

Barrow physicians chronicle Vladimir Betz in Brain

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A team of physicians and scientists at Barrow Neurological Institute, in collaboration with colleagues in the Ukraine, have written a first-of-its-kind biography of Ukrainian anatomist and histologist Vladimir Betz. The article, "The Discovery of the Pyramidal Neurons: Vladimir Betz and a New Era of Neuroscience," appears in the November 2011 issue of the medical journal, *Brain*.

Among other contributions, Vladimir Alekseyevich Betz (1834-1894) is best known for his discovery of Betz cells, giant pyramidal neurons located in the [primary motor cortex](#), and their function with cortical organization. The discovery of these cells and their function was a turning point in the prevailing philosophical and scientific approach to the [brain](#), linking cytoarchitecture, neurophysiology and cerebral localization. In addition, Betz revolutionized methods of cell fixation and staining.

"Betz was an unsung hero whose seminal work allowed the integration of various separate parts of neurological results into what we know today as our modern system of neuroscience," says Mark C. Preul, MD, Newsome Family Endowed Chair of Neurosurgery Research at Barrow. "This article documents his contributions and work, alongside, for the first time in publication, color images of his brilliant histological sections."

Provided by St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

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