

AUTOSOMAL RECESSIVE SPASTIC ATAXIA OF CHARLEVOIX-SAGUENAY

7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium

# ARSACS

October 19 - 20 | Jeanne Timmins Amphitheatre

**ARSACS AROUND THE WORLD**

The Neuro, McGill University, Montreal, Québec \*All times are EDT

## Thursday, October 19, 2023

- 3:00**      **Opening Remarks**  
Sonia Gobeil, Ataxia Charlevoix- Saguenay Foundation
- 3:10**      **Session 1: From Biomarkers to Treatment in ARSACS**  
*Chair: Anne McKinney, PhD, McGill University*
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging biomarkers in ARSACS**  
Sirio Coccozza, MD, PhD, University of Naples, Italy
- Mitochondria & Cytoskeletal Dysfunction in ARSACS**  
Mohan Babu, PhD, University of Regina, Canada
- Exploring the Role of Genetic and Epigenetic Modifiers in ARSACS**  
Daniele Galatolo, PhD, University of Pisa, Italy
- Charting the Molecular and Cellular Progression of ARSACS**  
Justin Wolter, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
- Panel Discussion**
- 4:25**      **Refreshment Pause**
- 4:35**      **Keynote: SCA2: Preclinical Models and ASO Therapy Development**  
Stefan M Pulst, MD, PhD, University of Utah, USA
- 5:35**      **Cocktail & Poster session (onsite)**

**Friday October 20, 2023**

**8:00            Opening Remarks**

Nicolas Dupré, MD, PhD, CHU de Québec-Laval University, Canada

**8:15            Session 2: Cellular Dysfunction in ARSACS**

*Chair: Mohan Babu, PhD, University of Regina, Canada*

**Does ARSACS Degeneration Proceed Through a SARM1-Dependent Pathway?**

Thomas Schwarz, PhD, Harvard University, USA

**Restoring Calcium Homeostasis in Purkinje Cells Arrests Neurodegeneration and Neuroinflammation in the ARSACS Mouse Model**

Francesca Maltecca, PhD, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Italy

**The Role of Sacsin on Glial Cells**

Federico Herrera, PhD, University of Lisbon, Portugal

**Metabolic Rewiring in Cellular Models of ARSACS**

Paul Chapple, PhD, Queen Mary University of London, UK

**Panel Discussion**

**9:15            Refreshment Pause**

**9:25            Session 3: Improvements in Treatment for ARSACS Patients**

*Chair: Nicolas Dupré, CHU de Québec-Laval University, Canada*

**How Natural History Studies Contribute to the Development and Assessment of Interventions**

Cynthia Gagnon, PhD, Sherbrooke University, Canada

**Development and Evaluation of the Efficacy of a Home Rehabilitation Program Aiming to Increase Motor Control, Balance, Mobility, Falls and Activities of Daily Living in People with ARSACS**

Élise Duchesne, PHT, PhD. University of Quebec at Chicoutimi, Canada

**Talk tbc**

Josée Larochelle, MD, paediatric physiatrist, CHU Ste Justine, Canada

**New Developments in the Treatment of Communication Difficulties in Progressive Ataxias**

Anja Lowit, PhD, Strathclyde University, Glasgow (Virtual)

**Panel Discussion**

**10:10          Refreshment Pause**

**10:30      Session 4: Panel Discussion with ARSACS Patients, their Carers, and Partners**

*Chair: Cynthia Gagnon, PhD, Sherbrooke University, Canada*

Betsy Trainor, ARSACS Foundation Board of Directors, Attorney, parent, Virginia, USA

Olivier Jérôme, CATALIS Québec, Canada

Claudia Maltais, ARSACS, Canada (virtual)

Kymerly Hoffman, ARSACS, USA

**Panel Discussion**

**11:30      Keynote: Cerebellar Modelling using Human iPSCs**

Esther Becker, PhD, MSc, University of Oxford, UK

**12:30      Lunch Pause** (onsite, lunch provided)

**1:30      Session 5: The Biochemistry of Sacsin**

*Chair: Francesca Maltecca, PhD, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Italy*

**Towards Determining the Structure of Sacsin**

Walid Houry, PhD, University of Toronto, Canada

**Talk tbc**

Nevan Krogan, PhD, University of California at San Francisco, USA (Virtual)

**Understanding the Role of Metals in ARSACS**

Graham George, BSc, DPhil, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

**Panel Discussion**

**2:15      Session 6: From Animal Models to Clinical Translation**

*Chair: Justin Wolter, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA*

**Exploring and Treating Cognitive Dysmetria in a Mouse Model of ARSACS**

Stefan Strack, PhD, University of Utah, USA

**Mechanisms of Resilience: Why Do Some Cells Die and Others Survive in ARSACS**

Anne McKinney, PhD, McGill University, Canada

**Novel Therapeutic Approaches for ARSACS**

Alanna Watt, PhD, McGill University, Canada

**Sacsin: from Domains' Functions to Biomarkers and Therapy**

Anu Buj Bell, PhD, Genethon, France

Benoit Gentil, PhD, McGill University, Canada

**Panel Discussion**

**3:00 Round Table – Summary & Next Steps**

Discussion Leaders:

Nic Dupré

Federico Herrera

Anne McKinney

Betsy Trainor

Justin Wolter

**3:30 Closing Remarks**

Alanna Watt, PhD, McGill University, Canada



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