

2011

RESEARCH GRANTS

The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation (SSF) supports innovative research into all aspects of the disease and recognizes new investigators who present abstracts at professional meetings. Since 2000, the SSF has funded over \$1.5 million in competitive research grants to prestigious academic investigators for the study of Sjögren's.

In FY2011, the Foundation awarded seven Research Grants and three Student Fellowships. Visit www.sjogrens.org/research for information about the SSF research program, application process, and current and previous recipients and their projects. The application receipt deadline is February 1, and grants run from July 1-June 30.

SSF Research Grants

In 2012, the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation will change its grants program to solely focus on funding innovative concepts. As a result, all research grants will be Innovative Concept Grants and target support for the initial evaluation of hypotheses that reach beyond the current paradigms of the topic areas of Sjögren's research. The SSF wants to ensure that the limited funding it has to award researchers is used to encourage new investigators to explore novel concepts and provide the data necessary for obtaining additional funding from other sources.

Grants will be awarded in the amount of \$35,000 a year for two years, depending on satisfactory progress, and a human study that reviewers deem to be the most innovative project will be eligible for a \$50,000 grant. All investigators will apply for the \$35,000 grant. Grants may focus on clinical or laboratory-based research and must be carried out at a U.S. institution.

SSF Student Fellowships

The SSF 2010 partnerships for its Student Fellowship program with three national professional organizations were so successful that the SSF renewed these partnerships again in 2011. The collaborations brought increased visibility for Sjögren's among trainees and organizations' professional members. In addition, award amounts increased. Visit the SSF website for the latest information on this program and the application processes and deadlines that vary with each Fellowship. Student Fellowships are awarded to students working toward undergraduate science degrees, or medical, dental or PhD degrees at U.S. institutions.

Outstanding Abstract Awards

The SSF recognizes excellence in research by new and/or young investigators who present outstanding abstracts on Sjögren's research at professional meetings. An award is presented every year at the annual meeting of the American College of Rheumatology.

Special Educational Opportunities

The SSF offers special educational opportunities for students and postdoctoral fellows to attend its Regional and National Educational Conferences free of charge. Check the SSF website (www.sjogrens.org) for information on upcoming seminars.

**For more information, contact the
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation:**

6707 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 325 • Bethesda, MD 20817

Phone: 301-530-4420 • Fax: 301-530-4415 • Website: www.sjogrens.org



Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation Current Research Award Recipients

2011 Innovative Concept Grant Award



Michael J. Passineau, PhD
Allegheny-Singer Research Institute, West Penn Allegheny Health System, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
"Ultrasound-assisted gene transfer of IL17R:Fc to the salivary glands as a gene therapy for Sjögren's syndrome"

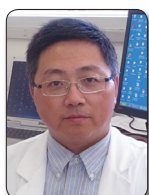
2011 Additional Grant Awards



Sunil Chuahan, DVM, PhD
Schepens Eye Research Institute
"Mechanism and functional relevance of corneal lymphangiogenesis in dry eye disease"



Lindsey Criswell, MD, MPH, Dsc
University of California, San Francisco
"Epigenetic profiling of multiple cell and tissue types in Sjögren's syndrome"



Shen S. Hu, PhD
UCLA School of Dentistry, Los Angeles, California
"Interferon- γ induces immunoproteasome in human salivary gland cells"



Melinda Larsen, PhD
The Research Foundation of SUNY, University at Albany, Department of Biological Sciences, Albany, New York
"Application of Multiplexing Technology to the Study of Sjögren's Syndrome"



Kathy L. Moser, PhD
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
"The genetic basis of human Sjögren's syndrome"



Cuong Nguyen, PhD
University of Florida, Gainesville
"Suppression of TH17 cells using IL-27 gene therapy: A potential therapeutic approach for the treatment of Sjögren's syndrome patients"

2011 Student Fellowships

SSF Student Fellowship - American College of Rheumatology (ACR) REF Preceptorship Program



Amanda A. McCulloch, PhD-Candidate
Temple University Medical School
"Effects of FTY-720 on a murine model of Sjögren's syndrome"

SSF Student Fellowship - American Association for Dental Research (AADR)



Sheede Khalil, DMD-Candidate
Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine
"Examining the molecular genetic changes in the etiology of Sjögren's syndrome"

SSF Student Fellowship - Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists (CLAO) Education and Research Foundation



Niral Gandhi, MD-Candidate
*Baylor College of Medicine
Cullen Eye Institute*
"Activation of TGF- β on the ocular surface in dry eye"

Outstanding Abstract Awards

Fall 2010 American College of Rheumatology (ACR):

Kaleb M. Pauley, PhD
University of Florida, Gainesville
"Receptor-Mediated Small Interfering RNA Delivery in Sjögren's Syndrome"

Fall 2010 ACR Honorable Mention:

Nienke Roescher, MD, MSc
Academic Medical Center-University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
"Local TACI-Ig Gene Therapy of the Salivary Gland of NOD Mice Reduces Auto-Immune Inflammation by Affecting the B Cell Compartment"

Jacques-Olivier Pers, DDS, PhD
Brest University, Brest, France
" Δ 4BAFF, an Alternate-Splice Isoform That Acts as a Transcription Factor To Enhance BAFF Production in Primary Sjögren's Syndrome"

For more information, contact the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation: