



# INTERNATIONAL ECZEMA COUNCIL

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## Letter from the IEC President



The International Eczema Council is always growing. I'm pleased to announce that at our March IEC Board meeting, we approved five new IEC Councilors:

- **Daniel Kaplan**, a new Council member from the USA
- **JiaDe (Jeff) Yu**, previously an Associate, from the USA
- **Jiyoung Ahn**, previously an Associate, from South Korea
- **Yael Renert-Yuval**, previously an Associate, Israel
- **Yael Leshem**, previously as Associate, from Israel

Congratulations to our new Councilors. With this addition, our Council membership is now at 133 members and growing, with the IEC Board of Directors set to review additional applications during the July board meeting.

These Councilors and Associates represent 31 countries in 6 regions; the IEC is truly international. Even more international is the Internet—so on behalf of the IEC, I'm asking you to connect with us online, especially on social media.

When you follow us on social media, you ensure you always know what's new, you amplify our messaging, and you show your support for our organization, signaling to your fellow colleagues in the atopic dermatitis space that your priorities align with our mission.

Please follow or subscribe to our social media channels. Then, if you're willing to go a few extra steps in support of the IEC:

- Like or favorite the content you enjoy.
- Comment with your thoughts or support.
- Tag us (type the @ symbol followed by the IEC's name on that platform) when you post content we should see.
- Share interesting content to your feed or send it to friends.

The IEC is active on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and YouTube. How you can interact with us and support us differs by platform.



**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/people/International-Eczema-Council/61554124067841/>

In addition to liking, commenting on, and sharing our posts, you can react with emojis.



**x (formerly Twitter)**

<https://twitter.com/CouncilEczema> (@CouncilEczema)

Retweet our content to your followers or quote to add your commentary first. When applicable, use the same hashtags the IEC does, like #IEC, #internationaleczema, #eczemacouncil, #atopicdermatitis, and #eczema.



**LinkedIn**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-eczema-council>

Like, comment on, and share IEC posts. In your profile on LinkedIn, add the International Eczema Council to your Organization's section. If you're a volunteer with us, add the details to your Volunteer Experience section.



**YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/@internationaleczemacouncil4126>

Subscribe to our channel to see when we add new recordings, especially for symposia you were unable to attend in person. Like specific videos you value the most.

We appreciate those of you who are already following us on social media and ask the rest of our Councilors and Associates to do so as we grow our presence and influence. We all strive for the same thing—to improve the care of patients with atopic dermatitis—and connecting with us on social media is an easy way for you to help us get the message out.

### **Visit the IEC YouTube Channel**

If you prefer more educational content, I strongly urge you to [visit the IEC YouTube channel](#). The rich content available is second to none, and you can watch it on demand, from anywhere with an Internet connection, at no cost. The IEC YouTube channel alone offers an astounding 121 videos of atopic dermatitis-specific insights from our international experts. Use these recordings to catch up on the latest developments or get up to speed in clinical or research areas outside of your typical focus.

In fact, we just posted our most recent live symposia recordings: [Infections and Immunization in Patients with Atopic Dermatitis](#) from Reunión Anual de Dermatólogos Latinoamericanos (RADLA) in Lima, Peru, (in Spanish only) and [What's New in Pathogenesis & Mechanisms? Drivers of Disease](#) at the Society of Investigative Dermatology (SID) Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX, USA.

Our first-ever presentation at the European Academy of Allergy & Clinical Immunology Congress, [Safety of JAK Inhibitors in the Treatment of Inflammatory Skin Diseases](#), has joined these recordings on our YouTube channel.

The EAACI symposium was our fourth program of this year—and we still have two more symposia slated for 2024. Read about the success of our RADLA, SID, and EAACI presentations later in the newsletter, and register now to [join us at ESDR in Lisbon, Portugal](#) and at [EADV in Amsterdam, Netherlands](#).

### Please Complete our Speaker Survey

The IEC has created a survey and requests that Councilors and Associates complete so that we can gauge interest in speaking at future symposia. The survey asks about your areas of focus so potential speakers can be contacted about educational offerings that match their interests.

Completing this survey doesn't obligate you to do anything. Instead, it ensures our Education Committee has good information for helping to inform symposia topics and for tapping interested speakers from more countries and specialties. [Please take a few moments to complete the survey to benefit our Council.](#)

**Alan Irvine, MD DSc**  
*IEC President*

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## There Are So Many Reasons to Be Part of an IEC Symposium



We're looking for IEC Councilors and Associates to present research and clinical experiences at future IEC symposia.

The IEC's mission seeks to "improve patient care by promoting research, education, and best practices in treatment for atopic dermatitis in people worldwide." 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](#).

Councilors and Associates volunteer to present at these events, and we would like to invite you to present at a future symposium! When you present at an IEC symposium, you:

- Share your expertise and advance the field.
- Gain recognition and build credibility and your CV.
- Build relationships with other Council members who are presenting.
- Receive feedback from and create potential collaborative relationships with audience members.
- Ensure you're current on the latest research.
- Improve your presentation skills in a supportive environment.

Speakers work with experienced symposia chairs to develop their speaking topics and presentations. Learn more about this professional opportunity by completing our [speaker interest survey](#).



[Take the Survey](#)

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## IEC to Partner with Medscape on Educational Modules

The IEC is excited to announce that we are again partnering with [Medscape](#) to collaborate on an educational initiative for clinicians—and potentially patients—on atopic dermatitis.

The Medscape Clinical Collection will address diagnosing and managing hand eczema and will have a dedicated web page housing the educational curriculum. Activities will blend text, interactivity, and video to support learner preference. Video transcripts will be available as PDFs in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.

Medscape will lead development and manage logistics, including working with faculty presenters in collaboration with the IEC.

The activities will be distributed by both Medscape and the IEC, including to dermatologists, allergists, and primary care physicians. As a provider accredited by ACCME and ANCC, Medscape expects to offer continuing medical education (CME) credits to clinicians who complete the educational activities for 12 months following its publication.

The IEC and its volunteers for the project will review content development and the modules for approval prior to their release. When the educational activities are ready for distribution, the IEC will help to promote them and gain access to data on the collaboration's success.

The IEC and Medscape have worked together previously to produce educational activities, including on the creation of [The Atopic Dermatitis Learning Center: Riding the Next Wave in 2021](#).

For examples of other educational activities Medscape has created in partnership with medical experts, you can visit [Medscape.org](#).

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## IEC to Choose Next IEC Fellows, Plus Two Fellows Are Beginning Work

Since 2020, the IEC Fellowship Program has fostered a passion for atopic dermatitis research and management in the next generation of leaders in the field. The [IEC Fellowship Program page](#) now features more details and program history, and a page is dedicated to information about [each IEC Fellow](#).

The IEC Board will choose our next Fellows later this year, for the IEC International Clinical Fellowship and the IEC International Research Fellowship. Both of these international fellowships are new in 2024 and greatly expanded the number of locations and mentors for potential Fellows. Chosen applicants will be paired with one of 15 mentors in eight countries.

Earlier this year, the IEC chose two Fellows for the US Clinical Fellowships:

- **Vijaytha Muralidharan, MD MRCP (UK)**, of Dunfermline, Scotland, begins her fellowship under IEC Cofounder **Dr. Amy Paller, MD**, this summer through a grant funded by Pfizer.
- **Mariana L. Guzmán, MD**, of Santiago, Chile, will start her fellowship with **Dr. Paller** later this year, with funding coming from the IEC.

In January, IEC Fellow **Arbie Sofia Merilleno, MD**, of the Philippines, began the MDRI IEC Canadian Research Fellowship (announced in 2023 through partnership with the Montréal Dermatology Research Institute [MDRI]) with **Aaron Drucker, MD**, at Women's College Hospital, Toronto.

Previous years' IEC Fellows for the IEC US Research Fellowship and IEC US Clinical Fellowship were funded through the generous support of Abbvie:



- **Pedro J. Gómez Arias, MD**, of Spain, was paired with IEC cofounder **Emma Guttman, MD PhD**, for a research fellowship in 2021 at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY, US.
- **Antonia Reimer-Taschenbrecker, MD**, of Germany, was mentored by **Dr. Paller** for a clinical fellowship in 2021 at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL, US.
- **Caroline Marie Thérèse Mann, MD**, of Germany, was paired with **Dr. Paller** for a clinical fellowship in 2022.
- **Sheng-Pei Wang, MD**, of Taiwan, was mentored for a clinical fellowship by IEC Councilor **Lawrence Eichenfeld, MD**, at the University of California at San Diego and Rady Children's Hospital.

The IEC opened applications for its first Fellowships in 2020 and continues to expand the program. Each is a year-long experience open to early-career physicians from any country. Research fellowships are a 1-year on-site commitment, and clinical fellows typically work on site with an IEC Councilor for 4 weeks before returning home for the remaining 11 months to continuing the mentorship through virtual meetings, email, teleconferences, and other opportunities.

Fellows must attend a major scientific conference, present at a conference (or, optionally, conduct a chart review for the clinical fellowship), and submit an abstract or manuscript for publication in a national or international journal. Stipends ensure these opportunities aren't limited to residents of higher-income countries or those who have other means of support.

[Learn More about the IEC Fellowship Program & IEC Fellows](#)



## IEC Examines Infections & Immunization in Third Symposium at RADLA

Led by chairs **Valeria Aoki, MD PhD**, and **Fernando Valenzuela, MD**, the IEC presented **Infections and Immunization in Patients with Atopic Dermatitis** on May 7 at Reunión Anual de Dermatólogos Latinoamericanos (RADLA) in Lima, Peru.

Drs. Aoki and Valenzuela also acted as faculty, joined by IEC Councilors **Raquel Leño Orfali, MD PhD**, and **Angela Maria Londoño Garcia, MSc MD**, and IEC Associate **Paula Luna, MD**.

The event is an important part of the Council's efforts to welcome more members from South America and Central America. This year's presentation drew the most attendees that IEC has had at RADLA. The audience was very engaged, asking questions and discussing each session.

[Watch the session in Spanish](#) on the IEC's YouTube channel.

[View the Recording of the IEC Symposium at RADLA](#)





## More than 150 Attendees Learn About Drivers of Atopic Dermatitis at SID



**What's New in Pathogenesis & Mechanisms? Drivers of Disease** was presented live by the IEC for a standing-room-only crowd. The symposium occurred May 15 in Dallas, TX, USA, as part of the 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for Investigative Dermatology.

More than 150 attendees engaged with IEC experts to examine the intricate molecular and immunological processes underlying atopic dermatitis (AD), novel insights into disease development, the multifaceted nature of AD, emerging therapeutic targets, and potential interventions.

The event was chaired by IEC Councilor **Emma Guttman, MD PhD**, and IEC Associate **Carolyn Jack, MDCM PhD FRCP**. They presented at the symposium along with faculty members and IEC Councilors **Lawrence F. Eichenfeld, MD**; **Gil Yosipovitch, MD FAAD**; **Alan Irvine, MD DSc**; and **Patrick Brunner, MD**. Presenting SID abstracts were Shirley P. Parraga, BS, and Austin Moon, MD. Their work can be seen in the event recording, available as an **on-demand webcast**.

[View the Recording of the IEC Symposium at SID](#)





## 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 Makes its EAACI Debut with Symposium on JAK Inhibitors



The IEC's first symposium at the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Congress was a success! **Safety of JAK Inhibitors in the Treatment of Inflammatory Skin Diseases** was presented June 1 in València, Spain.

Representing the IEC as faculty were:

- **Alan Irvine, MD DSc**, event co-chair and IEC president
- **Ioana Agache, MD PhD**, event co-chair and IEC Councilor
- **Marjolein de Bruin-Weller, MD PhD**, IEC Councilor



They discussed the mechanisms and consequences of JAK-STAT signaling in the immune system, with clinical trial experiences and real-world data.

This symposium underscores the IEC's inclusion of both dermatologists and allergists as crucial in furthering our mission. Our Councilors and Associates can help out by sharing information about the IEC with allergist colleagues—including sending them links to **the IEC website** and **information on joining the Council**.



**Join Us for Our Final Two Symposia of 2024, at ESDR and EADV**





Presented jointly with the International Psoriasis Council at the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) Annual Meeting

September 4, 13:00-17:00  
Lisbon, Portugal

At the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress

September 28, 14:15-17:30  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

## Meet the Councilor: Angela Maria Londoño Garcia, MD MSC



This issue's 'Meet the Councilor' features **Angela Maria Londoño Garcia, MD MSC**.

Dr. Londoño Garcia is a dermatologist, master in epidemiology and autoimmunity, and coordinator of the dermatology postgraduate program at Universidad CES in Medellin, Colombia. She is scientific coordinator of Clinic of Psoriasis and Immune-mediated Diseases (CLIPSO) and a councilor of both the IEC and International Psoriasis Council.

She presented “Immunobiologics and AD: Management of Infections and Immunization” as part of the IEC’s symposium **Infections and Immunization in Patients with Atopic Dermatitis** on May 7 in Lima, Peru.

With 20 years of experience in the management of immune-mediated skin diseases, she has published on the topic in national and international journals.

### **How does your personal or professional vision/mission align with the new IEC vision/mission?**

Since I started my professional career, my vocation has been directed to the care of patients with immune-mediated diseases. I understand and share the importance of proper management and care of patients with atopic dermatitis, the need for early care for the prevention of complications and the relevance of research in new therapies for the management of atopic dermatitis, the discussion on what should be the therapeutic goals to be achieved in our patients, and that perhaps in the not too distant future we can talk about modifying the course of the disease.

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

The creation of a program for the integral management of the disease, where the patient is accompanied by dermatologists, allergist, internal medicine, nutritionist, respiratory therapy, and psychology, allowing a global approach to the disease and offering the patient the best care with warmth and knowledge.

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

What I value most is working with great leaders in the field from whom I hope to learn and collaborate in improving the management of atopic dermatitis.

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

The development of new therapeutic targets such as the OX-40/OX40L pathway, importance of fibroblasts as cells associated with immunological memory, early disease management, and better characterization of phenotypes.



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

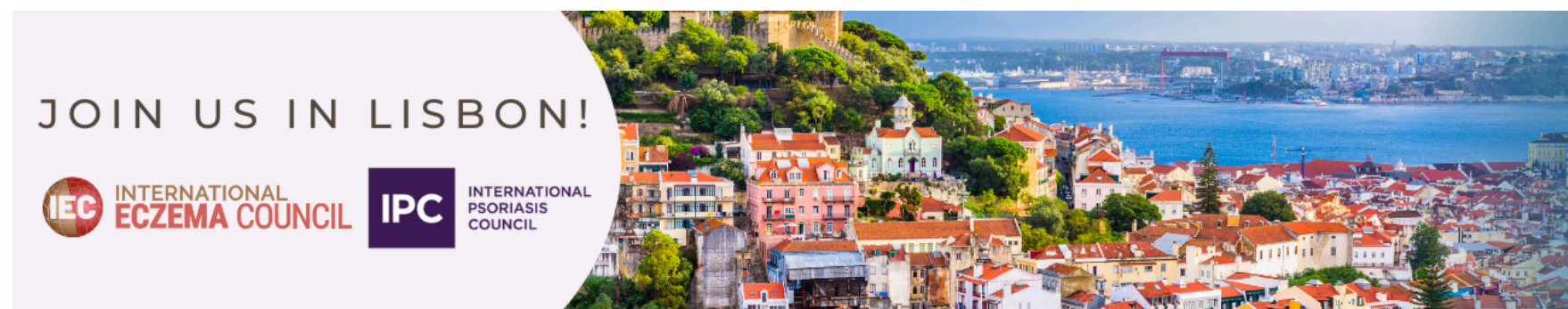
Shared decision making is very important when treating AD patients. With an ever-increasing number of treatment options, amplifying the patient's needs and concerns in selecting therapeutics will take on increasing importance.

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

I am a lover of history and visited Tikal in Guatemala, one of the most beautiful archaeological sites I have visited. Its greatest charm is to be in the middle of the jungle with a degree of impeccable conservation. Plus, you feel a comforting energy.



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



## See the IEC/IPC Symposium in September at ESDR in Lisbon, Portugal

The IEC is partnering with the International Psoriasis Council to jointly present a symposium at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) in Lisbon, Portugal.

From [From Comparative Pathogenesis to Biomarker-guided Treatments in Psoriasis and Eczema](#) will be presented from 13:00 to 17:00 on September 4 by expert faculty from both Councils.

Program chairs also come from both Councils. They are:

- IPC Board members **Johann Gudjonsson, MD PhD**, and **Akimichi Morita, MD PhD**
- IEC Councilors **Nick Reynolds, BSc MBBS MD FRCP**, and **Tiago Torres, MD PhD** (both of whom are also IPC Councilors)

We have collaborated twice before on presentations with the IPC, in September 2016 and in March 2017.

[Registration is now open](#) for this no-cost symposium in Portugal. Register now to learn from [10 experts from both organizations](#), plus abstract presenters.

[Register Now for the IEC/IPC Symposium at ESDR](#)

## Find and Follow the IEC on Four Social Media Platforms!



Facebook

[facebook.com/people/International-Eczema-Council/61554124067841/](https://facebook.com/people/International-Eczema-Council/61554124067841/)



LinkedIn

[linkedin.com/company/international-eczema-council](https://linkedin.com/company/international-eczema-council)



X (formerly) Twitter

[x.com/CouncilEczema](https://x.com/CouncilEczema)  
(@CouncilEczema)



YouTube

[youtube.com/@internationaleczemacouncil4126](https://youtube.com/@internationaleczemacouncil4126)



## Your Leadership Advances Our Mission: Get Involved with the IEC

IEC members are invited to get more involved in the Council's mission by joining a committee. You'll serve with your fellow Councilors and Associates, including veteran committee members, so that you can learn as you go and develop further leadership skills.

IEC committees and charges include:

- **Nominating Committee:** Identifies, screens and reviews nominees and recommends BOD nominees.
- **Education Committee:** Discusses and determines theme and chair selection for symposia.
- **Membership Committee:** Reviews applications for new Councilors/Associates and recommend to the IEC Board; reviews membership criteria including ongoing review and termination.
- **Finance or Audit Committee:** Monitors finances, approves budget, reviews audit.
- **Research Committee:** Develops various IEC research activities, including surveys and manuscripts, Councilor/Associate meeting topics, plus other activities to facilitate AD research.
- **Fellowship Committee:** Reviews applications for Clinical and Research Fellowships.

Committee work doesn't lock you into a time-consuming commitment. In fact, most committees meet only 2-4 times per year.

Contact us to indicate your committee interest! Send an email to [info@eczemacouncil.org](mailto:info@eczemacouncil.org), and we'll share additional information about how you can get involved

[Contact the IEC for Information on Committees](#)

# The IEC Thanks Our Corporate Sponsors for their Support

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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 133 Councilors and Associates from 31 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

