



# **Atopic Dermatitis and Alopecia Areata: Nuances of Clinical Trial Design and Recruitment**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2025 • 8-11 am ET  
New York Academy of Medicine • Room 20 • New York City, NY, USA**

***An International Eczema Council Symposium at  
the 6th Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (ISDS)***

# AGENDA

**8–8:10 am**

## **Welcome from the IEC**

Alan Irvine, MD DSc; IEC President; Trinity College Dublin, Children's Health; Dublin, Ireland

**8:10–8:30 am**

## **The Epidemiology of Alopecia Areata and Atopic Comorbidities**

Benjamin Ungar, MD; IEC Councilor; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai New York, NY, USA

**8:30–8:50 am**

## **Pathogenic Similarities and Differences Between Alopecia Areata and Atopic Dermatitis**

Emma Guttman, MD PhD; IEC Director; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; New York, NY, USA

**8:50–9:10 am**

## **New Treatment Breakthroughs and Overlapping Pathways in Atopic Dermatitis and Alopecia Areata**

Natasha Mesinkovska, MD PhD; University of California Irvine School of Medicine; Irvine, CA, USA

**9:10–9:30 am**

## **Systemic Therapies for AA in Children: What's Being Used Now, What's Coming Down the Track, and What Have We Learned from AD Studies?**

Alan Irvine, MD DSc; IEC President; Trinity College Dublin, Children's Health; Dublin, Ireland

**9:30–9:45 am**

## **From Protocol to Practice: Strategies for AA & AD Clinical Investigators**

Leon H. Kircik, MD; IEC Councilor; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; New York, NY, USA

**9:45–10 am**

## **Refreshment Break**

**10–10:25 am**

## **In Their Own Words: The Power of Participating in Clinical Trials—Part 1**

Patient Discussion Panel

**10:25–10:50 am**

## **In Their Own Words: The Power of Participating in Clinical Trials—Part 2**

Patient Discussion Panel

**10:50–11 am**

## **Q&A, Closing Remarks, and Session Evaluation**

Presenters & Panelists

## PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS



### **Emma Guttman, MD PhD; IEC Councilor, Co-Founder, and Past President**

Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD PhD, is the Waldman Professor of Dermatology and Immunology and the health system chair of the department of dermatology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY, USA. She is also the director of the Asness Family Center of Excellence in Eczema and Allergic Conditions and the Laboratory for Inflammatory Skin Diseases and co-director of the Mount Sinai-Clinique Healthy Skin Dermatology Center.

Dr. Guttman's focus areas are atopic dermatitis (AD)/eczema, hair loss disorders and skin aging. Her research made paradigm-shifting discoveries on the immunologic basis of atopic dermatitis/eczema (AD) in adults and children. She extended her interest to hair loss disorders such as alopecia areata and scarring hair loss, chronic hand eczema, keloids, ichthyosis, and other skin diseases, recently linking alopecia areata to the atopic/allergic march.

Dr. Guttman has received many national and international awards. She was elected as a member to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Dermatological Society, is a co-founder and organizer of the Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (ISDS), and serves on the editorial board of high impact journals. She delivers keynote and plenary presentations internationally and has authored more than 420 peer-reviewed publications.

She earned her M.D. from Sackler School of Medicine at the Tel-Aviv University and Ph.D. from the Bar-Ilan University, Israel. Dr. Guttman completed a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship at The Rockefeller University at the Laboratory for Investigative Dermatology. She completed a second dermatology residency training at Weill-Cornell Medical College in New York. She is board certified in Israel and the United States.



### **Robert Bissonnette, MD FRCPC MSc; IEC Councilor and Immediate Past President**

Robert Bissonnette is board certified in dermatology and the president of Innovaderm Research—a contract research organization (CRO) specializing in the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical trials in various areas of dermatology—in Montreal, QC, Canada. He has published more than 220 articles and book chapters and lectures on various aspects of dermatology at national and international meetings.

Dr. Bissonnette earned his medical degree from the University of Montreal, underwent residency training in dermatology at the University of Montreal, and completed his basic and clinical research training at McGill University and the University of British Columbia. He was an associate professor of dermatology at the University of Montreal until 2004.

## PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS



### Benjamin Ungar, MD; IEC Councilor

Benjamin Ungar is an assistant professor in the Department of Dermatology at the Mount Sinai Hospital and became director of the Alopecia Center of Excellence at Mount Sinai in 2023.

Dr. Ungar graduated from Harvard University cum laude in 2009 and began medical school at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in 2011. From 2014 to 2016, he completed a research fellowship in the Laboratory for Investigative Dermatology at Rockefeller University, after which he graduated from medical school in 2017 with distinction in research. After completing his intern year at NYU Winthrop Hospital, Dr. Ungar began his dermatology residency at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, from which he graduated as chief resident in June 2021. In the final year of his residency, he completed a T32 NIH Research Training Fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

## PROGRAM FACULTY



### Alan Irvine, MD DSc, IEC President

Alan Irvine has been a consultant dermatologist at Children's Health Ireland and St. James's Hospital, Dublin, Ireland, since 2002 and professor of dermatology at Trinity College Dublin since 2007.

He has published extensively in high impact journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, *Nature Genetics*, and *Nature Reviews Disease Primers*—mostly on epithelial genetics, characterisation of the skin barrier, disease mechanisms in, and therapy of, atopic dermatitis. His international awards for research include the Times Higher Education Supplement Research Project of the Year and the Paul Gerson Unna Prize (German Dermatology Society). He has delivered several prize lectureships including the MB Sulzberger (AAD), Watson-Smith (RCP Edin), and Dolovich (AAAAI). Dr. Irvine is a founding director of the International Eczema Council, an elected member of the Royal Irish Academy and the Academia Europaea, and an honorary member of the Société Française de Dermatologie.

He trained in dermatology and genetics in Belfast, Northern Ireland; in Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, England; and as a Fulbright Scholar at Children's Memorial/Northwestern University in Chicago, IL, USA.



### Leon Kircik, MD, IEC Councilor

Leon Kircik is a board-certified dermatologist who teaches as a clinical professor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, NY, USA, and as adjunct clinical associate professor of dermatology at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indiana, USA. He is the medical director of DermResearch, PLLC; Physicians Skin Care, PLLC; and Skin Sciences, PLLC in Louisville, KY, USA. Dr. Kircik has been the principal investigator of numerous clinical trials for psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, skin cancers, actinic keratosis, and more.

He is an author of many scientific articles, abstracts, and posters and has lectured extensively nationally and internationally on all aspects of dermatologic conditions. In addition, he serves on the advisory boards of several pharmaceutical companies as a consultant. He is on the editorial board of *The Journal of Drugs in Dermatology*, *Practical Dermatology*, *The Journal of Clinical & Aesthetic Dermatology*, and *Case Reports in Clinical Pathology*. He volunteers for multiple local and national medical society committees.

Dr. Kircik graduated with AOA Honors from State University of New York at the Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn after completing his undergraduate work with Phi Beta Kappa at New York University. He completed a Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology Fellowship under Dr. Frederick Mohs at the University of Wisconsin after completing his dermatology residency at State University of New York in Buffalo.



### Natasha Mesinkovska, MD PhD

Natasha Atanaskova Mesinkovska is a prolific writer, speaker, and researcher. She is a Mayo Clinic- and Cleveland Clinic-trained dermatologist and dermatopathologist who serves as the vice chair of clinical research in the Department of Dermatology at the University of California—Irvine (UCI) in Irvine, CA, USA.

Dr. Mesinkovska runs a busy clinical research unit and is dedicated to alopecia, aging, and inflammatory disorders research. She is the director for integrative dermatology at UCI Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute, advancing evidence-based research in that arena. As faculty of the UCI Beckman Laser Institute, she is involved in developing non-invasive imaging modalities for skin and hair conditions.

Dr. Mesinkovska is an exceptional educator and mentor and has received many awards and grants recognizing her educational, clinical and research performance. She served as a chief scientific officer of the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (2015-2022), a role essential in developing clinical trials that lead to approval of novel therapies, and on the American Hair Research Society Board of Directors (2022-2024).

## IEC THANKS OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

The support of our corporate partners makes it possible for the International Eczema Council (IEC) to advance its mission of improving patient care by promoting research, education, and best practices in treatment for atopic dermatitis in people worldwide.

Learn how to join these companies in advancing the IEC mission; visit [eczemacouncil.org/corporate-membership](https://eczemacouncil.org/corporate-membership) and email CEO Alan Stiles at [astiles@eczemacouncil.org](mailto:astiles@eczemacouncil.org).

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# INTERNATIONAL ECZEMA COUNCIL

## ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ECZEMA COUNCIL

Founded in late 2014 and led by experts in atopic dermatitis, the International Eczema Council (IEC) is a global nonprofit organization. Dermatologists and allergists from around the globe serve as Councilors and Associates, contributing their expertise to support the IEC's research, programs, events, and education. As we celebrate our 10th year of activities, the IEC is represented by [181 Councilors and Associates in 37 countries](#), and this group continues to grow.

**Mission:** Improve patient care by promoting research, education, and best practices in treatment for atopic dermatitis in people worldwide.

**Vision:** Transforming the lives of people with atopic dermatitis.

## Corporate Support

The support of our corporate partners makes it possible for the International Eczema Council (IEC) to advance its mission of improving patient care by promoting research, education, and best practices in treatment for atopic dermatitis in people worldwide. See who is supporting our mission and how you can join them at [eczemacouncil.org/corporate-membership](https://eczemacouncil.org/corporate-membership).

## Upcoming Symposia

Save the date to attend future IEC symposia. Go to [EczemaCouncil.org/symposia](https://eczemacouncil.org/symposia) for updates.

Date	In Conjunction With	Location	Symposium Title
March 26, 2026	American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)	Denver, CO, USA	Psoriasis or Dermatitis? When Boundaries Blur and Treatments Flip the Script: A Joint Program of the IEC and International Psoriasis Council (IPC)
May 2026	Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID)	Chicago, IL, USA	to be announced
May 2026	Reunión Anual de Dermatólogos Latinoamericanos (RADLA)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	to be announced
June 2026	European Academy of Allergy & Clinical Immunology (EAACI)	Istanbul, Turkey	to be announced
September 2026	European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR)	Heidelberg, Germany	to be announced
September 2026	European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV)	Vienna, Austria	to be announced

[Visit the Symposia Page](#)

## CONNECT WITH THE IEC ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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