Dynamic Research Grant:

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Project Title: Expanding Our Understanding of the Heterogeneity and Heritability of Sjögren's in Diverse Populations

Abstract
Defining the genetic susceptibility of Sjögren's will offer insights into the dysregulated molecular mechanisms that influence disease pathology and for therapeutic advances. We recently identified 10 novel risk loci associated with Sjögren's of European ancestry (n=~3900 cases). To improve our understanding of how genetic risk loci contribute to disease pathology and clinical heterogeneity, it is critical to increase our discovery power by acquiring a sufficiently large sample size (goal of 10,000 cases) with adequate clinical information for subphenotype analyses. We have several collaborators that have access to well-characterized patients but do not have the necessary infrastructure to extract DNA. The time-sensitive support from the Sjögren's Foundation will facilitate DNA collection from these sites, thus increasing our sample size, and the ancestral diversity and age of the study population. Leveraging the additional genotype and clinical data will enable the identification of additional risk loci and ask critical subphenotype-specific questions.