



High Impact Research Grant:

David T. Wong, DMD, DMSc

Professor & Associate Dean of Research
The Regents of the University of California,
Los Angeles, CA

Project Title: EFIRM Liquid Biopsy for Early Detection of Sjögren's Syndrome and Sicca Patients

Abstract

There is no early detection for Sjögren's and its precursor sicca. The ability to detect Sjögren's early can improve quality of life, develop treatment modalities and early detection of lymphoma development in these patients. Early detection of sicca may eventually allow intervention of progression to full blown disease of Sjögren's. We have developed an electrochemical assay, EFIRM, that can measure the pathognomonic autoantibodies of Sjögren's, Ro and La, for the first time robustly and quantitatively in the saliva of Sjögren's and sicca patients. This Sjögren's Foundation High Impact Research Grant is to test the hypothesis that salivary IgA, not IgG, to Ro and La are associated with salivary gland tissue destruction as reflected by focal score. Furthermore, the monomeric versus polymeric forms of salivary IgA1 to Ro can discriminate sicca from Sjögren's patients using saliva samples.