



Among many firsts, Patricia Bath is the first African American to complete a residency in ophthalmology and the first African-American female doctor to receive a medical patent. She invented the Laserphaco Probe for cataract treatment in 1986.

SHE MAKES THE BLIND SEE
with the **LASERPHACO PROBE**



FUTURISTIC WORLD RENOWNED EYE SURGEON, INVENTOR
Dr. Patricia Bath
Born 1942

Dr. Bath, an ophthalmologist from New York, had living in Los Angeles when she received her patent, because she first African American woman doctor to receive a patent for a medical invention. Patricia Bath's passionate dedication to the treatment and prevention of blindness led her to develop the Laserphaco Probe. The probe, patented in 1986, is designed to use the power of a laser to quickly and painlessly separate cataracts from patients' eyes, replacing the more common method of using a grinding, drilled-in device to remove the affliction. With this invention, Bath was able to restore sight to people who had been blind for over 20 years. Patricia Bath also holds patents for her invention in Japan, Canada, and Europe.

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Quick Facts

Occupation: Inventor, Doctor, Educator

Birth Date: November 4, 1942, Harlem, New York (age 76)

Education: Howard University, Hunter College, Columbia University

Did You Know?

Patricia Bath's father, Rupert Bath, was the first black motorman to work for the New York City subway system.

Did You Know?

In 1973, Patricia Bath became the first African American to complete a residency in ophthalmology.

Did You Know?

In 1975, Patricia Bath became the first female faculty member in the UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute's Department of Ophthalmology.

Did You Know?

In 1983, Patricia Bath became the first U.S. woman to serve as chair of an ophthalmology residency training program.

Did You Know?

In 1988, Patricia Bath became the first African-American female doctor to receive a patent for a medical invention.