I am a gastrointestinal physiologist. I study how the intestinal wall and bacteria in your gut interact.

Kim E. Barrett, Ph.D.
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Kim E. Barrett, Ph.D.

One of my research questions:
How do *Salmonella* bacteria affect epithelial cells and cause fluid to accumulate in the intestine?

Technology I use:
We look at what is happening to the biochemistry and the electrical activity in both gut tissue and inside the gut cells. We use cells grown in culture, genetically-modified bacteria and mice, and human specimens from patients.

My most exciting discovery:
That diarrhea may sometimes be good for you if it prevents infection with more bacteria.

To be a scientist, you need:
- Curiosity
- Tenacity
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing
- Dedication to mentoring junior scientists

I knew I wanted to be a scientist when...
I wanted to be a scientist from about the age of seven, when I started checking chemistry books out of the library and begged my parents for a chemistry set. I have no idea where it came from in the beginning, but my passion was definitely fueled by some great teachers.

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