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Disability Update

Study compares autism, sensory-processing disorder

Brain scans of children with autism and sensory-processing disorder indicate key differences in brain connections, according to a study published in journal PLOS ONE. Researchers suggest the findings support the classification of sensory-processing disorder as a separate diagnosis. [HealthDay News](#) (7/30)

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Study: Influenza may lead to complications in one-third of children

One-third of children seen at hospital emergency departments during peak flu season for flu-like symptoms may be at high risk of developing severe complications such as pneumonia, University of Colorado researchers reported in the journal Pediatrics. They said children who have neurologic or neuromuscular conditions, such as cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy, have an even higher risk and noted that the study supports the use of antiviral treatments.

[Medscape \(free registration\)](#) (8/4), [HealthDay News](#) (8/4)

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Senate approves bill to reauthorize federal support for autism programs

The Senate on Thursday passed by unanimous consent a bill to authorize annual funding of \$260 million for autism-related programs through 2019. The provisions of the Autism CARES Act include changes to the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee and call for an autism point person at the HHS. [The Hill/Floor Action blog](#) (7/31), [Disability Scoop](#) (8/1)

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Other News

■ N.Y. law updates disability sign icon, removes "handicap"

Time Warner Cable News (7/28)

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■ Jobless rate decreases for workers with disabilities

Disability Scoop (8/1)

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Assistive Technology

Boston company seeks funding to launch speech software

Boston-based Voiceltt has created an online crowdfunding campaign to raise \$50,000 to help launch the TalkIt software that translates spoken words from people who are voice impaired due to cerebral palsy, stroke, autism or other conditions. The software creates a personalized dictionary of sounds and meanings based on the user's speech. [American City Business Journals/Boston/Startups & Venture Capital blog](#) (8/4)

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Transitions

Program helps people with disabilities hone job skills

The Partners for Work program in Spokane, Wash., which helps people with disabilities find employment, brought in business representatives to conduct mock interviews aimed at helping job seekers hone interview skills. Brian Behler of the local advocacy nonprofit Skills'kin said the training offered excellent networking opportunities and gave the companies that participated greater insight into the types of jobs that can be filled by people who have disabilities. [The Spokesman-Review \(Spokane, Wash.\) \(free content\)](#) (8/2)

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Colleges develop programs for students with autism

Colleges are implementing programs to help students with autism receive the academic and social supports they need in a postsecondary setting. The Rochester Institute of Technology offers in-depth seminars to help students build job skills, while Rutgers University has taken steps to increase inclusion in campus residential and classroom settings. [Forbes](#) (7/31)

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Other News

■ Nordstrom catalog features models with disabilities

Santa Cruz Sentinel (Calif.)/The Associated Press (7/31)

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■ N.C. camp helps students with autism experience music

The News & Record (Greensboro, N.C.) (8/3)

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UCP News

First comes love...

[Scott and Kim Sussman's video](#) commemorating their courtship and wedding caught the attention of United Cerebral Palsy because it exemplifies what it means to live a life without limits. Scott was born with cerebral palsy that affects his lower extremities. We loved the video because of Kim's reaction upon hearing about Scott's CP. It was the absolute perfect way to handle what could have been an awkward dating situation, and she managed to make it adorable. View Scott and Kim's wedding video on [UCP's blog](#) along with another wedding celebration, this time involving twin brothers who prove that you can live with enthusiasm and humor even if you do need a little help sometimes.

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Ms. Wheelchair Michigan shares her story

Are you a person with a disability who has ever wondered whether or not you would one day become a parent? Or are you a parent or caregiver who has questioned whether your children would one day have children of his or her own? Ms. Wheelchair Michigan 2014, Kelsey Kleimola, recently shared her story with United Cerebral Palsy and discussed this very topic on our [Voices of UCP blog](#).

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SmartQuote

“There is no disguise which can hide love for long where it exists, or simulate it where it does not.”

-- Francois de La Rochefoucauld,
French writer

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About UCP

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) educates, advocates and provides support services to ensure a life without limits for people with a spectrum of disabilities. Together with nearly 100 affiliates, UCP has a mission to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people disabilities by supporting more than 176,000 children and adults every day—one person at a time, one family at a time. UCP works to enact real change—to revolutionize care, raise standards of living and create opportunities—impacting the lives of millions living with disabilities. For more than 60 years, UCP has worked to ensure the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in every facet of society. Together, with parents and caregivers, UCP will continue to push for the social, legal and technological changes that increase accessibility and independence, allowing people with disabilities to dream their own dreams, for the next 60 years, and beyond. For more information, please visit www.ucp.org.

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