An interview with Dr. Harry Schneider

BY JAMES OTTAR GRUNDVIG

The following is the third part of a question-and-answer interview James Ottar Grundvig (JOG) conducted with Dr. Schneider (Dr. Harry) this summer regarding his program, in conjunction with the Columbia University Study, for treating children like my son with severe Asperger impairment. (JOG: In your opinion, what might be the cause of the alarming spike in autism incidence in the United States over the past decade? Genetics based? Environmental? A combination or other cause?)

Dr. Harry: I believe the final answer is to some extent still remains unknown. The investigational research so far at major universities like Columbia suggests that several factors combine to cause autism. There is evidence for genetic contributions, vaccine-related complications, effects of mercury and thimerosal, industrial pollutants such as heavy metals, and allergic components that often manifest themselves in the gastrointestinal tract.

All these components show a high degree of variability in individuals. A subset of children, for example, that is genetically linked may be more susceptible to certain types of food additives and environmental toxins, which may contribute to ASD (autism spectrum disorder). I have taken the practical approach that...