



IgG4ward! EuroJAM Key Takeaways & Viewing Guide: Accompanying Dr. John Stone's "History and Evolution of IgG4-Related Disease"

Importance of this talk:

For many people living with IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD), the diagnosis often raises difficult questions.

Where did this disease come from? Why did it take so long to recognize? How has our understanding evolved over time?

In the opening keynote of the IgG4ward! EuroJAM, **Dr. John Stone** explores the remarkable journey that led to the recognition of **IgG4-RD** as a distinct disease and reflects on the progress that has transformed the field over the past two decades.

This guide **highlights** key themes from the presentation and provides a roadmap for viewers as they watch the keynote.

Key Takeaways

- **IgG4-RD is a newly recognized disease - not a new disease**
 - One of the central themes of Dr. Stone's presentation is that IgG4-RD has likely existed for generations. Physicians documented manifestations of the disease for more than a century before researchers were able to connect the pieces and recognize a common underlying condition.
- **Medical clues were hidden in different specialties**
 - For decades, physicians encountered patients with symptoms affecting different organs and body systems. Because these

manifestations were studied independently, the broader picture remained difficult to see.

- **The discovery of IgG4 changed the field**
 - A breakthrough occurred when researchers identified elevated levels of IgG4 in patients with autoimmune pancreatitis. This finding helped investigators recognize connections between diseases affecting multiple organs and accelerated research worldwide.
- **Progress has accelerated**
 - Dr. Stone highlights how advances in diagnosis, research, international collaboration, and clinical trials have significantly expanded understanding of IgG4-RD in a relatively short period of time.

Three pathways that led to discovery

Dr. Stone describes three major pathways that eventually converged into what we now know as IgG4-related disease:

- Diseases affecting the salivary and tear glands
- Diseases affecting the pancreas and bile ducts
- Fibrotic diseases affecting structures throughout the body

A major focus of the keynote is how these seemingly separate conditions were eventually recognized as manifestations of a single disease.

Watch for these moments in the Keynote

As you watch Dr. Stone's presentation, pay particular attention to:

- **His First Patient**
 - Dr. Stone shares the story of a patient whose case helped launch his own journey into understanding the disease.
- **The History of Mikulicz Disease**
 - Learn how one of the earliest documented clues dates back to the late nineteenth century.

- **The "Crow Flying Through the Dark Night"**
 - Dr. Stone discusses a memorable metaphor developed by Japanese investigators to describe the history of IgG4-related disease.
 - **The Discovery of IgG4**
 - Hear how a critical observation helped connect multiple diseases and change the direction of research.
 - **The Evolution of Treatment**
 - Dr. Stone reviews how treatment approaches have evolved and discusses the progress being made through clinical research.
 - **The Role of Community**
 - The keynote concludes with reflections on the importance of education, advocacy, research, and patient engagement.
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Why This History Matters Today

Understanding how IgG4-RD was discovered helps explain why diagnosis has historically been challenging and why awareness remains so important.

The history of the disease also demonstrates how progress can occur when researchers, clinicians, patients, caregivers, and advocates work together toward a common goal.

As Dr. Stone notes throughout his presentation, significant advances have been made in understanding the disease, while important questions continue to drive ongoing research.

Continue Learning

Whether you are newly diagnosed, supporting a loved one, or seeking to deepen your understanding of IgG4-related disease, the **IgG4ward! Academy** offers educational resources developed specifically for patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.

Explore disease education modules, expert-led learning content, and updates on research and treatment developments.

Learn more at www.igg4ward.org

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Medical disclaimer - educational purposes only

The information contained in this guide is intended for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

The content reflects key themes discussed during Dr. John Stone's presentation, *History and Evolution of IgG4-Related Disease*, and is provided as a companion educational resource.

Individuals should always consult their physician or qualified healthcare provider regarding any questions about their medical condition, diagnosis, treatment options, or healthcare decisions.

Never disregard professional medical advice or delay seeking medical care because of information contained in this publication.
