Plasmid containing XMRV/VP62

Six WPI DNA Samples shown in Fig. 1 of the original study analyzed by the Silverman Lab in 2009 contained VP-62 plasmid



#### **Original DNA Samples were negative for XMRV plasmid**



• Pitfall: Choose your collaborators wisely!!

#### Cell-Free Transmission of XMRV from PCR-negative CFS Patients' Plasma to LNCaP cells



#### Independent Reanalysis of archival samples used in Original Study Detected XMRV gag without plasmid or mouse contamination





PCR performed with USB HotStart-IT FideliTaq Master Mix

94°C 2 min 45 cycles: 94°C 30 sec, 54.8°C 30 sec, 72°C , 30 sec 72°C 3 min.

All three are negative for IAP and negative for CMV385F/XMRV528R primers for VP62 junction fragment

Sequencing of bands:

Non-specific (Human DNA)
XMRV Gag

#### Direct Isolation of XMRV Protein From Plasma of CFS Patients By Immunoprecipitation with Anti-X-MLV Antibodies



IP: Goat anti-X-MLV (BALB-V2)

## Clones of XMRV Env SU Similar to Polytropic XMRVs



The main XMRV/ in this patient is unlikely to be VP-62

Pitfall: Extraordinary measures are required to rule out contamination!



#### Detection of MLV-related virus gene sequences in blood of patients with chronic fatigue syndrome and healthy blood donors

Shyh-Ching Lo<sup>a,1</sup>, Natalia Pripuzova<sup>a</sup>, Bingjie Li<sup>a</sup>, Anthony L. Komaroff<sup>b</sup>, Guo-Chiuan Hung<sup>a</sup>, Richard Wang<sup>c</sup>, and Harvey J. Alter<sup>c,1</sup>

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- Showed gag sequences of MRV more closely related to polytropic MLV related by nested PCR replication of Lombardi et. al. nested PCR
- PMRV DNA in 86.5 of CFS and 6.8% of healthy from samples drawn in 1991–4
- Rigorously ruled out contamination
- 8/9 CFS patients showed same gag sequences upon fresh draw 15 years later

#### N-Terminus of SFFV ENV allows recognition of most potential XMRVs using monoclonal antibody 7C10

Comparison of N-terminal Env regions of SFFV and XMRV

VQLDSPHQVSNVTWRVTNLMTGQTANATSLLG VQRDSPHQVFNVTWKITNLMTGQTANATSLLG

TMTEAFPKLYFDLCDLMGDDWDE TGLGC TMTDTFPKLYFDLCDLVGDHWDDPEPDIGDGC

RTPGGRKRARTFDFYVCPGHTVPTGCGGPREG RSPGGRKRTRLYDFYVCPGHTVLTGCGGPREG G

YCGKWGCETTGQAYWKPSSSWDLISLKRGN YCGKWGCETTGQAYWKPSSSWDLISLKRGN

TPKDQGPCYDSSVSSGVL GATPGGRCNPLVL <u>TPKGQGPCFDSSVGSGSIQ</u>GATPGGRCNPLVL RN

EFTDAGRKASWDAPKVWGLRLYRSTGTDPVTR EFTDAGKRASWDAPKTWGLRLYRSTGADPVTL

FSLTRQVLD IGPRVPIGSNPVTTD FSLTRQVLNVGPRVPIGPNPVITE

- --- SFFV
- --- XMRV (bold shows differences from SFFV)
- --- Xeno MuLV
- --- Mol MCF MuLV

#### Assay used to Detect Anti-XMRV/HGRV Antibodies



Plasma from CFS patients block binding of SFFV Env rat mAb to the B cell line expressing SFFV Env, demonstrating specificity



An ANTIBODY POSITVE RESULT DOES NOT NECESSARILY SHOW THE PRESENCE OF A REPLCIATION COMPETENT RETROVIRUS

#### Antibodies to XMRV ENV Reproducibly Detected in Human Population

TABLE 3 Equivalent levels of XMRV	sequences and anti-XMRV	antibodies in CFS	(chronic fatigue syndrome)	patients and matched controls
1	1			1

			CFS/ME case	es(n = 147)	Controls (n	Controls ( $n = 146$ )	
Lab site	Analysis	Sample	Total studied	No. positive (%)	Total studied	No. positive (%)	
CDC	RT-PCR	Plasma	147	0 (0.0)	146	0 (0.0)	
FDA	RT-PCR PCR	Plasma PBMC	121 <sup>a</sup> 121 <sup>a</sup>	0 (0.0) 0 (0.0)	110 <sup>a</sup> 111 <sup>a</sup>	0 (0.0) 0 (0.0)	
Mikovits, Ruscetti, and Hanson Mikovits and Ruscetti	PCR of cultured PBMC Serology	PBMC Plasma	117 <sup>b</sup> 147	0 (0.0) 9 (6.1)	126 <sup>b</sup> 146	0 (0.0) 9 (6.2)	

" Numbers represent all samples available for analysis at that site.

<sup>b</sup> Fifty samples (30 cases; 20 controls) were unable to be assayed because at least one of two aliquots from each set of subject PBMC did not grow in tissue culture.

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#### CONCLUSION

Taken together these data suggest there are additional human gamma retroviruses which may be involved in the Pathogenesis of neuroimmune diseases?

Is there evidence beyond these data to support this conclusion?

#### Case report 3058 : plasma Gag RNA + and seropositive CFS/CLL





ARVs provide therapeutic benefit in some patients with autoimmune, Neuroimmune Disease and Cancer

Beneficial Effects could be against:

- ♦ An exogenous Replication Competent Retroviruses
- An expressed endogenous virus in an immune compromised individual
- A defective virus expressing only viral proteins
- ♦ Aberrantly expressed cellular RNA including microRNA (regulatory)

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## Partial molecular cloning of the JHK retrovirus using gammaretrovirus consensus PCR primers

#### Brian D Halligan<sup>1</sup>, Hai-Yuan Sun<sup>2</sup>, Vladimir M Kushnaryov<sup>2</sup> & Sidney E Grossberg<sup>\*2</sup>

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The JHK virus (JHKV) was previously described as a type C retrovirus that has some distinctive ultrastructural features and replicates constitutively in a human B-lymphoblastoid cell line, JHK-3. In order to facilitate the cloning of sequences

#### August 2013

#### Sequence and phylogenetic analysis of a novel xenotropic XMRV-like MLV B4rv,

#### Level of consensus



#### XMRV2 (B4RV) Infected Tumors were Hemorrhagic

#### LNCaP



#### LNCaP-XMRV2 Infect



#### RESEARCH



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#### Xenotropic MLV envelope proteins induce tumor cells to secrete factors that promote the formation of immature blood vessels

Meera Murgai<sup>1</sup>, James Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Olga Cherepanova<sup>1</sup>, Krista Delviks-Frankenberry<sup>4</sup>, Paul Deeble<sup>3</sup>, Vinay K Pathak<sup>4</sup>, David Rekosh<sup>5</sup> and Gary Owens<sup>1\*</sup>

ENV proteins from both viruses impact tumor pathogenesis (change microvasculature)

Similarities to Vascular Pathologies seen in ME/CFS

These Microvasculature aberrations caused solely by XMRV ENV protein

Although it is highly unlikely that either XMRV VP62 or B4Rv themselves infect humans and are pathogenic, the results suggest that xenograft approaches commonly used in these studies of human cancer promote the evolution of novel retroviruses with pathogenic properties. Similar retroviruses may have evolved to infect humans!

#### What did we learn?

- Human Retroviruses could be transmitted through aerosolization
- Additional gamma retroviruses in humans with chronic Disease?
- Recombinants of RVs which were replication competent (that is could be infectious new virus!)

#### Horizontal Spread of Gammaretroviruses in Tissue Culture

Cell line type	MLV positive cell lines <sup>1</sup>	MLV sequence homology <sup>2</sup>	RT Enzyme (nU/µl)	Mouse DNA <sup>3</sup>	Other sources or passages <sup>4</sup>	Source: Lab Pl
NSCLC	NCI-H460	ND	Negative	-	Negative	C. Rudin
NSCLC	NCI-H1155	MLV N417	ND		ND	A. Gazdar (NCI)
SCLC	NCI-H60	MLV N417	3.6 x 10 <sup>6</sup>		Negative	A. Gazdar (NCI)
SCLC	NCI-H82	MLV NZB	1.3 x 10 <sup>6</sup>		Negative	C. Rudin
SCLC	NCI-H1092	MLV N417	8.0 x 10 <sup>3</sup>	•	Negative	A. Gazdar (NCI)
SCLC	NCI-H182	MLV N417	ND	-	ND	A. Gazdar (NCI)
SCLC	NCI-H289	MLV N417	ND	5	Negative	A. Gazdar (NCI)
SCLC	NCI-H1514	MLV N417	ND	-	ND	A. Gazdar (NCI)
Colon	RKO	XMRV	2.9 x 10 <sup>3</sup>	2	Negative	A. Maitra
Prostate	PrEC2	ND	ND	•	ND	J.T. Hsieh
Prostate	LNCaP	Multiple MLV strains <sup>s</sup>	ND	++++	Negative	J.T. Hsieh
Prostate	PC3	ND	ND	-/+	Negative	J.T. Hsieh
SCLC	NCI-H146	MLV NZB likely	7.2 x 10 <sup>5</sup>	-/+	Negative	C. Rudin

Table 4. Characterization of murine leukemia viruses (MLV) detected in human non-xenograft cultures in xenograft culture laboratories<sup>1</sup>

#### Learned : ability of these viruses to spread to uninfected cells through aerosolization

# Replication competent Retroviruses in 10 Days!



#### Generation of Multiple Replication-Competent Retroviruses through Recombination between PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2

Krista Delviks-Frankenberry,<sup>a</sup> Tobias Paprotka,<sup>a</sup>\* Oya Cingöz,<sup>c</sup>\* Sheryl Wildt,<sup>d</sup> Wei-Shau Hu,<sup>b</sup> John M. Coffin,<sup>c</sup> Vinay K. Pathak<sup>a</sup>

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- Are two RCRs made by passing human prostate tissue through mouse; XMRV, BRV4 (second recombinant infectious virus occurring in human cells)
- Additional XMRV-like viruses may exist
- They do not have to be the exact sequence of XMRV (VP62)

# **Emerging Concepts**

- Recombination events in animal and human cells can generate families of infectious related gamma retroviruses
- Greatest concern is that they may acquire the ability to infect humans
- XMRV-like sequences and proteins important in human disease pathogenesis

# New Technologies: Comprehensive Sequence Analysis of Nuclear mitochondrial genes

 NGS for variants in the nuclear mitochondrial exome that contribute to neurological disorders whose symptoms resemble mitochondrial disease.

Case Report Results:

- Abnormal autosomal dominant Variant was found in SCN4A gene that is likely a pathological mutation
- Pathological mutations found in two other patients also with multiple functional conditions (ME/CFS)

#### Incidental finding:

This patient has three variants in *RNASEL*. Mutations in this gene have been associated with predisposition to prostate cancer and this gene is a candidate for the hereditary prostate cancer 1 (HPC1) allele. One of these variants, p.E265\*, has been reported in the literature in 4 brothers with prostate cancer.

New Concepts: drugs targeting channelopathies (Diamox) and key mitochondrial targets mTOR



#### Detection of Murine Leukemia Virus in the Epstein-Barr Virus-Positive Human B-Cell Line JY, Using a Computational RNA-Seq-Based Exogenous Agent Detection Pipeline, PARSES

Zhen Lin,<sup>a</sup> Adriane Puetter,<sup>a</sup> Joseph Coco,<sup>b</sup> Guorong Xu,<sup>b</sup> Michael J. Strong,<sup>a</sup> Xia Wang,<sup>a</sup> Claire Fewell,<sup>a</sup> Melody Baddoo,<sup>a</sup> Christopher Taylor,<sup>b</sup> and Erik K. Flemington<sup>a</sup>

Tulane University Health Sciences Center and Tulane Cancer Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA,<sup>a</sup> and University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA<sup>b</sup>



- Endogenous retroviruses (sleeping giants) are reactivated in immune deficient individuals (ME/CFS, CLD, CLL, ASD, HIVAIDS), likely because of dysregulated DNA methylation
- Co-infections, reactivated viruses, GMOs, genetic susceptibilities can create perfect storm of aberrant methylation immune activation (including microglia and inflammation seen in ASD, ME/CFS, other neuroimmune disease and cancer

November 2012



doi:10.1038/nature11599

# Resurrection of endogenous retroviruses in antibody-deficient mice

George R. Young<sup>1</sup>, Urszula Eksmond<sup>1</sup>, Rosalba Salcedo<sup>2</sup>, Lena Alexopoulou<sup>3</sup>, Jonathan P. Stoye<sup>4</sup> & George Kassiotis<sup>1</sup>

Our results shed light onto a previously unappreciated role for immunity in the control of ERVs and provide a potential mechanistic link between immune activation by microbial triggers and a range of pathologies associated with ERVs, including cancer. Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cells in the Duodenum of Individuals Diagnosed with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Are Uniquely Immunoreactive to Antibodies to Human Endogenous Retroviral Proteins

KENNY L. DE MEIRLEIR<sup>3</sup> et al., In Vivo, 27:177 (2013)

This manuscript claims that SFFV antibodies cross react with human endogenous retroviral proteins like HERV-K env

#### Monoclonal Antibody 7C10 Does Not recognize primary HERVs (HERV-K)



Are signifcant amounts of protein recognized by SFFV ENV monoclonal antibody used in all of our studies

Could This ENV protein be toxic to PDC Independent of presence of RCR?

NP-7 - mouse line expressing lots of SFFV gp55
MCF-7 human breast line expressing HervK env
7C10 rat monoclonal Antibody against SFFV gp55
6H5 mouse moAB against HERV K env
MCF lysate western with 7c10 did not give same band (ie non specific) as 6H5

# The replicative activity of human endogenous retrovirus K102 (HERV-K102) with HIV viremia

## Marian P. Laderoute<sup>a,b</sup>, Antonio Giulivi<sup>a,b</sup>, Louise Larocque<sup>a</sup>, Deana Bellfoy<sup>a</sup>, Yangxun Hou<sup>a</sup>, Hong-Xing Wu<sup>a</sup>, Keith Fowke<sup>c</sup>, Jun Wu<sup>a</sup> and Francisco Diaz-Mitoma<sup>d</sup>

**Results:** Both the peptide serology and ddCt qPCR excess ratio methods suggested the activation of HERV-K102 in about 70–80% of HIV viremic cases whereas only 2–3% of normal healthy adults had marginally activated HERV-K102 (P < 0.0001). Moreover, by

**Conclusions:** Our work uniquely suggests the common activation of HERV-K102 with HIV viremia and may be first to directly demonstrate HERV-K102 cDNA production *in vivo*. The potential implications of the induction of HERV-K102 activation and replication for the prevention and control of HIV are discussed.

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AIDS 2007, 21:2417-2424

# Hypothesis

Aberrant evolution of the human genome by:

- RCRs generated in current vaccines
- Increased zoonosis of novel retroviruses in human population

# Vaccine Schedules=The anti-Hygiene hypothesis

 Sterile environments result lack of educated immune systems

- Vaccination schedules result in anergic immune systems that is the inability to mount an immune response to the antigen
- Reappearance of disease is BECAUSE of inappropriate vaccinations



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# Effects of environmental change on zoonotic disease risk: an ecological primer Trends in Parasitology, April 2014, Vol. 30, No. 4

# Agustín Estrada-Peña<sup>1</sup>, Richard S. Ostfeld<sup>2</sup>, A. Townsend Peterson<sup>3</sup>, Robert Poulin<sup>4</sup>, and José de la Fuente<sup>5,6</sup>

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#### OPEN ACCESS



Review

# The New Genetics and Natural *versus* Artificial Genetic Modification

Mae-Wan Ho

Institute of Science in Society, 29 Tytherton Road, London N19 4PZ, UK;

# Hazards of GMOs

1. Uncontrollable, unpredictable impacts on safety due to the genetic modification process \* Scrambling the host genome \* Widespread mutations \* Inactivating genes \* Activating genes \* Creating new transcripts (RNAs) including those with regulatory functions \* Creating new proteins \* Creating new metabolites or increasing metabolite to toxic levels \* Activating dormant viruses \* Creating new viruses by recombination of viral genes in GM insert with those in the host genome \* Toxicity of transgene protein(s) introduced (intentionally or otherwise) Transgene protein toxic \* Transgene protein allergenic or immunogenic \* Trangenic protein becoming allergenic or immunogenic due to processing \* Unintended protein created by sequence inserted may be toxic or immunogenic Effects due to the GM insert and its instability \* Genetic rearrangement with further unpredictable effects \* Horizontal gene transfer and recombination \* Spreading antibiotic and drug resistance \* Creating new viruses and bacteria that cause diseases Creating mutations in genomes of cells to which the GM insert integrate including those associated with cancer \* Toxicity of herbicides used with herbicide tolerant GM crops \*

#### Chronic Diseases Potentially Associated with Human Retroviral Infection

Cancer	Auto-Immune Diseases	CNS
Prostate* Breast* Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma*	Lupus Crohn's* Hashimoto'sThyroiditis*	ME/CFS* Gulf War Syndrome* Autism*
Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia* Mantle Cell Lymphoma*	Polymyositis Sjogren's syndrome Bechet's Disease*	MS* Parkinson's* ALS*
Hairy Cell Leukemia Bladder* Colorectal Kidnev*	Primary Billary Cirrhosis*	Lyme Borreliosis Complex (LBC)* HAND*
Ovarian*		

\* RT Activity, RV sequences or proteins, antibodies to RV proteins

# CONCLUSION

Therapies to counteract environmentally induced aberrant gene RCR expression, inflammation immune dysregulation urgently need to be addressed The best scientist in jail story since Galileo.



One Scientist's Intrepid Search for the Truth about Human Retroviruses and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Autism, and Other Diseases How politics corrupts scientific research

Particularly research involving human subjects

"they find what they want to find"

No funding = no associations

Difference between associations found in research associations found in MEDIA