



513 Parnassus Avenue  
Box 0430  
San Francisco, CA  
94143-0430  
tel: 415/476-1323  
fax: 415/476-4226

School of Dentistry

Source: Cameron Heffernan 415-502-7179  
E-mail: heffernanc@dentistry.ucsf.edu  
Web: <http://dentistry.ucsf.edu>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October, 23, 2003

**UCSF SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY RECEIVES \$11.9 MILLION CONTRACT FOR STUDY OF IMMUNOLOGIC DISEASE CALLED SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME**

A recent award totaling \$11.9 million over five years from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and the National Eye Institute to the UCSF School of Dentistry will allow the creation of the Sjögren's International Clinical Collaborative Alliance (SICCA), an international registry network for Sjögren's ("SHOW-grens") syndrome (SS).

SS is a chronic disease in which the immune system prominently attacks the salivary and lacrimal (tear) glands. The hallmark symptoms are dry eyes and dry mouth, but it is a progressive systemic disease, potentially affecting many organs.

"Sjögren's Syndrome affects as many as four million Americans, approximately one in every 100 members of the adult population. Nine out of ten affected by SS are women," said Dr. Troy Daniels, DDS, MS, one of two principle investigators.

"SICCA will benefit significant numbers of Americans and others around the world who suffer from the chronic symptoms and complications of SS," he added.

Patients with primary SS often experience progressive damage to the glands, leading to oral or ocular infections or other complications, in addition to the development of autoantibodies in their blood stream. The immune mechanisms causing SS are similar to those causing rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus. In fact, a secondary form of SS can develop in some patients who already have those, or related diseases. In patients with primary SS, other organ systems, such as the liver, kidneys or lungs, can become involved and, on rare occasions, may progress to malignant lymphoma.

SICCA will establish standardized objective diagnostic criteria for Sjögren's syndrome, collect clinical data and biospecimens from Sjögren's syndrome patients and their families and create a clinical data and tissue bank to facilitate future research projects on the cause, mechanisms, prevention, and treatment of this disease.

The two Principal Investigators on the project, Daniels and Dr. John Greenspan, DDS, PhD, have collaborated on various studies for many years. The creation of SICCA builds on more than 30 years of work in the UCSF Sjögren's Syndrome Clinic, co-founded by Daniels in 1972, and on over 20 years of specimen-banking work by Dr. Greenspan and his team, who established the ongoing UCSF AIDS Specimen Bank in 1982.

Patients will be admitted to the SICCA registry at five participating clinical centers worldwide, where data and specimens will be collected and transmitted to the project coordinating center at UCSF. "With this approach, groups of scientists across the world will

(more)

end up using the same ways of approaching this surprisingly common disease,” Dr. Greenspan said.

“The patient benefits from SICCA will come from having improved diagnostic criteria to better identify this disease, and from research projects that will be supported by the availability of this clinical data and biospecimens,” said Greenspan.

Greenspan and Daniels are joined in this project by Judy Borland; Yvonne De Souza, MSc; Deborah Greenspan, BDS, DSc; Richard Jordan, DDS, PhD; Caroline Shiboski, DDS, PhD and Dr. Ava Wu, DDS of the UCSF School of Dentistry. Esteban Burchard, MD; Lindsey Criswell, MD, MPH; Kenneth Sack, MD; Stephen Shiboski, PhD and Jack Whitcher, MD, MPH are additional participants from the UCSF School of Medicine.

Additional lead collaborators from the participating international clinics are Hector Lanfranchi, DDS, PhD, University of Buenos Aires; Yi Dong, MD, Peking Union Medical College; Morten Schiødt, DDS, PhD, Copenhagen County University Hospital and Susumu Sugai, MD, PhD, Kanazawa Medical University, Japan.

External consultants joining the project are Stephen Pflugfelder, MD, Baylor University; Austin Mircheff, PhD, University of Southern California; Kathy Moser, PhD, University of Minnesota;

The UCSF School of Dentistry was established as the College of Dentistry by the Regents of the University of California on September 7, 1881. Professional programs currently offered by the school include a four-year program that leads to the Doctor of Dental Surgery degree; a two-year program that leads to the Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene; and postgraduate programs in advanced general dentistry, dental public health, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontology, prosthodontics, and a general practice residency. For more information, log on to <http://dentistry.ucsf.edu/>.