

## eSSential – EULAR Sjogren’s Syndrome Experimental aNd Translational Investigative Alliance Study Group

This study group focuses on **experimental and translational research in Sjogren’s Syndrome**. We aim to focus on research areas where synergistic collaboration between groups is eSSential to acquire a better understanding of a complex disease like SS.

### Overall aims:

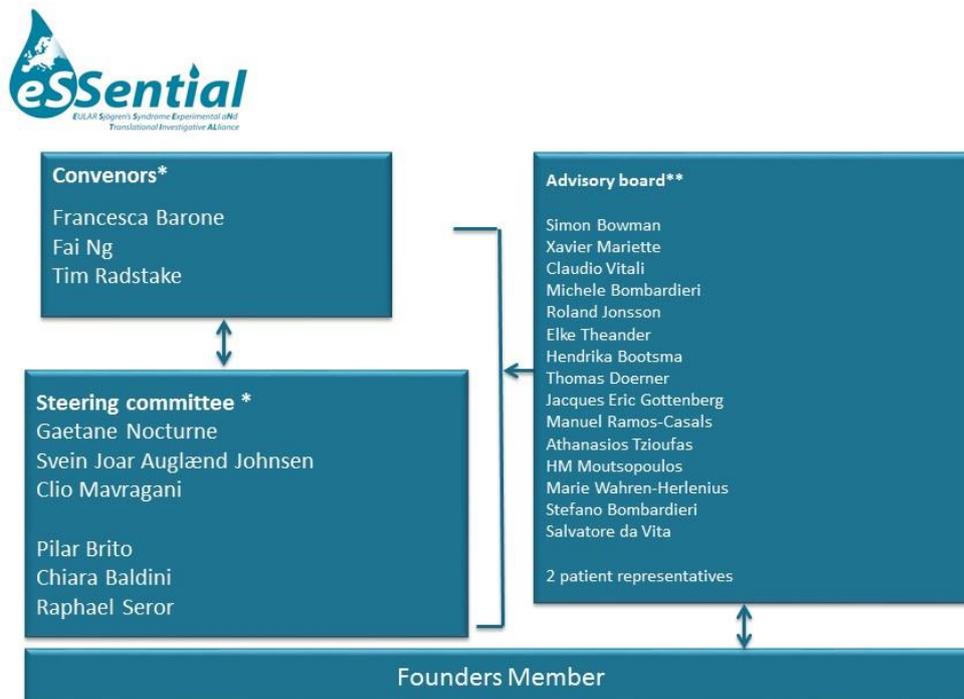
The eSSential study group aims to better understand SS pathogenesis and optimize the identification of novel therapeutic pathways by:

1. Promoting the sharing of knowledge, tools and expertise in experimental and translational research among scientists and clinicians with an interest/expertise in SS.
2. Facilitating top quality synergistic collaborative research initiatives that will harness the existing strengths of SS researchers/institutions in Europe
3. Consolidating and expand the experimental and translational research network in SS in Europe and beyond
4. Identifying research priorities +/- strategy development to address key research questions

### General setup:

Network of researchers and clinicians interested in Sjogren’s Syndrome aimed to promote research initiatives and facilitate interaction at European level and international collaboration.

### Proposed organization and communication:



\* to be elected every 5 years, to meet at EWRR, EULAR and EULAR house as required by program of work

\*\* to meet at EULAR Meeting annually

**Membership:** Open to all EU researchers and patient representatives.

**Organisation:** Steering committee for coordinating the operational matters of “ESSENTIAL” including reporting, meeting organization etc.

**Communications:** The group will meet face-to-face at EULAR, EWRR and ISSS. Additional communication methods for the group as well as the research initiatives will include e-mail, workshops, teleconferences.

***Possible research initiatives:***

1. Standardization of salivary biopsy reporting. Development of standardized measurements to use salivary gland biopsies as outcome in clinical trials
2. Develop core dataset for SS cohorts
3. Inventory of SS cohorts and biomedical resources (including “omic” datasets) across Europe
4. Biomarker discovery
5. Systems biology
6. Develop “recommended” standard operation procedures for the “biobanking” or collection of biological samples

**The founding members of sSSential are:**

Francesca Barone (f.barone@bham.ac.uk)

Fai NG (wan-fai.ng@newcastle.ac.uk)

Tim Radstake ([T.R.D.J.Radstake@umcutrecht.nl](mailto:T.R.D.J.Radstake@umcutrecht.nl))

Study group lead: Prof. Athanasios G. Tzioufas (agtzi@med.uoa.gr)  
please contact him for any further information.