



2026 DYNAMIC GRANT

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Preservation of the Sjögren's International Collaborative Clinical Alliance (SICCA) Biorepository and Dissemination Plan

Abstract: We are applying for a 6-month Dynamic Award from the Sjögren's Foundation to provide bridge funding to maintain the Sjögren's International Collaborative Clinical Alliance (SICCA) biorepository and continue our ongoing dissemination plan until a new NIH grant would be funded, presumably on December 1, 2026. The current government shutdown has prevented us from receiving bridge funding as of December 1, 2026 through an R56 mechanism from NIDCR, although we anticipate such bridge funding to become available as of July 1, 2026. The SICCA Dissemination Plan, which has been ongoing for more than 15 years, enables scientists worldwide to request biospecimens from the SICCA biorepository that contains over 100,000 specimens, and comprehensive phenotypic data for uniquely detailed characterization of the specimens. To-date, 84 letters of intent and 72 applications have been submitted with request for data and/or biospecimens, with the majority approved and disseminated. Nearly all applications were submitted starting in 2010, thus about 5 projects per year have utilized SICCA data and/or specimens to advance the SjD scientific research agenda in various ways during the past 15 years. In addition to the maintenance of the biorepository and the continuation of the dissemination plan, we are also hoping to support a modest percent effort of a data scientist currently working on single nuclei RNA sequencing (snRNA-seq) analyses so we can complete the corresponding manuscript in 2026, and make snRNA-seq data available, together with our single cell RNA sequencing data in PBMCs, to the broader scientific community of SjD researchers.

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