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Translational medicine concentrates on the interface between experimental basic science on animal models of chronic diseases and clinical medicine. It aims to “translate” knowledge and mechanisms clarified by basic research into new approaches for early diagnosis and the treatment of different diseases. Translation in the reverse direction is also highly pertinent, namely the translation of clinical observations into novel research and treatment strategies. The gastrointestinal microbiota has been linked to several important neurological diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and neurodevelopmental disorders including autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Exposures to environmental toxins are now thought to contribute to the development of these diseases. Progress in understanding and treating brain diseases will require translational research efforts to transfer knowledge through successive fields of research from basic scientific discovery to public health impact. With special reference to autism, a developmentally abnormal gut microbiota may in turn affect both the gut-brain axis and brain development and contribute to the etiology of this disorder. Propionic acid (PA) found as a metabolic product of propionibacteria has been reported to mimic/mediate the neurotoxic effects of autism. Results from animal studies may guide investigations on human populations toward identifying environmental contaminants that produce or drugs that protect from