



Dr. Ben Barres (1954–2017) was a transgendered neurobiologist whose research focused on the previously unstudied glial cells. Glia make up nine out of the ten cells in the human brain and Barres' research demonstrated their function in maintaining neural activity. This research has been monumental in our understanding of Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other diseases that involve brain tissue degeneration. Barres was a fierce advocate for his students, for women's ability in the sciences and for representation from people of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA) scientists.