



GLOBAL ATOPIC  
DERMATITIS ATLAS

## Global Atopic Dermatitis Atlas (GADA) Receives Significant Funding Boost from LEO Foundation

**30 October 2023** - The Global Atopic Dermatitis Atlas (GADA), a pioneering international initiative dedicated to advancing our understanding of Atopic Dermatitis (AD), is thrilled to announce **DKK 10 million grant funding** support from the LEO Foundation, forming an important strategic collaboration with leading organisations: the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and collaborating GADA partners. This support marks a significant milestone in our mission to consolidate and analyse comprehensive data on AD burden from around the world, ultimately leading to better care and support for individuals living with this challenging skin condition.

Atopic Dermatitis, commonly known as eczema, poses substantial challenges to millions of people across the globe. Characterised by inflamed and intensely itchy skin, AD often leads to sleep disturbances and reduced quality of life. This condition affects approximately 20% of children and 10% of adults in high-income countries and urban areas of middle and low-income nations. According to the Global Burden of Disease data, AD ranks 15th among all non-fatal diseases and holds the first position among skin diseases globally.

The LEO Foundation will provide vital financial support to GADA, which is an initiative of the ILDS, in collaboration with the International Society of Atopic Dermatitis (ISAD), the International Eczema Council (IEC), the European Taskforce for Atopic Dermatitis (ETFAD), and the International Alliance of Dermatology Patient Organizations (GlobalSkin).

**Professor Carsten Flohr, Director of GADA** says,

“ The support from the LEO Foundation will significantly enhance our ability to continue to collect and analyse burden data on atopic dermatitis globally. Our goal is to create a comprehensive atlas that provides critical insights into the prevalence, severity, and treatment of AD, filling the gaps in our current understanding.”



Atopic dermatitis not only affects individuals physically but also carries a significant psychological burden, including anxiety and depression. It is also associated with the development of food allergies, allergic rhinitis, asthma, and other chronic inflammatory conditions. Despite the progress made in treating severe forms of AD in recent years, there is a pressing need for accurate and uniform epidemiological data, particularly in low and middle-income settings.



**Prof Henry W. Lim, ILDS President**, emphasised the importance of this collaboration, stating,

“The ILDS is proud to welcome the LEO Foundation as a major supporter of this crucial endeavor. Atopic dermatitis is a global health concern that requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach. The support of LEO Foundation will enable

ILDS and key GADA collaborating partners to address disparities in atopic dermatitis care, enhance access to treatments, and ultimately improve the lives of those affected by this condition.”

**Anne-Marie Engel, Chief Scientific Officer of the LEO Foundation**, highlighted the Foundation's commitment to supporting research that transforms our understanding of skin and skin diseases, stating,

“At the LEO Foundation, we are certain that the Global Atopic Dermatitis Atlas will become an important resource for everyone seeking knowledge on the global burden of AD. We are excited to support this collaboration of international experts who have set themselves the ambitious goal of establishing a shared standard for fieldwork studies and developing digital tools to facilitate more efficient data acquisition and sharing. It is our hope that whether you are a researcher, clinician, patient, or policymaker, the Global Atopic Dermatitis Atlas will be the go-to resource for validated data on atopic dermatitis.”



In October 2022, GADA launched the first Global Report on Atopic Dermatitis, offering valuable insights into the worldwide prevalence and burden of the disease. This report comprehensively summarizes the disease's impact, geographical disparities in prevalence data, treatment availability, and inequalities in access to therapeutics.

The generous commitment from the LEO Foundation funds a systematic evidence synthesis of the worldwide AD burden data, as well as an international consensus exercise to optimise research methodology and the building of a digital ecosystem for future epidemiological studies.

For more information about the Global Atopic Dermatitis Atlas (GADA) and this collaboration, please visit [www.atopicdermatitisatlas.org](http://www.atopicdermatitisatlas.org) or contact [info@atopicdermatitisatlas.org](mailto:info@atopicdermatitisatlas.org).

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## About the LEO Foundation

The LEO Foundation is one of the largest private funders globally of independent skin research. The Foundation provides philanthropic grants to support the best international research that pioneers new discoveries and transforms our understanding of the skin and its diseases. Over the past decade, the LEO Foundation has supported independent skin research with more than EUR 135 million.

[www.leo-foundation.org](http://www.leo-foundation.org)

