

AN INTERNATIONAL ECZEMA COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM AT THE 2026
EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREOLOGY CONGRESS

THE RELEVANCE OF CLINICAL TRIALS & REAL-WORLD DATA

Austria Center Vienna
Hall N (Level 1)
Vienna, Austria



Saturday, 3 October, 2026
14:15-17:30 CEST



INTERNATIONAL
ECZEMA COUNCIL

AGENDA

Introduction

14:15-14:25

Welcome from the IEC

Alan Irvine, MD DSc; IEC President; *Dublin, Ireland*

14:25-14:30 pm

Program Overview

Thomas Bieber, MD PhD MDRA; IEC Councilor & Program Co-Chair; *Munich, Germany*
Kenji Kabashima, MD PhD; IEC Secretary & Program Co-Chair; *Kyoto, Japan*

Part 1: Clinical Trials: What Have We Learned?

14:30-14:45

From Protocol to Patient: Mastering the Logistics of Clinical Trial Setup

Robert Bissonnette, MD FRCP C MSc; IEC Past President; *Montreal, QC, Canada*

14:45-15:00

Designing Late-Phase Trials

Andy Blauvelt, MD MBA; IEC Councilor; *Annapolis, Maryland, USA*

15:00-15:15

Children First? The Complex Reality of Pediatric Trials in Atopic Dermatitis

Alan Irvine, MD DSc; IEC President ; *Dublin, Ireland*

Part 2: Real-World Data: Effectiveness, Safety, and Treatment Patterns

15:15-15:30

From Cytokine Circuits to Clinical Outcomes: How Clinical Trials Have Redefined Atopic Dermatitis

Kenji Kabashima, MD PhD; IEC Secretary & Program Co-Chair; *Kyoto, Japan*

15:30-15:45

Q & A

Parts 1 and 2 Speakers

15:45-16:00

Break

Part 3: Bridging Trials and Real-World Evidence

16:00-16:30

Drawbacks of Clinical Decision Making Based on Clinical Trial Data and Challenges of Real-World Evidence

Marjolein De Bruin-Weller, MD PhD; IEC Councilor; *Utrecht, Netherlands*

16:30-17:00

The Long and Challenging Way to 'Regulatory Grade' Data In Registries and Real-World Evidence

Thomas Bieber, MD PhD MDRA; IEC Councilor & Program Co-Chair; *Munich, Germany*

17:00-17:20

Q&A

Part 3 Speakers

Conclusion

17:20-17:30

Program Summary & Concluding Remarks

Thomas Bieber, MD PhD MDRA; IEC Councilor & Program Co-Chair; *Munich, Germany*
Kenji Kabashima, MD PhD; IEC Secretary & Program Co-Chair; *Kyoto, Japan*

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS & FACULTY

Thomas Bieber, MD PhD MDRA
IEC Councilor &
Program Co-Chair



Thomas Bieber is a guest professor of dermatology and allergy at Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, Germany; scientific advisor for the research groups and the medicine campus of the Christine Kühne-Center for Allergy Research and Education in Davos, Switzerland; and founder and senior consultant at Bieber Dermatology Consulting, a firm specialized in advising pharmaceutical companies and investors in drug development strategy for medicinal products in dermatology and allergy.

Professor Bieber has special expertise in translational and precision medicine approaches for skin diseases and has furthered the development and approval of many recent systemic therapies, especially for atopic dermatitis.

He has authored or coauthored more than 1,100 publications, 676 of which are original publications and review articles (>55,000 citations; h-index = 113), more than 100 book chapters and several books on AD and precision medicine. He has been recognized as a highly cited researcher by Clarivate and top 10 cited researchers of the University of Bonn in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

He is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. He was chief editor of *Allergy*, the official journal of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, from 2010-2017.

The many honors and awards he has received include the Heisenberg Fellowship from the German Research Council, the Karl-Hansen-Award from the German Society of Allergy, the Pharmacia International Research Award, and the Gold Medal of the Foundation for Allergy Research in Europe. He has been invited to many distinguished lectureships in many countries, including the Robert Cooke Memorial Lectureship, Dohi Memorial Lecture, Bruno Bloch Memorial Lectureship, Karl Herxheimer Memorial Lectureship, Otto Braun-Falco Memorial Lectureship, and the Erich Fuchs award.

He received his degrees in medicine (MD) and biology (PhD in immunology) from the University of Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France, trained in dermatology and allergy at the University of Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg and the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, where he started his academic career.

From 1997 to 2023, he was chair at the Department of Dermatology and Allergy at the University of Bonn in Germany. There, he earned a master's degree in drug regulatory affairs (MDRA), achieving special expertise in preclinical and clinical drug development strategies and in legal and market access aspects of drug development.

From 2014 to 2023, he was project leader of the Christine Kühne-Center for Allergy Research and Education (CK-CARE), for which he still serves as a scientific advisor. He founded the nonprofit biotech company Davos Biosciences under the umbrella of the Kühne Foundation.

Kenji Kabashima, MD PhD
IEC Secretary &
Program Co-Chair



Kenji Kabashima is a chair and professor in the Department of Dermatology at Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan. Additionally, he is a principal investigator at SRIS/A*STAR in Singapore and a visiting consultant at the National Skin Centre.

Kenji Kabashima is a chair and professor in the Department of Dermatology at Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan. Additionally, he is a principal investigator at SRIS/A*STAR in Singapore and a visiting consultant at the National Skin Centre.

His primary research interests include the mechanisms of inflammatory skin diseases (such as atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, and psoriasis) in both mice and humans and the 3D visualization of the skin using two-photon microscopy.

Dr. Kabashima graduated from Kyoto University in 1996. He trained in medicine and dermatology at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka, Japan; Kyoto University Hospital; and the University of Washington Medical Center in the USA. His research on bioactive lipid mediators at Kyoto University culminated in a PhD under the supervision of Professor Shuh Narumiya.

He furthered his studies in the Department of Dermatology at Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine (under Professor Yoshiki Miyachi), the University of California-San Francisco (under Professor Jason Cyster), and the University of Occupational and Environmental Health (under Professor Yoshiki Tokura).

His hobbies include marathons (his personal best is 2:54:38), trail running (Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc 170 km), golf, climbing, and traveling.

FACULTY

Alan Irvine, MD DSc
IEC President



Alan Irvine has been a consultant dermatologist in Children's Health Ireland and St. James's Hospital, Dublin, since 2002 and professor of dermatology at Trinity College Dublin since 2007, all in Dublin, Ireland. His interests include epithelial genetics, characterisation of the skin barrier, and the disease mechanisms in, and therapy of, atopic dermatitis.

He has published extensively, including on these topics, in high impact journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, *Nature Genetics*, and *Nature Reviews Disease Primers*.

Dr. Irvine's 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 (American Academy of Dermatology), Watson-Smith (The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh) and Dolovich (the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology).

He was a founding director of the International Eczema Council and serves as IEC president. He is an elected Member of the Royal Irish Academy and the Academia Europaea and an Honorary Member of the Société Française de Dermatologie.

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

Robert Bissonnette,
MD FRCPC MSc
IEC Immediate Past President



Robert Bissonnette is board certified in dermatology and is the executive chairman and founder of Indero—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 is the immediate past president of the IEC.

Dr. Bissonnette has published more than 300 articles and book chapters and lectures on various aspects of dermatology at national and international meetings.

He 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.

Andrew Blauvelt, MD MBA
IEC Councilor



Andrew Blauvelt is adjunct professor in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, USA, and owns Blauvelt Consulting, LLC, in Annapolis, MD, USA. In recent years, Dr. Blauvelt has been the lead/senior investigator on numerous clinical trials in atopic dermatitis and other diseases, including CHRONOS, ECZTEND, JADE REGIMEN, HEADS UP, ADhere, and KNOCKOUT.

Dr. Blauvelt has published more than 470 papers and spoken globally on inflammatory skin diseases. For the past 3 years, he has made the Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers lists, representing the top 1% of cited scientists in the world. He is a Councilor of the IEC and is a member of the International Psoriasis Council and American Society for Clinical Investigation.

He received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering at Purdue University, his medical degree at Michigan State University, and a healthcare MBA at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). Dr. Blauvelt trained in dermatology at the University of Miami and in cellular immunology under the direction of Dr. Steve Katz at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Earlier in his career, he held senior staff positions at the NIH (senior investigator), OHSU (professor), and the Portland VA Medical Center (chief) as well as being owner and president of Oregon Medical Research Center (OMRC) from 2013-2022.

FACULTY

Marjolein de Bruin-Weller,
MD PhD
IEC Councilor



Marjolein de Bruin-Weller is full professor and head of the National Expertise Center of Atopic Dermatitis in the Department of Dermatology and Allergology at the University Medical Center Utrecht in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Her major interest is clinical and translational research in atopic dermatitis.

Dr. de Bruin-Weller is the principal investigator in several clinical trials and investigator-initiated studies focused on difficult to treat atopic dermatitis and systemic immunosuppressive and immuno-modulating treatment. She is an international expert in real-world evidence (RWE).

In 2018, she initiated the BioDay Registry in the Netherlands. This registry is focused on the new advanced systemic treatments in atopic dermatitis and includes a significant amount of data regarding atopic dermatitis (signs, symptoms, quality of life, work impairment) as well as data on atopic comorbidities. Since 2023, patients with prurigo nodularis have been included in BioDay. More than 2,600 patients from 19 sites in the Netherlands are included in the BioDay registry, and five Brazilian centers recently joined BioDay.

Together with Femke van Wijk, professor of tissue immunology at the Center of Translational Immunology (CTI) of the University Medical Center Utrecht, Dr. de Bruin-Weller leads the translational atopic dermatitis research group.

Dr. de Bruin-Weller is chair of the expertise group Allergy and Eczema of the Dutch Society of Dermatology and Venereology and a member of the European Task Force of Atopic Dermatitis (ETFAD), the International Eczema Council (IEC) and the GA²LEN ADCARE Task Force. She is chair of the advisory board of the Dutch Patient Society for Atopic Dermatitis (VMCE) and member/chair of several Dutch committees regarding advanced systemic treatments in inflammatory diseases.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe key operational and design considerations involved in setting up and conducting late-phase clinical trials in atopic dermatitis.
2. Compare the strengths and limitations of clinical trial data and real-world evidence when evaluating treatment effectiveness and safety, including in pediatric populations.
3. Identify how biomarkers, phenotype-endotype correlations, and high-quality registry or real-world datasets may support patient stratification and treatment decision-making in atopic dermatitis.

This session will examine how clinical trials and real-world evidence are shaping current and future care in atopic dermatitis.

Faculty will review practical lessons from trial setup and late-phase study design, address challenges in pediatric research, and discuss how emerging data on biomarkers, disease heterogeneity, treatment patterns, safety, and regulatory-grade evidence can help bridge mechanistic insights with clinical decision-making.



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. The IEC has **189 Councilors and Associates in 39 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.

2027 SYMPOSIA

The IEC plans to present symposia in conjunction with the following major meetings. Dates, topics, faculty, and more will be announced. Go to [EczemaCouncil.org/symposia](https://eczemacouncil.org/symposia) to learn more.

Dates	In Conjunction With	Location
Feb. 18	American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA, USA
March 18	American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Global Education Day	San Francisco, CA, USA
June 21	World Congress of Dermatology (WCD)	Guadalajara, Mexico
Sept. 15-18	European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) Annual Meeting	TBD
Sept. 25	European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress	Amsterdam, Netherlands
Nov. 6	Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (ISDS)	New York City, NY, USA

[Visit the Symposia Page](#)

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