



Lakshini is a Research Fellow of the Royal Perth Hospital Research Foundation, currently working at the Translation Research Laboratory - Dobney Hypertension Centre, School of Biomedical Sciences, UWA. She graduated with a B.Sc. (Genetics, Biochemistry and Microbiology) from the University of Bangalore in 2006. In 2012, she accepted a research scholar position at the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, College of Medicine-University of Tennessee Health Science Centre, Memphis, TN, USA. She completed her PhD in 2018 at the Centre for Diabetes Research, Harry Perkins Institute/UWA.

As a passionate medical scientist in vascular biology, Lakshini focuses on discovering the target effects of modern anti-diabetic medications. With particular attention to the sympathetic nervous system (SNS) and its role in hypertension, obesity, metabolic syndrome (MetS), cardiovascular disease (CVD), and chronic kidney disease (CKD), her work has transformed the use of anti-diabetic treatments beyond glucose control.

As an emerging early-career researcher, Lakshini has been successful in attracting competitive grant funding from state and national funding bodies such as Diabetes Research WA, Raine Medical Research Foundation and Hypertension Australia. In addition, her work has been published in reputed journals such as JACC: Basic to Translational Science, Journal of Hypertension, Diabetes Care, iScience, World Journal of Gastroenterology, Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science, International Journal of Molecular Sciences, Mediators of Inflammation, The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research, Experimental and Molecular Pathology, Neural Regeneration Research, Biomedicines and International Journal of Endocrinology. For her work in the areas of diabetes, diabetic complications, and hypertension she has received 15 research prizes and awards which includes WITWA Tech[+]20 People's Choice Award, WACRA Research Impact Award, UWA, School of Biomedical Sciences ECR Award and the prestigious Professor Lyn Beazley AO Emerging Leader Award. During her research career she has delivered numerous presentations at national and international scientific meetings.

Committed to community engagement, Lakshini has shared her research outcomes through community health events and educational outreach. Her research has been widely featured in media, underscoring her role as an inspiring female scientist in STEM. Lakshini is also an academic staff member at the Edith Cowen University, demonstrating in several course units. During her career Dr. Herat has supervised many junior research members and students in the laboratory.