

Biography of Prof. David Mackey, APAO Vice-President (2025-27)



David MACKEY
AO MD FRANZCO
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Prof. David Mackey AO MD FRANZCO FAHMS FARVO is Professor of Ophthalmology at The University of Western Australia. He has achieved international recognition as a genetic ophthalmologist who has spent almost 35 years studying the genetics of eye disease, with over 550 publications. Although studying many genetic and environmental factors involved in eye disease, his major works center on myopia, glaucoma, optic neuropathies and the genetics of ocular biometry. Prof. Mackey has gained continual NHMRC funding since 2000.

A University of Tasmania medical graduate, Prof. Mackey completed his ophthalmology training at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne. After an MD thesis on Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy at the University of Melbourne he completed fellowships at the Johns Hopkins Center for Hereditary Eye Disease in Baltimore US and Moorfields Eye Hospital in London UK.

Prof. Mackey was Managing Director of the Lions Eye Institute and Director of the Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science at The University of Western Australia from 2009-2019 before focussing on full-time research. He remains a committee member of several regional and international ophthalmology organizations: Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (Regional Secretary [Australia & New Zealand], Chair, Membership Committee (2016-current) and Vice-President (elected Feb 2023); Vision Research Australia (Board member 2007-2023) and Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee (2015-2019); Chair of RANZCO Professors Special Interest Group; and Council of the Australian Academy of Health & Medical Sciences. He was a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Basic and Clinical Science Course sub-committee from 2011-2021 and has re-written the chapters on genetics.

As Chair of the APAO Membership Standing Committee, he has overseen the Academy's expansion from 25 to 39 member societies to date, including the addition of 4 national / territorial, 4 associate national / territorial, 3 subspecialty and 3 associate subspecialty members.

Prof. Mackey was awarded an Alcon Research Institute Award in 2010 and Silver Fellowship of ARVO in 2011. He was elected to the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences in 2014 and to the Academy of Asia-Pacific Professors of Ophthalmology in 2017. His distinguished service to medicine and medical education

as a clinician-scientist and academic was recognised with an AO in the Australian 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours.

Prof. Mackey has extensive collaborations with researchers from the Asia-Pacific, having hosted many trainee ophthalmologists in Perth, Melbourne and Hobart and providing teaching as a visiting professor in China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, East Timor. He is active in national and international mentorship programs such as ARVO, AAPPO, RANZCO, AAHMS.

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