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Histology of the Central Nervous System

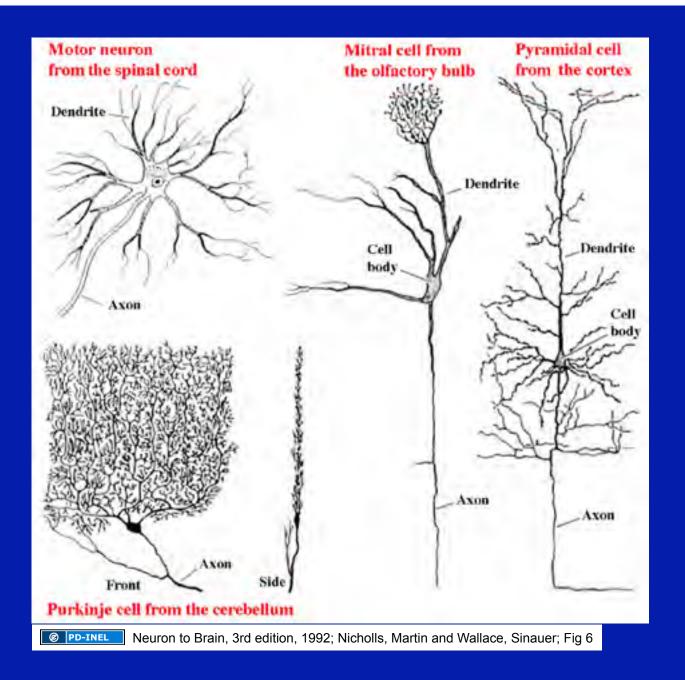
Michael Hortsch, Ph.D. Department of Cell and Developmental Biology M1 - CNS University of Michigan



Winter, 2009

Objectives CNS Histology:

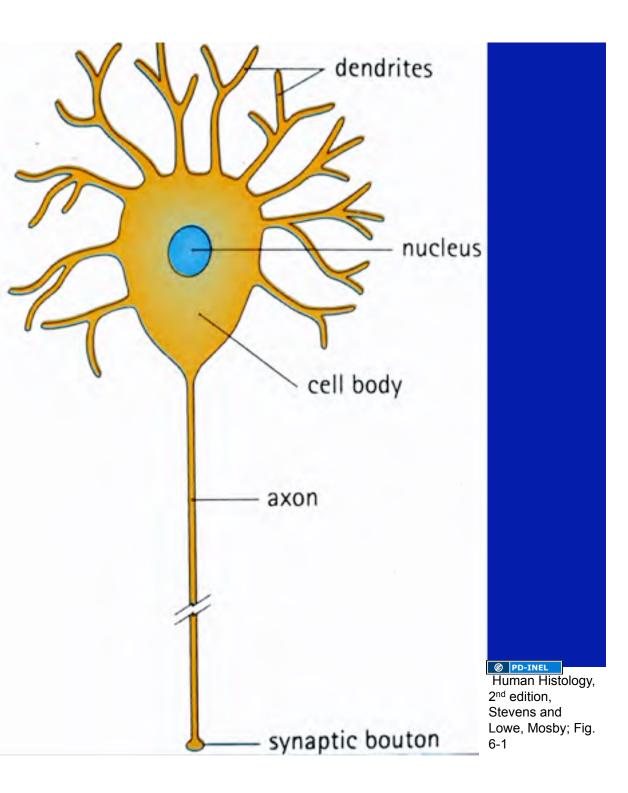
- Review neuronal cell structure and neuronal cellular components
- Learn about the major types of glial cells and their functions
- Review myelination and the differences between PNS and CNS
- Discuss the cellular differences between gray and white matter
- Study the layered organization in different parts of the CNS and its major cell types
- Look at the regional differences in the hippocampus and the cerebral cortex.

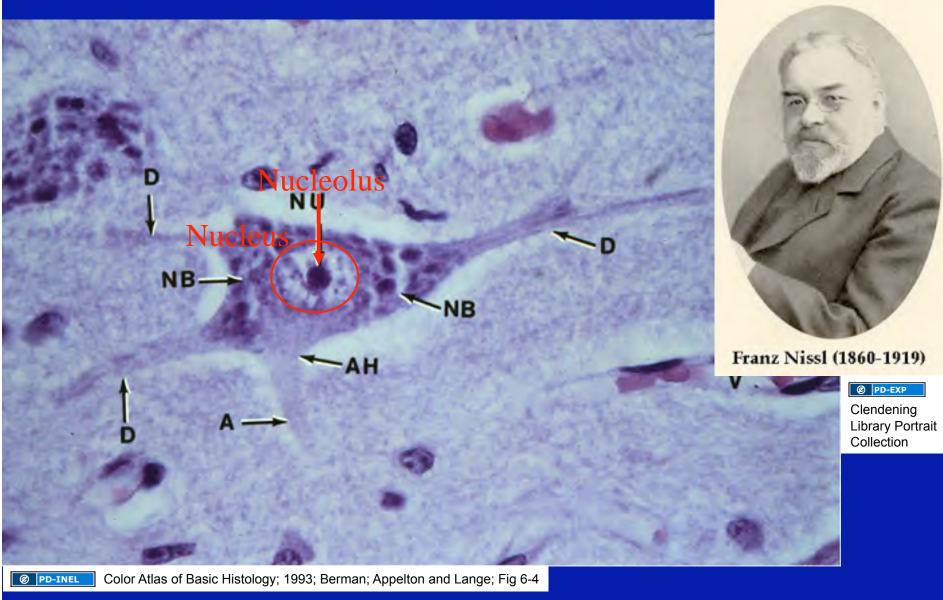


Neurons come in many shapes and forms

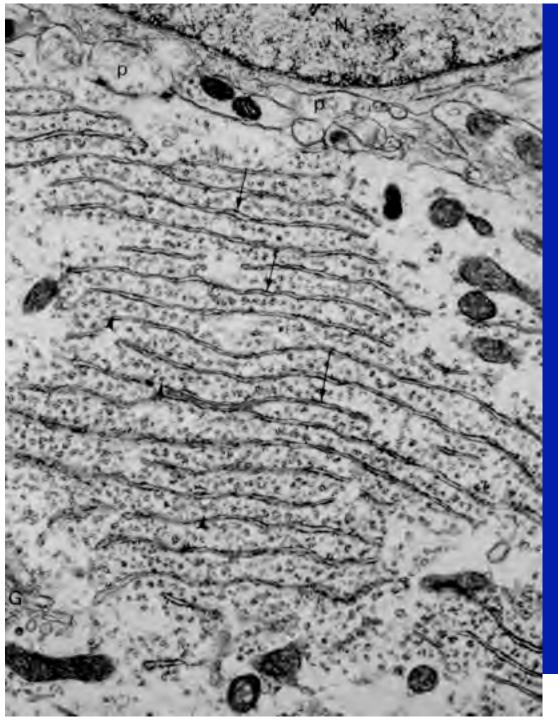
Generic neuron

The cell body of a neuron is referred to as the <u>soma</u> or <u>perikaryon</u>





Motor neuron with Nissl substance

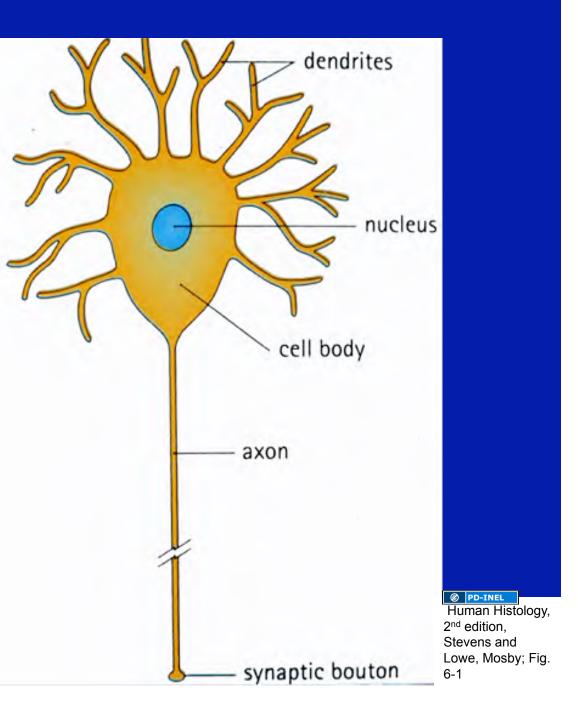


Nissl substance is rough endoplasmic reticulum

Cell and Tissue Ultrastructure – A Functional Perspective; 1993; Cross and Mercer, Freeman and Co.; Pg. 127

Neurons have dendritic and <u>axonal</u> extension

The Law of Dynamic Polarization states that neuronal signals only travel in one direction, from dendrites to the axon. In humans axons can be up to 1.5 meters in length. In a whale axonal length can reach up to 40 meters.

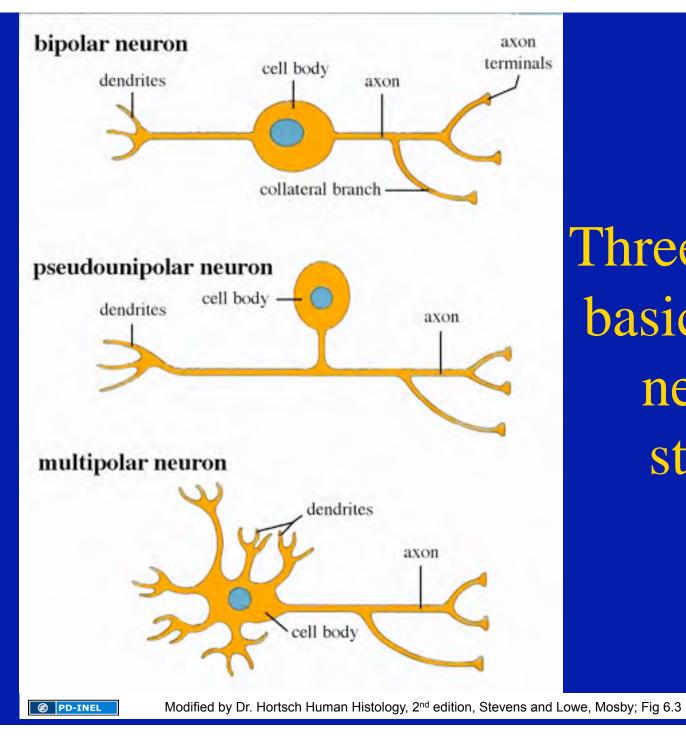




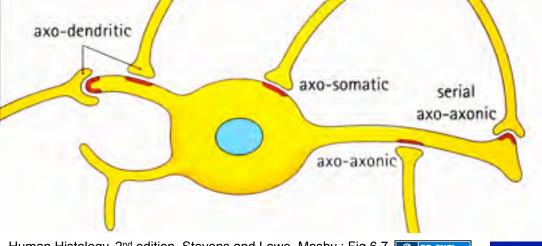
Color Atlas of Histology; 1992; Erlandsen and Magney; Mosby Book; Fig 9-3

Nissl substance is found in the neuronal cell body and dendrites, but not in the axon and the axon hillock or axon initial segment.

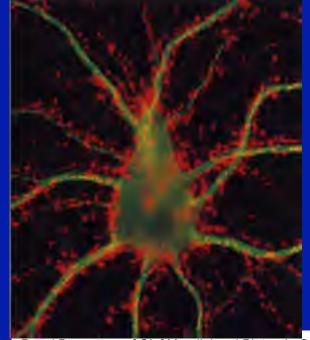
The ability of neurons to synthesize proteins at growth cones and at the presynaptic terminus is <u>very</u> limited.



Three different basic types of neuronal structure Synapses can form between many different parts of neurons and between a neuron and a non-neuronal cell, e.g., a muscle or a secretory cell.



Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby ; Fig 6.7 [@] PD-INEL



A single neuron can receive activating or inhibiting inputs from thousands of synaptic connections.

Source of Removed Image: The Molecular Biology of the Cell by B. Alberts et al., 4th edition, 2002, **Garland Science** Fig. 11-38 A

Images of

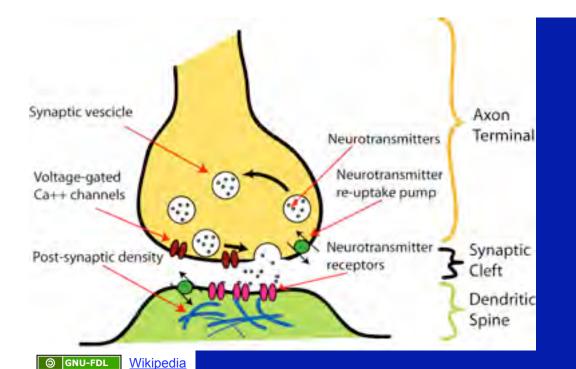
synapses and

motor neuron cell

body in spinal cord removed

> Panel B courtesy of Olaf Mundigl and Pietro de Camilli @ PD-INEL The Molecular Biology of the Cell by B. Alberts et al., 4th edition, 2002, Garland Science

Motor neuron cell body in the spinal cord



Synaptic vesicles
 Postsynaptic density
 Postsynaptic density
 Modified from Cell and Tissue Ultrastructure – A Functional
Perspective by Cross and Mercer; 1993; Freeman and Co. pg. 135

At a chemical synapse neurotransmitter release is triggered by the influx of Ca²⁺ and postsynaptic neurotransmitter receptors receive the signal.

ORIGINAL TOP IMAGE Diagram of synapse downloaded from <u>http://fantastrid.googlepages.com/anatomydrawings_</u>by Astrid Vincent Andersen Web page <u>http://fantastrid.googlepages.com/homedk</u>

Glial cells are about ten times more abundant than neuronal cells and have many different functions.

The four major types of glial cells in the CNS:



a) Microglia

b) Ependymal cells

c) Astrocytes

d) Oligodendrocytes

Source of Removed Images: http://academic.kellogg.cc.mi.us/herbrandsonc/bio201_McKinley/Nervous%20System.htm

MICROGLIAL

b

Histology Image Source: Histology - A Text and Atlas; 5th edition, 2006, Ross and Pawlina, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; Fig 11.18

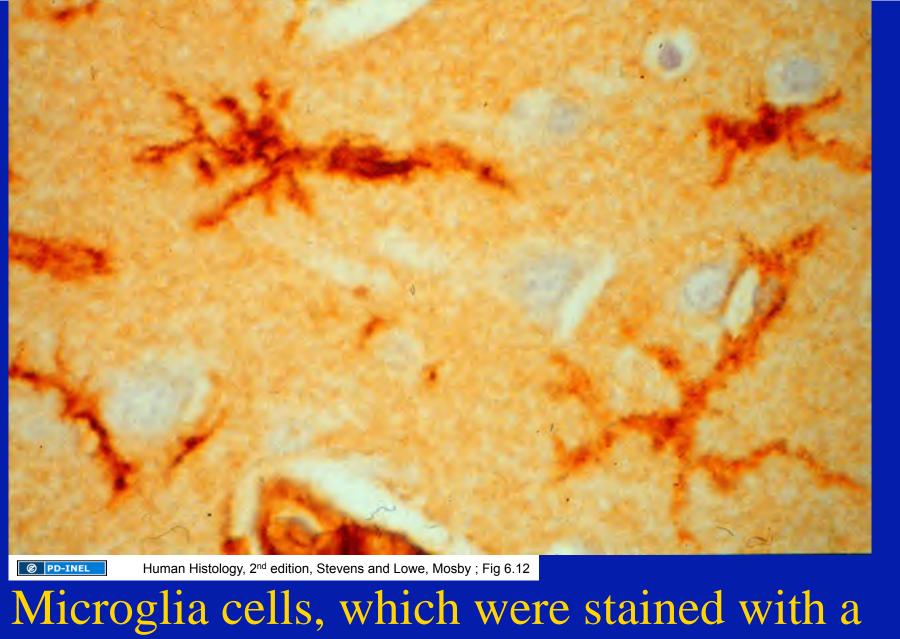
Microglia or Hortega cells are difficult to identify in a routine H&E preparation. They are bone marrow-derived and belong to the mononuclear phagocytic system.

Pio del Rio Hortega (1882-1945)

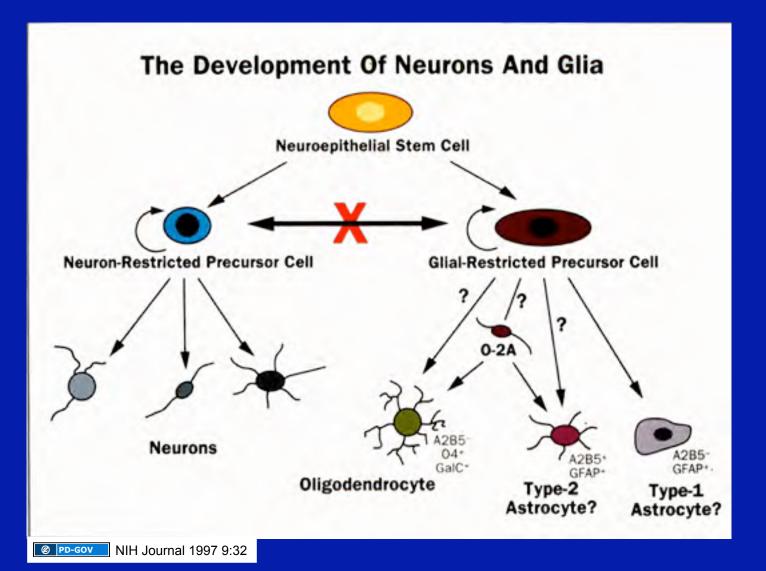
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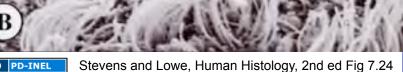
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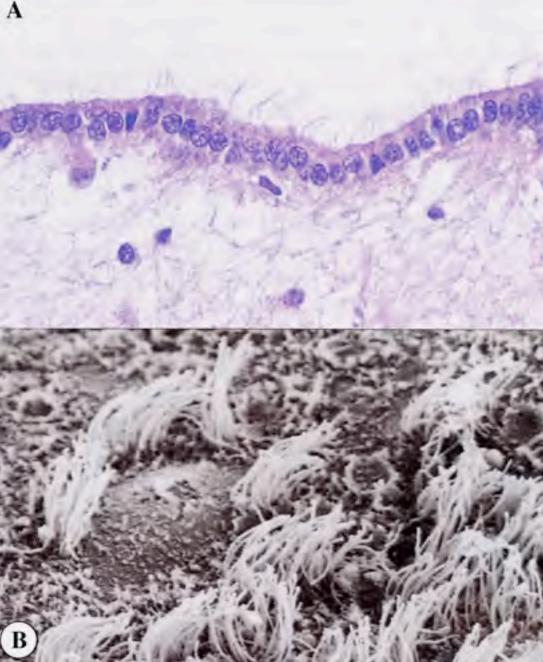


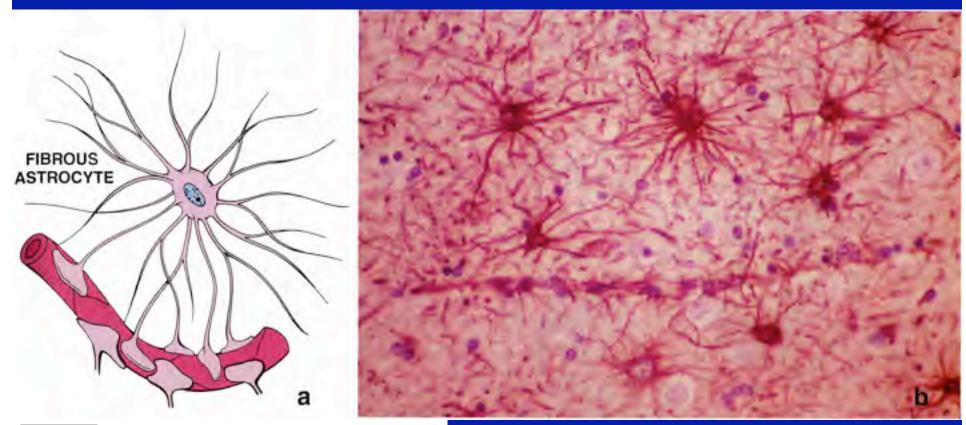
Neurons and glial cells develop from common stem cells



Ependymal cells are ciliated and form an epitheliallike lining along the ventrical and the spinal canal surface. Their cilia help to move the cerebrospinal fluid.







PD-INEL Histology-A Text and Atlas 4th ed, Ross et al ; Fig 11.20

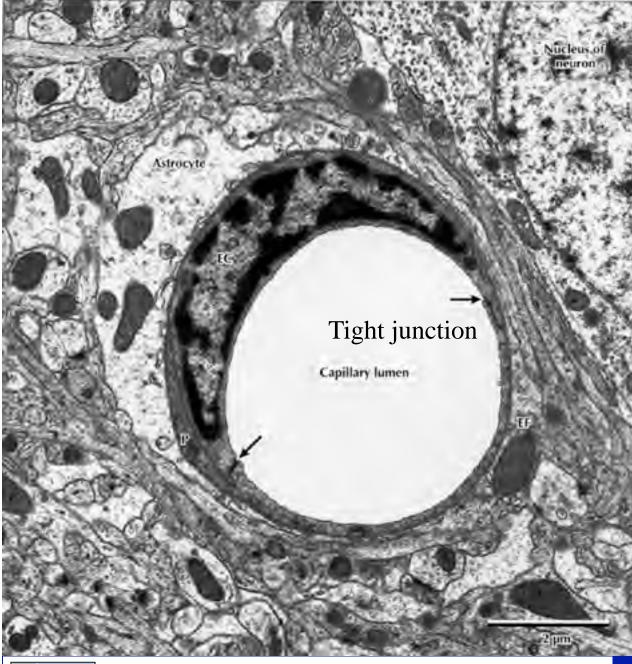
GFAP immunostaining for astrocytes (Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein)

The word astrocyte is derived from the Greek word $\dot{\alpha}\sigma\tau\varrho\sigma\nu$ = astron for star or star-shaped)

We will not deal with differences between fibrous (white matter) and protoplasmic (gray matter) astrocytes.

Cellular Functions of Astrocytes:

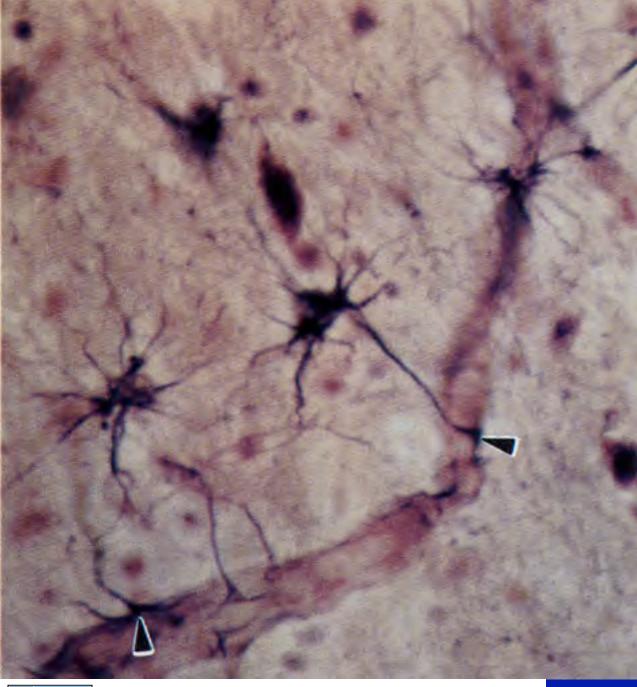
- general structural support of the brain tissue
- supply neuronal cells with nutrients, e.g. glucose
- supports synaptic activity
- reuptake and processing of neurotransmitter molecules
- stimulation of oligodendrocytes to initiate myelination
- component of glial scars



Astrocyte foot processes together with endothelial cells, which are connected by tight junctions, and the basement membrane form the blood-brain barrier.

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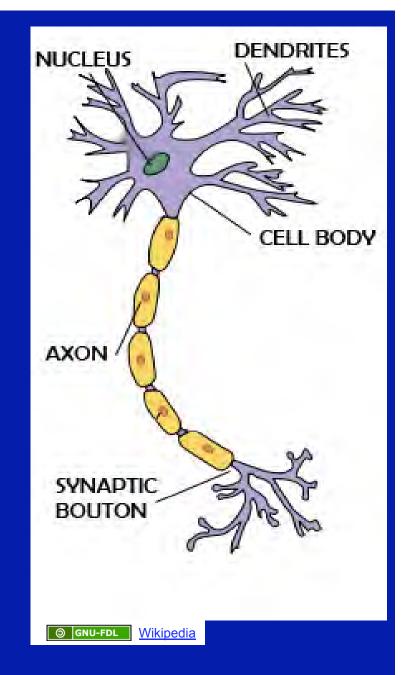
Netter's Essential Histology; 2008; Ovalle and Nahirney; Elsevier; Pages 114 and 115



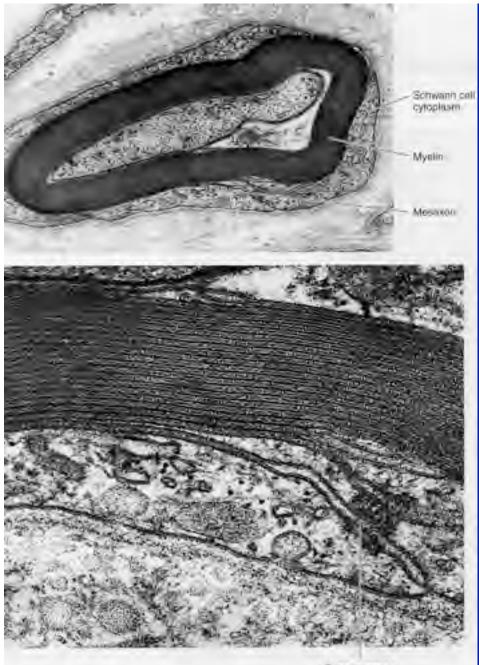
Fibrous astrocytes with foot processes wrapping around a blood capillary

Ø PD-INEL Basic Medical Histology, 1998, Kessel, Oxford University Press; Plate 27E

Myelination in the CNS involves oligodendrocytes and Schwann cells in the PNS



Original Image: Kelley, Kaye and Pawlina, "Histology, a Text and Atlas," 4th ed., page 284. Neuron-Ross4-284.tif.

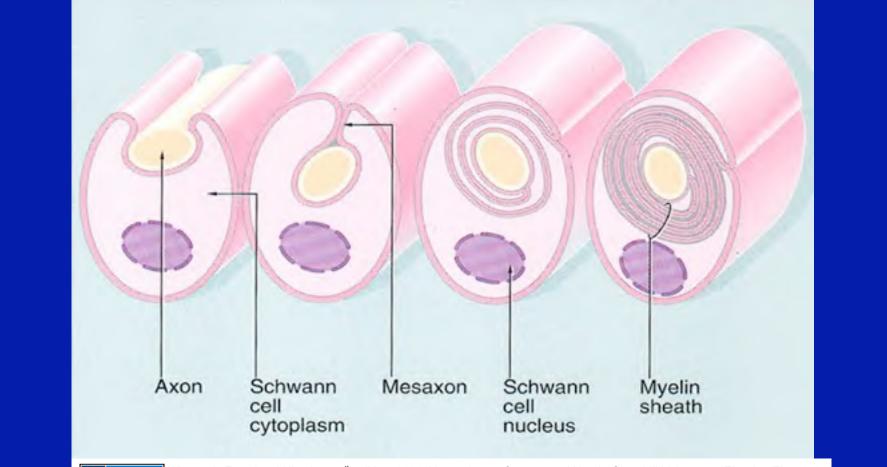


This electron micrograph of a single myelinated axon shows a series of lighter (intraperiod) and darker (major dense) lines

Outer mesaxor

Basic Histology – Text & Atlas; 10th edition, 2003; Junqueira and Carneiro, Lange McGraw-Hill; Fig 9-30

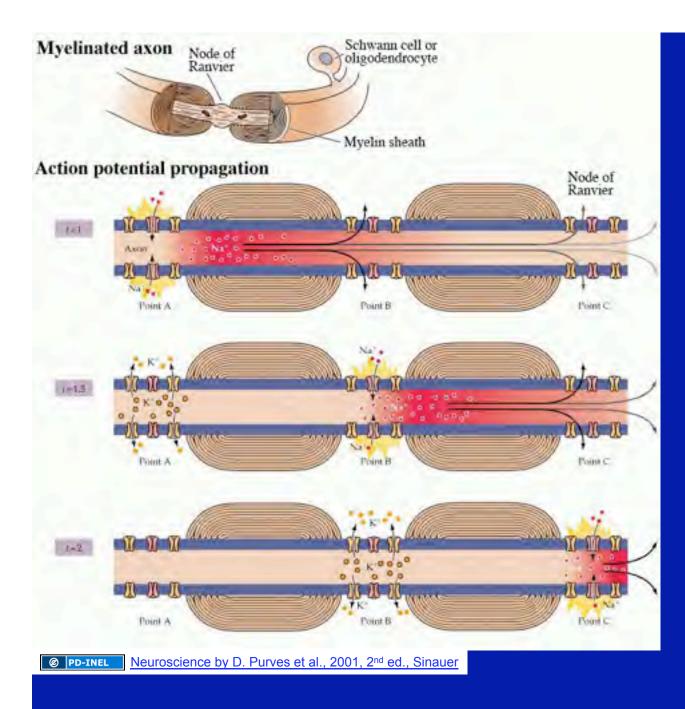
Ø PD-INEL



PD-INEL Wheater's Functional Histology; 5th edition, 2006, Young, Lowe, Stevens and Heath; Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, Fig 7.6a

Myelination is a dynamic process, which involves the ensheathment of the the axon by the glial cell and subsequently the extrusion of cytoplasm from parts of the glial cell. Adhesive proteins on the cytoplasmic and the extracellular side of the plasma membrane contribute to a tight apposition of the lipid bilayers.

Original Image: Histology-A Text and Atlas by M.H. Ross and W. Pawlina; 5th edition, 2006, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Fig 12.11



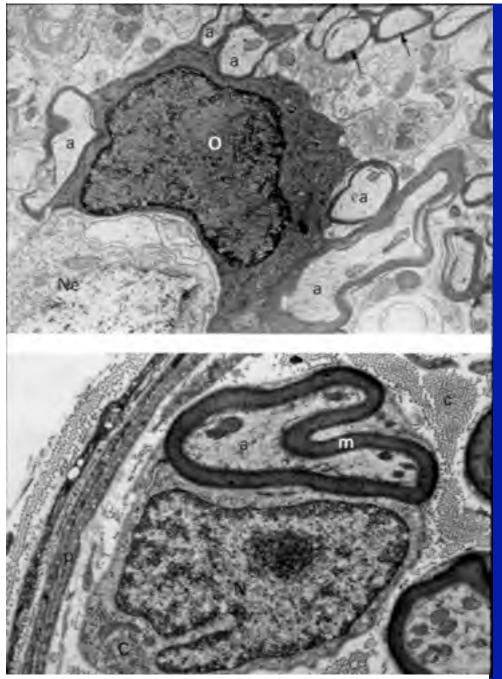
Ion channels are concentrated at the nodes of Ranvier and the myelin sheath acts as an electrical insulator. This allows for saltatory <u>conductance</u> of the action potential and increases the transmission speed of the nerve impuls.

Depending on the diameter of the axon, myelination increases the action potential speed approximately 5 to 50fold (up to >110 m/sec).



Source of Removed Image: Human Histology by Stevens and Lowe, 2nd edition, 1997, Mosby Fig 6.13a

In the PNS Schwann cells myelinate axons and in the CNS oligodendrocytes fulfill the same function. Whereas one Schwann cell myelinates only one axon, a single oligodendrocyte can myelinate multiple axons.

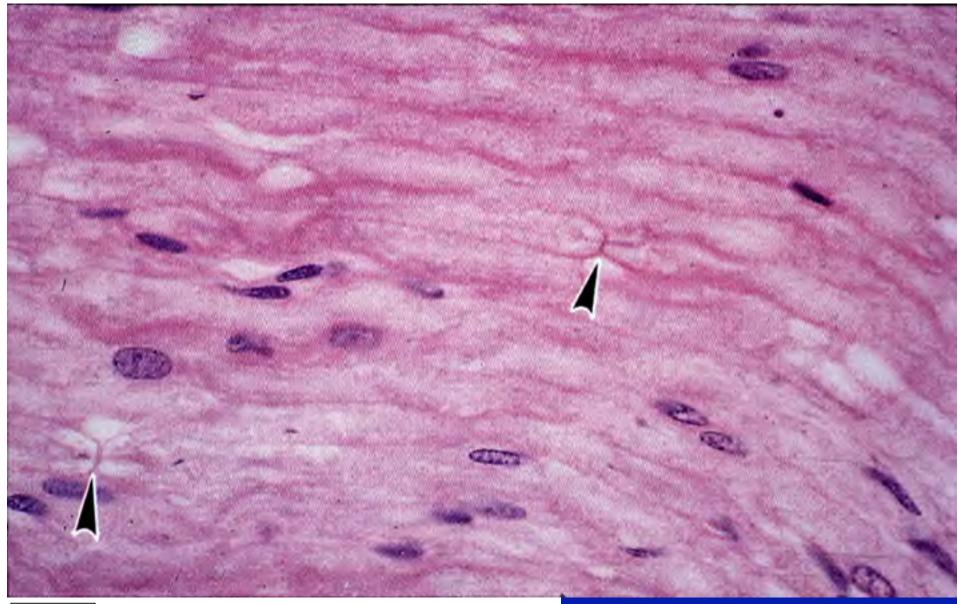


© PD-INEL Cell and Tissue Ultrastructure – A Functional Perspective; 1993; Cross and Mercer, Freeman and Co.; p. 139

Oligodendrocyte in the CNS

and

Schwann cell in the PNS



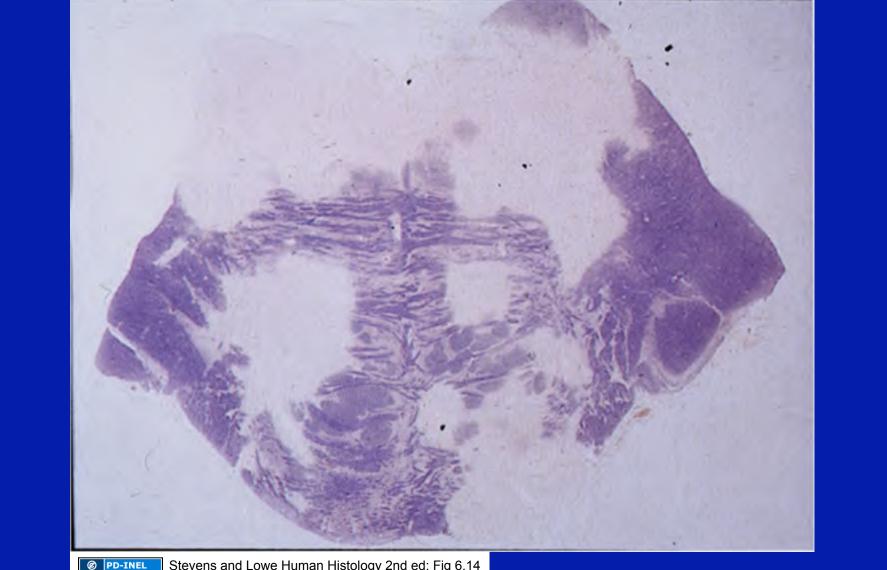
PD-INEL Color Atlas of Histology; 1992; Erlandsen and Magney; Mosby Book; Fig 9-13

Nodes of Ranvier in a longitudinal nerve section

Diagram of the process of multiple sclerosis removed

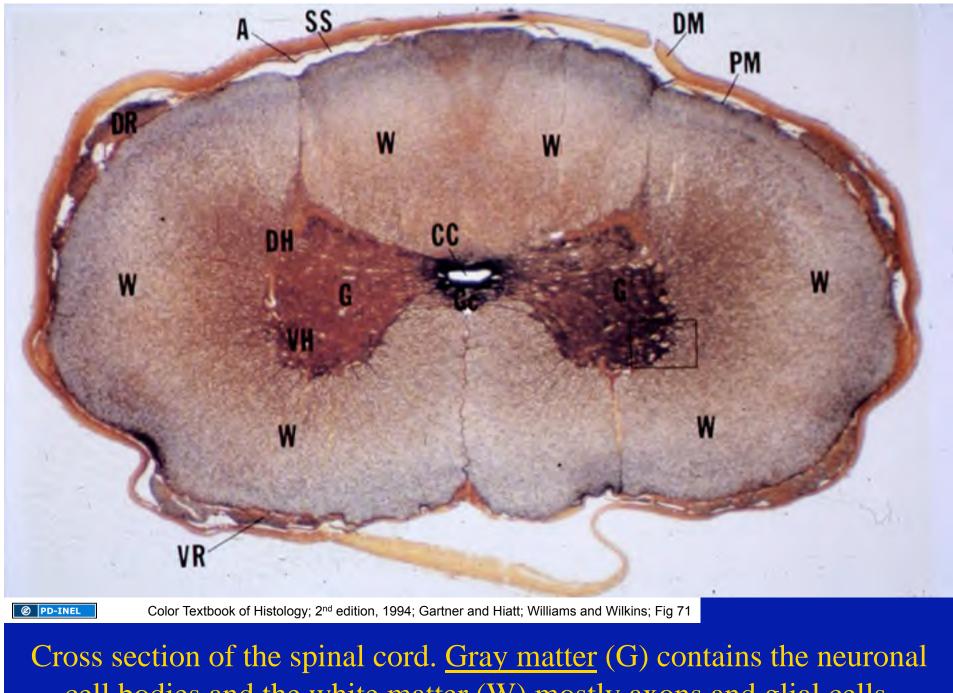
Source of Removed Image: R&D Systems Autoimmunity Poster 2006 R&D Systems, Inc.

In Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patients the myelin is destroyed by an autoimmune response

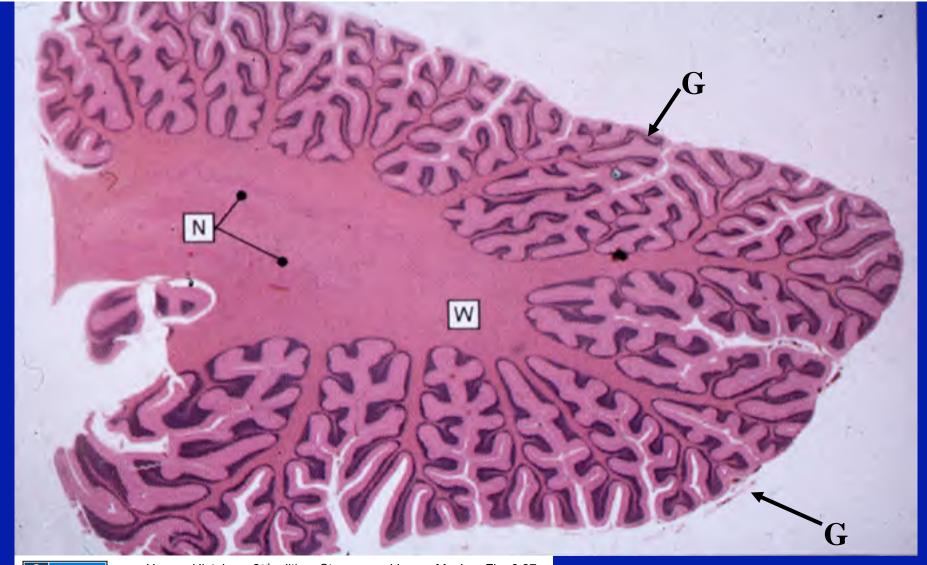


Stevens and Lowe Human Histology 2nd ed; Fig 6.14

Pons region of an MS patient (blue stain represents myelin)



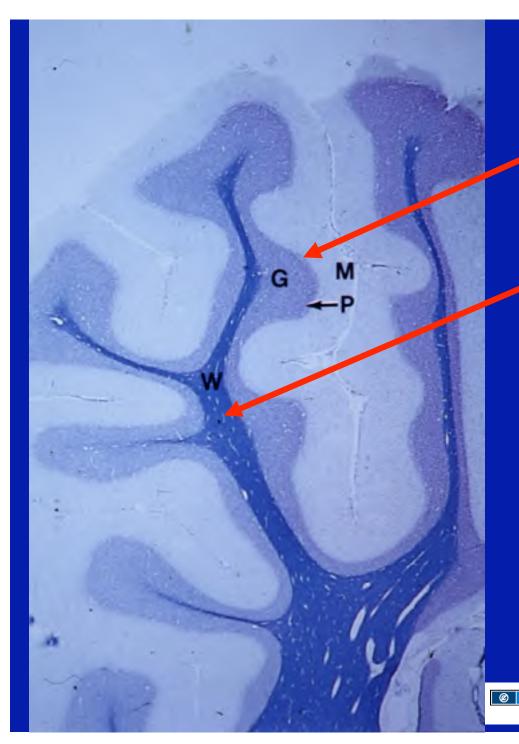
cell bodies and the white matter (W) mostly axons and glial cells.



Ø PD-INEL

Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby ; Fig. 6.27a

Similarly, in the <u>cerebellum</u> white matter (W) contains mostly axonal tracts, whereas the external gray matter (G) neuronal cell bodies, dendrites and axons. Note the folded structure of the cerebellar cortex.



Gray (G, P and M) and white matter (W) in a cerebellum section, which was stained with Luxol blue. Ø PD-INEL

The three layer structure of the gray matter in the cerebellum is very obvious.

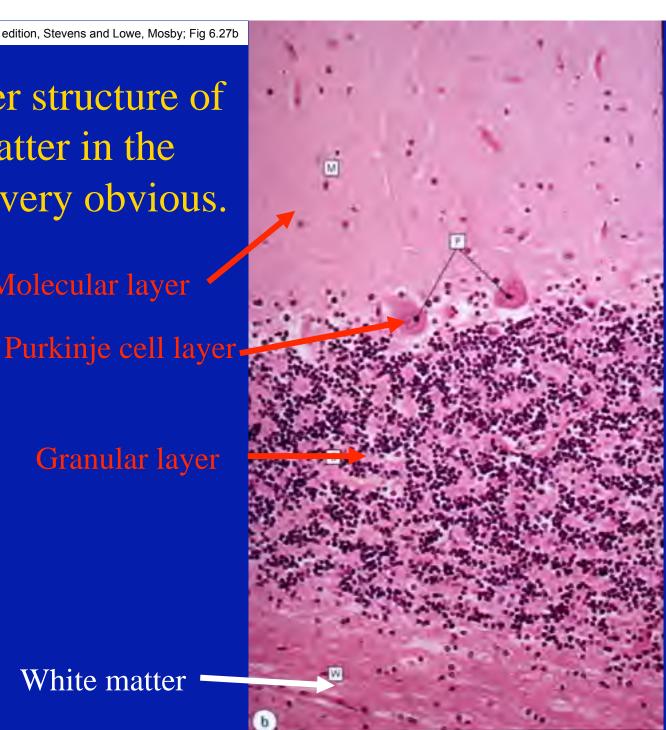
Molecular layer

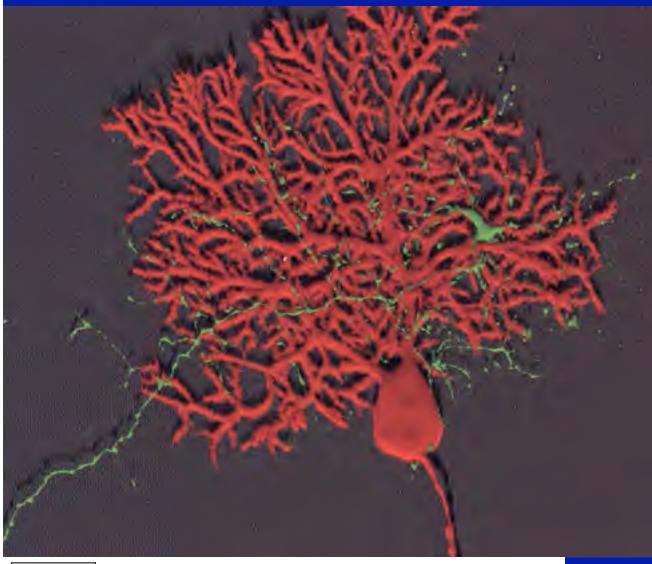


Jan Evangelista Purkinje (1787-1869) Library of Congress Ø PD-EXP

Granular layer

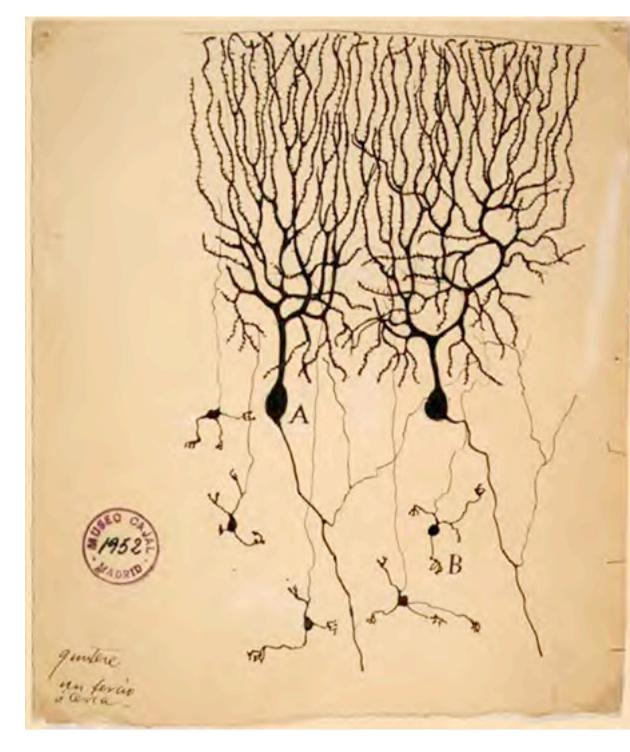
White matter





PD-INEL Dr. Michael Häuser, Dr. B. Clark, Univers ity College London, United Kingdom

Purkinje cells have an extensive dendritic tree that extends throughout the molecular layer. Shown is a Purkinje cell (Texas Red) in culture, which has developed multiple synaptic connections with an interneuron (Lucifer Yellow).



Drawing of Purkinje cells (A) and granule cells
(B) from a pigeon cerebellum.
Purkinje cells are GABAergic neurons, which receive excitatory inputs from deeper layer glutamatergic granule

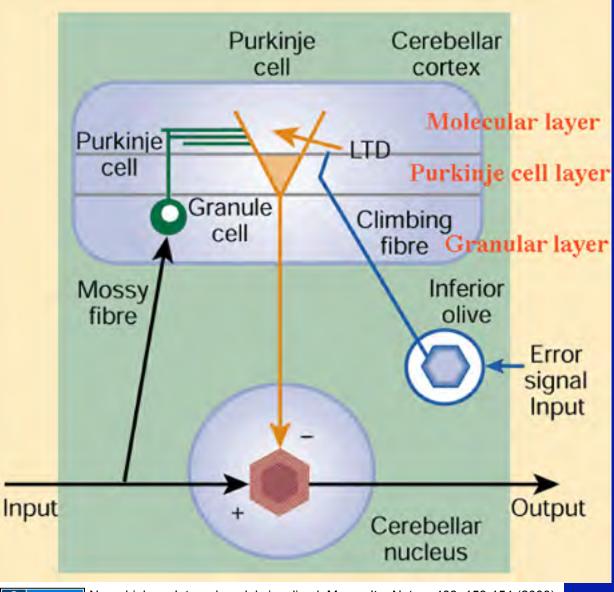
cells and inhibitory inputs

• Purkinje cells themselves send inhibitory projections to deeper cerebellar nuclei.

from molecular layer

GNU-FDL Wikipedia

neurons.



Neuronal cells in each cerebellar layer have specific stereotypic excitatory or inhibitory connections with other neurons in the same layer, in other layers of the cerebellum and/or other parts of the nervous system.

PD-INEL Neurobiology: Internal model visualized; Masao Ito; Nature 403, 153-154 (2000)

Animation of hippocampal formation and septal region removed

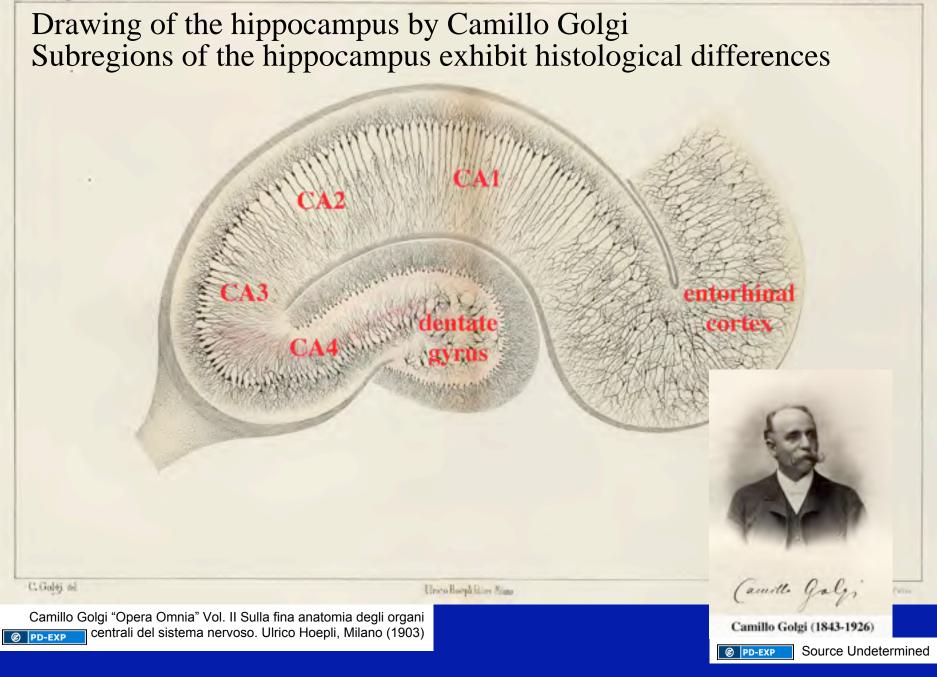
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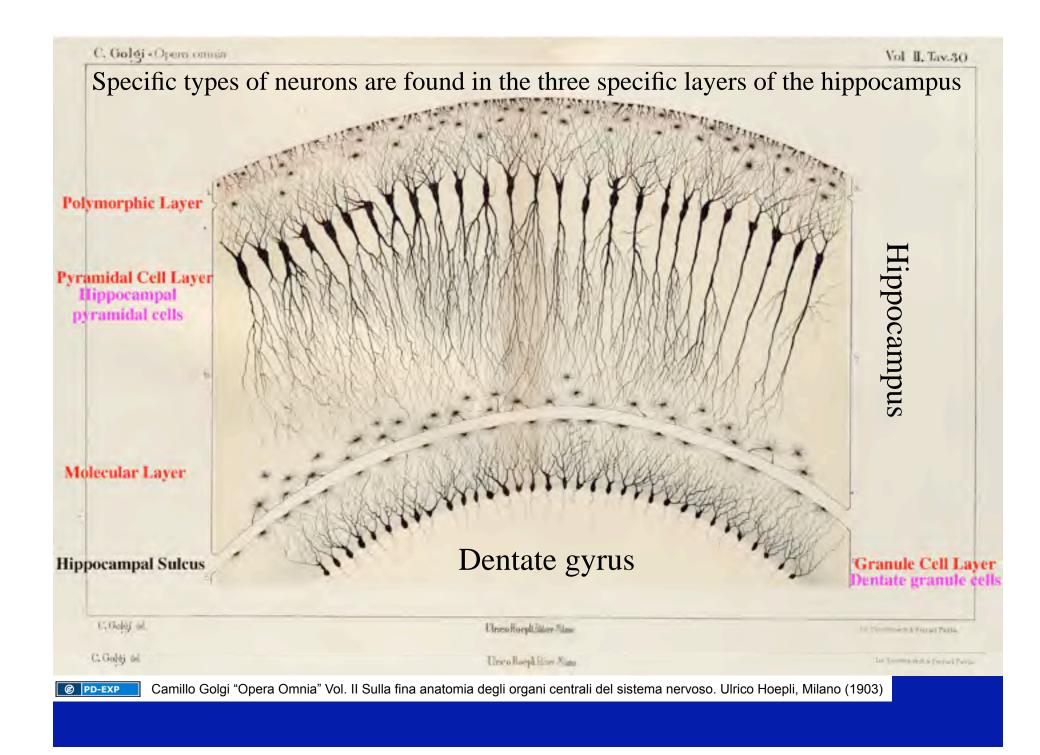


Also other parts of the CNS follow the same organizational principles as the cerebellum. Another example is the <u>hippocampus</u> (also Cornu Ammonis) that is part of the forebrain, an "old" brain structure.

The hippocampus is important for long term memory and is especially sensitive to hypoxia. It is also the first part of the brain that is affected by Alzheimer's disease. It derives its name "hippocampus" from the Greek word for seahorse (ἴπποκαμπος for horse monster) as its resembles the shape of a seahorse.

Vol. II. Tav.29





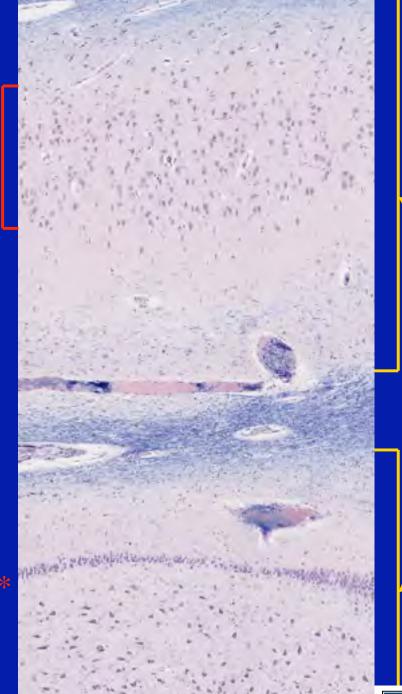
Hippocampus polymorphic layer

Pyramidal cell layer (Hippocampal Pyramidal cells)

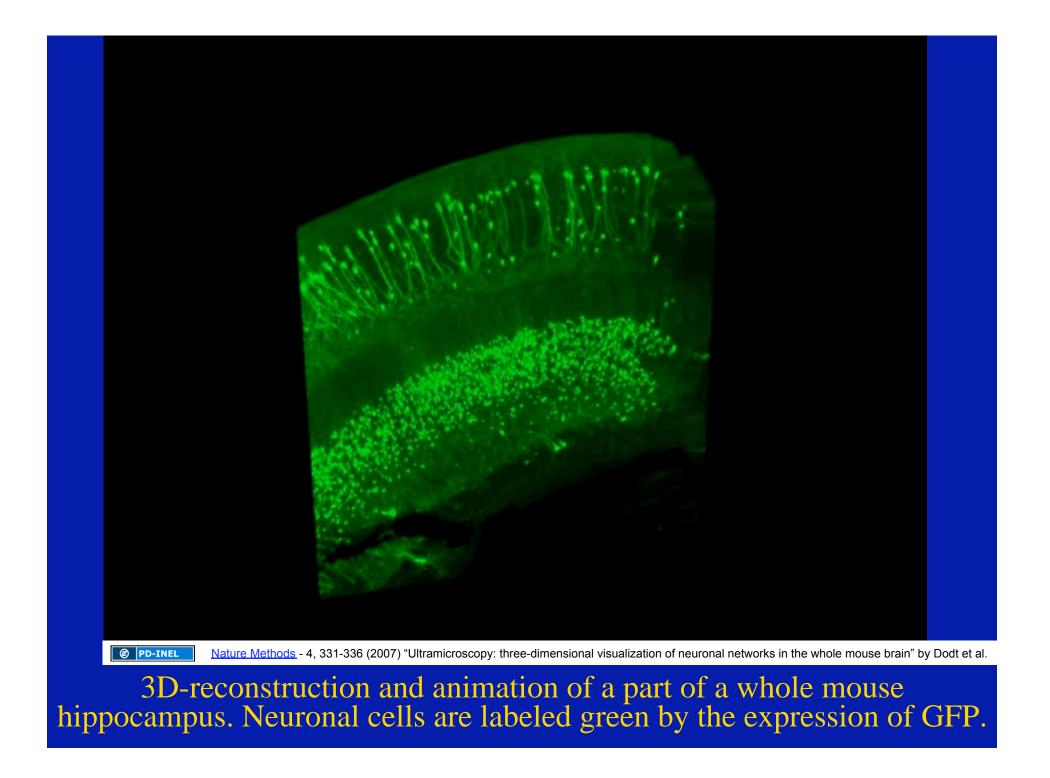
Hippocampus molecular layer

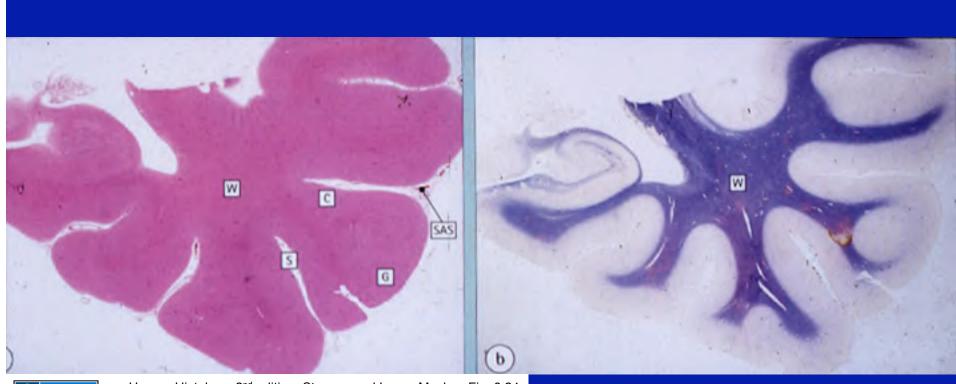
Dentate molecular layer Granule Cell Layer (Dentate granule cells)

Dentate polymorphic layer



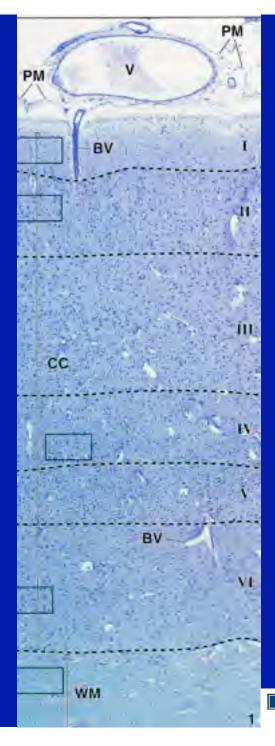
Luxol blue staining of the CA1 region of the hippocampus and part of the dentate gyrus.





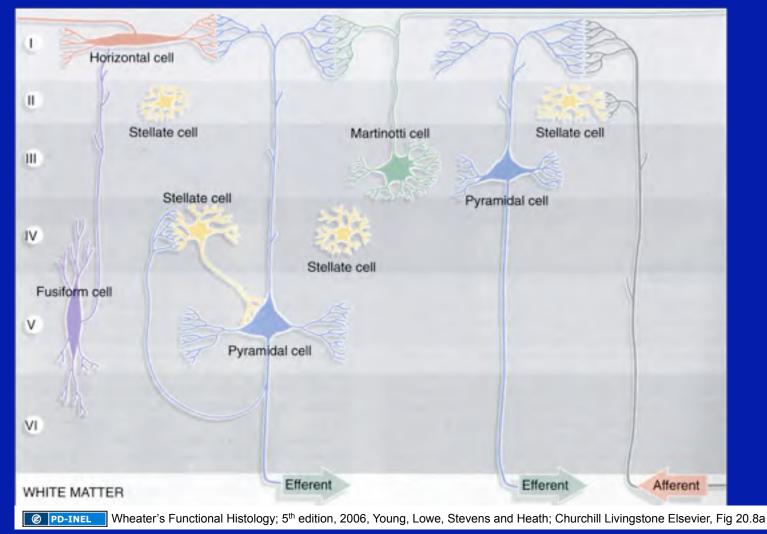
PD-INEL Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby ; Fig. 6.24

Similar to the cerebellum the folded structure (gyri and sulci) of the <u>cerebral cortex</u> increases its size. The cerebral cortex is also subdivided into gray (G) and white (W) matter.



The layered structure of the cerebral cortex is more complex than that of the hippocampus and the cerebellum. It is subdivided into 6 cellular layers, which have unique neuronal cell types and connections.

Each cerebral layer has its characteristic neuronal cell types, which are stereotypically connect to other neurons in its own layer or with neurons in other cerebral layers or other parts of the nervous system.





PD-INEL Histology – A Text and Atlas; 5th edition, 2006, Ross and Pawlina, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; Part of Plate 25

E.g., pyramidal cells (P), which are named for the shape of their somata, are found in layers 3 and 5 of the cerebral cortex. Ø PD-INEL

Fig 6f from "Dynamic Remodeling of Dendritic arbors in GABAergic Interneurons of Adult Visual Cortex" by Lee et al in PLoS Biology Vol. 4 No. 2 e29

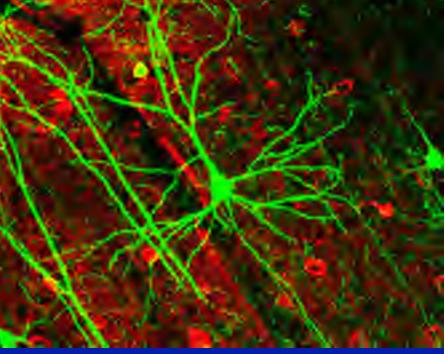


Image of pyramidal neurons in mouse cerebral cortex expressing GFP. The red staining indicates GABAergic interneurons. The stratification of the cerebral cortex is like a Black Forest Cake.

It always has the same types of layers with the same composition (chocolate cake, cherries and cream). However, the thickness of the layers and the size of the cherries (neurons) exhibits regional differences.



(e) EVENCESA Modified from ShadowWolf13 (flickr)

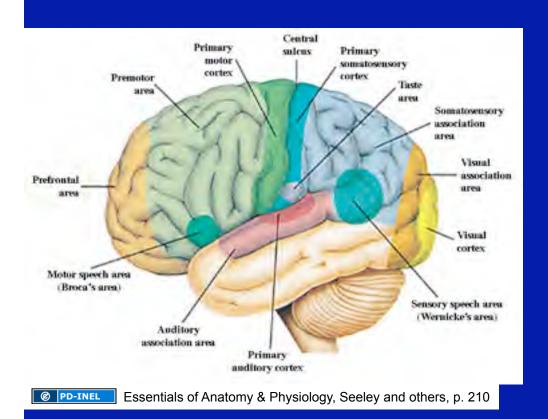
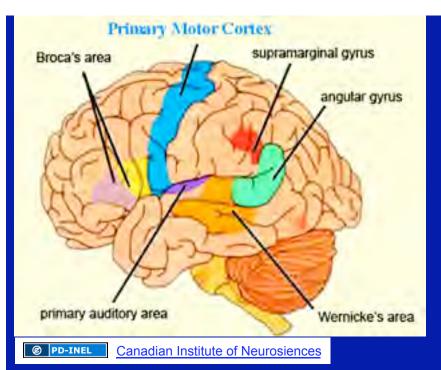


Image of neocortex layer variation removed

Source of Removed Image: http://www.learningdiscoveries.com.au/ StagesofBrainDevelopment.htm

This typical six layer structure is conserved throughout the cerebral cortex. However, there are regional differences in the thickness of individual layers and the appearance of specific neuronal cell types.



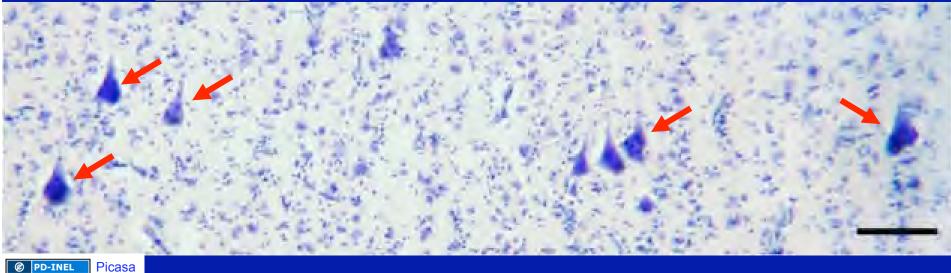
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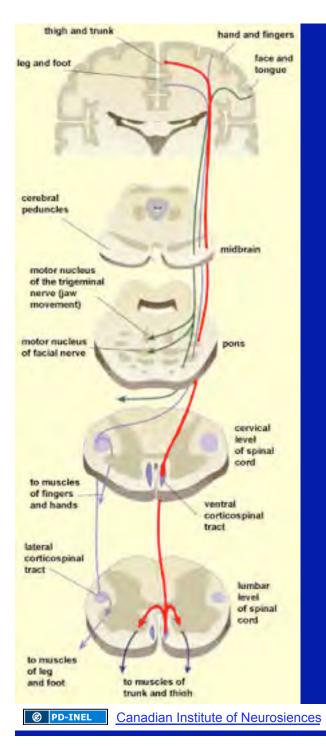
Ø

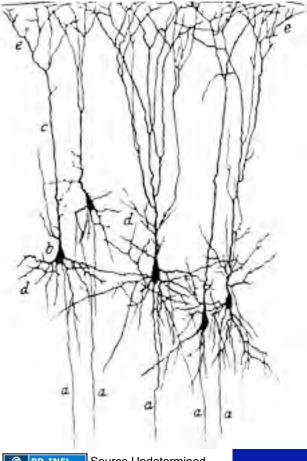
Layer 5 of the primary cerebral motor cortex has especially large pyramidal cells (up to 100 µm in size), which are named Betz cells after their discoverer.



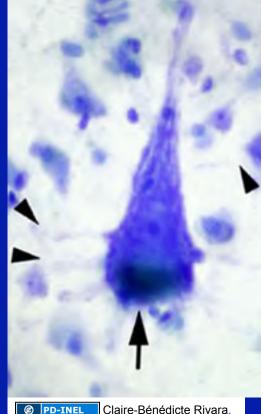
Vladimir Alekseyevich Betz (1834-1894) ③ GNU-FDL Wikipedia







Ø PD-INEL Source Undetermined



Ø PD-INEL Les cellules de Betz du cortex moteur primaire analyse stéréologique et fonctionnelle

Betz cells are multipolar, glutamatergic neurons and provide the major output of the primary cerebral motor cortex. Via the corticospinal tract their axons connect with alpha motor neurons in the ventral horn of the spinal cord.

Principles of CNS organization:

• All parts of the CNS are subdivided into gray and white matter.

• Gray matter contains neuronal cell bodies, axons and dendrites, as well as glial cells. White matter contains mainly axons and glial cells.

• Gray matter regions of the CNS are usually arranged in multiple unique layers.

• Each gray matter layer has its characteristic composition of neuronal subtypes, which connect to other neurons or cells in a reproducible, stereotypic pattern.

• Several parts of the CNS exhibit a folded structure to increase the overall size (examples cerebellum and cerebral cortex).

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Slide 5: Neuron to Brain, 3rd edition, 1992, Nicholls, Martin and Wallace, Sinauer, Fig 6

- Slide 6: Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Neuron_Hand-tuned.svg; Original Image: Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby, Fig. 6-1
- Slide 7: Color Atlas of Basic Histology, 1993, Berman, Appelton and Lange, Fig 6-4, Clendening Library Portrait Collection

Slide 8: Cell and Tissue Ultrastructure – A Functional Perspective, 1993, Cross and Mercer, Freeman and Co., Pg. 127

Slide 9: Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Neuron_Hand-tuned.svg; Original Image Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby , Fig. 6-1

Slide 10: Color Atlas of Histology, 1992, Erlandsen and Magney, Mosby Book, Fig 9-3

- Slide 11: Modified by Dr. Hortsch Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby, Fig 6.3
- Slide 12: Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby, Fig 6.7, Panel B courtesy of Olaf Mundigl and Pietro de Camilli in The Molecular Biology of the Cell by B. Alberts et al., 4th edition, 2002, Garland Science
- Slide 13: Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_Free_Documentation_License; Modified from Cell and Tissue Ultrastructure – A Functional Perspective by Cross and Mercer, 1993, Freeman and Co. pg. 135; Original Top Image From Diagram of synapse downloaded from http://fantastrid.googlepages.com/anatomydrawings_by Astrid Vincent Andersen
- Slide 14: Source of Removed Images: http://academic.kellogg.cc.mi.us/herbrandsonc/bio201_McKinley/Nervous%20System.htm
- Slide 15: Wilder Penfield, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:P%C3%ADo_del_R %C3%ADo_Hortega_en_1924.jpg; Histology Image Source: Histology - A Text and Atlas, 5th edition, 2006, Ross and Pawlina,

Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Fig 11.18

- Slide 16: Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby , Fig 6.12
- Slide 17: NIH Journal 1997 9:32
- Slide 18: Stevens and Lowe, Human Histology, 2nd ed Fig 7.24
- Slide 19: Source of Removed Image: Histology-A Text and Atlas 4th ed, Ross et al; Histology-A Text and Atlas 4th ed, Ross et al , Fig 11.20
- Slide 21: Netter's Essential Histology, 2008, Ovalle and Nahirney, Elsevier, Pages 114 and 115
- Slide 22: Basic Medical Histology, 1998, Kessel, Oxford University Press, Plate 27E
- Slide 23: Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Neuron_Hand-tuned.svg; Original Image: Kelley, Kaye and Pawlina, "Histology, a Text and Atlas," 4th ed., page 284. Neuron-Ross4-284.tif.
- Slide 24: Basic Histology Text & Atlas, 10th edition, 2003,
 - Junqueira and Carneiro, Lange McGraw-Hill, Fig 9-30
- Slide 25: Wheater's Functional Histology; 5th edition, 2006, Young, Lowe, Stevens and Heath; Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, Fig 17.6a; Source of Removed Image: Histology-A Text and Atlas by M.H. Ross and W. Pawlina, 5th edition, 2006, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Fig 12.11

- Slide 26: Neuroscience by D. Purves et al., 2001, 2nd ed., Sinauer,
- Slide 27: Source of Removed Image: Human Histology by Stevens and Lowe, 2nd edition, 1997, Mosby Fig 6.13a
- Slide 28: Cell and Tissue Ultrastructure A Functional Perspective, 1993, Cross and Mercer, Freeman and Co., p. 139
- Slide 29: Color Atlas of Histology, 1992, Erlandsen and Magney, Mosby Book, Fig 9-13
- Slide 30: Source of Removed Image: R&D Systems Autoimmunity Poster 2006 R&D Systems, Inc.
- Slide 31: Stevens and Lowe Human Histology 2nd ed, Fig 6.14 Slide 32: Color Textbook of Histology, 2nd edition, 1994, Gartner and Hiatt, Williams and Wilkins, Fig 71 Slide 33: Human Histology, 2nd edition, Stevens and Lowe, Mosby , Fig. 6.27a
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