

J. Hunter MEHAFFEY, MD

Surgeon and Co-Director of Research
WVU Medicine Heart & Vascular Institute



▶ Age: 35

J. Hunter Mehaffey, MD MSc, is a cardiothoracic surgeon and co-director of research in the Division of Cardiac Surgery at the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute.

Dr. Mehaffey was born in Clyde, North Carolina, and attended East Carolina University on a swimming scholarship, where he was a three-year letter winner and named the Male Scholar Athlete of the Year for the university.

He was accepted to the Brody School of Medicine as a junior in college through the accelerated MD in 7 Program. Dr. Mehaffey completed his general surgical training at the University of Virginia as well as a two-year, NIH-funded cardiovascular research fellowship during which he also earned a master's degree in clinical research from UVA.

He completed a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship and joined the faculty at WVU Heart and Vascular institute in 2022. His current clinical practice covers the breadth of adult cardiac surgery, including heart transplantation, aortic surgery, complex valve surgery, and coronary bypass as well as minimally invasive surgery.

Dr. Mehaffey has over 250 peer-reviewed publications in prestigious journals and has received several research grants from the NIH and other medical societies. He serves as the Associate Statistical Editor of the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and is a Research Scholar for the Cardiothoracic Surgery Trials Network.

He also serves as the site PI for multiple clinical trials, including LeAAPs, EM-PRO, and OPTIMAL. Over the past year, he has received recognition from both national cardiothoracic surgical societies, including The American Association for Thoracic Surgery Presidential Research Award and The Society of Thoracic Surgeons J. Maxwell Chamberlain Memorial Paper in Adult Cardiac Surgery.

During medical school, he met his wife Dr. Rachel Mehaffey, MD, who is currently faculty in the WVU Department of Medicine and Medical Director of General Internal Medicine. They have two children: Maddison (6) and Jacob (3). ■