

December 15, 2020

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Statement by Steven Taylor, President & CEO, Sjögren's Foundation**

The Sjögren's Foundation has been closely following developments regarding a COVID-19 vaccine and has established a COVID-19 Vaccination Committee made up of rheumatology and immunization experts.

This committee is led by Dr. Alan Baer, a leading rheumatologist, chair of the Sjögren's Foundation's Medical and Scientific Advisory Council and Director of the Jerome L. Greene Sjögren's Syndrome Clinic at Johns Hopkins University. The committee and Foundation staff have compiled a list of all current and prospective vaccines, mode of action, side effects and risk factors and are discussing safety and efficacy issues in Sjögren's patients, whether one vaccine might be better than another for our patients, and if vaccination is more urgent for some Sjögren's patients than others.

The health and safety of our patients is our number one priority, and I am extremely proud of the Foundation's ongoing COVID-19 response. Since the start of the pandemic, we have been at the forefront to help guide our patients through the vast amount of information coming out daily and provide the resources needed to navigate COVID-19.

In this vein, the Foundation's committee will continue to review data from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as it approves vaccines for distribution. Once the committee reviews all available information, we will share our findings with you. But for now, and, as these vaccines are new to all of us, we encourage patients to ask their treating physician(s) if a vaccine is right for them and, to make a determination in partnership with their doctor.

As always, the Foundation is here for our patients, and we will continue to do our best sharing the most sound scientific knowledge we have on issues of importance to our patient population.