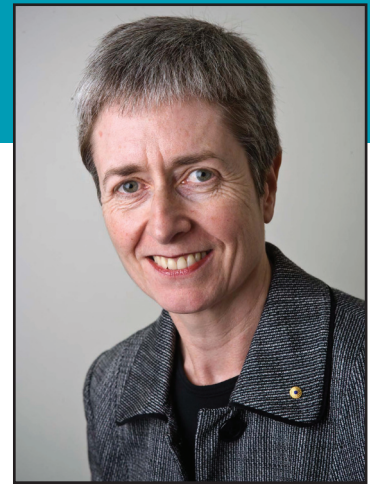


ANU PUBLIC LECTURES SERIES 2010

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA: An Immunological Challenge

Professor Anne Kelso, AO

World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre
for Reference and Research on Influenza



Tuesday 13 May, 5.30–6.30pm

The Finkel Lecture Theatre, The John Curtin School
of Medical Research, Garran Road, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

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In 2009, the Australian population experienced its biggest immunological event for many years. A new influenza virus spread rapidly among Melbourne children in May, ultimately infecting millions around the country. While the great majority recovered, the median age of death from influenza declined from 83 to 53 in 2009. The epidemic ended in September, despite continuing elsewhere in the world. Why did this influenza virus favor young people? Why did our epidemic end so quickly? Does this mean we are all immune and, if so, do we need the vaccine this winter? Influenza is unpredictable but some answers are emerging.

Professor Anne Kelso is the Director of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza in Melbourne and holds an honorary professorial position at the University of Melbourne. Professor Kelso previously undertook research in immunology at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. From 2000 until 2006, she was the Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Vaccine Technology. She has served as President of the Australasian Society for Immunology and as Secretary-General of the International Union of Immunological Societies.

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