

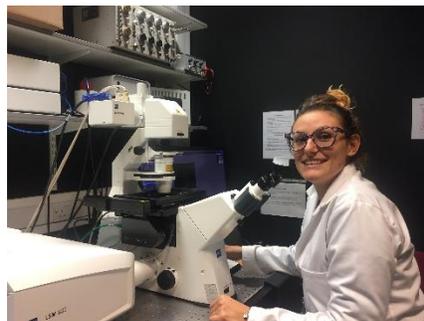
## The ARSACS Foundation and Ataxia UK Announces Their Collaboration for Research on Ataxia of Charlevoix-Saguenay

October 2016 - The Ataxia of Charlevoix-Saguenay Foundation and Ataxia UK are pleased to announce a co-funding alliance to support and to advance medical research in the UK on ataxia of Charlevoix-Saguenay.

This first time collaboration is directed to the expansive research project entitled ***Modelling the molecular pathogenesis of ARSACS with patient cells: disrupted proteostasis in ARSACS neurons*** which has multiple objectives. The study aims to understand the cellular defects that lead to ARSACS. Like other ataxias ARSACS is a neurodegenerative disease, which means brain cells (neurons) die as the disease progresses. It is not completely clear what causes neurons to die in most neurodegeneration, but one factor that has been identified as common to a number of diseases is the accumulation of damaged proteins that may be toxic or disrupt normal cellular processes. This collaboration aims to build on the extensive preliminary data in which the team have identified that the cellular systems that deal with the disposal of damaged proteins may be perturbed in ARSACS. The aim of this project is to investigate this further by working out exactly what has gone wrong with the cellular machinery that normally deals with the disposal of these unwanted proteins.

Such important work will be performed by **Dr. Paul Chapple** (Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry) whose expertise in ARSACS is crucial to the success of the project. This alliance between the two associations dedicated to ataxias is clear evidence of openness and commitment towards ground-breaking research and future development in ataxias. *"We believe that this exciting collaboration with Ataxia UK will further enable to expand research eventually benefitting to ARSACS patients in the UK and elsewhere in the world"* said Sonia Gobeil, co-founder of the ARSACS Foundation. Julie Greenfield, research Projects Manager at Ataxia UK adds *"Working in partnership internationally is crucial in rare diseases and we are delighted to be partnering with the ARSACS Foundation in this important research study"*.

In addition, Dr. Chapple's project will train Lisa Romano a Ph.D. student to work on the cell biology of ataxias. In the photo below, Lisa is shown using a state of the art Laser Scanning Confocal Microscope to look at ARSACS cells.



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