



# INTERNATIONAL ECZEMA COUNCIL

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## Letter from the IEC President



The new year is well underway, and I am proud to share that IEC continues to see incredible global growth. We are kicking off 2023 with Councilors and Associates in 28 countries across five major regions of the world. View out the [\*\*IEC global representation infographic\*\*](#) to see our global reach at the close of last year.

Our growing representation proves that our work is paying off as we seek to increase the understanding of atopic dermatitis (AD) and promote optimal management of AD worldwide.

Please join me in welcoming the new Councilors and Associates who became part of the IEC in 2022:

### **New Councilors**

- Eung Ho Choi, MD PhD, Republic of Korea
- Mark Koh, MD, Singapore
- Wei Li, MD PhD, China
- Lin Ma, MD PhD, China
- Marius Rademaker, BM MRCP JCHMT FRCPE FRCP(Edin) FRACP DM, New Zealand
- Jenny Murase, MD, United States

## **New Associates**

- Jiyoung Ahn, MD PhD, Republic of Korea
- Daniel C. Butler, MD, United States
- Raj Chovatiya, MD PhD, FAAD, United States
- Catherine Droitcourt, MD PhD, France
- Carol Hlela, MBChB FcDerm MSc GHS MMed DPhil, South Africa
- Raquel Orfali, MD, Brazil
- Benjamin Ungar, MD, United States
- Fernando Valenzuela, MD, Chile

This year, the IEC also welcomes two new board members who will serve 3-year terms: Katrina Abuabara, MD MA MSCE, and Melinda Gooderham, MD FRCPC. The roles that Dr. Abuabara and Dr. Gooderham stepped into were vacated when two IEC Board of Directors members' terms of service were completed at the end of 2022.



**Katrina Abuabara, MD MA MSCE, United States**



**Melinda Gooderham, MD FRCPC, Canada**

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to these two dedicated volunteers: Nick Reynolds, MD FRCP, who served on the IEC Board from 2018 to 2022, and Johannes Worsoe, CFO of Apollo Asset Management, who served on the IEC Board from 2015 to 2022. On behalf of the IEC, I thank you both for your dedication and service.



**Nick Reynolds, MD FRCP,**  
United Kingdom



**Johannes Worsoe,**  
United States

It is because of all our dedicated volunteers that we have been able to grow our global presence, increase understanding of AD, and educate clinicians and researchers worldwide.

In fact, the IEC has already presented two symposia this year—at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, USA, and at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Annual Meeting Global Education Day in New Orleans, LA, USA. We covered new developments in AD and a related condition, prurigo nodularis. This was not only our debut presentation at the AAAAI meeting but our very first symposium at an allergy-focused meeting. You can learn more about both events later in this newsletter.

Our worldwide representation isn't the only number growing. We're preparing for another five symposia this year, in addition to the two already presented, in conjunction with major dermatology and allergy meetings! If you're wondering how this compares to our pre-pandemic schedule, the news is excellent. This will be the first year that the IEC presents this volume of symposia in a single year.

In addition to increased symposia numbers, we have increased our spread globally to advance the research we share and its clinical applications. The first two symposia of 2023 happened to occur in the United States, but the majority of our educational events this year will not be in North America. We've established topics and faculty for presentations in Asia, South America, and Europe. Read more about those in this newsletter, and plan to attend to learn and support the IEC mission.

This is our organization's ninth year, and it's going to be a banner year for IEC. Thank you for your continued support of this organization and our specialty!

**Robert Bissonnette, MD FRCPC MSc**

*IEC President*

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## IEC Kicks Off 2023 with Two Live Programs at Major Specialty Meetings

### Inaugural Course at AAAAI 2023

The IEC headed to San Antonio, TX, USA, to present the symposium **[New Developments in Atopic Dermatitis and Implications for the Atopic March](#)** at the 2023 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Annual Meeting. This course took place on February 23, 2023, and was IEC's first live program of the year.

This symposium explored current information on and advances in atopic dermatitis (AD). It was co-chaired by IEC Immediate Past President and cofounder Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD PhD, and IEC Past President and cofounder Amy S. Paller, MD MSc. It explored current information on and advances in atopic dermatitis (AD).

Six presenters from four countries covered timely topics, including

- Infections in AD and implications for therapy
- Abnormalities in keratinocyte differentiation, tight junctions, and lipids present in AD patients
- Clinical and molecular differences in the skin and blood of children compared to adults
- Emerging topical and systemic therapies
- Strategies to prevent AD and the atopic march

This was the IEC's first for-credit course, and it drew nearly 170 attendees. Registration was handled by AAAAI. Learn more about the **[symposium and speakers](#)** and **[view the presentation as an on-demand webcast](#)**.

[View the AAAAI Symposium Recording](#)



Dr. Bissonnette addresses the audience at the symposium on prurigo nodularis.



IEC Councilors and Associates socialize before the March 16 symposium.



Audience members listen to presenters during the Global Education Day event.

### **IEC Symposium at AAD 2023**

On March 16, 2023, the IEC presented a live symposium on **Prurigo Nodularis (PN)** at Global Education Day prior to the 2023 American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, USA.

Co-chaired by IEC Councilor Sonja Ständer, MD, and IEC President Robert Bissonnette, MD FRCPC MSc, this symposium was popular, with about 115 people in attendance.

Four IEC experts from three countries provided a comprehensive overview of PN, covering

- What PN is
- The pathophysiology and potential therapeutic targets of PN
- How to manage PN
- Emerging oral therapies and biologics for PN

The **presentation is available now for viewing**, and details are posted about the **symposium and speakers**.

[View the AAD Symposium Recording](#)

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## **1 Year, 7 IEC Symposia! Join Us for these Important Events in 2023**

If you missed the first two IEC's educational symposia in 2023, you have five more opportunities to attend upcoming programs. With the five meetings set on three continents, there should be educational sessions that are convenient for you to attend and promote to your colleagues.

The IEC symposia at all five meetings will be offered at no cost to attendees and held in conjunction with major dermatological or allergy meetings for your convenience.



## 10 May | ISID in Japan

In May, the IEC will present **Pathophysiological Insights into AD and New Therapeutic Developments** as a satellite symposium before the International Societies for Investigative Dermatology (ISID) meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

**Register** to join the IEC 12:00-15:00 (1–3 pm) JPN on 10 May at the Keio Plaza Hotel. For your scheduling convenience, the symposium ends well before the ISID Opening Ceremony & Welcome Reception, which will be held that evening at the same venue. The symposium is free; ISID is offering discounted early fees for their meeting through 14 April.

Visit the **symposia event page** for a full agenda with speakers and topics.



## 26 May | RADLA in Brazil

Also in May, Reunião Anual de Dermatólogos Latinoamericanos (RADLA; Annual Meeting of Latin American Dermatologists) in Curitiba, Brazil, will bring together dermatologists and dermatology residents from 15 Latin American countries. This will be the second year the IEC has presented as part of RADLA, but the first with a live, in-person symposium.

The IEC will present **Pathophysiology, Diagnosis and Treatment of Atopic Comorbidities in AD Patients** 14:00-17:00 (2-5 pm) BST on 26 May—the day before RADLA kicks off. For your convenience, our symposium venue, UP Experience (formerly Expo Unimed Curitiba), is also the location of RADLA's events.

Learn more about [how to attend this symposium](#).



### 3 July | WCD in Singapore

On 3 July, the IEC symposium **[Non-Atopic Challenges in Atopic Dermatitis Patients](#)** will take place as a sister society meeting prior to the 25th World Congress of Dermatology (WCD) in Singapore. Our symposium, from 08:30-12:30 (8:30 am-12:30 pm) SST, will discuss comorbidities that you might see in your patients, such as contact allergies, bone fractures, cardiovascular issues, and mental health concerns.

This year's WCD meeting features the theme Dermatology Beyond Borders and will address the most up-to-date clinical, scientific, social, and cultural aspects of dermatology. It will be at the same venue as our symposium, the Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre. The IEC symposium will end several hours before WCD kicks off with an opening ceremony and welcome reception.



### 14 October | EADV in Germany

In Berlin, Germany, the IEC will present **[Pruritus in Patients with Atopic Dermatitis](#)** 14:15-17:30 (2:15-5:30 pm) CET on Saturday, 14 October, at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress.

We will present in the same venue where the EADV meeting will be held, the Messe Berlin congress center. Presentations on pruritus and prurigo will be held in Hall A1 in the morning as part of EADV before the IEC

symposium begins in the same hall in the afternoon.

If you plan to come to this free symposium and EADV, register for the larger meeting by 14 June to save the most on registration fees or by 6 September for a smaller discount.



## 15 November | ISDS in Austria

In November, the Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (ISDS) will offer a unique and dynamic program in Vienna, Austria. The theme is The Translational Revolution.

The IEC's symposium, **Basic Research Techniques in AD**, will be on 15 November, prior to the ISDS meeting, and at the same venue, the Aula der Wissenschaften, Austrian Academy of Sciences.

The symposium start time will be announced on the [event page](#) and via email.

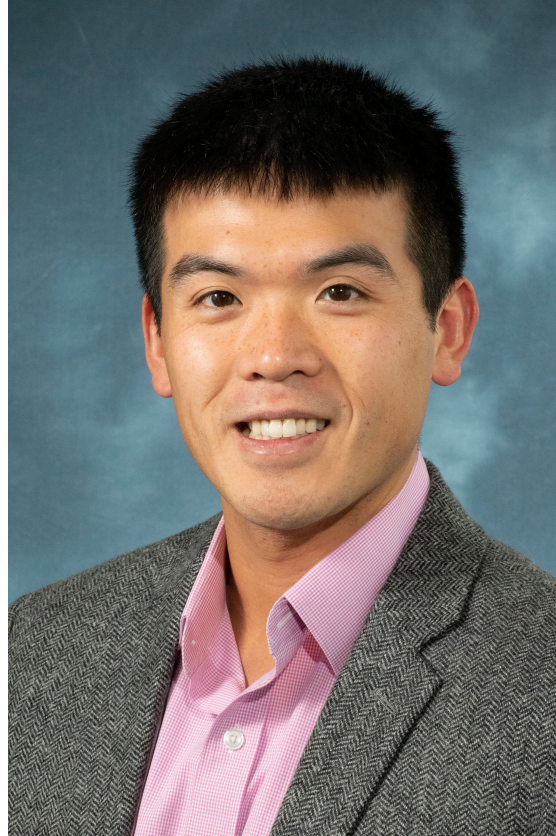
Visit the [IEC's Symposia page](#) often for additions and updates.

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## Meet the Associate: JiaDe 'Jeff' Yu, MD

This issue's 'Meet the Associate' features IEC Associate JiaDe "Jeff" Yu, MD.





Dr. Yu is a board-certified dermatologist and fellowship-trained pediatric dermatologist specializing in allergic contact dermatitis and occupational dermatitis in adults and children in Boston, MA, USA. His other clinical interests include eczema, complex inherited genetic skin conditions (genodermatoses), and the full spectrum of pediatric dermatology.

He has been the nimble lead organizer for the IEC's educational symposium at WCD in Singapore this year. In addition to the IEC, he is actively involved in the American Contact Dermatitis Society, the Society of Pediatric Dermatology, Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance, and the American Academy of Dermatology. He has published multiple peer-reviewed journal articles. In addition to his work as a clinician, he is an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Yu received his MD from the University of Virginia. He completed a pediatrics internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital for Children and his dermatology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin (where he served as chief resident), and his pediatric dermatology fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia/University of Pennsylvania.

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

Children with atopic dermatitis are often overlooked for evaluation for allergic contact dermatitis since both conditions can present similarly. With the support of the Dermatology Foundation, I have created a multicenter, prospective pediatric allergic contact dermatitis registry in which children who have been patch tested are logged along with their patch test reaction and atopy status. Using data from this registry, we can show that children with atopic dermatitis are at high risk of developing allergic contact dermatitis due to exposure to various allergens in moisturizers, topical medicaments, and cleansing products. Bringing attention to the importance of evaluating children with atopic dermatitis for allergic contact dermatitis has been an important mission and accomplishment for me.

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

The opportunity to meet and work with the superb network of councilors and associates within the IEC is unparalleled. I also enjoy attending IEC events where we hear and learn from leaders in atopic dermatitis from not just your own country but from around the world to gain a broader perspective.

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

The further development of topical and systemic biologics for the treatment of atopic dermatitis will continue to garner the most attention in years to come. Since children have the highest prevalence of AD, treatments that are kid-friendly (painless with low side effect profile) and effective will be sought after and have the most fanfare when released.

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

Better understanding of whether early treatment of AD can prevent the development of future atopic diseases including asthma, food allergies, and hay fever. Also whether interventions early in life or by the expectant mother can alter the risk of developing AD in the child.

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

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## **IEC Will Seek Your Input as New Strategic Plan Is Developed**

The IEC is now actively engaged in strategic planning to create a roadmap for future activity. Strategic planning takes time and work but is crucial for organizations. Strategic planning helps us:

- Set short- and long-term goals and objectives
- Develop a plan and strategies to achieve our goals
- Measure our progress and adjust as needed
- Identify and respond to changes in the environment, including avoiding and mitigating risk
- Align resources with our goals and allocate them appropriately
- Communicate our goals to our Councilors and Associates and the global community



To help inform this initiative, IEC will work in partnership with AMC Consulting Services and deploy a quantitative survey to Councilors, Associates, and industry partners to better understand:

- Reasons to affiliate with IEC
- The level of satisfaction with IEC education offerings and resources
- Opportunities for organizational growth
- Professional challenges and ways to help today's atopic dermatitis experts navigate the current landscape

Please keep your eye out for this survey, and thank you in advance for your input. Our goal is to have the full IEC membership participate.

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## **Learn More by Viewing Free On-Demand Webcasts of IEC Symposia**

Free on-demand webcasts of IEC symposia are available to keep you up to date on the latest research in atopic dermatitis. View the webcasts when it's convenient for you to build your knowledge and gain valuable insights. All webcasts are presented by leading physicians and researchers in AD.

Recent webcasts available on demand include:

- [New Developments in Atopic Dermatitis and Implications for the Atopic March](#)
- [Prurigo Nodularis](#)
- [Single Cell Technologies Applicable to Atopic Eczema](#)
- [Customizing the Treatment of Atopic Dermatitis for Diverse Populations](#)
- [Microbiome](#)
- [What's New in Atopic Dermatitis?](#)
- [Diagnosis and Management of Non-Atopic Forms of Dermatitis in Atopic Dermatitis Patients](#)

Bookmark the [IEC On-Demand Education page](#). Webcasts are added as they become available following live and virtual events.

[View On-Demand Education](#)

## Connecting with an IEC Fellow—And a New Fellowship Opportunity

IEC Fellow Dr. Sheng-Pei Wang (right) chats with IEC President Dr. Robert Bissonnette following her presentation to IEC industry liaisons before the IEC Global Education Day symposium at the AAD Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, USA.

Dr. Wang shared her experience in the IEC Fellowship program where she is learning so much from clinical mentor Dr. Lawrence Eichenfield (shown in slide photo behind Dr. Wang). Dr. Wang spent a month of her clinical fellowship with Dr. Eichenfield in San Diego, CA, USA, before 11 months of virtual membership.

Learn more about the IEC [Fellowship Program](#).



A new research fellowship opportunity is being offered by the IEC this year in partnership with the Montreal Dermatology Research Institute (MDRI). A grant provided by Sanofi is funding a new 1-year, in-person research fellowship in Montreal, Québec, Canada, and Toronto, Ontario, Canada. [Learn about fellowship requirements and apply for the new IEC/MDRI Research Fellowship](#).



#### **About the IEC**

The **International Eczema Council** (IEC) is a global nonprofit organization led by dermatology 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 124 Councilors and Associates from 28 countries who contribute their expertise to support the IEC's research, programs, events, and education.