Murray Llewellyn Barr Encyclopedia Article

Murray Llewellyn Barr

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Contents

Murray Llewellyn Barr Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Murray Llewellyn Barr.....3

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1908-1995

Canadian physician who sparked interest in genetic disorders when he discovered sex chromatin masses within the nuclei of normal female body cells. These masses are called Barr bodies. The presence or absence of Barr bodies may indicate genetic defects involving X-chromosomes, such as Down syndrome or Turner's syndrome. Barr received many honors, including the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation International Award, and an appointment to the Order of Canada. He was also nominated for a Nobel Prize.