

Viewpoint: We need to recognize autism as a medical disability, not just a different way of being

Advocating for medical research, former president of Autism Speaks [Liz Feld](#) has stated that one third of people with autism also have a seizure disorder, half suffer serious digestive complications, 49 percent wander, and more than 30 percent are nonverbal.

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Many who view autism as a difference or through the social model of disability claim that those issues are co-occurring conditions and not part of autism. However, as of now, there is no evidence that those conditions can be separated from a person's autism.

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[A] study in 2015 concluded that compared to individuals with other disabilities, young people with autism have significantly higher rates of [unemployment and social isolation](#). This study also included many people with milder variants of autism. There are some success stories of high-functioning individuals being able to find jobs through autism hiring programs; however, this success is quite rare.

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One way to solve this dilemma is to push for more medical research to find the causes of autism, while acknowledging that autism shouldn't have to define a person's identity. Given the aforementioned difficulties, there is no reason why a person has to be completely dependent on having autism to have a sense of self-worth.

Read full, original post: [The Neurodiversity Movement Should Acknowledge Autism as a Medical Disability](#)