



INTERNATIONAL ECZEMA COUNCIL

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Letter from the IEC President



Dear IEC colleagues and friends,

As we move into the final months of 2026, we have presented three new symposia already and are deep in preparations for a new research incubator preceding ESDR in collaboration with the International Psoriasis Council as well as a new IEC-led symposium at EADV.

I am also pleased to share two important leadership updates as the International Eczema Council prepares for its next chapter.

Presidential Planning

First, I am sharing the good news that Melinda Gooderham, MD MSc FRCPC, will serve as IEC president-elect for the 2027–2030 term under incoming President Lawrence Eichenfield, MD.

The two will step up to their new roles in March during AAD, when my term as president ends. Larry and I have been working together to ensure a smooth transition, and knowing that Melinda is next in line to lead our organization strengthens our leadership pipeline and positions IEC for continued success.

Melinda is a dermatologist and medical director at the SKiN Centre for Dermatology in Peterborough, ON, Canada. She also serves as investigator with Probity Medical Research; an assistant professor at Queens University; and a consultant physician at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre.

As a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, she helps shape the future of the field, teaching medical students, residents, nurse practitioners, and physicians. Melinda also skillfully guides IEC's Membership Committee as its chair and serves as one of the faculty members for IEC's newly launched webinar series in partnership with Medscape that you will read more about below. Melinda's service, perspective, and commitment will be so valuable as we continue to grow our global community.

CEO Search

We are also preparing for another leadership transition. Alan Stiles, our CEO, announced his intention to retire after 4 and a half years of dedicated leadership and service to IEC. His final day will be March 31, 2027. He will continue as a full-time employee through the end of this year. To support continuity and a smooth handoff to IEC's next chief executive, he'll continue part-time in the first quarter of 2027. Among his many achievements, Alan leaves a remarkable legacy of leadership, having advanced IEC's mission while guiding the organization's growth and expanding its membership around the world.

A committee directed by the IEC Board will search for our next CEO. Make sure you follow IEC on our social media channels for further announcements regarding the recruitment process.

Change Amid Growth

Leadership transitions naturally mark a new chapter, but these successions come at a time of continued momentum and organizational strength. We have a full schedule of events planned for 2027 and an impressive 189 members in 39 countries.

We continue to grow, thrive, and advance our mission because of the dedication of our Councilors, Associates, leaders, industry partners, sponsors, and staff. Thank you for making this progress possible and for helping us to ensure smooth leadership transitions.

I look forward to seeing many of you at ESDR and EADV this fall and at IEC events in 2027!

Alan Irvine, MD DSc

IEC President

Continue Learning with IEC in 2026

IEC's 2026 educational program continues this fall with opportunities to learn, connect, and collaborate in Europe.

At ESDR 2026

IEC and the International Psoriasis Council are cohosting the **Eczema and Psoriasis Research Incubator: Cross-Disciplinary Innovation Forum** alongside the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) Annual Meeting.

This stand-alone, half-day scientific workshop on September 9 is designed to bring researchers from the eczema and psoriasis communities together to share emerging ideas and develop new directions for patient-centered research.

The program will include:

- a keynote on emerging research directions
- early-career investigator lightning talks



IEC Councilor, Associate, and Industry Meeting

Friday, October 2

EADV 2026

Vienna, Austria

The Relevance of Clinical Trials and Real-World Data

Saturday, October 3

EADV 2026

Vienna, Austria

- small-group challenge labs focused on shared comorbidities, biomarkers, genetics and genomics, and precision medicine.

By connecting investigators across diseases, disciplines, career stages, and institutions, the incubator aims to spark multicenter collaborations, joint funding applications, co-authored publications, and continued engagement through the IEC and IPC networks. We're pleased to be partnering with the IPC to present this new, unique event.

[Learn More about the Research Incubator](#)

IEC Councilors, Associates, and industry partners will come together for a breakfast meeting from 7:00–8:30 a.m. Friday, October 2.

The program includes Council updates, reflections on FDA guidance regarding the Investigator Global Assessment, and an interactive discussion of future strategic priorities.

Please plan to join us to discuss these important issues face to face. Members and industry partners received emails with links to register for this event. To request a new registration link, email info@eczemacouncil.org.

[Request New Meeting Invitation](#)

A faculty of IEC Councilors will present this symposium, **The Relevance of Clinical Trials and Real-World Data**, at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Annual Meeting.

You'll hear six talks from six speakers in three topic areas:

- Clinical trials
- Real-world data
- Bridging trials and evidence.

The faculty is led by program chairs led by Thomas Bieber, MD PhD MDRA, and Kenji Kabashima, MD PhD.

Attend the symposium to learn, network, and support the IEC.

[Learn More & Register to Attend](#)

Stay up to date on every event from the IEC by [bookmarking the symposia page](#).

[Visit the IEC Symposia page](#)



IEC and IPC Councilor Kilian Eyerich, MD PhD, discusses psoriasiform spongiotic dermatitis at the IEC symposium at AAD Global Education Day.

Partnership Advances Dermatology Research and Education

Collaboration has been a defining feature of IEC's 2026 educational program. Throughout the year, IEC has brought clinicians, investigators, partner organizations, and emerging leaders together to exchange evidence, examine challenging questions, and identify opportunities to improve patient care.

This year's educational presentations began March 26 in Denver, Colorado, USA, "Psoriasis or Dermatitis? When Boundaries Blur and Treatments Flip the Script" at the American Academy of Dermatology Global Education Day. Presented in partnership with the International Psoriasis Council, this session examined the overlapping features of psoriasis and dermatitis and the implications for diagnosis and treatment. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the IPC again to bring this condition comparison to a larger audience. Watch the symposium at [**AAD 2026 Denver Psoriasis or Dermatitis? When Boundaries Blur and Treatments Flip the Script.**](#)

Next, we presented "Decoding the Dialogue: Skin–Microbe–Immune Interactions in Atopic Dermatitis" May 13 at the Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The symposium explored the complex relationship between the skin barrier, microbiome, and immune system, highlighting how these interactions influence disease development, infection risk, and therapeutic outcomes in atopic dermatitis.



IEC Director April Armstrong, MD MPH, speaks at the IEC symposium she co-chaired at SID.



IEC presenters smile at RADLA.

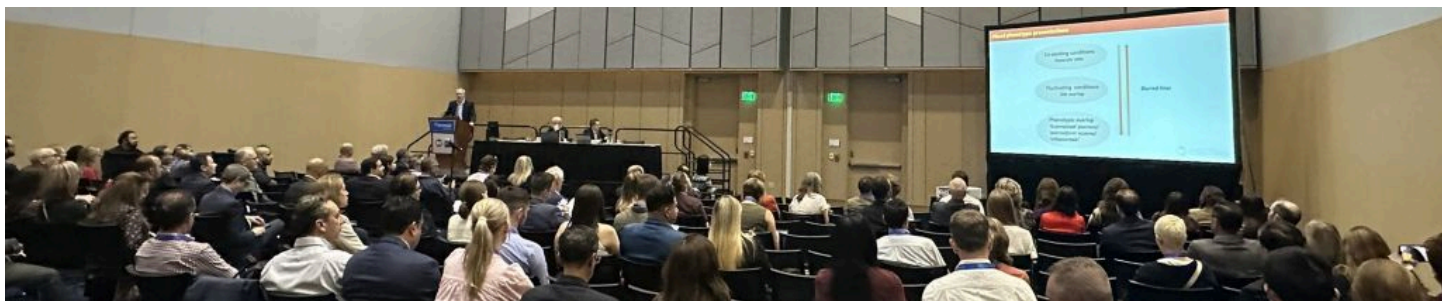
Catch up with the [SID 2026 Decoding the Dialogue: Skin–Microbe–Immune Interactions in Atopic Dermatitis](#) presentations at our YouTube Learning Center.

Less than a week later, on May 19, the IEC hosted a symposium at RADLA in Buenos Aires, Argentina. “Atopic Dermatitis in Adults: Diagnosis, Misdiagnosis, and Therapeutic Approaches” was presented in Spanish, with faculty examining the challenges of diagnosing adult atopic dermatitis, differentiating it from similar inflammatory skin conditions, and applying individualized treatment strategies to improve patient outcomes. We recorded [RADLA 2026 Atopic Dermatitis in Adults: Diagnosis, Misdiagnosis, and Therapeutic Approaches](#) to share with a global audience.

We thank every faculty member, participant, partner, and supporter who has helped make IEC’s 2026 symposia possible—and we look forward to the conversations still ahead at our [Eczema and Psoriasis Research Incubator: Cross-Disciplinary Innovation Forum](#) presented with IPC at ESDR on September 9 and the symposium [The Relevance of Clinical Trials and Real-World Data](#) October 3 at EADV.

Bookmark the IEC’s YouTube Learning Center. The IEC shares symposia recordings in our [YouTube Learning Center](#) to ensure our organization can advance care of atopic dermatitis around the globe, regardless of clinicians’ and researchers’ ability to travel.

Visit the IEC YouTube Learning Center



The IEC and IPC collaborated to present a join symposium at AAD Global Education Day.

IEC and Medscape Creating Advanced Education on Atopic Dermatitis

The IEC is partnering with Medscape again on a new educational initiative designed to help clinicians manage atopic dermatitis (AD). AbbVie, a IEC Director’s Council member and sponsor, is partially funding the collaboration, called Advancing Precision Care in Inflammatory Skin Disease.

Medscape and the IEC, with support from AbbVie, will produce a three-part live webinar series that translates current evidence and expert recommendations into practice for clinicians providing proactive, long-term care for this chronic inflammatory disease. IEC Councilors Drs. April Armstrong, Lawrence Eichenfield, Melinda Gooderham, and Joseph Merola serve as the faculty.

In keeping with our mission of ensuring patients worldwide benefit from IEC education, enduring versions of the webinars will be available after each program.

The series will address three important areas of AD management:

- implementing treat-to-target strategies
- reducing prolonged reliance on systemic corticosteroids
- integrating advanced systemic therapies into individualized treatment plans.

Through practical guidance, the webinars will examine how to assess disease control, identify appropriate candidates for advanced treatment, monitor response, and make informed decisions about initiating or transitioning therapy.

This partnership brings together IEC's global expertise in AD and Medscape's experience in providing accredited medical education. The resulting content will strengthen clinical decision-making across dermatology and allergy practice while highlighting research-informed approaches relevant to PhD scientists. Ultimately, the initiative seeks to support more consistent, evidence-based care that minimizes disease burden, promotes sustained control, and better aligns treatment with each patient's needs and goals.

Watch for more details on the project coming soon!

IEC Community Grows to 189 Members in 39 Countries

The IEC now brings together 189 clinicians and researchers across 39 countries. This growing global network of 136 Councilors and 53 Associates strengthens IEC's ability to advance research, education, and best practices in atopic dermatitis care.

We are pleased to welcome **Teresa Løvold Berents, MD, of Norway**, and **Lixia Zhang, MD, of China**, as new IEC Associates. Both were approved by the Board of Directors in June.

We also congratulate **Chan-Ho Na, MD PhD, of South Korea**, on his promotion to full Councilor membership at the June meeting.



Please join us in welcoming and congratulating these colleagues. Learn more about the diversity of our membership with our [member infographic](#).

[View our Member Infographic](#)

Meet the Councilor: Yousef Binamer, MD EMBA FRCPC DABD FAAD



Yousef Binamer is chair of the Department of Dermatology at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and an adjunct professor at Alfaisal University. Board-certified by both the American Board of Dermatology and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Dr. Binamer completed a fellowship in advanced medical dermatology at the University of Toronto and earned an executive MBA from Hult International Business School.

With more than 15 years of clinical experience, Dr. Binamer specializes in complex medical dermatology, with a focus on inflammatory skin diseases, cutaneous lymphoma, and dermatologic therapeutics. He has authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications.

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

I have participated in many educational programs for patients and physicians—locally, regionally, and internationally—as well as contributing to *National Saudi Guidelines for the Management of Atopic Dermatitis*, the first Saudi guidelines in this condition.

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

Sharing knowledge, experience, and ideas about atopic dermatitis and related conditions. Here, we are one team with a common clear goal to transform the lives of people with atopic dermatitis into a better quality and future!

What do you think will garner the most attention over the coming year (and beyond) in the AD field?

Raising the bar for atopic dermatitis management goals is the next chapter in atopic dermatitis. Thus, a treat-to-target approach with more stringent target points is the way to go!

Describe a professional experience that you won't forget because of how it impacted your specialty or the way you practice.

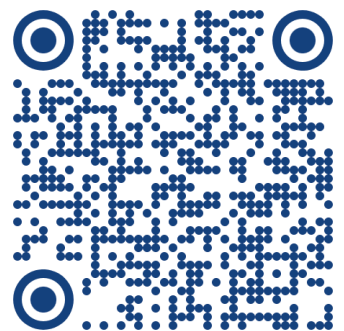
I will not forget a number of patients who came to my clinic on follow-up after I have started them on a systemic treatment. They are full of tears of joy because they were uncomfortable for years, until recently. No more itch, and they sleep well!

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

Help Shape the Future of IEC Education

We're always looking for faculty for IEC symposia, and we'd like to hear from you about your interests to match you to upcoming speaking opportunities.

If you are an IEC Associate or Councilor, please take a few minutes to complete the [IEC Speaker Survey](#). Responding doesn't obligate you to present at IEC events. Your response will help IEC better understand areas of expertise, presentation experience, and topics of interest as future educational programs are developed. You may be contacted to discuss presenting at a future symposium, showcasing your expertise to a wide audience at the event itself and via the recording in our YouTube Learning Center.



To take the survey, click the textual link, click the button, or scan the QR code. Thank you for helping IEC build engaging, evidence-based programs that reflect the depth and diversity of our international community.

Take the Survey

Join Us in Thanking IEC's Corporate Supporters

IEC gratefully recognizes our industry partners whose support helps make our educational programs, research initiatives, and global collaborations possible. Their partnership expands opportunities for clinicians and investigators to exchange knowledge and advance care for people living with atopic dermatitis.

Is your company or organization passionate about improving the lives of people with atopic dermatitis? Partner with the Council's worldwide experts to work together to advance our shared mission. Learn more about [corporate sponsorship](#) and [contact IEC CEO Alan Stiles](#) to learn how corporate membership benefits you and your organization.

If you're a physician or researcher, please encourage your industry contacts to consider supporting our mission by becoming [IEC corporate members](#).

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COUNCILOR'S COUNCIL



Learn How to Partner with the IEC

Plan Now to Support the IEC at our Symposia in 2027

IEC is preparing another year of timely, evidence-based education and international collaboration. Save the dates and plan to join your IEC colleagues at programs held alongside leading meetings in 2027.



FEBRUARY 18

Prevention, Control & Remission: Can Allergens Alter the Course of Atopic Dermatitis

American Academy of Allergy,
Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI)
Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA, USA



MARCH 18

The Broader Burden of Disease: Understanding Atopic and Non-Atopic Comorbidities

American Academy of Dermatology
(AAD) Global Education Day
San Francisco, CA, USA



JUNE 21

Global Perspectives on Atopic Dermatitis and Itch

World Congress of Dermatology
(WCD)
Guadalajara, Mexico



SEPTEMBER 15-18

Reimagining Translation: The Future Impact of Big Data and AI

European Society for Dermatological
Research (ESDR) Annual Meeting
Location to be announced



SEPTEMBER 25

Atopic Dermatitis Across the Lifespan: Same Disease, Different Challenges

European Academy of Dermatology
and Venereology (EADV) Congress
Amsterdam, Netherlands



NOVEMBER 6

From Endotypes to Outcomes: Personalizing Therapy in Atopic Dermatitis

Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit
(ISDS)
New York, NY, USA

Additional program details, faculty information, and registration links will be added as they become available. When dates and times are announced, plan your travel to each meeting to arrive in time for the IEC event.

Visit the <https://www.eczemacouncil.org/symposia> on the IEC website to view a complete list of events.

[View the Symposia Page](#)



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 189 Councilors and Associates from 39 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

