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Letter from the IEC President

I am excited to announce that the IEC will present the [Inaugural Dermatology Residents Virtual Meeting—Advanced Topics in Atopic Dermatitis](#)—on Saturday, October 23, 2021.

This one-day, comprehensive program on the most up-to-date information about the diagnosis, treatment, pathophysiology, and comorbidities related to the management of AD is designed for and open to all dermatology residents and fellows.

Emma Guttman, our immediate past president and co-chair of the program, has been involved in extensive planning to design a curriculum with sessions that range from epidemiologic trends, prevention strategies, and current and novel treatments to translational research. In addition to listening to didactic lectures presented by international experts in AD, participants will have the opportunity to participate in interactive discussions with the expert faculty and other residents.

The IEC is now accepting registration for this inaugural meeting on a first-come, first-served basis. I invite dermatology residents to [sign up today](#) to be amongst the first group of attendees to what will become an annual event. I look forward to welcoming you to a stimulating and informative educational program.

Robert Bissonnette, MD FRCPC MSc
IEC President

MEET THE
COUNCILOR

Listen to an
interview with
**Dr. Alan
Irvine**

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NOW**

Meet the Councilor: Dr. Alan Irvine

This issue's 'Meet the Councilor' features Alan Irvine, MD, DSc, who is the IEC president-elect. Dr. Irvine is a professor of dermatology at Trinity College Dublin and a consultant dermatologist at Children's Health Ireland in Dublin Ireland.

Read this summary of our Q&A with Dr. Irvine or [listen to his 5-minute audio interview](#).

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

On a research basis, I'm most proud of working on the identification of filaggrin mutations in the skin barrier of people with AD, which are a significant genetic risk factor for AD. The work served to focus on the relevance of skin barrier defects in AD, which led on to a focus on innate immunity in the skin and skin resident immune defects. Identifying the filaggrin mutations yielded insights into the pathogenesis of AD, highlighting the contribution of the barrier defect, which can be inherited or acquired, along with aberrant local immune responses and an aberrant microbiome.

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

The IEC is a fantastic transnational organization where a melting pot of ideas, energy, and stimulation help focus research efforts to develop better treatments for AD and better understanding of the disease. It's been a great energizing hub to bring together people from all areas around the globe, with different backgrounds, cultures, and mutually enhancing skill sets, to drive research into the condition and better outcomes for patients.



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. More than 100 Councilors and Associates from 24 countries contribute their expertise to support the IEC's research, programs, events, and education. **[Make a donation to further the IEC's mission](#)** of eczema research and education or **[contact the IEC to learn more](#)**.

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