



**AACPDm**

555 East Wells Street  
Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

info@aacpdm.org  
+1 (414) 918-3014

www.aacpdm.org

2016 Annual Meeting  
General Session Lay Summary  
**Thursday, September 22, 2016 - Opening General Session**

Outgoing AACPDm President, **Eileen Fowler, PhD, PT**, outlined the progress the Academy has made during the last year in the areas of research, service delivery and quality improvement, and partnership and collaboration. Specifically, she highlighted the Cerebral Palsy Common Data Elements developed by the Academy's working groups in partnership with National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the Academy's Care Pathways to standardize care for children with developmental disabilities using evidence-based guidelines, the newly founded International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability, the 2016 AACPDm Community Council meeting that improved engagement with families and community members, and the new E-Courses for professional development.

Dr. Fowler then introduced the 70<sup>th</sup> AACPDm President, **Unni Narayanan, MD, MSc**, orthopaedic surgeon at the Hospital for Sick Children and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Narayanan took the opportunity to thank his mentors, colleagues, and family, as well as the 2016 AACPDm program committee and staff.

**John Ioannidis, MD, DSc**, a professor of Medicine, Health Research and Policy, and Statistics at Stanford University, delivered the Presidential Guest Lecture entitled *Improving Research Practice*. He discussed how over-emphasis on advanced statistics without an understanding of basic health research principles makes advancing our understanding more difficult. He proposed that scientists collaborate on large projects, maintain openness about the research process, use better health research principles in designing studies, and improve the reporting of research outcomes through standardization. Above all, he recommended that academic success and advancement should come to researchers who demonstrate quality, reproducibility, collaboration, and real-world impact of their work, rather than on the number of research studies they have published.



**AACPDm**

555 East Wells Street  
Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

info@aacpdm.org  
+1 (414) 918-3014

www.aacpdm.org

**Euan Wallace, AM** delivered the Gayle G. Arnold Lecture entitled *Prevention and Cure of Cerebral Palsy: A Reality or Forlorn Hope?* Dr. Wallace is the Carl Wood Professor and Head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. In this lecture, Dr. Wallace stressed the importance of focusing attention on the prenatal period when up to 70% of children with cerebral palsy will sustain their brain injury. He highlighted the importance of understanding how the prenatal brain responds to injury on the cellular level, and introduced research into supplements and medications that may protect the developing brain from injury. Dr. Wallace also stressed the importance of education and surveillance to reduce the rate of brain injury in the prenatal period.