



RESEARCH – OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

*The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation's Research Campaign*



Dear Friend:

The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation (SSF) has made great strides in encouraging and supporting cutting-edge research that has improved, and will continue to improve, the lives of Sjögren's syndrome patients.

Over the past 5 years, we have provided nearly \$600,000 to fund studies at prominent research facilities around the country. In addition, we have sponsored scientific workshops that brought together talented and promising researchers in the field of Sjögren's syndrome. Our commitment to research has fueled interest in new research projects and led to federal support from the National Institutes of Health.

SSF is proud of the role it has played in developing and shaping the course of Sjögren's syndrome research, but we need your help to continue the fight. With your gift to our research campaign, we can increase funding for promising research projects that will lead to unlocking the mysteries of Sjögren's syndrome.

Your support will help us build a more powerful research program that will fund novel research projects and attract talented researchers who will invest their time and resources towards Sjögren's syndrome.

Look at what some of our researchers say about the SSF's research program:

*"SSF funding has helped me to establish baseline results that are supporting my applications to the National Institutes of Health. Without these baseline results, it would be difficult to receive additional funding and I would have to consider stopping my work."* — Cristian A. Perez, PhD, The Rockefeller University

*"SSF funding allowed us to begin experiments far outside the scope of the work funded by our NIH grant. Those experiments ended up changing the direction of our entire program".* — Austin Mircheff, PhD, University of Southern California

*"With funding by the NIH so tightly constrained, projects that offer the possibility of transforming our understanding of Sjögren's Syndrome are being delayed, and risk not being done. Period."* — Nelson Rhodus, DMD, University of Minnesota

These statements are a testament to the importance of the SSF's Research Program and why it is critical to provide as much financial support as we can to continue the work that has begun. Millions of Americans are counting on us.

I hope this brochure answers your questions about our research program and how you can help. Thank you for partnering with us to conquer Sjögren's syndrome.



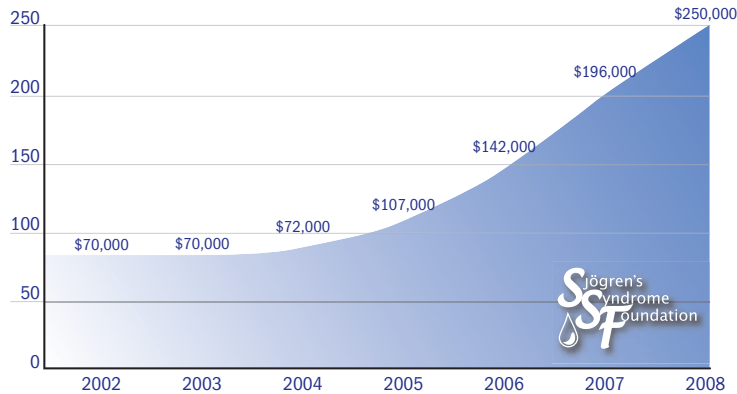
*Letter from our CEO, Steven Taylor*

## OUR HISTORY

In 1983, the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation was created to help patients living with Sjögren's syndrome. The mission that was created more than twenty years ago remains the same today:

- To educate patients and their families
- To increase public and professional awareness of Sjögren's syndrome
- To encourage and support research for new treatments and a cure

We remain committed to this mission and are proud of our many accomplishments.



In 1992, the SSF created its own research program and today provides more than \$250,000 a year to directly fund a broad range of projects. This figure marks a 250% increase in funds over the last five years, making SSF the premiere funding organization for Sjögren's syndrome research.

We are proud that our program fosters the best and most innovative projects. These projects are designed to have the greatest potential impact on Sjögren's syndrome patients, ensuring new therapeutics are developed and a cure is found. A high priority

is placed on both clinical and basic scientific research into the cause, prevention, detection, treatment, and cure for Sjögren's syndrome, with support provided to investigators at every level from student to junior investigator to senior-level leader.

The Foundation's research program has also played a major role in supporting and launching various avenues of research that have led to new therapies as well as new theories on Sjögren's syndrome. In addition, the program has inspired collaborations among researchers in multiple specialty areas, which is critical for making progress in such a complex and multi-faceted disease.

In the past ten years, researchers have made extraordinary progress in the fight against Sjögren's syndrome. Below are some of those accomplishments:

- The first-ever FDA-approved medications for Sjögren's syndrome
- New therapies (prescription and over-the-counter) for treating the many manifestations of Sjögren's syndrome
- Increased funding of innovative research projects sponsored by the National Institutes of Health
- Clinical projects to increase our knowledge about how patients' lives are affected by Sjögren's Syndrome
- Patient surveys that yielded insights into the disease, which in turn has spurred new funding opportunities and partnerships with corporations and research communities
- Scientific workshops and conferences to encourage collaboration among the medical community and educate healthcare professionals about the disease
- Encouragement of young and new investigators to distinguish themselves in the field of Sjögren's

## OUR RESEARCHERS

SSF is proud to partner with world-class research facilities and medical institutions throughout the United States. During the past five years, we have awarded 16 research grants to these fine institutions:

- Harvard Medical School, Boston
- Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
- New York University Hospital for Joint Diseases, New York
- Schepens Eye Research Institute, Boston
- The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, New York
- The Rockefeller University, New York
- Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Boston
- University of Florida, Gainesville
- University of Missouri, Columbia
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- University of Southern California, Los Angeles

SSF's Student Fellowship program offers small grants to medical, dental, and PhD students who are working on a semester project in Sjögren's syndrome. By offering this, we hope to encourage students' interest in Sjögren's syndrome research as a future career choice. Since 2003, we have funded six student fellowships to students at the following institutions:

- Baylor College of Medicine, Dallas
- Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma City
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester
- University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles
- University of Virginia, Charlottesville

In 2007, the Foundation introduced a new category for research grants called the Innovative Concept Grant. This grant encourages scientists to think outside the box of traditional Sjögren's therapies and research paradigms when designing their research project. With the interest and excitement about this new grant, the Foundation received twice as many applications for research projects than in 2006, thus catapulting our program into a new realm.

SSF has also partnered with investigators in related autoimmune diseases and with those who focus on complications shared by other diseases to examine Sjögren's syndrome in a new light. In 2005, Sjögren's syndrome researchers joined experts in oncology, pathology, and immunology to share information and exchange ideas about new avenues of research into the occurrence of lymphoma in the Sjögren's patient. This event catalyzed interest in Sjögren's on the part of non-Sjögren's experts and led to novel innovative collaborations still being forged today.

## OUR PROGRAM

SSF is proud of the innovative work it funds. We support promising research ideas that may be passed over by larger funding organizations such as the National Institutes of Health or pharmaceutical companies as being too "new and untested." It is our hope that the initial funding we provide will result in the evidence required by these other funding sources.

Currently, the SSF research program offers the following opportunities:

- Research Grants – \$35,000 grants offered to basic and clinical scientists investigating the complexities of Sjögren's syndrome.
- Innovative Concept Grant – This brand new initiative, which offers a \$50,000 annual award, is intended to nurture the development of hypotheses that reach beyond the paradigms of current research projects.

- Student Fellowships – The Foundation offers student fellowships for medical, dental, and PhD students working on a semester research project in Sjögren's syndrome. Awards are for \$2,000.
- Outstanding Abstract Awards – The Outstanding Abstract Award is given to new and/or young investigators who present outstanding abstracts on Sjögren's syndrome research at professional meetings.

Decisions to award grants are made by the SSF Research Review Committee, an expert panel of volunteer researchers and clinicians from institutions around the country. Applications are put through multiple steps of review, culminating in final decisions by the committee about the best candidates for awards.

## OUR HOPE

SSF's goal is to award a total of \$500,000 in research grants annually. This will double our current financial commitment and ensure that the most promising studies will receive support. Your gift will help accelerate the pace of medical discoveries in Sjögren's syndrome and thus help millions of Americans who suffer from this debilitating disease.

Together, we can find the answers!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider making a gift in support of our research program. It will be used to support life changing research initiatives and encourage collaboration among a wide spectrum of researchers.

Our patients thank you for creating a future filled with hope!

**For more information on Sjögren's syndrome and the Foundation, please visit [www.sjogrens.org](http://www.sjogrens.org)**





6707 Democracy Blvd., Ste 325  
Bethesda, MD 20817

*Phone: 800-475-6473*

*Fax: 301-530-4415*

*Web: [www.sjogrens.org](http://www.sjogrens.org)*



# Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation Research Campaign Pledge Card

Please accept my tax-deductable gift to help find a cure for Sjögren's Syndrome

\$250    \$500    \$1,000    \$2,500    \$5,000    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed (check payable to The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation)

MC/Visa/AMEX# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me about setting up a monthly or quarterly gift.
- Please contact me to make arrangements for a planned gift in support of the research campaign.
- Please keep me informed about the Foundation's research program.

**Many companies have a matching gift program. Please check with your company to see if they will match your donation to the SSF.**

How would you like to be listed in our research report: (i.e. Mr. & Mrs. John Smith)

---

**Please return this pledge card to:**

**Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation • 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 325**

**Bethesda, MD 20817 • 800-475-6473**

RESEARCH – OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

*The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation's Research Campaign*



Sjögren's  
SSF  
Syndrome  
Foundation