

Professor Anthony Kelleher



Professor Anthony (Tony) Kelleher is a clinician scientist. He graduated from Medicine at UNSW in 1986. He trained in internal medicine and pathology at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney at the height of the HIV epidemic, qualifying as a Clinical Immunologist and Immunopathologist in 1995.

Professor Kelleher completed his PhD in 1997, describing the modulation of the HIV infected immune system by a range of interventions including therapeutic vaccines and IL-2. He made the first observations describing the reconstitution of antigen specific CD4+ T cell responses in patients receiving potent anti-retroviral therapy in the context of an early phase trial of the HIV protease inhibitor, Ritonavir. He has conducted studies demonstrating the role of immune escape in HIV disease progression, described novel methods to isolate human T regulatory cells and played critical roles in pivotal clinical trials that have determined HIV treatment guidelines.

He has established an exciting new area of research on transcriptional gene silencing of HIV-1 by promoter targeting siRNAs and shRNAs and is exploring a variety of systems, including nanoparticles, for the efficient delivery of these to resting CD4 cells.

Professor Kelleher was appointed Director of the Kirby Institute at UNSW Sydney in early 2019. He is also Head of the Kirby Institute's Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program, and Principal of the Infection Immunology and Inflammation Theme at UNSW Medicine. As a clinical academic at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, Professor Kelleher is responsible for clinical care of patients with HIV infection and autoimmune diseases as well as oversight of the NSW State HIV Reference laboratory.