



Garvan Institute of Medical Research

## Leaders in Science & Society



# Professor Matthias von Herrath MD

Vice President and Head  
Diabetes R&D Center, Novo Nordisk Inc  
Seattle, Washington USA

## “New and unexpected insights into the histopathology of type 1 and 2 diabetes and therapeutic considerations”

**Monday 18 May 2015 12PM, AUDITORIUM**

I am very much committed to clinical translation of immune-based interventions in autoimmune and metabolic diseases, the latter in particular being an exciting emerging field. My expertise and main strength is working at the interface of experimental research for refinement and interpretation of early phase I/II clinical trials in order to then optimise strategies for phase 3 trials and drug approval. This comprises translation from various animal models to human interventions, optimisation of immunotherapies and their relative ranking, assessment of combination therapies, development of biomarkers as primary or secondary outcomes, induction of antigen specific tolerance in autoimmunity, regulatory cells and clinical T cell assays.

In order to be better able to pursue my goals in clinical translation, I accepted the position of Vice President and Head of the Novo Nordisk Diabetes R&D Center in Seattle in autumn of 2011. This has been a fantastic move for me, I built the diabetes translational unit and we have in some ways established a less conventional and innovative design. Understanding disease pathology remains very close to my heart and in my current situation, Novo Nordisk has allowed me to keep an appointment at La Jolla Institute, where I pursue NIH funded research on the pathology of type 1 and 2 diabetes as part of the national pancreatic organ donor network (nPOD). This is a multinational collaborative effort where data are shared in real time and no intellectual property yet lots of new knowledge on the pathology of type 1 and 2 diabetes is being generated. It is a unique new collaborative paradigm for academic and also industry settings.