

Professor Bryan R Cullen
Hon DSc (11am)

Born in Bradford, Professor Bryan R Cullen was awarded a BSc in Biochemistry from Warwick in 1973.

He moved to the US where he gained a PhD in Microbiology from Rutgers University in 1984. In 1987, he was recruited to Duke University Medical Center as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. He currently holds a James B Duke Professorship in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology and is Director of the Center for Virology at Duke.

Professor Cullen's research interests have revolved around the use of viruses as genetic tools to understand the biology of the eukaryotic cell, focusing on RNA-sequence mediated gene regulation. Currently, his laboratory is studying the biogenesis and function of microRNAs – in particular, virus-encoded microRNAs – and the use of CRISPR/Cas-based gene-editing technology as a tool to investigate and inhibit the replication of viruses such as HSV-1 and HBV. A recent interest is the role of post-transcriptional modifications of mRNAs and how these affect viral replication.

He has published more than 280 research papers and is on the editorial boards of 11 prominent journals. He has received many awards and accolades, including the Eli Lilly Molecular Biology Contact Award; the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Award; the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Distinguished Alumni Award and a Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

He has twice been named one of the Top Peer Reviewers for the *Journal of Virology* and has been elected to Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was listed as one of the 10 most cited AIDS researchers by *Science*; one of the world's most "Highly Cited Researchers" by Thomson Reuters and *PLOS Pathogens* selected two manuscripts from the his laboratory as among the most important published in the first ten years of the journal's existence.

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Orator: **Professor Lawrence Young**
Pro-Vice-Chancellor