

**Interview with Marie-Claude Desormiers**  
**conducted by Sonia Gobeil, October 2017.**

SG - Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

MCD - I'm 38 years old and I was born and raised in Montreal. My family is from Joliette.

SG - At what age did you get diagnosed with Charlevoix-Saguenay Ataxia?

MCD-Ataxia as such at age 17, but the official diagnosis of ARSACS I got it at 33 years old. We were devastated.

SG - What are you doing now?

MCD- I am an educator and a student. I have the support of the Collège des Médecins du Québec for medicine school. My next project is to become a doctor.

SG - Undergoing studies in medicine means what for you?

MCD - It means finding answers to my questions and helping the Foundation to heal me.

SG - Do you have hobbies, and if so, what are they?

MCD - I have been swimming since I was 3 years old. I did karate, aqua fitness, horse riding, skiing, dancing, ballet, etc. I also like art. I paint and I draw. I also learned the piano for 10 years and I passed the exam at the Conservatoire de Montréal.

SG - If you had some advice for someone with ARSACS or a parent whose child has the disease, what would it be?

MCD – GO FORTH AND DON'T LET ANYONE STOP US