

## Biennial report

### Study Groups

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#### **Title of the study group: eSSential : Sjogren's syndrome (European Sjogren's Syndrome Experimental and Translational Investigative Alliance)**

Study Group Leader's name: Francesca Barone, Tim Radstake, Fai Ng.

Date of annual report submission: April 2017

#### **Summary of last year's activities:**

ESSential represents a novel initiative aimed at creating a network of basic researchers and clinicians interested in Sjögren's Syndrome and promote research initiatives, facilitating international collaboration and interaction.

In the past two years ESSential has provided a platform to integrate, upscale and validate studies performed in single cohorts in Europe.

#### **Meetings:**

Essential members have met for the past 2 years at EULAR and ACR with a good attendance by the Sjogren's community. Whilst encountering few obstacles at the set up, the meetings have been successful in integrating and facilitating interaction between the different groups. This platform has facilitate the communication and integration of international projects.

Essential members have been also meeting at the SICCA meeting in Norway, where an oral presentation illustrating the group activities took place and, informally, at the BAFFT meeting in Oklahoma in 2016.

Those meeting have provided a novel platform for the Sjogren's community to exchange ideas and data. Essential members have been able to communicate and integrate projects upscaling national or small international projects to larger collaborative efforts.

#### **Current activities:**

##### ***Translational :***

Members of eSSential are currently involved in the preparation of an application for an **Integrated Training Network** to be submitted, on behalf of the group in the H2020 call in 2018.

Several members of Essential are involved in **Harmonics**, a large European grant awarded to Salvatore De Vita and Athanasios Tziufas to standardise data and sample collection in extijng European cohorts.

##### ***Clinical substudy group:***

Lead by Raphaele Seror

This group is focused on 2 areas:

The first project is aimed to refine the clinical endpoint to be used in clinical trials, analyzing the performance of the ESSDAI domains in closed clinical trials.

The second project is aimed to produce a predictive score for lymphoma development. The merging of large number of European cohorts , obtained within Harmonics will provide the platform to develop this score.

### **Ultrasound sub study group**

Lead by Valerie Devauchelle Pensec:

This subgroup, already recognised as Ultrasound study group ( established in 2012), is driving the initiative to integrate the use of ultrasonography in the diagnostic criteria for Sjogren's syndrome. This group has been associated to Essential in 2015.

In order to establish the use of US as diagnostic tool, the group is undergoing a large multicentric consensus study , following OMERACT guidelines. Several abstracts on this work have been submitted to EULAR 2017.

### **Future development:**

The eSSential study group aims to increase the frequency of the meetings and to stimulate a larger participation of the Sjogren's community to the EWRR. This item will be raised during the study group meeting at EULAR 2017.

### **Scientific outcome:**

Both clinical and translational initiatives have found a setting in the study group and preliminar results on the US studies lead by Valerie Devauchelle Pensec and Raphaele Seror have been submitted as abstartc to the annual meeting at EULAR. On publication on behalf of the Stydy group has been accepted in Annals Rheumatic Disease and others are in preparation.

**Standardisation of labial salivary gland histopathology in clinical trials in primary Sjögren's syndrome.** Fisher BA, Jonsson R, Daniels T, Bombardieri M, Brown RM, Morgan P, Bombardieri S, Ng WF, Tzioufas AG, Vitali C, Shirlaw P, Haacke E, Costa S, Bootsma H, Devauchelle-Pensec V, Radstake TR, Mariette X, Richards A, Stack R, Bowman SJ, Barone F; Sjögren's histopathology workshop group from **eSSENTIAL (EULAR Sjögren's syndrome study group)**. **Ann Rheum Dis. 2016 Dec 13.**