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The Discovery Eye Foundation newsletter is currently published twice annually. It serves to bring you the latest information about our eye research, patient outreach programs, organizational achievements, and profiles our supporters, patients and friends of DEF.

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THE LINCY FOUNDATION

ACCELERATES DEF MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL RETINAL REGENERATION PROGRAM

The Lincy Foundation's generous grant to the Discovery Eye Foundation will accelerate the multi-institutional Retinal Regeneration Program home-based at The Eye Institute at the University of California, Irvine and Harvard's Schepens Eye Research Institute in Boston. Collaborators include investigators at Harvard, Yale, MIT, University of Copenhagen, University of Missouri and University of Louisville.

S. Boyer, M.D. Key initial support was provided by Dr. George Baerveldt and the UCI Department of Ophthalmology, prominent Orange County philanthropist Igor Olenicoff and Farhad Bahremand of Beverly Hills. Generous friends of DEF also helped launch this important program, including Mario Antonini, Herbert and Beverly Gelfand, Irving Karp, the Nesburn Family Foundation, Phyllis and John Parrish, and Katie and Jack Schoellerman. ▲

The Lincy Foundation grant was made possible with the help of renowned retina specialist, David

(See story page 4 "DEF-Lincy Foundation Supported Researchers Report Progress at Conference")

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D. F.A.C.S.
Medical Director

Dear Friends,

It is on collaborative thinking and professional support that DEF has built its reputation as a pioneer in corneal research, retinal research, and patient education and outreach programs. Throughout the years, our partnerships and collaborative efforts with other leading research institutions have placed us at the forefront of scientific discovery and patient care.

Most notably, DEF's support of the Retinal Regeneration Program at The Eye Institute at the University of California, Irvine has cultivated partnerships with institutions such as Harvard, Yale, MIT, and the University of Copenhagen. I want to personally thank the Lincy Foundation for their generous support of this program that fosters multi-institutional groundbreaking discovery in retinal and optic nerve regeneration and its potential use in vision restoration.

I invite you all to learn more about our collaborative efforts and tour the Morris S. Pynos Eye Research Laboratories at UCI this spring and fall. Tour dates are listed within this issue.

DEF is also proud to sponsor the Pacific Ocular Regenerative Biology Conference XII this September in Laguna Beach. The conference will unite some of the brightest minds in retinal/corneal research and vision science with leading edge scientists in the areas of developmental/stem cell biology, gene therapy and gene regulation. The coalescence of these ongoing and emergent fields promises to revolutionize both our understanding and our treatment of many eye diseases.

This October, DEF will recognize some of the Foundation's greatest non-medical supporters and collaborators at the First Annual DEF Awards Dinner. Longtime board member Iris Cantor and DEF supporter James Mazzo will be honored for their philanthropic vision and industry leadership, respectively. I will be honored for my role as Medical Director of DEF, which was founded 37 years ago by Morris and Rita Pynos. Each of our award recipients is highlighted within this issue. As this is a very exciting time for DEF, I hope that we can share our enthusiasm with you at the event.

Perhaps most importantly, this issue also honors you – our donors – for your commitment to and support of DEF. Without your collaboration, the work we do and the partnerships we foster would not be possible. I thank you for your generosity and ask you to accept this issue as your tribute.

Sincerely,

Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D., F.A.C.S.
DEF Medical Director

A NIGHT FOR DISCOVERY - A NIGHT FOR DEF

This October, in celebration of almost four decades of retinal and corneal research discoveries, and patient education and outreach program delivery, the Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF) will hold its first annual *A Night for Discovery* awards dinner to honor its outstanding supporters. The dinner and program, which also celebrates DEF's growth and mission, will take place at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

"The central activity of our Foundation is discovery," says Cliff Einstein, Chairman of the Board of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and DEF Board member. "This event recognizes DEF's breakthrough discoveries in vision science, cures, educational tools and medical procedures. It is also a night for discovery in that the event will allow our audience to discover our exciting future plans."

The first ever Vision Discovery Awards will be presented to the following individuals, whose passionate commitment to uncovering a cure for blindness has helped DEF break new ground in research and patient education:

- Philanthropic Honoree: **Iris Cantor**
- Industry Honoree: **James V. Mazzo**
- Medical Honoree: **Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Thanks in large part to the steadfast leadership and support of these three

individuals, DEF can proudly point to the following milestones reached over the past 37 years:

- Establishment and support of a core team of renowned eye research scientists at UCI;
- Support for the training of scientists who will make tomorrow's sight saving discoveries;
- Creation of essential education and outreach programs to provide patients throughout Southern California and around the world with information and resources related to macular degeneration and keratoconus; and
- Expansion of funding in support of vital collaborative research efforts with a global network of outstanding research investigators and institutions.

"When Morris and Rita Pynoos started the Foundation in 1970, they never imagined the magnitude of work that would be accomplished," says Nesburn. "It is an honor to be affiliated with such an organization and with the people – research scientists, vision care industry leaders, and philanthropists – that have contributed to its success. I look forward to the discoveries that are yet to come, and I invite you all to join DEF and discover all that we do." ▲

VISION
DISCOVERY
AWARD HONOREES



Philanthropic Honoree

Iris Cantor, along with her husband, B. Gerald Cantor (1916-1996), established the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation in 1978 to promote and encourage recognition and appreciation of excellence in the arts and medical

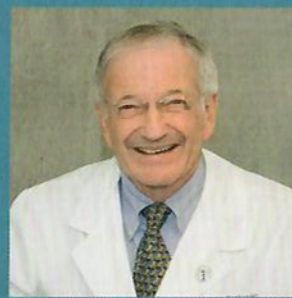
research. Mrs. Cantor's dedication to arts patronage has enriched the lives of millions of people around the world through exhibitions, scholarship, and the endowment of galleries. Her passionate commitment to medical research, particularly health care initiatives for women, has spawned numerous new patient facilities, laboratories, and research fellowships at hospitals and medical centers. She has served on DEF's Board of Directors since nearly the beginning. DEF joins with countless prestigious institutions and organizations that have chosen to honor Mrs. Cantor for her vision and her generosity.



Industry Honoree

James (Jim) V. Mazzo is chairman, president and CEO of Advanced Medical Optics (AMO) where he has focused the energies of more than 3,600 employees around the globe on a common mission: the discovery and delivery of

innovative vision technologies that optimize quality of life for people of all ages. Mr. Mazzo works closely with Dr. Nesburn and DEF Board Chairman Jack Schollerman as he chairs the steering committee for the newly proposed The Eye Institute at UCI. He spent approximately 12 years working outside the U.S., serving, among other roles, as president of Allergan's Europe/Africa/Middle East region. Mr. Mazzo actively works with federal, state and local elected officials to address a variety of issues that impact the eye care and medical device industries. He and AMO are long time supporters of the DEF Annual Golf Tournament.



Medical Honoree

Dr. Anthony B. Nesburn, an internationally respected eye surgeon, researcher, lecturer, and educator, has dedicated his professional life to providing exceptional care for patients and facilitating innovative, sight-saving research. With

more than 35 years of experience as a practicing ophthalmologist, those who owe their vision to his dedicated care are legion.

He has been involved in pioneering vision saving research since 1960. In addition to serving as Professor and Vice Chairman for Research for The Eye Institute at the University of California, Dr. Nesburn's expertise in the fields of translational eye research, corneal disease and laser refractive surgery are attested to by his 200 scientific publications and his appointment to the Vision Council of NIH's National Eye Institute. As Medical Director of the Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF), he carries on the philanthropic legacy of his parents, Lillian and Hank Nesburn, M.D., who were major contributors and founding members of DEF board.

Dr. Nesburn is second in three generations of dedicated ophthalmologists, following his father, Hank, and joined by his wife, Cristina Kenney, M.D., Ph.D., and his daughter, Kristin Nesburn, M.D. Highly respected by his medical peers, Dr. Nesburn is repeatedly included in Outstanding Medical Specialists in U.S., The Best Doctors in America and Best Doctors in Los Angeles. ▲

Be Our Guest and Discover DEF

This inaugural *Night for Discovery* will set the stage for an on-going tradition of memorable evenings. For more information on attending the event or to become an event sponsor, please contact Linda Huggins at 310-623-4465.

All *A Night for Discovery* sponsors will receive recognition in the Discovery Eye Foundation newsletter, on its website, and in all printed materials relevant to the 1st Annual DEF Awards Dinner. Each table seats 10 guests. Individual seats are available for \$500.

Diamond Sponsorship, which includes two pages in the Diamond section of the Dinner Event ad book, monthly copies of the distinguished *Harvard Health Letter* for your invitees, and three tables for dinner at the event, is available for \$50,000.

Sapphire Sponsorship, which includes monthly copies of the distinguished *Harvard Health Letter* for your invitees, a full page in the Sapphire section of the Dinner Event ad book, and two tables for dinner at the event, is available for \$25,000.

Ruby Sponsorship, which includes a full page in the Ruby section of the Dinner Event ad book, monthly copies of the distinguished *Harvard Health Letter* for your invitees, and one table for dinner at the event, is available for \$10,000.

Emerald Sponsorship, which includes a full page in the Emerald section of the Dinner Event ad book and one table for dinner at the event, is available for \$5,000. ▲

A Night for Discovery Event Committee

The *A Night for Discovery* Event Committee is essential to the success of the Awards Dinner. **We are proud to announce that Barbra Streisand and James Brolin and Linda and Jerry Bruckheimer will serve as Honorary Dinner Chairs.** The committee is led by co-chairs Beverly Gelfand and Sue Marshall. Beverly Gelfand is a member of the American Art Council of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and an active member of the American Youth Symphony for over 35 years. She has been actively involved with countless organizations and has been a Board member of the Discovery Fund for more than 15 years. Sue, owner of Party Gamut Productions, brings not only 30 years of event-planning experience to the committee, but also a heartfelt commitment to its cause. "I have keratoconus," she explained, "So this means a lot to me." The committee includes ad book chair Glenn D. Thompson; auction chair Barry Smooke; and committee members LaRae Mardesic Bechmann, Louise Boley, Iris Cantor, George Christy, Cliff Einstein, Mandy Einstein, Arnold Klein, M.D., Raimie Kriste, Roni Leiderman, Ph.D., Anthony Nesburn, M.D., Phyllis and John Parrish, Janet Salter, James J. Salz, M.D. ▲



**KEEPING AN EYE ON
DEF'S MACULAR
DEGENERATION PARTNERSHIP
MDP ATTENDS CONFERENCE
TO RETHINK AGING**

As the first wave of the 76 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964 turns 60, they set aside their title as "Baby Boomers" for a new moniker: the "Macular Generation".

This change in title is attributable to an expected increase in age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in the coming decades. In fact, the number of AMD cases is expected to rise to more than 21 million in America alone.

The Macular Degeneration Partnership, an outreach program of the Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF), focuses on AMD, partnering with organizations and people working with the age group most vulnerable to macular degeneration.

As a longtime member of the American Society on Aging (ASA) and National Council on Aging (NCOA), MDP recently attended the ASA/NCOA annual conference, "Let's Rethink Aging". While there, DEF representatives met with ASA and NCOA leadership and distributed patient focused information on AMD and MDP to geriatric specialists.

In the coming year, DEF will focus on building resources and information for family caregivers of people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). As part of that effort, Judith Delgado, MDP Program Director, joined the First National Conference for Caregiving Coalitions, held in conjunction with ASA/NCOA.

The inaugural meeting brought together 75 national organizations dedicated to supporting family caregivers and their loved ones, strengthening DEF's network of professionals capable of bringing their unique knowledge and skills to our efforts.

Kind Acts Lead to Community Education

On February 7, Discovery's MDP visited the Jewish Community Center in Irvine, California as part of a "Mitzvah Project" for Arielle Roude and Jamie Lobel. A Mitzvah is the Hebrew word for an act of kindness or a commandment of Jewish law.

AMD hits close to home for Arielle and Jamie, who have both watched their grandfathers deal with the effects of macular degeneration. In service to their community and as part of their Bat Mitzvah, the girls organized the presentation, put together the informational packets for participants and staffed the meeting. DEF thanks Arielle and Jamie and their families.

If you would like a speaker on macular degeneration for your organization, club or senior center, please contact DEF at **310-623-4466**.

Learning More with AMD Support Group

The Macular Degeneration Support Group meets at the Beverly Hills Library on the fourth Wednesday of every month. If you have macular degeneration or just want to learn more about it, please join us. The meeting offers an open and friendly forum to connect with individuals with the same concerns. At each meeting, experts present a wide variety of topics, including understanding AMD treatments and research, and hands on demonstrations of magnification devices. Speakers include counselors from the California Department of Rehabilitation, low vision specialists from Center for the Partially Sighted, and many others. For exact dates and a list of meeting topics, please call 310-623-4466 to join our mailing list.

To learn more about age-related macular degeneration, Discovery Eye Foundation's AMD research, and our MDP outreach program, please call **310-623-4466** or **800-430-9898**, visit the Discovery Eye Foundation at www.discoveryeye.org, or go to www.AMD.org. ▲



**INAUGURAL GLOBAL
KC CONFERENCE
SUCCESS FOR DEF'S
NATIONAL KERATOCONUS FOUNDATION**

Held in Las Vegas in January 2007, the first ever Global Keratoconus Conference was a resounding success. In total, more than 400 eye care professionals, researchers and physicians from around the world attended the three-day conference, which focused on research into the causes of keratoconus and advances in patient care and treatment.

The National Keratoconus Foundation (NKCF), an outreach program of the Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF), was afforded multiple opportunities to present information about programs and services. In addition, at the conclusion of the conference, the NKCF was presented with a check representing a designated portion of each registration fee for the conference.

Throughout the conference, representatives from Platinum Event Sponsor Bausch & Lomb emphasized their more than two decades-long partnership with NKCF. Showing their support in the clearest way possible, Bausch & Lomb offered NKCF their "sponsor time slot".

"This was a very generous gesture on their part," says Catherine Warren, Executive Director of NKCF. "We took the 30-minute opportunity to present information about NKCF programs. The presentation was immediately followed by a cocktail party for the attendees in the exhibit hall where the NKCF booth was the center of attention."

Catherine Warren participated in sessions on both the first and the final days of the conference, focusing on general KC information during the first session and on patient management issues, including contact lens insurance reimbursement for KC patients, during the final session. Interested individuals packed both sessions, proving that keratoconus and its treatment are important topics to eye care practitioners and patients alike.

"This is an extremely exciting time for doctors, patients and families involved with keratoconus," says Warren. "This international gathering helps to improve the treatment and care for those with KC. The community clearly supports us in what we do. It was heartening to see such an outpouring of recognition and support for the NKCF."

The Global Keratoconus Conference was planned by the Lippincott Williams & Wilkins VisionCare Group, publishers of the journal "Contact Lens Spectrum". The Planning Committee included members of NKCF and the NKCF Referral Service, Craig Norman, F.C.L.S.A.; Ed Bennett, O.D., M.S.Ed.; Patrick Caroline, F.A.A.O.; Eef van der Worp, B.Sc., F.A.A.O., F.I.A.C.L.E.; and Joe Barr, O.D., M.S. ▲

Conference Topics Pinpoint Patients and Providers

Also representing DEF at the conference were DEF and NKCF Medical Director Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D., and DEF researcher M. Cristina Kenney, M.D., Ph.D. Both doctors played active roles in conference presentations, which included diverse topics such as:

- Fitting techniques and contact lens designs for keratoconus from around the world;
- Genetics of keratoconus and basic science of the disease;
- The latest clinical research related to keratoconus;
- Insurance reimbursement and management;
- Corneal scarring in keratoconus; and
- Corneal surgery with and without lasers.

The conference was sponsored by:

- Platinum: Bausch & Lomb, Blanchard Contact Lens, Inc and Contamac
- Gold: GP Lens Institute, Synergeyes, Inc, and X-Cel Contacts
- Bronze: NKCF, Precision Technology Services and Valley Contacts, Inc.

To learn more about keratoconus, DEF's keratoconus research, and our NKCF program, please call the office at **310-623-4466**, visit the Discovery Eye Foundation at www.discoveryfund.org, or go to www.nkcf.org. ▲

FOCUSING ON PATIENT PHILANTHROPY

Patient Mimi Susman Supports
AMD Research



We live in a fast paced world full of next day service and drive-through convenience. In the medical world, however, speed and convenience are low on the list of priorities for most patients while human compassion and patience are high.

For Mimi Susman, finding a top-level ophthalmologist who would take the time to provide compassionate care as well as medical expertise was essential. Fortunately for her, Anthony Nesburn, M.D., Discovery Eye Foundation Medical Director, was the doctor she chose when she first needed cataract surgery in the 1990s.

"I have always been so impressed by Dr. Nesburn," says Mrs. Susman. "He has always found the time to talk to me and help me through whatever was going on."

A longtime patient of Dr. Nesburn, Mrs. Susman's husband, Ben, recommended that his wife go to Nesburn for the procedure. In the years following her successful surgery, Mrs. Susman and her husband continued to see Dr. Nesburn until they moved to Orange County. Recently, when Mrs. Susman had difficulty getting the right glasses prescription, she turned to Dr. Nesburn for assistance.

"I called him and he scheduled me for a visit immediately," she says. "In fact, he scheduled me to come in on the 4th of July. He is unbelievable. A lot of doctors could learn from him."

Mrs. Susman's faith in Dr. Nesburn recently prompted her to make a generous gift to the Discovery Eye Foundation in support of Macular Degeneration research conducted at the Morris S. Pynoos Eye Research Laboratories at the University of California, Irvine.

"I am fortunate that I have not yet experienced macular degeneration," says Mrs. Susman. "Many of my friends, however, have been diagnosed. I feel that this is a very important area to support."

"Mimi came out for a tour and met with the research staff," says Dr. Nesburn. "Her generous gift has helped take us to the next level in our UCI macular degeneration research program. We are very appreciative of her gift and I care deeply about her as a patient and a friend." ▲

DEF SUPPORTS

Collaborative Efforts Through Ocular
Regenerative Biology Conference

Bringing together leading vision scientists and investigators, regenerative biologists, and eye care practitioners and researchers from around the world, the Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF) and the Eye Institute at the University of California, Irvine will co-host the three day Pacific Ocular Regenerative Biology Conference XII in September 2007.

The conference will focus on regenerative biology, a newly emergent field that brings together developmental/stem cell biology, gene therapy and gene regulation. Combined, the three fields hold tremendous promise for insight into the permanent correction of genetic, malignant, and degenerative diseases through the renewal of affected tissue.

"The field of regenerative biology may hold the key to successful new treatments for many serious eye diseases," explains DEF Medical Director Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D. "The Discovery Eye Foundation is committed to taking a global view on new and innovative medical/surgical treatment and research. This type of conference will bring together the best and the brightest minds in the fields of research and treatment. We are especially proud to have Nobel Prize winner Murray Gell-Mann, Ph.D., as one of our guests and participants.

"Last year, DEF and the UCI Eye Institute launched a ground breaking program in regenerative ocular biology and translational research. The UCI Retinal Regeneration Program, one of the first of its type in the country, receives more than 80 percent of its funding from DEF, a major part of which is from a generous grant to DEF from the Lincy Foundation. The Program involves leading researchers from institutions such as Harvard, Yale, MIT, the University of Copenhagen, and the University of California, Irvine Eye Institute," continues Nesburn. "This conference is a natural step in the maturation of collaborative effort and research supported by DEF."

"The coalescence of information and innovation in the areas of developmental/stem cell biology, gene therapy and gene regulation promises to revolutionize therapeutic medical approaches," says James V. Jester, Ph.D. Conference Co-Chair and Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California, Irvine. "Shared knowledge and expertise, however, are the keys to innovative discovery and achievement."

It is expected that the further development and encouragement of regenerative biology within ophthalmology will have a far-reaching impact on treating age-related and degenerative diseases of the retina, lens, cornea and ocular surface including age-related macular edema, degeneration of the retina/RPE, glaucoma, keratoconus, and dry eye.

The conference is designed to introduce leading vision scientists and young developing investigators to the cutting edge research in regenerative biology, effectively hastening translation to the field of ophthalmology.

The stated goals of the conference include:

1. Increase the areas of experimentation. Ideas tend to evolve and expand through conversations. Increasing involvement by participants will generate more high-quality ideas.
2. Establish a process for collecting and evaluating ideas. A non-traditional forum should be established to assess merits of proposals to ensure support for the most worthy ideas.

"Scientific and research organizations must work collaboratively to effect innovation," says Nesburn. "By bringing together leading translational vision experts with scientists who are at the forefront of regenerative biology, we will open entirely new horizons for the fields of ocular research and regeneration." ▲

OCULAR REGENERATIVE BIOLOGY CONFERENCE

Sponsors Include:



BioNet



For more information and a list of sponsors
please visit the following website:
http://www.discoveryeye.org/Conference_Program.html

DEF-Lincy Foundation Supported Researchers Will Report Progress at Conference

In June of 2006, co-lead scientists, Henry Klassen, M.D., Ph.D., of UC Irvine and Michael Young, Ph.D., of the Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard University met with members of the multi-institutional Retinal Regeneration Program in Sweden. Other institutions represented at the meeting were Panum Institute of the University of Copenhagen and Lund University in Sweden. The group, "Pink Tank 2" is working on stem cell transplantation, neuroprotection, tissue engineering and the immunology of stem cell transplantation as a prelude to human trials.



Henry Klassen, M.D., Ph.D., (far right) and Michael Young, Ph.D. (front) with members of Pink Tank 2, a think tank on retinal regeneration strategies in the pig eye.

Klassen, Young and their teams will present their progress showing how specific cells can regenerate the retina and restore vision function at the Pacific Ocular Regenerative Biology Conference XII. Once an effective cell-based strategy for retinal repair is established, their multi-institutional team plans to translate the success to human subjects using human retinal stem cells.

Work of this magnitude must be collaborative and multi-disciplinary, with researchers from laboratories around the world working on transplantation, cell regeneration, tissue engineering and drug delivery, explained Klassen in a recent interview. Emphasizing that, "No one researcher could do this." ▲

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5th Annual DEF Golf Tournament
Monday, July 23, 2007



The fifth annual Discovery Eye Foundation Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 23 at the spectacular Monarch Beach Golf Links in Dana Point. As in past years, proceeds from the event will fund eye research at the Morris S. Pynoos Eye Research Laboratories at the University of California, Irvine.

The full day event will feature celebrity golfers, a silent and a live auction, dinner, and an awards ceremony. James J. Salz, M.D., member of the Discovery Eye Foundation Board of Directors, is Chairman of the 5th Annual Golf Tournament Committee, with Ronald G. Gastor, M.D., as vice-chair. Committee members include: Jim Trunick, Allergan, Norman Delgado, Oasis Medical, Chris Muller, AMO and Discovery Eye Foundation Medical Director Anthony Nesburn, M.D. Tom Hebert is Tournament Director.



For additional information about foursomes and sponsorship opportunities, please call the Discovery Eye Foundation at 310-623-4466. The event cost per player is \$300.

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101 The City Drive, Building 55, 2nd floor
Orange, California 92868

PLEASE RSVP TO 310-623-4466

Parking will be validated and refreshments will be served.
Please call for directions.

Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF)

is a 501(c)3 dedicated to finding cures and treatments for corneal and retinal eye diseases. It supports scientists participating in groundbreaking eye research particularly in the areas of diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, ocular herpes, keratoconus and other sight threatening conditions such as glaucoma and retinitis pigmentosa.

DEF also supports two excellent educational programs with world-wide reach, Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP) and the National Keratoconus Foundation (NKCF). These programs uniquely serve a growing population affected by eye disease with opportunities for Internet interaction, free printed educational materials and telephone access to a healthcare professional.

DISCOVERY
EYE FOUNDATION
~ FOUNDED IN 1970 ~

8733 Beverly Blvd. Suite 201
Los Angeles, California 90048

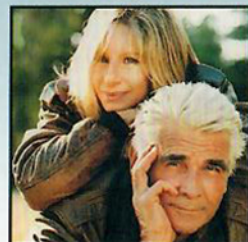


Mission Statement:

Discovery Eye Foundation exists to facilitate the development of cures and improve patient care through corneal and retinal research and educational programs for eye disease.

A GLANCE AT WHAT'S INSIDE

A Night For Discovery A Night For DEF.



Barbra Streisand and James Brolin

The Discovery Eye Foundation is pleased to announce A Night For Discovery, our gala awards dinner!

Thursday October 11, 2007.

See page 2 for details!



Linda and Jerry Bruckheimer

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