



2022 NATIONAL INVENTORS  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

**Born:** Nov. 4, 1942

**Died:** May 30, 2019

**Primary Connections:**

- UCLA, 1974-93: Faculty, Department of Ophthalmology, Jules Stein Eye Institute; Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology; Surgeon, UCLA Medical Center; Chair, Ophthalmology Residency Training Program; Assistant Professor, Surgery
- Charles R. Drew University College of Medicine and Science: Chair, Ophthalmology Residency Training Program (Drew-UCLA); Assistant Professor, Surgery
- American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness: Co-founder, 1976

**Education:**

- Hunter College: B.A., Chemistry, 1964
- Howard University: Medical Degree, 1968

**Key memberships/awards:**

- Alliance for Aging Research: Silver Innovator Award, 2018
- New York Academy of Medicine: John Stearns Medal for Distinguished Contributions in Clinical Practice, 2018
- U.S. National Library of Medicine: Changing the Face of Recognition, 2015
- Association of Black Women Physicians: Lifetime Achievement Award, 2013
- American Medical Women's Association (AMWA): International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame, 2001
- Howard University: Lifetime Achievement Award
- Alpha Kappa Alpha: Member

## 10 Things You Need to Know About

# Patricia Bath

## Laserphaco Cataract Surgery

U.S. PATENT NO. 4,744,360

1. In 1959, Bath received a grant from the National Science Foundation to attend the Summer Institute in Biomedical Science at Yeshiva University in New York, where she worked on a project studying the relationship between cancer, nutrition and stress.
2. She was one of Mademoiselle magazine's Ten Young Women of the Year for 1960, recognized in the January 1961 issue for cancer research she conducted at Harlem Hospital.
3. She attended Hunter College in New York and joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, a tie which she maintained throughout her life.
4. While attending Howard University College of Medicine, Bath was awarded the Edwin J. Watson Prize for Outstanding Student in Ophthalmology and mentored by Dr. Lois Jones. Also at Howard, she was an activist and student organizer, co-founded the Student National Medical Association and worked on the Poor People's Campaign.
5. From 1970-73, Bath was the first Black resident in ophthalmology at New York University's School of Medicine.
6. She was the first Black woman surgeon at the UCLA Medical Center. Bath also was the first female faculty member of the UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute. At UCLA, she also founded the Ophthalmic Assistant Training Program (OATP) in 1978. OATP graduates provided screening, health education and support for blindness prevention strategies.
7. In 1976, she co-founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness and coined the phrase Community Ophthalmology, which pushed for using public health approaches to eradicate preventable blindness.
8. When she received a patent for her laserphaco probe on May 17, 1988, Bath became the first Black female physician to receive a U.S. patent for a medical invention.
9. She received the Tribeca Film Festival Disruptive Innovation Award in 2012.
10. Bath was awarded five U.S. patents.