

Dr Geoff Lester

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Vascular Medicine & Perioperative Physician, Yarra Vascular Surgeons; Marfan & Aortic Diseases Physician, Alfred Hospital Non-Executive Director, hearts4heart; National Ambassador, Heart Foundation; & Senior Lecturer, Monash University, **MELBOURNE**

Dr Geoff Lester is a Vascular Medicine and Perioperative Physician who practices at Alfred Hospital and Yarra Vascular Surgeons, Melbourne, and a Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) accredited physician.

He is Non-Executive Director of hearts4heart, National Ambassador for the Australian Heart Foundation, and a Senior Lecturer at Monash University.

Before Dr Lester was an advocate, researcher, health economist, board director, and vascular physician, he was also a cardiac patient.

When refereeing a social basketball game in December 2009, at the age of 24, he developed a sudden aortic dissection – a tear in the aorta – the main artery that carries blood from the heart. He was rushed into emergency surgery, where doctors instructed him to call his family urgently, as he may not have survived the night. This was his first of four open-heart surgeries, which resulted in multiple subsequent cardiac complications, including two strokes.

Surviving that first life-saving operation, and his journey as a long-term cardiac patient, have profoundly shaped his clinical practice, fostering a unique, empathetic approach to the management of complex cardiovascular disease.

During his initial recovery, Dr Lester decided to pursue medicine to better understand, treat, and prevent aortic disease in others. He now leverages both his lived experience and specialist vascular expertise, and is passionate about all aspects of aorto-vascular diseases and perioperative cardiovascular care.

Dr Lester graduated with a Bachelor of Business (Economics) from the Queensland University of Technology in 2011, before completing his Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) at the University of Wollongong in 2015. He subsequently obtained a Diploma of Echocardiography from the Medical University of Vienna in 2021, and a Master of Philosophy from the University of Sydney in 2023. In 2024, he completed a Master of Public Health at Monash University, followed by a European Master of Vascular Medicine at the University of Milan and a Postgraduate degree in Clinical Ultrasound and Perioperative Medicine at the University of Melbourne in 2025.

He is recognised for his expertise through fellowships and professional memberships, reflecting his standing in medicine and leadership. He completed his post-fellowship training in Aortic, Vascular, Perioperative, and Internal Medicine. He is a Fellow at Monash University and an Affiliate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Actively involved in patient advocacy and professional organisations, Dr Lester supports initiatives that advance cardiovascular care and patient outcomes. He contributes to advocacy campaigns led by hearts4heart, is a national ambassador for the Heart Foundation, Patients Australia, and is a member of the International Genetic Aortic Network (GenTAC). In 2025, Dr Lester led the Australia and New Zealand launch of the global campaign THINK Aorta, receiving national media coverage.

He conducts research in Cardiology, Genetic Epidemiology, and Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, and is a credited researcher and author on 18 publications and conference proceedings. Dr Lester has previously worked at the Bosch Institute, University of Sydney, and the Marfan and Aortic Clinic at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Today, Dr Lester advocates for greater awareness of aortic dissection's lifelong impacts and the critical need for timely access to life-saving medical technology.

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