SDBP
Society for Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics

6728 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean, VA 22101
www.sdbp.org • info@sdbp.org

SDBP Mission Statement:
Optimizing the development and behavioral (DB) health of all children and families through interprofessional collaboration.

President
Robert Voigt, MD
Michael R. Boh Centers for Child Development, Ochsner Children's Hospital

Immediate Past President
William J. Barbaresi, MD
Boston Children's Hospital

President-Elect
Jason Fogler, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital

Secretary-Treasurer
Jennie Olson, RN, MS, CPNP, PMHS
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Executive Director
Janice Wilkins
SDBP National Office

Executive Consultant
Laura Degnon, CAE
SDBP National Office

Board of Directors:

Dinah L. Godwin, MSW
Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics

Cy Nadler, PhD
Children's Mercy Kansas City

Noel Mensah-Bonsu, MD
Baylor College of Medicine
Texas Children's Hospital

Shruti Tewar, MD
University of Arkansas Medical Sciences

Jennifer Cervantes, MSW, LCSW-S
Baylor College of Medicine
Meyer Center

Douglas Vanderbilt, MD, MS, MBA
USC/CHLA

Emily Wassmer, MD
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Program Committee Co-Chairs:
Sarah Nyp, MD
Children's Mercy Kansas City

Julie Pajek, PhD
MetroHealth Medical Center

JDBP - Journal Editor
Lee M. Pachter, DO
Christiana Care, Wilmington, DE

Making Sense of Recent Autism News: What Families Should Know

🧠 What do we know about the causes of autism?

Decades of research show that autism has many complex causes. Scientists have found hundreds of different genes that may cause autism. Some things in the environment can also change how genes affect development, but vaccines are safe and effective. There is no one thing that causes autism. Autism is not caused by anything parents did or didn't do.

💊 About Recent Claims

The best research right now shows that autism is not caused by pregnant women taking Tylenol (also called "acetaminophen"). Experts say that Tylenol is safe when used correctly during pregnancy.

Pregnant people should take folate because it is healthy for the unborn baby. Folate may help lower the chance of the unborn baby having autism or other disabilities. Right now, there is not enough strong research to know if taking Leucovorin, a form of folate, is safe or helpful for autistic people. Scientists find that the tests for FRAT (folate receptor antibody testing) are not completely accurate. Health insurance may not pay for FRAT testing.

⚠️ Caution about Claims

Families, health care experts, and scientists want to know more about what causes autism. We must be careful about believing simple answers that are not based on strong research. Autism is a complex condition and needs careful treatments that are supported by science. Making false claims about what causes or helps autism can cause harm.

✅ What You Can Do

Children and adults with autism and other disabilities need support from their communities and families. Autistic people can be happy and healthy if they get the help they need. Talk with your child's healthcare provider about any concerns. Healthcare providers can help you understand new research about ways to support autistic children.