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2016 Annual Meeting
General Session Lay Summary
Friday, September 23, 2016 - Morning General Session

Stephen Scherer, PhD, FRSC, from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, presented the Mac Keith Press Basic Science Lectureship entitled *Genome Analysis in Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Disorders*. Dr. Scherer described cerebral palsy and autism spectrum disorders as complex disorders with multiple gene effects and environmental factors. He outlined the results of studies that show that many children with cerebral palsy have chromosomal abnormalities and variations in the number of gene copies. In autism spectrum disorder, several genes have been identified as being associated with a higher risk of developing the condition. For both cerebral palsy and autism spectrum disorder, better understanding the role of genes in the development of the condition can help create new medications and therapeutic approaches.

Maryam Oskoui, MD, a pediatric neurologist and epidemiologist from McGill University, presented the Presidential Guest Lectureship entitled *Perspectives from the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Registry*. National registries can help identify prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal causes of cerebral palsy. The Canadian Cerebral Palsy Registry captures 145 health variables through its large database, and has helped develop partnerships between researchers to better inform treatments for children with cerebral palsy.