

## Are Covid 19 - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder Linked?

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According to Child Stats.gov there are 73.9 million children in this country. Of those over 1.4 million (1.9%) and rising annually are afflicted with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This is a debilitating condition for which there is no cure nor treatment and renders each child completely dependent on family and/or government services to survive. At an estimated cost approximately \$236 Billion each year. This cost does not include the emotional and functional devastation wrought on the families of these children. Yet, where is the NIH, the CDC, the Medical Community, and our LEADERS? They are all missing in action! With nearly 2% of United States future population affected by this Epidemic mislabeled.

"Autism", a threat to national security is not an unreasonable assertion.

IF one takes away the so called psychological, implied developmental issues and looks medically at Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS/CFIDS) in adults and ASD in children, one cannot help but acknowledge multiple concepts of immune and viral dysfunction creating these syndromes, supported by many articles and researchers over the years. Those articles and ideas have been ignored or marginalized by our research establishment for decades, yet they provide a pathway directly to an understanding of what is happening today with COVID-19.

Think of anyone fighting chronic congestion, or a chronic lingering infection. They become a much more vulnerable target for any infectious organism they may encounter. Likewise, anyone with chronic illness, background immune or viral stress, also become more vulnerable to any bad virus. This opens to thinking clinicians and researchers an understanding that COVID-19 does not act as expected, may not be acting like a viral pneumonia. Instead there is a large triggering of intense immune cascades that is the cause of death!

These immune cascades are not limited to COVID-19. They are already happening in many adults and children with CFS, ASD, and other likely connected chronic immune, chronic viral related disorders in many children and adults. This immune disruption in Covid-19 is the link, the "tip of the iceberg" of a Childhood Missed Medical Pandemic that has existed for over 37 years.

How many friends, and family members know children or young adults labeled 'Autistic' who are not healthy, "chronically ill," who are suffering multiple immune related issues without real resolution or treatment. Horribly, over the last 3 ½ decades, we have potentially, iatrogenic ally created a vulnerable, at risk population potentially changing the scope of a future pandemic exponentially, while mistakenly not looking at the real underlying medical issues. This represents children, young adults, who should be resistant to infections, "healthy," but in the last 35+ years represent an enlarging chronically ill, vulnerable population.

After literally hundreds of millions of dollars and decades of research there has been only 2 objective findings related to ASD research. First, no researcher can find a single gene or chromosome that explains this childhood disorder and Second, there are additional Immune markers, and immune related findings that researchers speculate are indicative of some new form of immune connected autism. A more

objective conclusion would have been to consider an ASD phenotype IE. an unidentified immune mediated disease manifesting with autistic like symptoms.

Evidence of autoimmune factors and chronic viral activation provides a rapid and complete understanding of the Covid-19 virus. IF one acknowledges the science and logic behind the ideas of complex immune, complex viral, then it is easy to understand the real risks our population is facing today, and how to more effectively deal with it and the critical decisions that still need to be made.

Failing to acknowledge the changing role of viruses as I was taught about in medical school (UCLA) has been part of the explosion of serious major medical diseases including Covid-19. If we recognize the mistakes our medical system has made, we could begin to reverse the spiraling cost of medicine and see a reemergence of private care and preventative medicine.

Recognition of this underlying missed medical pandemic can and will completely change education. We are presently spending a massive amount of our resources trying to care for, educate and rehabilitate children whose brains and very often, bodies, are not working properly and are not receptive to learning. Imagine the difference if children were healthy again. Imagine the difference if families became a healthy family “nuclear unit” again. Nothing would be a greater win for our country and our citizens!

We have a real opportunity to change course and through new, real scientific research that is not being artificially inhibited by those in power at the CDC, NIH and FDA. We could quite literally save the next generation.

As a pediatrician I passionately believe now is the time to do everything possible to bring attention to the real problem, come together, and strongly encourage the White House to formally recognize these ASD children are ill and not mentally defective. The mistake of ASD alone is enormous with 1:52 children involved and already much bigger than COVID-19. All of this deserves urgent investigation, focus and solutions now, to avoid an even bigger crisis in our future. By taking proper control of the facts and the narrative, the Trump administration can and will change this health crisis. The President and Republicans will become true heroes, the real advocates for good health and good health care.

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