

# Partnership between the Ataxia Charlevoix-Saguenay Foundation and NeuroSphere

**Montréal, May 14, 2024** - The Ataxia Charlevoix Saguenay Foundation and NeuroSphere are pleased to announce a strategic and financial partnership for research and innovation in neuroscience through the Healthy Brains, Healthy Lives (HBHL) initiative at McGill University.

Following the progress and promising results of Dr. Benoit Gentil's team, NeuroSphere and the Foundation confirm an equivalent financial contribution totaling \$200,000. This partnership, described as innovative and with high potential, aligns perfectly with the respective missions of the Foundation, which aims to support the development of a treatment for Ataxia Charlevoix-Saguenay, and the NeuroSphere group, whose objective is to promote innovative projects in neuroscience. Although classified as rare (1 in 1,500 people in the Charlevoix Saguenay region), this disease also affects people throughout Canada and elsewhere in the world. *"This funding will have a significant impact in advancing innovative and promising research"* mentions Sonia Gobeil, co-founder of the Foundation.

This co-financing will focus on gene therapy for the treatment of Ataxia Charlevoix Saguenay. More specifically, the amounts allocated will make it possible to support the development of technology aimed at providing an innovative, adapted and effective therapeutic approach. This tool includes a vector which makes it possible to reintroduce a "minisacsin" which aims to replace the missing or dysfunctional protein and restore normal function. Recent results on relevant preclinical models (which reproduce the clinical symptoms of patients with Charlevoix-Saguenay ataxia) have made it possible to establish a proof of concept showing that minisacsin corrects certain defects and markers typical of the disease, warns the appearance of motor coordination problems and does not cause notable side effects. The next task will aim to determine the appropriate dose and method of administration and to verify the long-term safety of the product. *"We are convinced that this project will produce results that could also impact other genetic diseases and we hope that this technology can be commercialized as quickly as possible,"* says Ms. Gobeil.

*"Dr. Gentil's project is progressing very well and demonstrates the potential for strong impact in its field. This is exactly the type of project that NeuroSphere wishes to fund through its support programs"* - Adrienne Crampton, Associate Director, Business Development, NeuroSphere and HBHL.

ABOUT THE CHARLEVOIX-SAGUENAY ATAXIA FOUNDATION – The Foundation is a non-profit charity created in 2006 whose mission is to finance research into a treatment for Charlevoix-Saguenay ataxia. Please contact Ms. Sonia Gobeil ([ataxia@arsacs.com](mailto:ataxia@arsacs.com)) for any information on the [Ataxia Charlevoix-Saguenay Foundation](#).

ABOUT NEUROSPHERE - Since 2019, NeuroSphere has served as a one-stop shop for innovation and entrepreneurship for researchers and students in the field of neuroscience at McGill University. Through consulting services, expertise, and strategic and financial support, NeuroSphere positions itself, within McGill, as the accelerator of innovations in neuroscience. NeuroSphere also offers workshops, networking opportunities, and training and mentoring activities as well as grant programs for innovative projects with high impact potential. Please contact Adrienne Crampton ( [adrienne.crampton@mcgill.ca](mailto:adrienne.crampton@mcgill.ca) ) for any information on [NeuroSphere](#).

