# New study examines relationship between emotion regulation and brain connectivity in ASD

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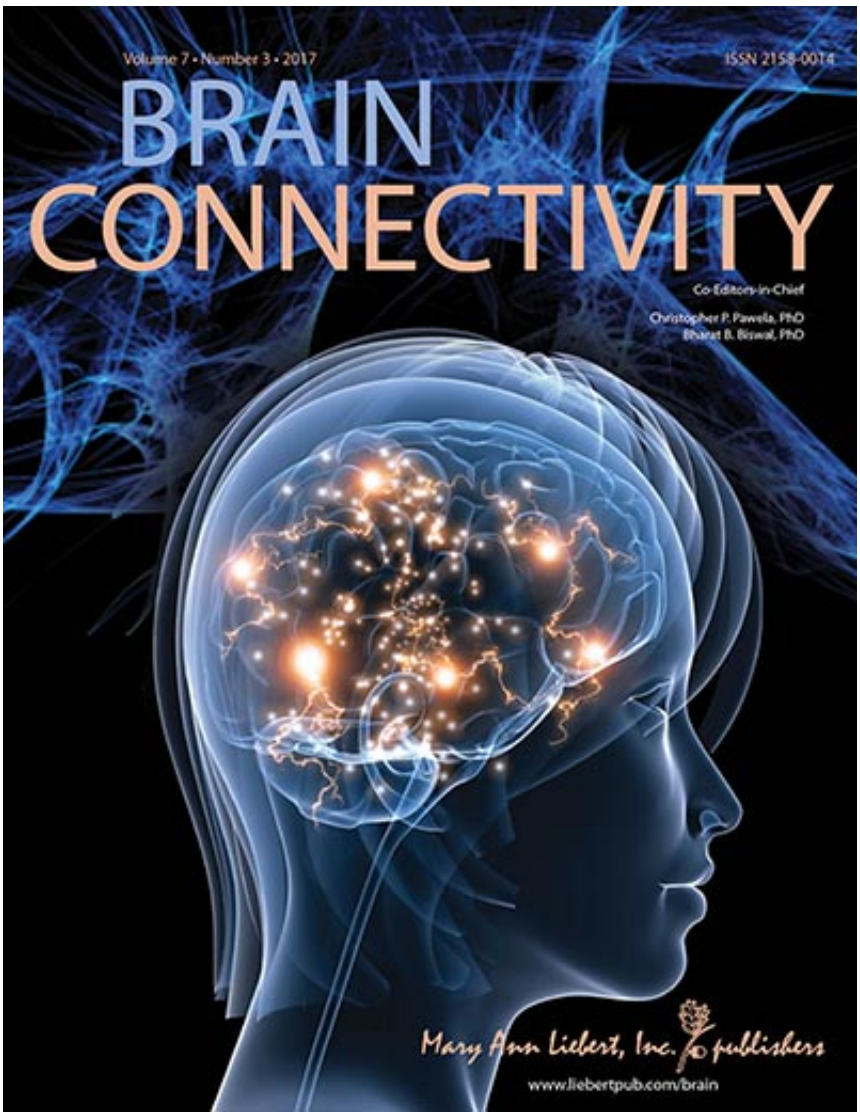


Credit: Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

Emotional control varies among children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and researchers using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) for whole brain analysis identified relationships between emotional lability and neuronal activity in two brain regions. They report their findings in the article "The Neural Correlates of Emotional Lability in Children with ASD," published in *Brain Connectivity*.

Coauthors Randi Bennett and Amy Roy, Fordham University, Bronx, NY and Krishna Somandepalli and Adriana Di Martino, NYU Child Study Center of the Langone Medical Center, New York, NY, used resting-state fMRI to study the variability in emotional lability between a group of children 5-12 years of age. Whole brain analysis led the researchers to focus on neuronal circuits in two brain areas of interest, the middle frontal gyrus and the posterior insula. The researchers suggest that differences in neuronal network interactions may have a role in emotion regulation variability in individuals with ASD.

"Exaggerated mood changes are symptomatic hallmarks of autism spectrum disorder. Ms. Bennett and her colleagues have made an important contribution to the autism literature by identifying novel brain-behavior relationships that may lead to a greater understanding of the central linkage between emotional control and autism," states Christopher Pawela, PhD, Editor-in-Chief of *Brain Connectivity*.

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**More information:** Randi H. Bennett et al, The Neural Correlates of Emotional Lability in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, *Brain Connectivity* (2017). DOI: 10.1089/brain.2016.0472