



COPING WITH MORTALITY

Death – that ugly, feared, unwanted, yet inescapable end – creates great societal tension as people strive to control, postpone or bring on its inevitability. How does medicine respond? Can we adorn the abject? Recognise the sacred? Accompany the mystery? Support silent grief? Or must we intervene as if dying is a barren task, concluded by injection, hastened with efficiency, emptying another bed?

Date

Wednesday
July 17th

Time

6:00pm (refreshments),
6:30pm (lecture)

Location

Level 2 Lecture
Theatre, University of
Notre Dame School
of Medicine Building,
Darlinghurst

RSVP

www.notredame.edu.au/events-items/public-lecture-coping-with-mortality

Inquiries

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Professor David Kissane AC, will grapple with these questions in his forthcoming lecture.

David W. Kissane, MD is an academic psychiatrist and researcher in the fields of psycho-oncology and palliative care. He currently holds the Chair of Palliative Care Research with the University of Notre Dame Australia and the Cunningham Centre at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. He has previously been Head of the Department of Psychiatry for Monash University, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and, before that, the Foundation Chair of Palliative Medicine at the University of Melbourne.



Professor Kissane's academic interests include studies of existential distress, group, couples and family psychotherapy trials, communication skills training, and the ethics of end-of-life care. He is best known for his model of family therapy delivered to 'at risk' families during palliative care, which prevents complicated grief and depression in bereavement. His work on demoralization as a variation of depression in the medically ill has preceded interventions to promote meaning-based coping. He is the author of over 350 publications, including books about Communication in Cancer Care, Depression and Anxiety, Psychotherapy in Cancer Care, and Bereavement Care for Families.

Prof Kissane has been recognised by the International Psycho-Oncology Society with its Sutherland Award for lifetime achievement, by Cornell University with its Klerman Award for psychotherapy research, by King's College London with its Dame Cecily Saunders lecture, and in 2018, he was made a Companion in the Order of Australia for his contribution to the development of the disciplines of Psycho-oncology and Palliative Care.

