A/Prof Ivan Goldberg AM

Censor-in-Chief of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists (1993–1999)

Clinical A/Prof Ivan Goldberg AM served as Censor-in-Chief of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists from 1993 to 1999 and led major reforms to training, selection, supervision and continuing professional education at a time of rapid scientific change and growing regulatory and political scrutiny of medicine.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa on 25 April 1947. After migrating to Sydney, he attended Vaucluse High School and won a scholarship to the Sydney University Summer Science School and received the Rotary Citizenship Award for NSW.

A/Prof Goldberg graduated MB BS from the University of Sydney in 1971 and worked at Sydney Hospital from 1971 to 1973. He then undertook ophthalmology registrar training across the University of New South Wales and Prince of Wales and associated hospitals from 1973 to 1977. During this time, he was mentored by Prof Fred Hollows and Drs John Sarks and Ivan Cher. He was awarded FRACS and MACO in 1977 and completed further glaucoma study at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis from 1978 to 1980. Returning to Sydney in 1980, he built a strong clinical and academic focus in glaucoma.

Ivan's College service began through education and assessment. He supported the College journal editorially and joined the Part I Board of Examiners as a physiology examiner before becoming Chair. He then served as Censor-in-Chief for six years, chairing the Qualification and Education Committee (QEC), which oversees the vocational training program, examinations and continuing education, supported by subcommittees and regional QECs across Australia and New Zealand.

As a leader, Ivan consistently framed ophthalmology as both a privilege and a responsibility, encouraging Fellows to work together as a coordinated team and to think deeply and act decisively. He saw the College first and foremost as a higher educational institution and learned society with a central mission: to assure and continuously enhance the high standard of eye care in Australia and New Zealand. Under his leadership, the QEC progressively reviewed all aspects of the vocational training program to ensure trainees were equipped for an increasingly complex environment shaped by new science, new procedures, changing patient expectations and shifting government policy. He was also vocal about political pressures on the profession, including competition policy applied to medicine, and the need for colleges to safeguard standards.

In 1997, Ivan oversaw the introduction of the National Ophthalmic Matching Program under Dr Des Coote. Following the 1998 Medical Training Review Panel report (the Brennan Report), which called for more transparent, objective trainee selection, the

College intensified curriculum and training reform. Curriculum review workshops held in 1996 and 1997 identified seven core roles and competencies for trainees: ophthalmic expert and clinical decision maker, communicator, scholar, collaborator, manager, health advocate and professional. These competencies became the framework for a revised training program. In 1998, a dedicated subcommittee was formed to drive change and the Curriculum Review Project was launched with seven working groups and broad Fellow involvement, using online collaboration to develop approaches across selection, supervision, assessment, education strategies, curriculum content, evaluation and implementation.

Training post accreditation and supervision were also strengthened. Accreditation was treated as central to quality, allowing the College to assess the opportunities available in each post and the standard of specialist supervision. With workforce planning recommending additional training posts and government funding available for some expansion, the QEC reviewed the inspections process. An Inspector of Training Posts was appointed as an ex-officio QEC member and an integrated inspections program was implemented, covering around 100 posts. As training shifted beyond traditional hospitals towards day clinics and private settings, post accreditation expanded accordingly. Ivan also initiated a trainee survey that highlighted issues including variable supervision, limited breadth of experience in some posts, inadequate library and study facilities and difficulty finding study time amid service demands. In response, a system for trainee assessment of posts was introduced to monitor and improve training quality.

Recognising the dual demands on trainees as service providers and postgraduate students, Ivan supported stronger formative assessment and better support structures. Performance monitoring was built around supervisor reports, surgical audit records and trainee self-assessment. To support supervisors, a Director of Supervisors role was created to develop guidance for clinical educators and work closely with training post inspection. To support trainees' wellbeing and development, a mentor system was introduced.

Continuing Medical Education was also expanded, with the aim of providing a structured framework for self-directed learning and maintenance of professional standards throughout a Fellow's career. A voluntary points-based approach was trialled and continued, with an expectation of broad participation through scientific meetings and special interest groups. The College also contributed to cross-college work on standards through combined medical colleges committees.

In keeping with the College mission to improve eye care for the community, Ivan supported training initiatives for other eye care professionals, including an up-skilling program for general practitioners. Work also continued in developing training activities with optometrists and strengthening undergraduate ophthalmic education, alongside ongoing assessment pathways for overseas-trained specialists seeking Fellowship.

Ivan's wider leadership and recognition extended well beyond his Censor-in-Chief term. He received international awards from the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, served as President of the World Glaucoma

Association and held major regional roles in glaucoma organisations. In 2011 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to medicine, particularly ophthalmology, glaucoma support organisations and education, and became President of Glaucoma Australia after long service as councillor and vice president.

Outside work, Ivan enjoys literature, music and the performing arts and values time with his family. He and his wife, Vera, have three children and five grandchildren.