

**Contact: Jason Mills**  
Phone: 905-436-3609  
eMail: mills.j@rogers.com

3336 Trulls Rd.  
Courtice, ONT  
L1E 2I2

**For immediate release**

# Press Release

**Whitby, Ontario to host 3<sup>rd</sup> “The Walk to Fight Familial Ataxias” (FA) on September 24, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Heydenshore Park, 589 Water Street. Richmond, BC to host 1<sup>st</sup> “The Walk to Fight Familial Ataxia”, Garry Point Park. Participants in attendance, will including about 200 participants from Ontario, BC, USA, Quebec, and the UK.**

Ataxia is defined as the progressive degeneration of an individual’s neurological system. Ataxia affects walking, speech, muscle control and weakness, often resulting the individual being confine to a wheelchair. Currently there are no treatments or cures for many forms of ataxia. However some drugs intended to counteract the effects of this disease are presently on trial.

The goal of the Walk is to raise funds for research on FA and to raise public awareness to FA in Canada.

Dr. Mark Tarnopolsky from McMaster University Medical Centre or Dr. Teesta Soman from Toronto Sick Kids Hospital kindly agreed to give a personal interview and answer questions about FA

Mark Tarnopolsky **M.D. PhD. FRCPC**  
**Professor, Department Pediatrics and Medicine, Division of Neurology**  
McMaster University Medical Centre  
Department of Pediatrics & Medicine, Division of Neurology  
905-521-2100 Ext. 76593 E-mail: [tarnopol@mcmaster.ca](mailto:tarnopol@mcmaster.ca)

Dr Teesta Soman MBBS, FAAP, MBA  
Toronto Sick Kids Hospital  
**Phone:** 416-813-5668  
**Fax:** 416-813-6334  
**e-mail:** [teesta.soman@sickkids.ca](mailto:teesta.soman@sickkids.ca)

To learn more about The Walk to Fight Familial Ataxias please visit:  
[www.thewalktofightfa.com](http://www.thewalktofightfa.com) or [www.lacaf.org](http://www.lacaf.org) to learn more about FA.