

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:

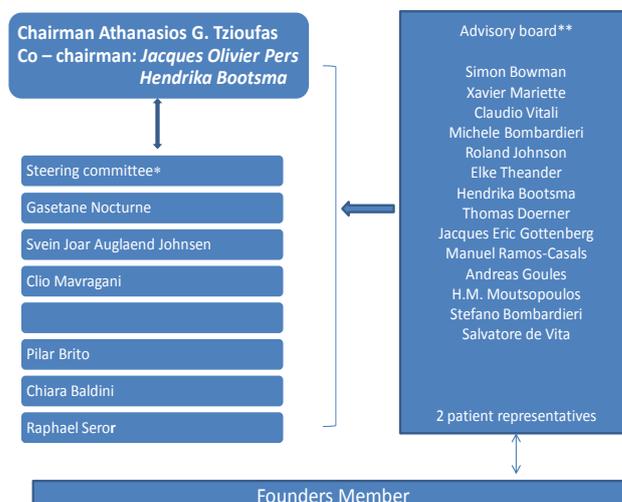
The eSSential study group aims to better understand SS pathogenesis, define biomarkers and optimize the identification of novel therapeutic pathways by:

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,
5. Support and disseminate knowledge from large reasearch networks in Europe and abroad, devote to Sjoren’s syndrome
6. Developing common strategic plans with EULAR-PARE and particularly the newly founded SS-Europe.

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 and ISSS. Additional communication methods for the group as well as the research initiatives will include e-mail, workshops, teleconferences.

Research initiatives:

1. Develop core dataset for SS cohorts
2. Definition of clinical phenotypes of Sjogren’s syndrome, based on large intergrted cohorts.
3. Define universal accepted prediciton models for lymphomagenesis.
4. Develop “standard operation procedures for the “collection and storage of biological samples
5. Standardization of salivary biopsy reporting. Development of standardized measurements to use salivary gland biopsies as outcome in clinical trials
6. Validation of old and discovery of new biomarkers
7. Application of system biology approached into the clinical setting.

The founding members of sSSential are:

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