

## **Dr. Aaron Drucker's Story**

Provider, Researcher

*"When I first started in dermatology, I thought of eczema as a children's disease. Then I noticed how many patients in our adult dermatology clinics were dealing with it and how it impacted nearly every aspect of their lives, health, and work. That's what turned me on to this field of research."*

- Aaron Drucker, MD

Aaron Drucker, MD, SCM, FRCPC, is a dermatologist and researcher at Women's College Hospital in Toronto and an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Drucker first became interested in the epidemiology of skin diseases while completing his residency at the University of Toronto, but his interest was piqued when an advisor for his research fellowship at Brown University mentioned that some of the most exciting discoveries were happening in the field of eczema and atopic dermatitis (AD). The idea that he could be part of an effort to try and better understand the impact of existing medications on patients' lives and health, and help find new tools, was appealing.

Over the past decade, his research has uncovered new information about how AD affects children and adults differently. But there is still a lot to learn, especially regarding treatment efficacy. "Many new treatments are being studied to help patients with more severe disease," Drucker notes. "But not all medications work the same way in different people, and we're still learning how to use the tools we have as effectively as possible to maximize benefit and minimize long-term consequences."

To help fill some of the gaps in knowledge about AD treatments, Dr. Drucker collaborated with an international group of clinicians, scientists, and patients to create [eczematherapies.com](http://eczematherapies.com). Their research is conducted independent of pharmaceutical companies and uses a statistical technique called 'network meta-analysis' to take clinical trial data for AD drugs and combine them to compare how effective and safe different systemic treatments (pills and injections) are for eczema. The team shares their research findings publicly via [eczematherapies.com](http://eczematherapies.com) to help patients and clinicians make more informed treatment decisions.

Dr. Drucker believes that the most effective treatment plans are developed as part of a shared decision-making process between a patient and their doctor, factoring in condition severity, quality of life, and the risks and benefits of different medications.

"People with eczema need to know there are treatments that work and doctors who can offer those treatments. It is not a condition that has to be passively lived with - it can be improved. But we need to keep studying how treatments work in different populations and work to fill gaps so that every patient can have a treatment option that will work for them."