



February 23, 2017

RE: Tear Film IgE as a Diagnostic Test

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to write this letter regarding the utility and importance of access to diagnostic assays for ocular allergic diseases. As a clinical researcher in the field of ocular inflammation, with a special expertise in ocular surface diseases, I have a unique perspective on the usefulness of the currently available technology.

There are many conditions that result in ocular surface symptoms, and there is significant overlap in diagnostic features. For example, dry eye, blepharitis, medication toxicity, contact lens-related conjunctivitis and autoimmune conditions such as Sjogrens syndrome may all have similar symptoms and examination findings that can mimic ocular allergic diseases such as allergic conjunctivitis. The ability to accurately diagnose allergic disease can be tremendously helpful in directing therapy; this results in less exposure to ineffective therapy and fewer visits to the provider to establish the correct diagnosis.

I am writing this letter to support the availability of assays to detect tear film IgE, which I feel provide significant value to the physicians and patients with ocular surface diseases. I have no relevant conflict of interests to disclose, and have received no direct or indirect funding from any entities related to this topic. My research on ocular inflammation has been funded by the NIH-National Eye Institute, Research to Prevent Blindness, and the Johns Hopkins University/KKESH grant program, but these statements are my own professional opinion and may not reflect those of my supporting institutions.

I would be happy to discuss this matter and provide my insight at any time.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald U. Stone".

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