

Dr. Jan Joseph (Jos) Melenhorst is Vice Chair of the Center for Immunotherapy and Precision Immuno-Oncology and Founding Director of the Cell Therapy and Immuno-Engineering Program at Cleveland Clinic. He obtained his PhD from the University of Leiden, Netherlands, where he studied the immunobiology of the bone marrow failure syndrome aplastic anemia. In 1998 he moved to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where he carried out research on the immunobiology of marrow failure syndromes, leukemic disorders, and allogeneic stem cell transplantation. In 2012 he was recruited by Dr. Carl June to the University of Pennsylvania, where he first served as Deputy Director of the clinical Cell & Vaccine Production Facility (cGMP). By the end of 2013 he was promoted to Director of Product Development & Correlative Sciences. In that role Dr. Melenhorst was at the cusp of the first ever CAR T cell therapy approved by FDA: Kymriah. Dr. Melenhorst led the development of a correlative assay pipeline for the first triple CRISPR/Cas9 genome edited, TCR tumor-redirected T cell product in the US, later publishing in Science magazine. As he became a full Professor at the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, he focused efforts on translational sciences of immunogene therapies.

At Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Melenhorst is developing the Cell Therapy & Immuno-Engineering Program (CTIP), including a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility, to develop novel cell-based therapies for cancer, carry out biomarker and translational immunology studies to continue improve the efficacy, specificity, and safety of these therapies.