

The long history of atopic dermatitis

Eczema is a disease that I remember all too well (as a little girl, when I suffered from eczema on my feet, I remember my mother rubbing them with a cortisone cream each night and wrapping them with Saran Wrap), but it goes back much further than my childhood. In 1817, British physicians Robert Willan and Thomas Bateman developed the term “eczema” to describe a fluid-filled blistering rash (like a sunburn), but descriptions of eczema-like skin conditions appeared some 3000 years before that, in medical documents called the Ebers Papyrus. In the book, *History of Allergy*, authors noted that “Atopic dermatitis was described and named in 1933 by Fred Wise and Marion Sulzberger. Before 1933, however, the dermatological literature contained many clinical descriptions compatible with the modern diagnosis of atopic dermatitis. Atopic dermatitis has probably existed since antiquity.”

Fast forward to today: with the newest JAK inhibitors providing dramatic relief from this condition, this disease has come a long way. Find out more at this year’s RAD conference, June 8-10, in Chicago, Illinois. Don’t miss out!