

Dr. Ryan received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development from St. Mary's College of Maryland in 1986 and went on to obtain her Masters in Psychology from Loyola College in Maryland in 1991. Following completion of her Masters degree, she attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA for doctoral training in clinical psychology with specialty training in neuropsychology under the mentorship of Dr. Wm. Drew Gouvier. During her doctoral training at LSU, she maintained an active research program focusing on the nature and sequelae of mild traumatic brain injury (TBI). Dr. Ryan went on to complete a neuropsychology-focused psychology residency at the Medical University of South Carolina/Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center in Charleston, SC where she broadened her research experience to include disorders affecting geriatric populations such as dementia. She obtained her PhD in 1997 and went on to complete a fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at the Thomas Jefferson University/Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. After completing her fellowship, Dr. Ryan joined the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC where she served as the clinical neuropsychologist for the Walter Reed site. At the time the DVBIC was an 8-site military, VA, and civilian partner TBI disease management program delivering clinical care, conducting clinical research and providing focused TBI education. In January 2003, Dr. Ryan became the Assistant Director for Research and senior neuropsychologist for the national DVBIC where she was responsible for overseeing clinical research development and implementation across sites with a particular focus on clinical trials.

In September 2005, Dr. Ryan accepted a position with the NIH, at the National Institute on Aging, in the Division of Neuroscience, Dementias of Aging Branch. She is the Program Director for Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Trials. As program director, she is responsible for the management and development of the AD and other dementias clinical trials portfolio. This research grant portfolio is very active and currently includes over 20 trials plus the large multi-site consortium, the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study (ADCS). The funded trials include both pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions and include both prevention and treatment approaches. In addition to her NIA duties, Dr. was elected to the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) Board of Directions as Secretary in 2009 where she is serving a three year term.