Dr Ben Hunt BSc, FRACP, FCSANZ, CCEP, MBBS

Cardiologist and Cardiac Electrophysiologist, Pindara Private Hospital, *GOLD COAST*

Dr Ben Hunt is a respected cardiologist and cardiac electrophysiologist who has had a private practice at the Pindara and John Flynn Hospitals on the Gold Coast since 2013.

Dr Hunt specialises in treating atrial fibrillation (AF) – a chronic, progressive disease caused by poor atrial contraction (the top heart chamber) 1 –representing the most common type of arrhythmia, involving an irregular and often rapid heart beat. $^{2-4}$

He also treats all other heart rhythm disorders, for which he performs ablation, and further specialises in the implantation and management of pacemakers and defibrillators.

Dr Hunt graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Science in 1997 and a Bachelor of Medicine, and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in 2002.

In 2009, he registered as a cardiologist after completing his advanced cardiology training at the Princess Alexandra and The Prince Charles Hospitals, Brisbane. In 2011, he completed a two-year fellowship in Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology at

the Foothills Hospital, Calgary, Canada, performing AF and supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) ablations (a treatment for fast rhythms that effect the heart's upper chambers), as well as complex device implantations and extractions.

Dr Hunt has served on a number of committees, including the National Cardiology Advisory board for Ramsay Health Care. He was awarded Fellowship to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) in 2009; a Fellowship in Pacing and Electrophysiology at the Canadian Foothills Hospital between 2010-2011; and was granted Fellowship to the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) in 2012.

"Atrial fibrillation is an often unrecognised cause of fatigue, shortness of breath and a decreased exercise capacity. So often I hear patients tell me "I'm just getting old" when in fact they are suffering from atrial fibrillation. Highly effective treatments are available. If we can increase awareness, we can get these people the help they need," said Dr Hunt.

ends#

To coordinate an interview with Dr Ben Hunt please contact:

Kirsten Bruce and Mel Kheradi VIVA! Communications

M 0401 717 566 | 421 551 257

T 02 9968 3741

E <u>kirstenbruce@vivacommunications.com.au</u> | <u>sam@vivacommunications.com.au</u>

References

- 1. Sale A, Yu J. Quality of life instruments in atrial fibrillation: a systematic review of measurement properties. Health and Quality of Life Outcomes. 2022;20(1):143.
- 2. National Heart LaBI. Atrial Fibrillation Diagnosis: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; [Available from: https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/atrial-fibrillation/diagnosis#:~:text=To%20diagnose%20atrial%20fibrillation%2C%20your,one%2C%20may%20also%20be%20helpful.
- 3. Calkins H, Hindricks G, Cappato R, Kim YH, Saad EB, Aguinaga L, et al. 2017 HRS/EHRA/ECAS/APHRS/SOLAECE expert consensus statement on catheter and surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation. Heart Rhythm. 2017;14(10):e275-e444.

4.	What is atrial fibrillation? Atrial fibrillation is a type of arrhythmia where your heart beats irregularly and fast.: Heart Foundation; [Available from: https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/your-heart/atrial-fibrillation .