



High Impact Research Grant:

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Project Title: Mapping the specificity of CD4+ lymphocytes in Sjögren's disease

Abstract

Primary Sjögren disease is an autoimmune disease that affects an estimated 4 million people in the US. Sjögren's disease is characterized by dry eyes, dry mouth, and other systemic manifestations. The cause or causes of Sjögren's are not clearly understood. However, genetic and environmental factors could play a significant role and likely work in concert. One of the hallmarks of the disease is the immune cell infiltration found in the salivary and lacrimal glands. Various observations have implicated these immune cells in the pathogenesis of Sjögren's disease. This proposal seeks to decipher the specificity of these immune cells. Identification of the full breadth of antigens recognized by these T cells can uncover mechanisms that underlie the pathogenesis of the disease and revolutionize approaches to disease diagnosis and prognosis, ultimately leading to the development of various immunomodulatory therapies.