Dr Justin Mora

RANZCO Censor-in-Chief (2016–2022)

Dr Justin Mora is a highly experienced paediatric ophthalmologist and strabismus surgeon whose work spans binocular vision concerns across all age groups. Dr Mora's practice combines paediatric ophthalmology, strabismus and glaucoma, supported by experience in cataract surgery and refractive procedures including LASIK and SMILE. He is widely regarded for careful clinical judgement and a strong emphasis on communication, particularly with children and families, where confidence and clarity are essential to good care.

Justin was born in Oamaru, North Otago, New Zealand on 15 August 1962. By 16, he had set his sights on becoming an eye specialist, drawn to a field he saw as both challenging and able to make a genuine difference to people's lives.

He studied medicine at the University of Otago, graduating MBBS in 1986. His early hospital appointments included work in New Zealand and the United Kingdom, with roles at Tauranga Public Hospital, the Vale of Leven District General Hospital and the Auckland Area Health Board, followed by Senior House Officer positions in Auckland.

Justin completed ophthalmology training through New Zealand public hospital departments, commencing at Auckland Public Hospital, then training at Hamilton Public Hospital and returning to Auckland for further training. He undertook the Shaffer University of California, San Francisco Glaucoma Fellowship, then completed Gene Helveston's Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Fellowship in Indianapolis. He received Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists in January 1997.

Since the mid 1990s, Justin has worked across public and private practice in Auckland, consulting at Greenlane Clinical Centre and in group private practice at Auckland Eye. His public workload has focused on glaucoma and paediatrics and strabismus and has included a strong commitment to training registrars and paediatric fellows. In private practice, his work includes paediatrics, glaucoma, general ophthalmology and refractive surgery, which he added to his practice in 2002 with the support of colleagues at Auckland Eye.

Justin's professional engagement extends beyond clinical work into education leadership and standards. He is a member of the American Association of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and is involved with special interest groups across glaucoma, paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. He is a New Zealand representative on the International Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Council. He remains actively involved in training, holds an appointment as an Ophthalmology Clinical Senior Lecturer at Auckland Medical School and has authored or co-authored

more than 25 publications, mainly in glaucoma, paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus.

Within RANZCO, Justin held senior education and assessment roles that shaped training across Australia and New Zealand. He served as Chief Examiner for six years and then as Censor-in-Chief from 2016 to 2022, the College's Head of Education. In these roles, he played a key part in revising selection criteria and updating the curriculum for ophthalmology training in Australia and New Zealand. He also contributed to curriculum development work supporting Papua New Guinea. His approach has been centred on maintaining high standards through robust processes, balancing the duty to protect the public with a commitment to fairness and humanity for trainees navigating demanding assessments.

Justin describes his leadership style as collegial. He has emphasised the importance of drawing on the expertise of educators and committee members across the qualification and education system and supporting, rather than overriding, institutional knowledge within training, accreditation and professional development groups. He has also spoken with particular respect for supervisors, describing them as the unsung heroes of training who take on complex responsibilities, often without formal preparation for the challenges of performance management and remediation. Justin has advocated for stronger College support when a trainee is struggling, with clearer systems for assessment, feedback and remediation so the burden does not fall solely on supervisors. He has also supported strengthening mentorship structures so trainee wellbeing is addressed alongside skills and knowledge.

International development has been a meaningful part of Justin's work. For more than a decade he has volunteered with Sight for All, making regular trips to Cambodia and Laos to help train the region's first paediatric ophthalmologists. He has also contributed to teaching and examinations in the Pacific, including at the Pacific Eye Institute in Suva.

Justin is the clinical lead for RANZCO's Te Kitenga Vision 2030 program, which aims to improve eye health equity in Aotearoa. He chairs RANZCO's Māori and Pacific Eye Health Committee, represents RANZCO on Eye Health Aotearoa and is a co-lead of Health New Zealand's Eye Health Network. Across these roles, his emphasis is on practical change: strengthening pathways, improving access and supporting consistent high-quality care for communities that have historically experienced poorer outcomes.

Justin and his wife, Helga, have been together for decades and have two daughters, Genevieve and Juliet. He has spoken about the importance of protecting family time and maintaining balance through travel and shared adventures. Outside medicine, he enjoys hiking and long walks and, when time allows, skiing and scuba diving. He also sketches for enjoyment.

Across clinical practice, education leadership, international development and equity-focused advocacy, Justin's career reflects a sustained commitment to strengthening training standards and improving eye health outcomes for patients and communities in Aotearoa, Australia and the wider region.