

Invitation to the Fifth International Symposium on Autosomal Recessive Spastic Ataxia of Charlevoix-Saguenay (ARSACS)

Dear colleagues,

The 5th International ARSACS symposium is approaching. We are all looking forward to meeting many of you again in Montreal. This meeting marks a turning point for ARSACS research since it will coincide with the in-person meeting of the ERare PREPARE consortium on recessive ataxias. The consortium is led by Matthis Synofzik of Tübingen. Set up in 2016, as its name suggests PREPARE is focused on preparing the recessive ataxias to an expected therapeutic transformation by building shared tools to follow patient cohorts, collect biological materials, generate on demand fly models and continue to push for pre-clinical trials. It is no coincidence that the two meetings will follow each other, since ARSACS is a flagship ataxia for PREPARE. A half day of the symposium will consist of presentations on ongoing ARSACS work done by PREPARE members to the broader ARSACS international community. In consultation with the Foundation, the Symposium will be held the two days before their major fund raising event on November 1st. The Foundation after 10 years of active support to researchers requests that we share together as much as possible insights that could accelerate the discovery or access to treatments for ARSACS. Please note that the ARSACS symposium will start at 13:00 on Wednesday, October 31st and end at 14h30 on Thursday, November 1st. To finalize the program I would need that you all register formally on the website : (<https://mcgill.ca/neuro/events/fifth-international-symposium-arsacs>) so we can plan the logistics and catering. We will have a symposium dinner for speakers on Wednesday, October 31st , more details to follow.

As I that expect that many will want to present a summary of their progress, I would ask that you send me bernard.brais@mcgill.ca and debbie.rashcovsky@mcgill.ca your talk title, the names of the presenter and other co-authors and whether you want to talk 10 or 20 minutes. Importantly, please register and provide titles before October 1st so we can finalize the program.

Sincerely,

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