



# DISCOVERY

THE DISCOVERY EYE FOUNDATION

The Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF) supports research and is dedicated to finding treatments and cures for sight-threatening eye diseases.

Fall 2017

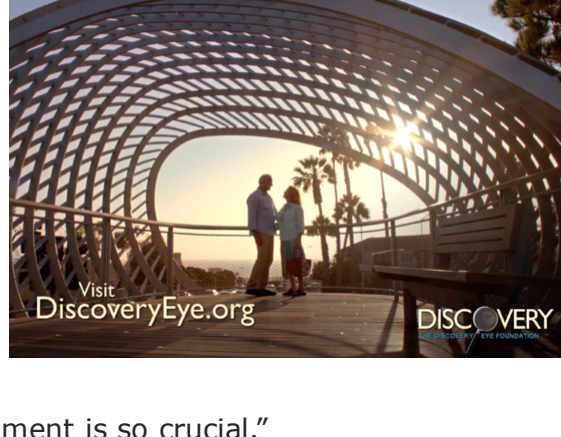
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## DEF's NEW PSA

### *Macular Degeneration is the Star of this Spot*

Longtime filmmaker Bonnie Spence was already committed to producing a public service announcement (PSA) on age-related macular degeneration (AMD) when she found out one in three members of her crew had someone close to them with AMD. "I was surprised," Spence says. "I realized it was imperative to get the word out there about what can happen to your eyes. We are such a visually oriented society, and the message about early detection and treatment is so crucial."



Judi Delgado, the former director of DEF's Macular Degeneration Partnership, piloted the project with Spence, who pulled together a group from the Hollywood film community that included Sim Group, Studio West Pictures, Eleven Sound Studio, Warren Wood Sound Studio, Chainsaw Vfx and Deluxe, as well as students from the LA Film School. Katharine Ross — of *The Graduate*, *Voyage of the Damned*, and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* fame — volunteered to do the narration track.

The result is a 60-second spot for AMD awareness, focusing on the importance of getting regular eye checkups.

For now, be sure to watch the spot on our home page at <http://www.discoveryeye.org>. Plans are under way to feature the PSA at the Pacific Theatres at The Grove in Los Angeles — home of Mario Lopez on *Access Hollywood* — as part of a day of AMD awareness. Check our website for updates as details become available.

## MEET THE RESEARCHER

### *Dr. Kevin Schneider*

With a nurse for a mom and a veterinarian for a dad, Kevin Schneider was primed to go into science. In particular, he wanted to be a doctor. But at UC San Diego (UCSD), while doing research and shadowing physicians, he realized he was enjoying lab work much more than working in the hospital. So he decided to pursue research instead.



Schneider's introduction into real academic research came studying circadian rhythms in fungi. Upon graduating from UCSD in 2005, he says, "I became the lab manager, and I continued my work looking at the genes and molecular pathways associated with regulating circadian rhythms, as well as those compounds that induced or protected against oxidative stress, which led to some of my future research."

He started graduate school at UC Irvine (UCI) with an interest in something "more biologically relevant to diseases" and wound up in a lab that studied several genes that help protect against oxidative stress. He focused his research on an animal model that was more susceptible to oxidative stress damage. While working in this lab, Schneider says, he had two major discoveries: "First, I met my fiancée, who was the lab manager. Second, we published a paper based on the mouse lines we were working with. ... One of the surprising things we found was that while these animals had increased levels of oxidative stress, they were highly resistant to diet-induced obesity. These animals remained lean, even on a high-fat diet, and it turned out it was a result of, essentially, supercharged mitochondria." [Meet the Researcher cont'd](#)

## LEAVE YOUR LEGACY OF VISION

### *Revamped Site Makes Giving the Gift of Sight Even Easier*

What if you could leave a legacy to continue supporting eye research to help your family and friends keep their sight?



A great way to do this is by making DEF a beneficiary in your will or revocable living trust through our Vision Legacy society. You can also make DEF the beneficiary of a life-insurance policy, a retirement plan or a charitable trust.

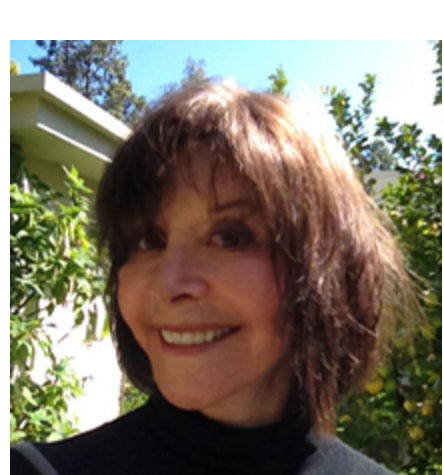
You can even use your gift to target a particular project that is close to your heart, such as macular degeneration, keratoconus or stem-cell research.

We have just published a completely revamped section of the DEF website that is dedicated to helping you help others keep their sight. The new [Planned Giving site](#) is easier to use and offers step-by-step guides to let you make an impact through your estate. From wills and living trusts, to charitable gift annuities and remainder trusts, the new section is chock full of important and simple-to-understand information about how to make your generosity make a real difference. It's easier than ever to be a part of DEF Vision Legacy. Please join us.

## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

### *Longtime Supporter Sees DEF in Her Estate Plan*

As a Hollywood casting director for more than 20 years, Jane Krask specialized in understanding the vision of powerful directors and producers, then casting the characters that were best for the role. She worked in TV and motion pictures, including such movies as *Godfather 2*, *Chinatown*, *ET*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Goonies* and many more.



It's also vision that got her interested in the Discovery Eye Foundation. "Of all the physical misfortunes I could have, losing my vision would be most devastating," the now-retired Krask says. "It's my biggest fear. When I go to a dark place of 'What ifs,' blindness is what most scares me."

Krask, who has lived in Los Angeles for most of her life, has several close friends with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and an uncle who lost his vision from AMD.

She has been a generous benefactor of DEF for some 30 years; it's a charity supported by her whole family.

"The idea of blindness is looming and scary, and it's why I put DEF in my estate plan," Krask says. "I support many charities, and I care passionately about the research DEF is doing. I joined Vision Legacy, because I want DEF to cure blindness. It's that simple."

## EYE COOK

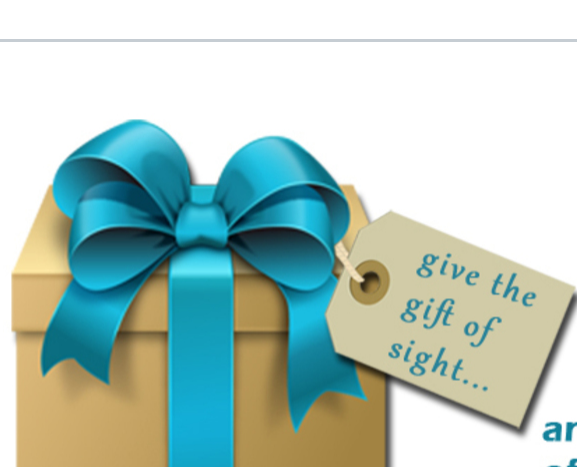
### *Time for Dessert*

We've updated the Eye Cook section of the DEF website, where you will now find our eye-healthy recipes organized by part of the meal — including the all-important dessert category.



*Clafouti with Blue Berries and Cinnamon*

While summer fruits are making their final appearances, why not make the most of some luscious berries with a [Clafouti with Blue Berries and Cinnamon](#). A clafouti is a classic French dessert that is a little custardy, a little tart-y, a little fruity — and a whole lot delicious. And it's easier than it sounds! For more eye-healthy recipes visit [Eye Cook](#) on our website.



**and help millions of people dealing with eye disease!**

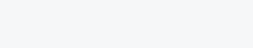
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