In 1920, Nils Ragnar Eugène Antoni (1887–1968), a Swedish neurologist and researcher working at the Royal Neurologic Clinic of Stockholm under the supervision of the eminent neuropathologist and now controversial eugenics proponent Frithiof Lennmalm (1858–1924), described 2 distinct patterns of cellular architecture in the peripheral nerve sheath tumors, which would become known as schwannomas.

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Antoni, who would later become professor of neurology at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, based his observations on analysis of 30 cases and described a "fibrillary, intensely polar, elongated appearing tissue type" which he called "tissue type A."

These highly cellular regions were eventually referred to as Antoni A regions by later authors. Antoni also described seemingly distinct loose microcystic tissue adjacent to the Antoni A regions, and these came to be known as Antoni B regions. Recognition of these patterns has proved useful in the histologic identification of schwannomas.

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