



Sjögren's UK

Research Strategy July 2025

Background

Sjögren's UK is a charity dedicated to providing support and information to individuals affected by Sjögren's Disease (SD).

Since 2004 the charity has offered grant awards of variable value, funding research into the causes and treatment of Sjögren's Disease as allowed for under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

This document aims to set out the principles regarding the strategic priorities for current and future research grant funding.

Timeframe & Stakeholders

It is intended that this (revised) document will cover the period up to February 2028. Stakeholders include the clinical/scientific community interested in the field of Sjögren's Disease and members of Sjögren's UK i.e. patients, family members and others.

Following approval by the charity's Trustees, the Research Strategy and Policy documents will be available on the Sjögren's UK website.

Objectives

The objectives are to fund research that:

- Is of high quality
- Adds value by pump priming a pilot project leading to a full application for a larger award elsewhere or contributes critical funds towards a larger project
- Makes a difference to patient care
- Encourages an established or new researcher to develop an interest in the area of Sjögren's Disease
- Will lead to a publication(s) or otherwise increase awareness of Sjögren's Disease or Sjögren's UK as a result of the research



- Will reflect a balance between basic science and clinical research
- Will reflect a balance between different disciplines, to reflect the systemic nature of the disease
- Will support research by clinicians, scientists and allied health professionals if they meet the criteria set out in the Research Policy

To meet these objectives, the Research Review Committee will assess applications for funding against the following criteria: an evaluation of the individual/group proposing to carry out the research, an evaluation of the scientific merit of the application and an evaluation of the likelihood of impactful research furthering knowledge and understanding of Sjögren's Disease and/or the potential to benefit those affected by the disease.

Priorities

The Trustees may, from time to time, set out priorities for funding. Any priorities will be reviewed before each funding round is announced and may be changed in accordance with the Trustees' view of the most effective allocation of available funds.

Partnerships and Relationships

We believe Sjögren's UK to be the only charity dedicated to offering research grants solely for Sjögren's Disease. Other UK charities such as Versus Arthritis may offer research grants for Sjögren's Disease, if the applications meet their criteria.

Sjögren's UK consider it desirable to partner with other charities to offer joint awards, where this meets the charity's criteria. To this end, the level of grant funding may change in different funding rounds. Such opportunities will be on an ad-hoc basis and be agreed by the Board of trustees as and when the situation arises.

Evaluation of the current research portfolio (impact & quality of applicants)

The current scheme under the terms of the Research Policy was started in 2004. It has been successful in attracting suitable applicants and grants have been awarded following a competitive review process.



Sjögren's UK

Publicising the scheme/timetable of awards

The grant funding scheme may be advertised in appropriate journals/newsletters in the fields of ophthalmology, oral medicine/surgery and rheumatology and through fliers at appropriate national events/conferences, posted on the Sjögren's UK website and circulated via social media channels.

The timetable for the funding award round is currently as follows:

February - April	Funding round launched
June - July	Closing date for applications
July - September	Research Review Committee assess the applications and make a recommendation to the Trustees
September - October	Trustees & Chair of the Medical Advisory Board (if not conflicted) review the recommendations Trustees formally decide on the award(s)
October	Funding award(s) announced at the Sjögren's UK Annual Patient Conference

Public support (fundraising, donations and legacies)

Ongoing funds are required to expand the research role of Sjögren's UK. The charity aims to award a research grant annually and reviews the amount awarded dependant on available financial resources.

Revised: Jul 2025

To be reviewed: Feb 2028