

September, 2012

Summary of 3rd meeting of the Ataxie de Charlevoix-Saguenay and CIHR ARSACS
Emerging team on rare disease

The researchers met on 20th of September to discuss the most recent results and start planning for the full day scientific meeting to be held at the Montreal Neurological Institute on 29th November. Much of the meeting was spent reviewing the most recent results generated on the knock out (KO) mice that do not express saccin. Roxanne Larivière presented the first electron microscopy images that show clear differences between KO and normal mice brain, further providing insight into the neuronal anomalies in the disease. Anne McKinney presented electrophysiological results suggesting that there are physiological differences between KO and normal neurons. A discussion followed to draw conclusions that could help in improving the biological understanding of ARSACS. Lastly, Kalle Gehring presented results on the development of a bio-structural assay that could be used to screen banks of substances for potential therapeutic molecules.