Andrew Grulich
Australia

Andrew Grulich, MBBS, PhD, is a Public Health Physician and Head of the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program at the Kirby Institute in Sydney, Australia. He leads a group of researchers who investigate the transmission and prevention of HIV and sexually transmissible infections, predominantly in homosexual men. This work has crossed the field from the socio-behavioural to the molecular. Grulich is PI of the Opposites Attract study, one of the only studies globally of HIV transmission and viral load in homosexual serodiscordant couples. His group has also published groundbreaking work on the epidemiology and prevention of HIV-associated cancers, with a current focus on anal cancer natural history and prevention. He has been an author of more than 250 peer reviewed articles.

Grulich has more than 20 years of experience working at high levels in the public health response to HIV. In addition to his scientific role, this has included leadership of the Australian national professional organisation in HIV (President of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine 2001-03); high level roles in the policy response to HIV (Chair of the New South Wales Health Department’s committee responsible for HIV prevention since 2001; membership of the Australian Health Minister’s advisory committee on HIV since 2000) and membership of the board of the largest HIV community-based organisation in Australia (the AIDS Council of NSW 1997-2000). In 2012, he chaired state and federal expert technical advisory groups which were tasked with providing evidence-based strategic advice on how Australia should implement an HIV prevention revolution.

As reflected in his career, Grulich is a passionate believer in a multidisciplinary approach to tackling health issues. While the current environment in HIV prevention offers a rare opportunity to escalate greatly our successes in HIV prevention in the clinic, it is only likely to be successful if previously successful elements of combination prevention, such as condom promotion, are retained. To achieve success, ramped-up cross-sectoral collaboration will need to be a cornerstone, and government leadership and community ownership are absolutely critical. The IAS, with its global and multi-disciplinary mandate, is well placed to play a leading role in advocating for an effective and evidence-based response to turn the HIV epidemic around.