Ataxia Charlevoix-Saguenay Foundation

Research that heals

Montréal, **August 31, 2024 -** The Ataxia Charlevoix Saguenay Foundation is pleased to announce the funding of 10 innovative research projects in 2024-2025. This is an investment of $850,000 aimed to understand the underlying causes of ARSACS and to develop effective treatments.

"*The complexity of this disease requires a collaborative effort which will bring together experts from diverse fields and different countries to tackle the disease from various scientific perspectives. We are thrilled to work with some of the experts in the field to push the boundaries of what is possible"* said Jean Groleau, president and co-founder of the Ataxia Charlevoix- Saguenay Foundation.

The 10 funded projects, including new this year 2 seed money initiatives, will explore ARSACS through a multidisciplinary approach. This comprehensive strategy ensures that the disease is examined from every possible angle, increasing the likelihood of breakthroughs that could lead to effective treatments to improve the life of the individuals living with ARSACS.

The Ataxia Charlevoix- Saguenay Foundation is a leading charitable organization dedicated to advancing research and supporting individuals affected by ARSACS. For a description of the research projects, please visit its website or contact Sonia Gobeil ataxia@arsacs.com.

Congratulations to the following 2024-2025 awardees!

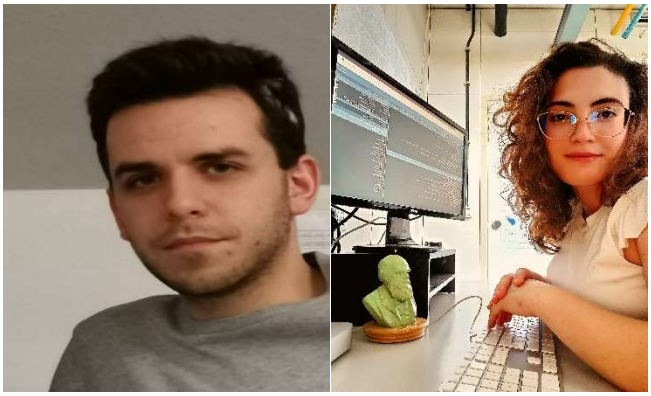
Dr. Ester Becker
University of Oxford, United Kingdom
"Modelling ARSACS in human iPSC-derived cerebellar organoids"

Dr. Walid Houry
University of Toronto
"Structural Determination of Sacsin"

Dr. Heather Durham & Dr. Benoit Gentil
McGill University, Montreal
"Therapeutics Approaches for ARSACS"

Dr. Francesca Maltecca
Universita Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan,Italy
"Targeting Cav2.1 to recover firing defects and degeneration of Purkinje neurons in ARSACS"

Dr. Stefan Strack
University of Iowa
"Developing conditional mouse models and new approaches to treating ARSACS"



Dr. Daniele Galatolo and Dr. Giulia De Riso
Stella Maris Foundation, Pisa, Italy
"Discovering whole blood DNA methylation biomarkers of ARSACS progression"


Dr. Alanna Watt & Dr. Anne McKinney
McGill University, Montreal
"Elucidating mechanisms underlying motor coordination rescue in a mouse model of ARSACS

Dr. Paul Chapple
Queen Mary University of London
London, United Kingdom
"Understanding trafficking defects in ARSACS to identify therapeutic targets for disease"

L to R : Geraldine Schlapp, Martina Crispo, María Noel Meikle, Jorge Luis Pórfido.
Dr. Martina Crispo Benedetto, Institute Pasteur of Montevideo
Montevideo, Uruguay
"Avatar mouse model of a new genetic variant of ARSACS detected in Uruguay"

Dr. Javier Santos
Universidad de Buenos Aires
Buenos Aires, Argentina
“Trojan Sacsin Fragments to Study Protein Function”