



Sparking Innovation

The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation (SSF) strives to foster research that will have the greatest potential impact on Sjögren's patients, ensuring new therapeutics are developed and a cure is found.

Innovation is key for Sjögren's research! The SSF wants to inspire new ideas by encouraging investigators to take risks by developing novel concepts that could lead to major breakthroughs in Sjögren's.

Just think of the ripple effect:

- Novel research findings from just one idea will spark many more ideas on the part of other researchers.
- Successful researchers will reach out or be sought out by others to form collaborations, further expanding the Sjögren's research network
- Collaborations in scientific research will lead to rapid advancements in Sjögren's research and thus our ability to find answers more quickly.
- Encouragement of clinical research in Sjögren's also will speed up the testing of novel therapeutics for Sjögren's patients.

- Researchers who have received our research grants and students who have received an SSF Student Fellowship have overwhelmingly continued their focus on Sjögren's for years after receiving an SSF Award! This means that the SSF research program continues to have a long-term impact on Sjögren's research.

Since 2006, the SSF has funded over \$1.5 million in competitive research grants to prestigious academic investigators for the study of Sjögren's. Research areas include a focus on:

- The potential causes of Sjögren's – ranging from immune system dysfunction to genetics, epigenetics and the environment
- Interventions and targets for new therapeutics
- Symptoms and complications of Sjögren's such as cognitive function and neurological manifestations as well as dryness symptoms
- Novel diagnostics

Help make a difference today! Consider a tax-deductable donation to the SSF Research Program by calling 301-530-4420 or visiting www.sjogrens.org.

Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation Current Research Award Recipients

Applications for research grants are due February 1 of each year. Information on SSF grant guidelines, funding priorities and applications can be found at www.sjogrens.org.

Innovative Research Grant Awards



Michael J. Passineau, PhD

*Allegheny-Singer Research Institute,
West Penn Allegheny Health System*

"Ultrasound-assisted gene transfer of IL17R:Fc to the salivary glands as a gene therapy for Sjögren's syndrome"



Karsten Gronert, PhD

*University of California, Berkeley,
School of Optometry, Vision Science*

"Amplification of intrinsic and protective ocular surface lipid circuits as novel treatment targets"



Shen S. Hu, PhD

UCLA School of Dentistry

"Interferon-γ induces immunoproteasome in human salivary gland cells"



Melinda Larsen, PhD

*The Research Foundation of SUNY, University at Albany,
Dept. of Biological Sciences*

"Application of multiplexing technology to the study of Sjögren's syndrome"



Maria Kukuruzinska, PhD

Boston University, Dept. of Molecular & Cell Biology

"Functional role of the Hippo pathway in Sjögren's syndrome"



Seshagiri Rao Nandula, PhD

University of Minnesota, School of Dentistry

"Role of type 1 interferon signaling in the development of Sjögren's syndrome"

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 of Dental Research (AADR)



Page Linae Collymore, DMD – Candidate

Southern Illinois University, School of Dental Medicine

"Cytoarchitecture of salivary gland acini as related to loss of function in Sjögren's syndrome"

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



Quianta Moore, MD – Candidate

Baylor College of Medicine, Cullen Eye Institute

"Effect of low humidity on women with Sjögren's syndrome"

Outstanding Abstract Awards

Fall 2011 American College of Rheumatology (ACR):



Joanne H. Reed, PhD

New York University School of Medicine

"A point mutation in the SSA/Ro60 autoantigen which prevents Y RNA binding attenuates a requisite signal for cell surface expression and TLR-dependent inflammation syndrome"

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