



WALSHS

2026 Medical Bursary **SECOND PLACE WINNER**



Dr Matthew Laraghy

PROFESSIONAL BIO

Dr Matthew Laraghy is an Australian-trained intensive care specialist currently completing a Senior Clinical Fellowship in Critical Care at Royal Brompton Hospital in London, the United Kingdom's largest specialist heart and lung centre. He was awarded Fellowship of the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand in March 2026, following broad training across adult and paediatric intensive care units in Queensland and New South Wales. His clinical interests include cardiothoracic critical care, mechanical circulatory support and critical care echocardiography.

Echocardiography has become an essential bedside tool in intensive care that allows clinicians to rapidly assess cardiac function, circulation and the causes of haemodynamic instability in critically ill patients. Despite being a mandatory component of intensive care training in Australia, access to structured teaching and supervision is limited. A national survey of accredited intensive care units found that most did not have a basic critical care echocardiography teaching program and only a small number offered structured competency-based training. This gap is largely driven by a shortage of intensivists with advanced echocardiography qualifications who can supervise and credential trainees.

Dr Laraghy is undertaking the European Diploma in Advanced Critical Care Echocardiography (EDEC), an internationally recognised qualification developed specifically for intensive care

physicians. The program includes advanced training in both transthoracic and transoesophageal echocardiography, a supervised clinical logbook, formal courses and an examination. His training is being undertaken jointly at Guys and St Thomas's hospital and the Royal Brompton Hospital, an NHS-designated ECMO centres with a high-volume cardiothoracic and severe respiratory failure service, where complex echocardiography is used daily to guide the care of critically ill patients.

The Walshs Medical Bursary runner-up funding will support Dr Laraghy's EDEC registration, attendance at the mandatory advanced echocardiography course held alongside the ESICM LIVES 2026 Congress in Lisbon, and completion of a second accredited advanced course.

This training will have a direct and lasting impact on Australian intensive care practice. On returning to Australia, Dr Laraghy plans to establish a structured critical care echocardiography supervision program, helping more trainees achieve competency and improving access to safe, high-quality bedside imaging. By developing both clinical and supervisory expertise, Dr Laraghy hopes to strengthen the next generation of intensive care echocardiography training and contribute to improved care for critically ill patients across Australia.