



Roland Hetzer, MD, PhD

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Prof. Dr.med. Dr.h.c. mult Roland Hetzer studied Medicine at the University of Mainz (1963-1964) and University of Munich (1964-1969). He obtained his degree as Doctor of Medicine and promoted with a title of Dr.med. in 1969. He underwent residency training in Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery from 1971-1976 at Hannover Medical School and fellowship training in Cardiovascular Surgery at the Pacific Medical Center and Stanford University in California, USA in 1976-1978. He became an Associate Professor in Surgery in 1979 at the Hannover Medical School, where he performed the first heart transplantation in 1983 after resumption of transplant moratorium and the first pediatric heart transplantation in Germany in 1985. He then became a Professor of Surgery from 1985-2014 at the Free University of Berlin and then at Charité -Universitätsmedizin Berlin. He has been awarded several honorary doctorate degrees and professorships from universities in various countries. He was the founder and served as the Medical Director and Chief Surgeon at the German Heart Center Berlin from 1985-2014. Since 2015, he continues his practice in Cardiovascular Surgery at the private clinic in Berlin - Die Herzspezialisten . He published more than 1100 scientific papers and authored several books and book chapters.

Aside from numerous original contributions in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, especially in surgery of heart valves and congenital heart diseases, he had pioneered the introduction, development and clinical application of total artificial heart (TAH) and ventricular assist devices (VAD), in adults and in children, since 1987. He had the largest number of single-center VAD/TAH implantations (n=2361) worldwide.

He has trained more than a thousand surgeons, intensive care physicians, perfusionists and nurses coming from all continents, who eventually became leaders in their own countries. Prof. Hetzer has initiated the training of cardiovascular perfusionist, the first one in Europe, in 1988, which then became a bachelor's degree.

He was awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit First Class and several other Federal Awards.