Myositis specific and myositis associated antibodies have become an important part of the diagnostic process for inflammatory myositis. There remains healthy skepticism about their relevance and utility in inflammatory myopathies. These antibodies not only contribute to diagnostic certainty for inflammatory myopathies, but provide prognostic aspects to the diagnosis and help with selective treatment paradigms. These antibodies, along with our emerging knowledge of myopathological differences in various inflammatory myopathies, are helping redefine the way inflammatory myopathies are classified.