

Cosby Bolla (Grade 6)

Opportunity Charter School

Patricia Bath born in Harlem New York in 1942 know as the first African American to be an ophthalmologist, inventor, humanitarian, and academic, an early pioneer of laser on contacts surgery.

Patricia Bath holds a bachelor from Hunter College and an MD from Howard University. She is a co founder of American Institute for the perversion on Blindness.

Patricia Bath took a special interest in combatting blindness . She received her first patent, becoming first African American doctor to patent a medical invention for removing cataract lenses using laser devices to make the procedure more accurate.

From 1970 until 1973 during this times , she married and gave birth to a daughter, Eraka in 1972.

In 1973, Bath worked as an assistant surgeon at Sydenham Hospital, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospital, and Metropolitan Surgical Hospital in all New York City.

In 1974 , she completed a fellowship in corneal and keratoprosthesis surgery. Then Bath moved to Los Angeles , California where she became the first African American woman surgeon at the University of California (UCLA) Medical Center . She was appointed assistant professor at the Charles R . Drew University. In 1975, Bath became the first woman faculty of the UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute.

In 1981, Bath conceived of her invention, the laserphaco Probe. She traveled to Berlin University in Germany to learn more about laser technology, and over the course of five years; she developed and tested a model for a laser Instrument that could be tested to remove cataracts. Bath received a patent for invention on May 17 , 1988, and became the first African American female doctor to receive a patent for a medical invention. She continued to work at UCLA and Drew University during the development of her laser cataract removal instrument , and , in 1983, she developed and chaired an ophthalmology residency training program. From 1983 to 1986, Bath was the first woman chair and first female program director of a Postgraduate training program in the United States. In 1993. Bath retired from the UCLA Medical Center. Bath was inducted into the International Woman in Medicine Hall of fame in 2001

Patricia E. Bath was interviewed by the History Makers on November 29, 2012

Patricia Bath died in May 30, 2019 in San Francisco