

Biography of Prof. Charles NJ McGhee, APAO Past President (2017–19)



Charles NJ MCGHEE

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New Zealand

Prof. Charles NJ McGhee ONZM FRSNZ PhD DSc FRCS FRCOphth FRANZCO is a pre-eminent eye surgeon and vision scientist who is internationally recognized for his clinical and research contributions to ophthalmology. He has been recognized by *The Ophthalmologist* (UK) as one of the 100 most influential ophthalmologists in the world on several occasions, being ranked in the top ten in 2024. The top-quartile journal, the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Ophthalmology*, recently recognized him as one of 20 living “EyeCons” who have significantly influenced the development of ophthalmology in the 21st century.

Scottish born, Prof. McGhee graduated in medicine and science (ocular pathology) from the University of Glasgow (1983) and was Professor of Ocular Therapeutics (Sunderland 1993-96) and Professor of Ophthalmology (Dundee 1996-99) before relocating to New Zealand / Aotearoa in 1999. He is the Maurice Paykel Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology, University of Auckland (1999 - present), and remains extremely active in clinical and surgical practice, providing a tertiary service for complex corneal disease including transplantation, anterior segment reconstruction and ocular surface / iris tumours. He has trained >100 corneal and anterior segment fellows with 41 completing doctoral research theses. He co-founded and became Director (2008) of the New Zealand National Eye Centre, University of Auckland, that includes >160 staff and postgraduate students across Ophthalmology, Optometry and Molecular Vision, all collaborating widely on eye

research and teaching, extending from the laboratory to the community.

He was President of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (2017-19) and Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Cornea Society (2015-18). He is Vice President of Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AOI), member of the International Intra-Ocular Implant Club (IIIC), and President of the Academy of the Asia-Pacific Professors of Ophthalmology (AAPPO) that has a major mentoring role in the Asia Pacific. He is also Past President and Honorary life-President of the British Society of Refractive Surgery (BSRS), which he co-founded. In the mid-nineties he was a member of the international board that developed C-LASIK, that established and standardized the most popular form of microkeratome LASIK procedures internationally. He is past Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO). He has given a number of invited named lectures including: Asia Cornea Society Medal (ACS), Ida Mann Lecture (RANZCO), BSRS Charles McGhee Medal Lecture, Sir Norman Gregg Medal (RANZCO), Douglas Coster Medal (ANZ Cornea Society), Khodadoust Memorial Lecture (ISO), and Mark Tso Golden Apple (ICO).

Prof. McGhee has 815 research outputs, including three textbooks and >500 peer-reviewed (SCI) scientific papers / chapters. His personal research interests have generated >NZ\$33 million in competitive grants and philanthropic funding to complete clinical and research projects, including several community projects assessing disease and equity of access to eye health care. He has an H-index of 55 (Scopus). He is on the editorial boards of several journals and is past Editor in Chief of *Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology* (a top-quartile journal) and is currently an Associate Editor of the *Asia-Pacific Journal of*

Ophthalmology. The high quality of his research led to recognition and election to fellowship of the prestigious Royal Society of New Zealand (FRSNZ). His extensive work in ophthalmology and eye care was also acknowledged by the award of “Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit” (ONZM) by Queen Elizabeth II.

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