Dr. Ryan has designed 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 60+ 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 22 publications to date alone.

He is a member of the ASRS, The Retina Society, and Club Jules Gonin. 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.