

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



## DEF E-Newsletter

Fall 2020

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## DEF Researchers Making Progress in the Fight to Defeat Coronavirus

During the past few months, we have all felt the repercussions of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In the United States, alone, there are currently more than 5 million cases and, sadly, more than 150,000 deaths associated with the disease. Fortunately, scientists and pharmaceutical companies worldwide are working day and night to identify protective medications and create vaccines. We have all learned to navigate remote conferencing, order food online and socially distance while wearing masks. We at DEF are optimistic that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to the generosity of the DEF supporters, the research has been moving forward.



[DEF Researchers Making Progress in Fight to Defeat Coronavirus cont'd](#)

## The Future of Medicine

### Laurie Bronson and Robert Dolinko Give Back to DEF

DEF donors Laurie Bronson, from Philadelphia, and Robert Dolinko, from New York City, met while attending Cornell University in upstate New York. She then studied at Columbia University and became a psychotherapist, he at New York University to become an attorney. They married in 1976 and moved across the country to the San Francisco Bay Area the following year, so Bronson could do post-graduate work and Bob could join a law firm; they've been there ever since.



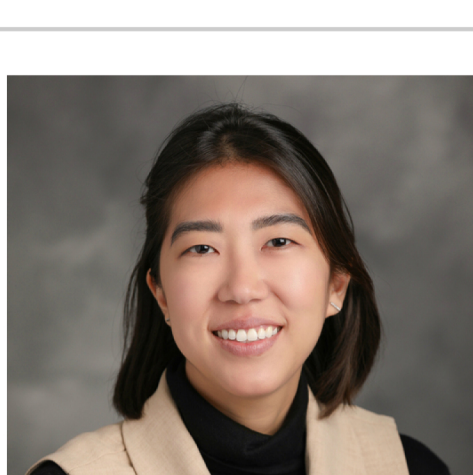
Robert Dolinko, Andrew Dolinko, Laurie Bronson, Jeremy Dolinko

Fast-forward a few decades, and the oldest of their two children, Andrew Dolinko (meet him in [DEF's spring 2019 newsletter](#)), began UC Irvine's Medical Scientist MD/PhD Training Program, which provides medical school, PhD program and a stipend at no cost to top-tier students. He also began working in DEF Research Director Dr. Cristina Kenney's lab, researching [mitochondrial DNA](#) and the impact it has on how people react to disease based on their ancestry.

[Laurie Bronson & Robert Dolinko Give Back to DEF cont'd](#)

## Meet the Researcher: Dr. Paula Sakemi Fukuhara

Dr. Paula Sakemi Fukuhara has learned to embrace the unexpected. She thought she'd be a lawyer or a journalist, but, instead, she decided to follow in the footsteps of her father, an ophthalmologist, and attend medical school.



Dr. Paula Sakemi Fukuhara

When the Brazil native was in her final year of a surgical retinal fellowship, she was encouraged to go to the United States, where there is a wider breadth of research options she could pursue. So nearly three years ago, she contacted Gavin

Herbert Eye Institute Director and UC Irvine Department of Ophthalmology Chair Dr. Baruch Kuppermann, hoping to do one year of research that would help her pursue her

PhD upon returning to Brazil.

[Meet the Researcher: Dr. Paula Sakemi Fukuhara cont'd](#)

## Learn With DEF on YouTube

Join DEF Medical Director Dr. Anthony Nesburn and Research Director Dr. Cristina Kenney to learn more about the Discovery Eye Foundation and our exciting research!

We have uploaded 10 new videos onto DEF's [YouTube](#) channel at [www.youtube.com/user/discoveryeye/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/discoveryeye/videos)

- Welcome to the -

## DISCOVERY EYE FOUNDATION

Anthony B. Nesburn, MD, FACS

The topics range from "The Science Behind Macular Degeneration & Alzheimer's Disease" to "Mitochondria & COVID-19" to updates on DEF's COVID-19 emergency fund — and more!

**The Discovery Eye Foundation is committed**

**to finding the answers that will preserve**

**the vision of millions of people.**

**Our groundbreaking research needs**

**your help to move forward!**

Visit our website at [discoveryeye.org](http://discoveryeye.org) to find out

how you can help or click

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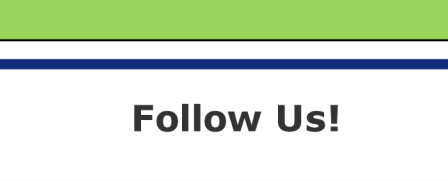
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