



Converging Pathways: Atopic Dermatitis and Alopecia Areata

Thursday, March 6, 2025 • 2-6 pm ET
Orange County Convention Center • Room W202ABC • Orlando, FL, USA

***An International Eczema Council (IEC)
Global Education Day Session at the AAD Annual Meeting,
Presented in Partnership with***



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AGENDA

2-2:05 pm

Welcome from the IEC

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

2:05-2:10 pm

Program Overview from Symposium Co-Chairs

Emma Guttman, MD PhD; IEC Cofounder, Board Member, and Councilor; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA

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

2:10-2:30 pm

Pathogenic Similarities and Differences Between Alopecia Areata and Atopic Dermatitis

Emma Guttman, MD PhD; IEC Cofounder, Board Member, and Councilor; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA

2:30-2:50 pm

The Epidemiology of Alopecia Areata and Atopic Comorbidities

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

2:50-3:10 pm

New Treatment Developments in Atopic Dermatitis and How These Relate to Alopecia Areata

Peter A. Lio, MD; IEC Councilor; Integrative Eczema Center, Chicago, IL, USA

3:10-3:25 pm

New Treatments for Adults with Alopecia Areata

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

3:25-3:45 pm

New Developments for Children with Alopecia Areata With and Without Atopy

Amy Paller, MD MS; IEC Cofounder, Board Member; and Councilor; Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA

3:45-4:10 pm

Break

4:10-4:20 pm

Research Update from the NEA

Wendy Smith Begolka, MBS; National Eczema Association, Novato, CA, USA

4:20-4:30 pm

Research Update from the NAAF

George C. Gondo, MA; National Alopecia Areata Foundation, Novato, CA, USA

4:30-5:45 pm

Patient Discussion Panel

Moderated by Jessica Johnson, MPH; National Eczema Association

George C. Gondo, MA; National Alopecia Areata Foundation

5:45-6 pm

Q&A, Closing Remarks, & Adjourn

Emma Guttman & Natasha Mesinkovska

IEC PRESIDENT



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.

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS



Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD PhD; IEC Cofounder, Board Member, and Councilor

Emma Guttman-Yassky is the system chair of the department of dermatology, and the Waldman Professor of Dermatology and Immunology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York. She is the director of the Center of Excellence in Eczema and the Laboratory for Inflammatory Skin Diseases.

Dr. Guttman's major research focus areas are atopic dermatitis (AD)/eczema and alopecia areata. Her research made paradigm-shifting discoveries on the immunologic basis of AD/eczema in adults and children with atopic dermatitis, enriching the understanding of the pathophysiology of this common disorder, opening the door for novel, pathway-specific drugs in this disease. Recently, Dr. Guttman extended her research interest to hair loss disorders such as alopecia areata and scarring hair loss disorders, chronic hand eczema, keloids, ichthyosis, and other skin diseases, in which her findings are also translated to novel therapeutics. Dr. Guttman co-founded the International Eczema Council (IEC), and is its immediate past president. Dr. Guttman has received many national and international awards. She was elected as a member to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) and the American Dermatological Society (ADA). Dr. Guttman is often a keynote and plenary speaker in international and national meetings and has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications.

She earned her MD from Sackler School of Medicine at the Tel-Aviv University and a PhD from the Bar-Ilan University, Israel. After her Israeli Board certification in dermatology in Israel, Dr. Guttman moved to the U.S. to pursue a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship at The Rockefeller University in the Laboratory for Investigative Dermatology. Upon completion of her fellowship, she became board-certified by the American Board of Dermatology after a second dermatology residency training at Weill-Cornell Medical College, in NY.



Natasha Atanaskova Mesinkovska, MD PHD

Natasha Atanaskova 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.

She 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. An exceptional educator and mentor, Dr. Mesinkovska 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 led to approval of novel therapies, and on the American Hair Research Society Board of Directors (2022-2024).

PROGRAM FACULTY



George C. Gondo, MA; NAAF Chief Mission Officer

George Gondo is chief mission officer at the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF), a role he assumed in October 2024. Gondo has nearly 20 years of experience working for national patient advocacy organizations. Prior to joining NAAF, he served as director of patient-centered research at the National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF), where he revitalized the NPF Annual Survey leading to nearly 15 peer-reviewed publications.

He began his patient advocacy journey at the Amputee Coalition where he led the National Limb Loss Resource Center and spearheaded the development of a research agenda for limb loss and limb loss prevention. Gondo earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee—Knoxville. He resides in Knoxville, TN.



Jessica K. Johnson, MPH; NEA Director of Community Research & Engagement

Jessica Johnson is the director of community research & engagement at the National Eczema Association (NEA). She leads the strategic development, growth, and implementation of NEA's survey research, real-world data activities and NEA's Ambassador's Program, connecting over 500 patient and caregiver members across the US to opportunities to share their valuable lived experience perspectives with researchers, biopharmaceutical companies, legislators, policymakers, and others in the community.

Previously, Jessica was a senior researcher within the Center for Community Health at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (Chicago, IL, USA), where she led a dynamic patient-centered research portfolio that engaged patients and stakeholders nationally. Johnson brings more than 12 years of experience in the science and practice of community-based participatory research (CBPR) and patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR). She has been first author or co-author on several publications that have highlighted key considerations for researchers when conducting PCOR that meaningfully engages patients and other stakeholder groups. She holds a master's degree in public health from SUNY Upstate Medical University and Syracuse University.

PROGRAM FACULTY (CONTINUED)



Peter Lio, MD FAAD; IEC Councilor

Peter Lio is a clinical professor of dermatology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY, USA, and a clinical assistant professor of dermatology & pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL, USA. Dr. Lio is the founding director of the Chicago Integrative Eczema Center and a founding partner of Medical Dermatology Associates of Chicago.

He serves as a board member and scientific advisory committee member emeritus for the National Eczema Association. He is a member of the American Academy of Dermatology's Atopic Dermatitis Expert Resource Group and a founding faculty member of the Integrative Dermatology Certificate Program. He has written over 300 publications and three textbooks.

Dr. Lio received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed his internship in pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and his dermatology training at Harvard where he served as chief resident in dermatology. At Harvard, he received formal training in acupuncture.



Amy Paller, MD MS; IEC Cofounder, Board Member, and Councilor

Amy Paller is the Walter J. Hamlin Professor and Chair of Dermatology, professor of pediatrics, and principal investigator of the NIH-funded Skin Disease Research Center at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL, USA.

She was the inaugural IEC president and co-founder and has been president of the Society for Pediatric Dermatology, Society for Investigative Dermatology, Women's Dermatologic Society, and International Society for Pediatric Dermatology. She was the inaugural co-chair of the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance and has served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology, Society for Investigative Dermatology, Society for Pediatric Dermatology, Women's Dermatologic Society, American Board of Dermatology, and American Dermatological Association.

She co-authors *Hurwitz Clinical Pediatric Dermatology* and has edited the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, among other journals.



Wendy Smith Begolka, MBS; NEA Chief Strategy Officer

Wendy Smith Begolka is the chief strategy officer of research, medical and community affairs at the National Eczema Association (NEA). Her work focuses on raising public and healthcare provider awareness of the heterogeneity of eczema, amplifying the patient experience and patient-centered outcomes in care, and harnessing real-world patient-reported data to fill research and knowledge gaps.

She has held prior research and evidence-based medicine positions at Northwestern University and the American Academy of Dermatology. She served as the principal investigator (PI) or co-PI for multiple research grants and is the PI on NEA's CDC Chronic Disease Education and Awareness and PCORI Engagement awards.

Smith Begolka has written over 80 peer-reviewed publications, including multiple papers on the patient and caregiver eczema lived experience and their perspectives on eczema care. She holds a master's degree in biomedical sciences from the Mayo Clinic.



Benjamin Ungar, MD; IEC Councilor

Benjamin Ungar is an assistant professor in the Department of Dermatology at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, NY, USA, and became director of the Alopecia Center of Excellence at Mount Sinai in 2023. He is an IEC Councilor.

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 and graduated from medical school in 2017 with distinction in research. After completing his intern year at NYU Winthrop Hospital, Dr. Ungar completed his dermatology residency at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, graduating 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.

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 and email CEO Alan Stiles at astiles@eczemacouncil.org.

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NAAF™ is the voice of the alopecia areata community, serving the nearly 7M Americans affected by this **autoimmune disease, which causes unpredictable, often sudden and severe hair loss.**



Frequently dismissed as a cosmetic condition, alopecia can be a deeply traumatic experience, resulting in emotional and economic pain and social isolation.

It's not *just* hair.

A catalyst for driving research, support, and awareness, **NAAF empowers our community with more choices.**

We connect the patient, medical and scientific community to drive research and treatment development, raise awareness to reduce stigma, and provide support to improve lives.



NAAF is here to help. Visit naaf.org today.

Let's care for your eczema patients together.



The National Eczema Association (NEA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the largest patient advocacy organization serving the over 31 million Americans who live with eczema and those who care for them. We elevate the diverse lived experience of eczema, and help patients and caregivers understand their disease, actively engage in their care and find strength in one another.

We're your partner in eczema care, providing resources for your patients and your practice to make the most of office visits, treatment decisions and ongoing eczema management.

Learn more and join our community at NationalEczema.org.



**National
Eczema
Association**

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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. The IEC has [151 Councilors and Associates in 33 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.

Upcoming Symposia

Save the dates to attend IEC symposia in 2025. Go to [EczemaCouncil.org/symposia](https://eczemacouncil.org/symposia) to learn more.

Date(s)	In Conjunction With	Location	Symposium Title
April 7	World Congress of Pediatric Dermatology (WCPD)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<i>Lessons Learned: Practical Strategies for Preventing, Treating, and Managing Atopic Dermatitis in Pediatric Populations</i>
May 7	Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID)	San Diego, CA, USA	<i>Practical Applications of Multiomics in Atopic Dermatitis</i>
Sept. 20	European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV)	Paris, France	<i>Atopic Dermatitis and Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma</i>

[Visit the Symposia Page](#)

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