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Solving the puzzle of autism: how far have we come?

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New views on the origins of autism will be discussed and recent findings in the fields of structural brain imaging and brain connectivity will be summarized. Next, the concept of 'recovery from autism' will be reviewed, followed by an assessment of results from oxytocin studies in those with autism. Additionally, the concept of 'latent social skills in autism' will be introduced. Next, studies of understudied populations (e.g., preterm children, autism in individuals with organic affections of the brain) will be presented. Finally, implications for future research, stemming from the above-mentioned topics, will be explored.

Learning objectives are to: (1) learn more about brain structure and function in autism; (2) summarize controversies in the concept of autism; and (3) present possible directions for the future autism research.