



Pilot Research Grant:

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Project Title: Metabolic Profiles of Salivary and Epidermal Biomarkers for Sjögren's Diagnosis

Abstract

The current diagnostic methods of Sjögren's patients pose diverse challenges to the patients, dentists and oral medicine experts. Sjögren's is an autoimmune disease that remains undetected for a long period while continue to develop. Due to the association with other systemic disorders, Sjögren's diagnosis by clinical findings and objective tests requires the development of additional techniques for the accurate identification of this disease. The goal of this study is to define epidermal and salivary metabolic 'fingerprints' that distinctively correlate with Sjögren's diagnosis. The development of a noninvasive method for determining epidermal biomarker profiles has an immense potential to be an applicable and specific diagnostic tool for Sjögren's patients in the dental clinic. This innovative approach may allow for early Sjögren's diagnosis, monitoring disease progression, guiding personalized disease management, and assessing response to upcoming pharmacologic interventions, all of which will lead to improvement of patients' oral and overall health.