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2026 National Patient Conference

The Sjögren's Foundation® 2026 National Patient Conference

Friday, April 10th – 12:30pm - 5:00pm (ET)
Saturday, April 11th – 12:30pm - 4:30pm (ET)

The Sjögren's Foundation invites you to join us for an exciting and empowering two-day virtual experience at the 2026 National Patient Conference! This year, on April 10th and 11th, we will come together to connect and learn so you can thrive while living with Sjögren's disease.

The National Patient Conference is the Sjögren's Foundation's largest educational event, bringing together patients and talented medical experts to provide the latest information about Sjögren's disease and how to manage symptoms.

Participate from the comfort of your home while still benefiting from live expert sessions, Q&As, and patient community connections.

This year's event will cover:

- Our foundational program, **Overview of Sjögren's Disease**
- A review of the 2025 **Living with Sjögren's**® patient survey

- How Sjögren's affects the gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, and pulmonary systems
- Oral and ocular management
- A review of our new Peripheral Nervous System Clinical Practice Guideline
- Sjögren's research presented by Sjögren's Foundation Research Grant recipients

A popular cornerstone of the Sjögren's Foundation conference experience is the chance to have your questions answered by experts. At the end of our clinical sessions, you will have the opportunity to ask our speakers questions about their presentation topics. We are also excited to announce that we will be bringing back the popular "Chat with a Doc" session featuring Dr. Donald Thomas!

We look forward to seeing you at this year's conference! Come to connect with other Sjögren's patients, learn from experts, and gain the knowledge you need to thrive with Sjögren's disease!



Register today at
sjogrens.org/npc

Day one – Friday, April 10th (All times are Eastern Time)

12:30pm Welcome and Opening Remarks



Janet E. Church
Sjögren's Foundation President & CEO

12:40pm Overview of Sjögren's Disease



Sara McCoy, MD, PhD
Dr. McCoy will present a comprehensive review of Sjögren's disease, including the range of symptoms patients experience. She will give special attention to the difficulties that can occur in diagnosis and the symptom presentations not covered in the other conference presentations.

1:30pm Oral Manifestations in Sjögren's



José Maldonado-Ortiz, DDS, PhD
Understanding the daily care needed to minimize the impact on your oral health is critical for Sjögren's patients. Approximately 93% of patients report experiencing symptoms associated with dry mouth, and report that dental care is their largest medical expense. Dr. Maldonado-Ortiz will cover the range of issues that can be caused by dry mouth and offer recommendations for successful management.

2:10pm Exhibit Hall Open!

Attendees can visit our exhibit hall and talk with company representatives from our sponsors to learn how they support Sjögren's patients!

2:30pm Your Gastrointestinal System and Sjögren's



Lucinda Harris, MD
Dr. Harris will discuss the different gastrointestinal issues associated with Sjögren's including dysmotility, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), gastroparesis, IBS, and more. This session will help you understand how to decipher your symptoms and get the correct care and treatment needed for best management.

3:10pm Foundation Update



Janet E. Church
Sjögren's Foundation President & CEO
Janet will discuss the exciting mission-focused work at the Foundation. The Sjögren's field is advancing! Learn how the Foundation is meeting the challenge to ensure patients' needs are met. Janet will also present data from the 2025 *Living with Sjögren's*® patient survey!

3:40pm Community Connections!

Attendees can join one of our virtual conference communities and visit with other Sjögren's patients to connect, share and learn!

4:10pm Cardiovascular Health and Sjögren's



Teja Kapoor, MD
Dr. Kapoor will discuss how Sjögren's can impact the cardiovascular system. She will highlight how symptoms related to Sjögren's may present and current management and treatment options for keeping your cardiovascular system protected and healthy.

Day two – Saturday, April 11th *(All times are Eastern Time)*

12:30pm Opening Remarks



Janet E. Church
Sjögren's Foundation President & CEO

2:15pm Pulmonary Manifestations of Sjögren's



Nishant Gupta, MD
Dr. Gupta will present the different potential pulmonary and respiratory manifestations of Sjögren's, such as cystic and interstitial lung diseases. He will also highlight early signs of pulmonary issues and discuss when to see a specialist.

12:35pm Stepping through the New Peripheral Nervous System (PNS) Guideline



Arun Varadhachary, MD, PhD
Dr. Varadhachary will discuss why clinical practice guidelines are important and will step us through the new Sjögren's Foundation PNS Clinical Practice Guideline. He will also offer suggestions on how to work with your healthcare provider to address the neurological impacts of Sjögren's.

2:55pm Community Connections!

Join one of our virtual conference communities and visit with other Sjögren's patients to connect, share, and learn!

2:55pm Chat with a Doc



Donald Thomas, MD, FACP, FACR
This session runs for one hour, concurrent with other programming, and allows attendees to ask Dr. Thomas questions about Sjögren's. This session is not meant to offer personal medical advice; however, he will answer general medical questions related to Sjögren's.

1:15pm Ocular Manifestations in Sjögren's



Anat Galor, MD, MSPH
Approximately 95% of Sjögren's patients experience dry eye. In this session, Dr. Galor will explain how Sjögren's impacts the eyes and what you need to know to manage dryness and protect your vision. She will discuss the tests your doctor may perform and the available treatments to help keep your eyes as healthy as possible. Dr. Galor will also share information about the neuro-ocular connection in Sjögren's disease.

3:15pm Research Grant: Bioengineered Multifunctional Organ-Chips for Innervated Sjögren's Disease Modeling



Abigail Koppes, PhD
Dr. Koppes, a 2024 Sjögren's Foundation Research Grant Award recipient, will present her Foundation-funded research on dysautonomia, gastrointestinal dysfunction, and neurological complications in Sjögren's disease. She will discuss how innovative microphysiological "organ-chip" models, developed by her laboratory, will allow researchers to study neuroimmune interactions and how autoantibodies and inflammation affect peripheral and central nervous system function. She will also discuss real-time optical sensing technologies that monitor neural activity and may advance understanding of NeuroSjögren's and targeted therapy development.

1:55pm Exhibit Hall Open!

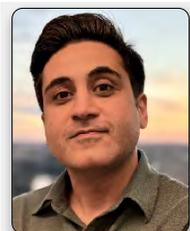
Take a break and visit our exhibit hall to talk with company representatives and learn more about our great sponsors!

Day two – Saturday, April 11th (All times are Eastern Time)

3:45pm Understanding the Immune System in Sjögren's Disease

Join us for a short video that will provide a simple, and high-level overview of how the immune system works and what happens when it becomes dysregulated in Sjögren's disease.

3:50pm Epitope Mapping Research Grant: What T Cells Recognize in Sjögren's Disease



Mohammad Haj-Dezfulian, PhD

Dr. Haj-Dezfulian is a 2022 Sjögren's Foundation Research Grant Award recipient. His research uses new high-throughput tools to map what T cells recognize in Sjögren's disease. In this session, he will share findings from his Foundation-funded work, explain

how identifying T cell targets can enable more mechanistic studies of disease, and discuss how this approach may inform future diagnostics and more personalized therapies.

4:20pm Conference Recap and Closing Remarks



Janet E. Church
Sjögren's Foundation President & CEO

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Sjögren's Foundation® 2026 National Patient Conference

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1

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2

FEES – please check appropriate fee

Discount Code _____

Members: \$80 If registering online, you must use the discount code emailed to all members to receive discount.

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Non-Members: \$100



3

PAYMENT – Mail to Sjögren's Foundation, 10701 Parkridge Blvd., Suite 170, Reston, VA 20191

Enclosed is a check or money order (in U.S. funds only, drawn on a U.S. bank, net of all bank charges) payable to Sjögren's Foundation.

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sjogrens.org/npc

QUESTIONS?

Call 301-530-4420 or email us at info@sjogrens.org

Please Note

Registrants must have a device with internet access to join the conference.

Recordings of all sessions will be available to registrants for 6 months following the live conference.