Dr. Ryan was awarded his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Minnesota. He completed a residency in Ophthalmology at Northwestern University and a fellowship in Diseases and Surgery of the Retina and Vitreous at Washington University in St. Louis where he was a Heed and Heed-Knapp fellow.

Dr. Ryan directed the Retina Service at the University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology from 1989 to 1991 and is currently an Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Ryan joined VitreoRetinal Surgery in 1996.

Dr. Ryan has invented a number of tools used in eye surgery, beginning in 1986. Currently one of his inventions is used in most of the vitrectomy surgeries done worldwide. He has 30+ patents in 10 patent families and continues to be a very active innovator in retinal surgery.

He has been very active academically in his career. He has 58 publications with 26 as first author and was the driving force behind the PRO Study of primary retinal detachment repair. This large multi-center study influences how RD repair is done currently and has generated 15 publications to date alone.

He's also been an active reviewer for several journals, including Retina, AJO, BJO, Ophthalmology, Ophthalmology Retina, and others. He's taught many residents at the Minneapolis VA, and as well has lectured to medical students at the University of Minnesota. He's been included in local and national "Best Doctors" lists for many years.