



INTERNATIONAL ECZEMA COUNCIL

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Committees Advance the IEC Mission

Letter from the IEC President



One of the IEC's key assets is the diversity of our Council. Our 145 Council members:

- Work in 32 countries in 6 regions
- Are at different stages in their careers—one of the reasons that someone might join as an Associate vs. a Councilor.
- Focus on research, clinical work, or a combination of the two.
- Work for different types of employers or facilities in governmental, academic, corporate, and nonprofit settings.

That diversity is a real asset. It brings a wealth of perspectives, experiences, and ideas that can significantly increase our effectiveness and innovation...but only if someone is listening to your voices.

Our Councilor and Associate meetings have always been a great place to have your say. Those who aren't able to attend or don't want to introduce an idea in front of that much of the Council have always been encouraged to share their ideas with our **committees** and **staff**. **CEO Alan Stiles** includes his email in every symposium program guide so you can easily reach out with ideas, questions, and feedback.

To ensure I can benefit from that diversity as I guide the Council, I recently completed a listening tour with each member of the **IEC Board of Directors**.

During a listening tour, you actively seek out and listen to other people's opinions, concerns, and ideas. It was a great way for me to gather information, strengthen relationships, and gain a deeper understanding of our Board members' concerns and priorities as they relate to the IEC.

I encourage each of you to share your thoughts, needs, and ideas with leadership and staff—at in-person events, via email, and through committee postings. We also need your ideas for potential projects and publication topics.

If you've held back on making suggestions—we continue to urge you to contact the IEC with your ideas. We're always moving forward and growing, and your ideas and opinions can help us learn through new projects and continue to publish important research.

The listening and engaging I've done so far through one-on-one conversations with our board has already generated new ideas. I look forward to sharing them with you when we bring them to the table.

Looking Ahead to 2025 Symposia

We've officially wrapped the final IEC symposium of 2024. You'll read more about our symposia at EADV and ESDR later in this newsletter.

I'm incredibly proud of the education we presented in 2024—and the 2025 symposia schedule we recently announced. We presented at six major world dermatology and allergy meetings on three continents, including our first appearance at the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Congress.

We also partnered with the International Psoriasis Council for an excellent symposium at ESDR. This collaboration enabled us to draw on more experts and make comparisons between atopic dermatitis and psoriasis.

We make our education as accessible as we can by presenting at diverse meetings and locations, removing registration costs when possible, and sharing free recordings of symposia at eczemacouncil.org/on-demand-webcasts, which gives

you easy access to our [IEC Learning Center on YouTube](#). As you likely noticed, we're much more active on all the IEC social channels, and we hope you'll continue to engage with us there and to like and share our content!

In 2025, we will again present six symposia in conjunction with major world dermatology and allergy meetings. Check out the schedule and details (when available) at eczemacouncil.org/symposia. I urge you to join us at our symposia whenever you can—or to volunteer as a presenter!

Alan Irvine, MD DSc

IEC President

Make Plans to Join the IEC at our 2025 Symposia



The Impact of Environmental, Food, and Contact Allergies on Atopic Dermatitis

February 27 at AAAAI/WAO

San Diego, CA, USA



Converging Pathways: Atopic Dermatitis and Alopecia Areata

March 6 at AAD Global Education Day

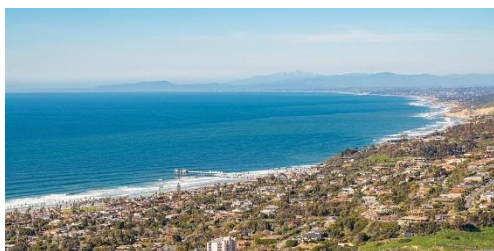
Orlando, FL, USA



Lessons Learned: Practical Strategies for Preventing, Treating, and Managing Atopic Dermatitis in Pediatric Populations

April 7 at WCPD

Buenos Aires, Argentina



Multinomics

Date TBD (May 7-10) at SID

San Diego, CA, USA



The Impact of Environmental, Food, and Contact Allergies on Atopic Dermatitis

Date TBD (June 13-16) at EAACI

Glasgow, Scotland, UK



Atopic Dermatitis & Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (CTCL)

Date TBD (Sept. 17-20) at EADV

Paris, France

Fellowship Program Expands and Applications Increase



The IEC Fellowship Program continues to grow!

Last quarter, we announced two new IEC Fellows—**Vijaytha Muralidharan, MD MRCP (UK)** and **Mariana L. Guzmán, MD**. Both were chosen for US Clinical Fellowships with IEC cofounder **Dr. Amy Paller, MD**. Dr. Muralidharan’s fellowship was funded through a grant from Pfizer, and the IEC funded Dr. Guzmán’s fellowship.

IEC Fellow Arbie Sofia Merilleno, MD, discusses her fellowship at the IEC Councilor, Associate, and Industry Meeting in Amsterdam.

We also announced that IEC Fellow **Arbie Sofia Merilleno, MD**, had begun her the MDRI IEC Canadian Research Fellowship with **Aaron Drucker, MD**.

She presented a poster about her work with Dr. Drucker at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology Congress and discussed it at the IEC Councilor, Associate, and Industry meeting held during the EADV meeting.

The IEC Board has approved the next two IEC Fellows after accepting applications for two new fellowships: the IEC International Clinical Fellowship and the IEC International Research Fellowship. We look forward to sharing the details with you once the decisions have been finalized. The competition was fierce, and this round of Fellowships received a record-setting number of applications.

[Learn More about IEC Fellowships and Fellows](#)

New Additions Grow Council to 145 Members

The Board of Directors approved the applications of eight new Councilors and four new Associates in July, in addition to promoting three Associates to full Councilor status.

This brings Council membership to **145 individuals from 32 countries in six regions.**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Council.

New IEC Councilors

New IEC Associates:



- **Johann E. Gudjonsson**, MD, USA
- **Peter Lio**, MD, USA
- **Linda F. Stein Gold**, MD, USA
- **Kanokvalai Kulthanan**, MD, Thailand
- **Magdalena Trzeciak**, MD PhD, Poland
- **Donald Y. Leung**, MD PhD, USA
- **Hyeone Kim**, MD PhD, South Korea
- **Elizabeth H. Tham**, MD MCI FAMS, Singapore
- **Mauricio Torres Pradilla**, MD, Colombia
- **Elizabeth A. Kiracofe**, MD FAAD, USA
- **Ricardo Romiti**, MD PhD, Brazil
- **Chan-Ho Na**, MD, South Korea

We also are pleased to announce that the following Associates have met **IEC criteria for Councilor status**:

- **Joseph F. Merola**, MD MMSC FAAD FACR, USA
- **Chang Ook Park**, MD PhD, South Korea
- **Benjamin Ungar**, MD, USA

[Join the IEC](#)

IEC's 21st Publication Focuses on JAK Inhibitors

The IEC is pleased to announce that the *British Journal of Dermatology* published the Council's most recent manuscript, **[A Practical Guide to Using Oral JAK Inhibitors for Atopic Dermatitis from the International Eczema Council](#)**, on September 10.

This is the **[21st article the IEC has published](#)** in a major dermatology or allergy journal.

Lead author Carter Haag, MD, was joined in authoring the article by:

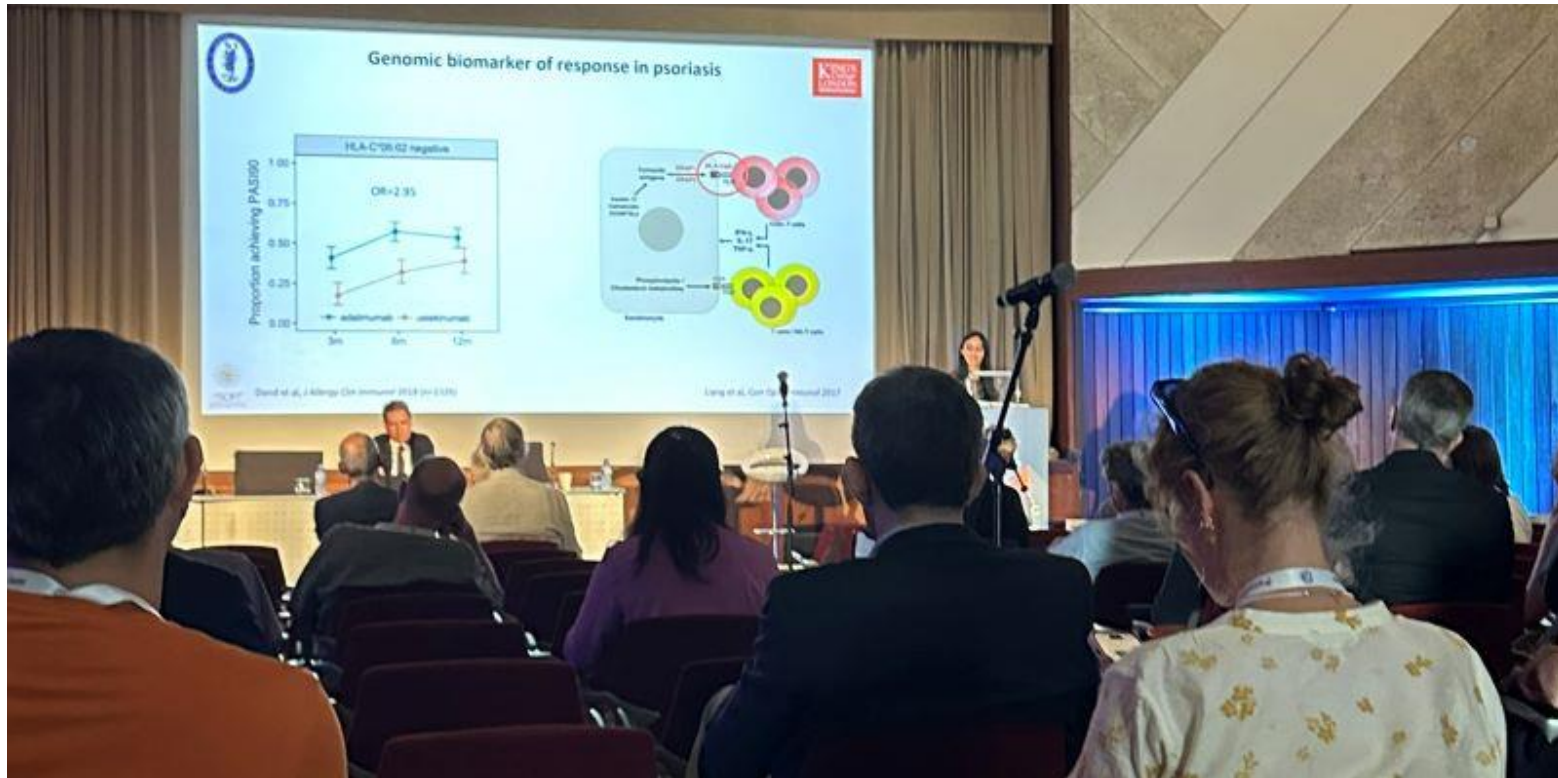
- IEC Councilors **Andrew Alexis, MD MPH; Valeria Aoki, MD PhD; Robert Bissonnette, MD MSc; Andrew Blauvelt, MD; Michael J. Cork, MB PhD; Lawrence Eichenfield, MD; Kilian Eyerich, MD PhD; Melinda Gooderham, MD; Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD PhD; Dirk-Jan Hijnen, MD, PhD; Alan Irvine, MD DSc; Norito Katoh, MD PhD; Dedee F. Murrell, MBCh DSc; Yael A. Leshem, MD MCR; Amy Paller, MD; Yael Renert-Yuval, MD; David Rosmarin, MD; Jonathan Silverberg, MD PhD MPH; Jacob Thyssen, MD PhD DmSci; Sonja Ständer, MD; Gail Todd, MBChB PhD; JiaDe “Jeff” Yu, MD; and Eric Simpson, MD MCR.**
- IEC Associates **Raj Chovatiya, MD PhD, and Raquel L. Orfali, MD PhD.**
- Simon G Danby, PhD; Adriane Levin, MD; Ida Vittrup, MD; Jill I Olydam, MD; and Nick Stefanovic, MSc.

A relatively new treatment for moderate to severe atopic dermatitis, janus kinase inhibitors (JAKinibs) must be fully understood by physicians who prescribe this medication. The article draws on the global expertise of the Council to create a consensus opinion statement that describes a pragmatic approach to prescribing JAKinibs. The authors discuss appropriate patients, dosing, clinical and lab monitoring, and long-term use.

The IEC congratulates the authors and thanks them for helping to further the Council’s mission.

Do you have ideas for manuscripts or research projects? **[Share them with the IEC!](#)** We’re always looking for gaps where more education or research is needed. You need not be a full Councilor or late-career physician to make suggestions! We want to hear from newer members, those practicing in underrepresented areas, and others who may not otherwise share their ideas!

[Read the Open-Access Article](#)



IEC Collaborates with IPC on Symposium at ESDR

The IEC and the International Psoriasis Council (IPC) jointly presented **From Comparative Pathogenesis to Biomarker-Guided Treatments in Psoriasis and Eczema** on September 4 at **European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) Annual Meeting** in Lisbon, Portugal.

Together, our Councils provided the expertise of 10 dermatologists, plus 6 abstract presenters, over 4 hours. The collaboration increased our pool of expert speakers and enabled new connections and comparisons between psoriasis and eczema.

Program chairs Nick Reynolds, BSc MBBS MD FRCP, and Tiago Torres, MD PhD, represented the IEC and Johann Gudjonsson, MD PhD, and Akimichi Morita, MD PhD, represented the IPC during planning of the event. Drs. Gudjonsson and Torres belong to both Councils.

Thank you to all of our speakers and attendees who made this well-attended program possible.

[Watch the Symposium Presentations](#)



Meet the Associate: Raj Chovatiya, MD PhD MSCI



IEC Associate **Raj Chovatiya, MD PhD MSCI**, is clinical associate professor at Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School and founder and director of the Center for Medical Dermatology + Immunology Research in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

His clinical and research focus includes the intersection of cutaneous immunology and inflammatory disease, optimizing patient-centered care, understanding chronic disease burden (especially in understudied inflammatory diseases), exploring health and social disparities, and improving care across diverse skin types.

He has published numerous abstracts and manuscripts and has been nationally and internationally recognized for his contributions as a clinician, educator, researcher, and leader. He received his MD and PhD in immunology from Yale University and completed his residency, postdoctoral research fellowship, and MS in clinical investigation at Northwestern University, where he also served as chief resident.

How does your vision or mission align with the IEC's?

An important goal in my career has always been to elevate standards of care for patients and healthcare providers alike when it comes to atopic dermatitis and eczematous disease in general. To me, that means better understanding disease burden and disparities from the patient perspective and translating these principles utilizing clinical, educational, and research tools to impact the care provided by myself and my colleagues.

What is your proudest accomplishment in the atopic dermatitis (AD) space?

I'm most proud of my contributions to the conversation around heterogeneity as well as uplifting and reframing our views on diversity and disparities in AD.

What do you value most about being involved with the IEC?

Talking nerdy, pushing our field forward, and hanging out with friends? No brainer.

What do you think will garner the most attention over the coming year in this field?

The answer is obvious: more approved therapies with more insightful data! We're poised to double our options in the biologic realm, grow our non-steroidal choices in the topical realm, and discover deeper insights with head-to-head studies featuring our oral therapies. We have a fun year ahead.

What do you see as the biggest need among AD patients?

Will there be a one-size-fits-all systemic therapeutic that can improve both the efficacy and safety established by our first-generation type 2 inflammation blockers? Time will tell—but in the meantime, I'll settle for a better understanding of clinical heterogeneity that allows for choosing the right treatment for the right patient (nearly) every time.

What's the most recent good thing you watched, listened to, or visited?

I'll give you two standout songs from a couple of Chicago's finest MCs who continue to put out stellar hip-hop tracks: *Dreamin'* by Common and Pete Rock and *No.1 Headband* by Lupe Fiasco.

Get to know other Councilors and Associates by reading [past Meet the Councilor features](#).



IEC Wraps Up 2024 Symposia with 'Chronic Hand Eczema' at EADV

Ten speakers presented the IEC's final symposium of 2024: "Chronic Hand Eczema," on September 28 at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology Congress in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Councilors **Robert Bissonnette, MD FRCPC MSc** (IEC immediate past president) and **Tove Agner, MD DMSc**, both chaired the program and spoke. IEC President Alan Irvine, MD DSc, offered the welcome and introduction.

Additional speakers include IEC Councilors **Lawrence Eichenfield, MD** (IEC president elect) and **Sonja Molin, MD**, and Caroline Meyer Olesen, MD PhD; Line Brok Nørreslet, MD PhD; Margarida Gonçalo, MD PhD; Swen Malte John, MD PhD; and Marie Louise Schuttelaar, MD PhD.

A recording of the symposium is now available as on-demand education.

[Watch 'Chronic Hand Eczema'](#)



Robert Bissonnette and Tove Agner chaired the symposium and worked with the faculty presenters, including Swen John Malte (pictured). The IEC also hosted a Councilor, Associate, and Industry Meeting while in Amsterdam, giving Council members and industry partners a chance to reconnect face to face.

Committees Are Advancing IEC's Mission

As you know, IEC President **Alan Irvine** leads the Council, aided by the other 12 members of the Board of Directors. Five to six members of the Board of Directors comprise each of two additional committees: the Executive Committee and the Nominating Committee.

- The Executive Committee comprises the board's Officers and up to four committee chairs, playing a lead role in developmental efforts.

- The Nominating Committee, populated by the officers and additional board members, meets yearly to identify, screen, and review nominees for vacant Board of Director positions.

Five additional committees are active within the IEC. **Each committee has a charge and a chair who is a member of the Board of Directors.**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Chair **Valeria Aoki**, Cochair **Nick J. Reynolds**

Previously known as the Meetings Committee, this group discusses and determines priorities for IEC participation in global dermatology conferences and congresses and appoints the themes and chairs for these meetings, in addition to guiding other time-limited educational projects and grants.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Chair **Melinda Gooderham**

This committee reviews applications for councilors and associates for recommendation to the Board and reviews membership criteria, including ongoing review and termination.

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE: Chair **Kevin Cooper**

Led by IEC's Treasurer, this committee monitors the IEC's finances, approves the annual budget, and reviews the financial audit.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE: Cochair **Katrina Abuabara**, Cochair **Patrick Brunner**

Formed in 2021, this committee develops IEC research activities, including surveys, manuscripts, and atopic dermatitis research priorities, and makes recommendations for topics addressed during Councilor, Associate, and Industry Partner meetings.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Chair **Robert Bissonette**

This committee reviews applications for clinical and research fellowships through the IEC Fellowship Program.

The chairs welcome suggestions for their committee's work, and Council members are always encouraged to consider joining committees whose work is of interest to them. All Council members are eligible to join committees. If you would like to contribute to a committee, please [contact Alan Stiles at astiles@eczemacouncil.org](mailto:astiles@eczemacouncil.org).

Is Your Corporate Logo Missing?

Become an IEC supporter to get your company the recognition it deserves!
Contact CEO Alan Stiles to find out how you can partner with our Council.



IEC Welcomes New Corporate Partner

Almirall has become a [corporate supporter of the Council](#), joining our Councilor's Council.

Partnership with industry companies that share our goals enables the IEC to advance its mission and vastly improve the quality of life for AD patients around the world. Almirall joins:

- **President's Council:** Abbvie and Pfizer
- **Executive Council:** Lilly and Leo
- **Director's Council:** Amgen, Dermavant, Galderma, Kyowa Kirin, and Sanofi
- **Councilor's Council:** Almirall, AnaptysBio, Arcutis, and Incyte.

If you're a member of industry but your company isn't on our list of supporters, learn more about [the opportunities of IEC partnership](#) and [reach out to CEO Alan Stiles](#) to learn more.

Are you a physician that works with a company that should become a corporate member? Send them to <https://www.eczemacouncil.org/corporate-membership> or [contact CEO Alan Stiles](#) with a company name and contact.

The IEC is deeply committed to AD research and education and is seeking collaborators who share our vision of one unified voice across the patient, payor, and medical communities. Corporate sponsors contribute unrestricted funds to support the IEC's overall mission and goals and can be part of our team in brainstorming about priorities towards advancement.

Donated funds are used to organize, plan, market, and run the IEC and the professional meetings of the IEC. In addition, working groups collaborate on AD-related definitions, setting new international standards, and developing publications as tangible outcomes of our meetings.

[Learn More & Partner with IEC](#)

Access a Full Library of On-Demand Education from IEC

In line with the [**IEC mission**](#), the Council expands the reach of the education by sharing on-demand recordings of our symposia at no cost to viewers.

Anyone with an internet connection can listen to and watch our experts share research and clinical insights—regardless of whether they’re able to attend the global meetings at which we present our symposia.

These on-demand recordings support the IEC Strategic Plan Domain 4 goal: “Magnify IEC’s thought leadership position in physician education by expanding content and delivery channels.”

Recordings from five symposia this year have been added to the recordings:

- [**Safety of JAK Inhibitors in the Treatment of Inflammatory Skin Diseases**](#) (click presenters' titles)
- [**What's New in Pathogenesis & Mechanisms? Drivers of Disease**](#)
- [**Infections and Immunization in Patients with Atopic Dermatitis**](#)
- [**From Comparative Pathogenesis to Biomarker-guided Treatments in Psoriasis and Eczema**](#)
- [**Chronic Hand Eczema**](#)

[**Watch On-Demand Symposia Recordings**](#)



Share Your Expertise at an IEC Symposium

The IEC presents 5-7 symposia each year, and each event features several speakers from the Council. You're encouraged to share your expertise by considering speaking at an upcoming symposium.

Our symposia at world congresses are crucial to the advancement of our mission. Through these events, we communicate research and teach best practices to people all over the world—both attendees and those who later watch symposia recordings on-demand.

We ask you to consider presenting your research and clinical experiences at future IEC event. Speakers work with experienced symposia chairs to develop their speaking topics and presentations. **[Complete the IEC speaker interest survey](#)** to indicate your potential interest in becoming an IEC speaker. The form does not obligate you to participate, so there's no risk in sharing your interests and availability.

[Share Your Interests](#)

Medscape Launches Clinical Collection Created with IEC

Medscape has launched a [new clinical collection created in partnership with the IEC](#).

Available to clinicians outside the United States, the educational curriculum addresses diagnosis and management of hand eczema. Activities blend text, interactivity, and video to support learner preference. Video transcripts are available as PDFs in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. CME is offered to dermatologists, allergists, and primary-care physicians who complete the educational activity within a year of its launch.

Clinicians can create a Medscape account to access the collection. Activities include the test-and-teach activity [Can You Diagnose and Manage These Patients with Itchy and Painful Hands and Writsts?](#) and roundtable activity [Managing Chronic Hand Eczema: How Can We Do Better for our Patients?](#)

The IEC thanks our expert reviewers from the IEC Education Committee: **Alan Irvine, JiaDe (Jeff) Yu, Paula Luna, Carolyn Jack, and Ncoza Dlova.**

[View the Medscape Activities](#)

ILDS Member Directory Features IEC Fellowship Program

The [International League of Dermatological Societies Member Initiatives Directory 2024: Advocating for Skin Health on a Global Scale](#) puts a spotlight on the IEC's Fellowship Program.

A member of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), the IEC is invited to contribute to the directory annually. This year, our growing Fellowship program was the focus, showcasing how the IEC is preparing the next generation of experts for the field.

[Read the Directory](#)

Find and Follow the IEC on Four Social Media Platforms!



Facebook

facebook.com/people/International-Eczema-Council/61554124067841/



X (formerly) Twitter

x.com/CouncilEczema

(@CouncilEczema)



LinkedIn

linkedin.com/company/international-eczema-council



YouTube

youtube.com/@internationaleczemacouncil4126

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About the IEC

The **International Eczema Council** (IEC) is a global nonprofit organization led by experts on atopic dermatitis (AD). The IEC is dedicated to increasing the understanding of AD and promoting its optimal management through research, education and patient/family care. The IEC comprises 145 Councilors and Associates from 32 countries who contribute their expertise to

support the IEC's research, programs, events, and education. The Council's mission is furthered by the support of our **valued corporate partners**.

Connect with the IEC on social media



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