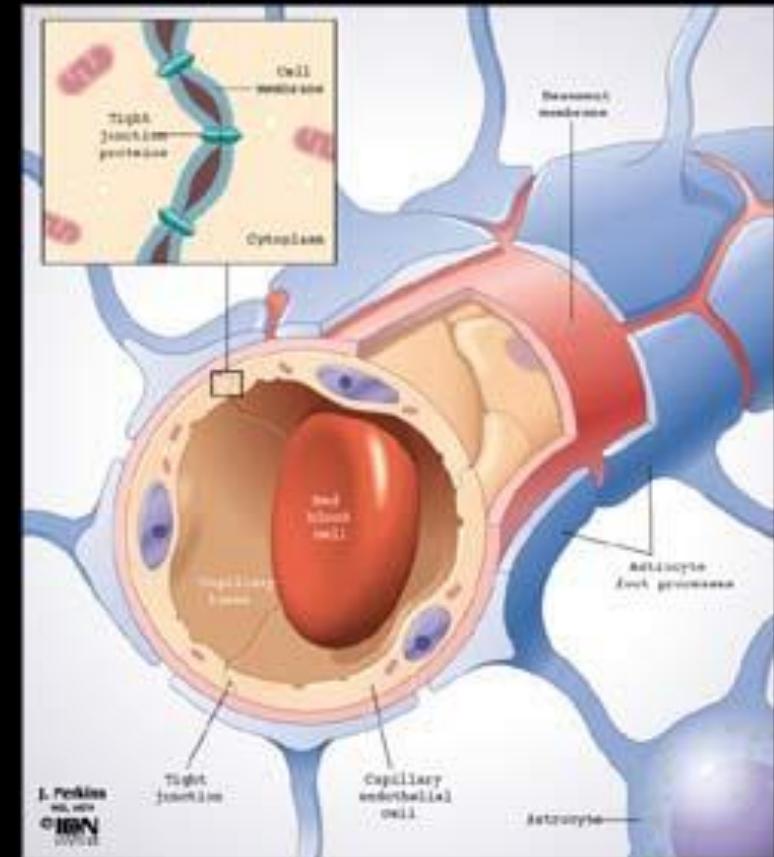
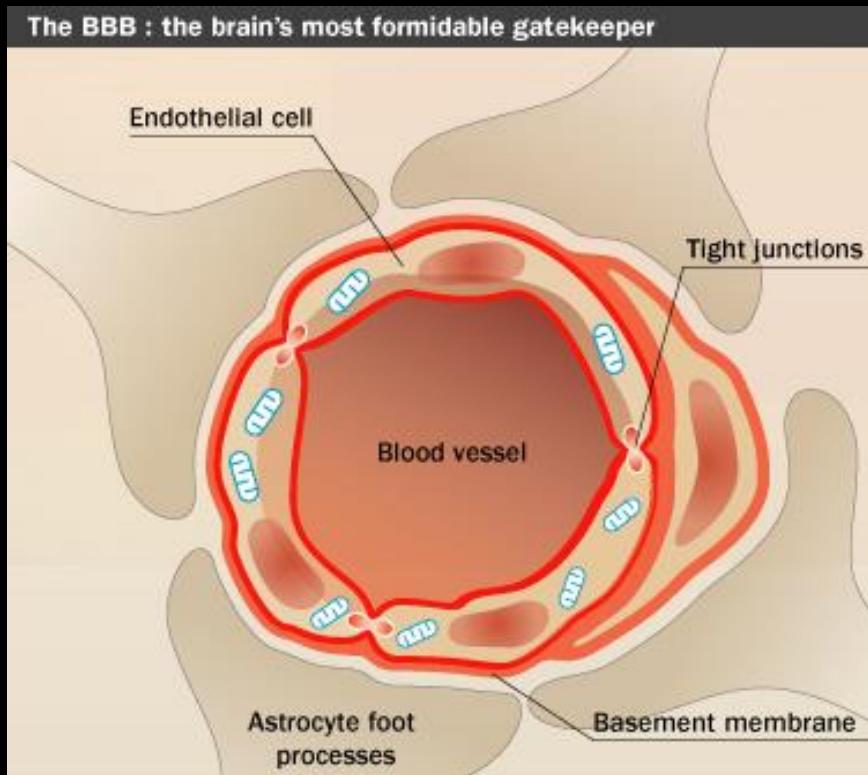


In vivo brain functional exploration

Why in vivo?

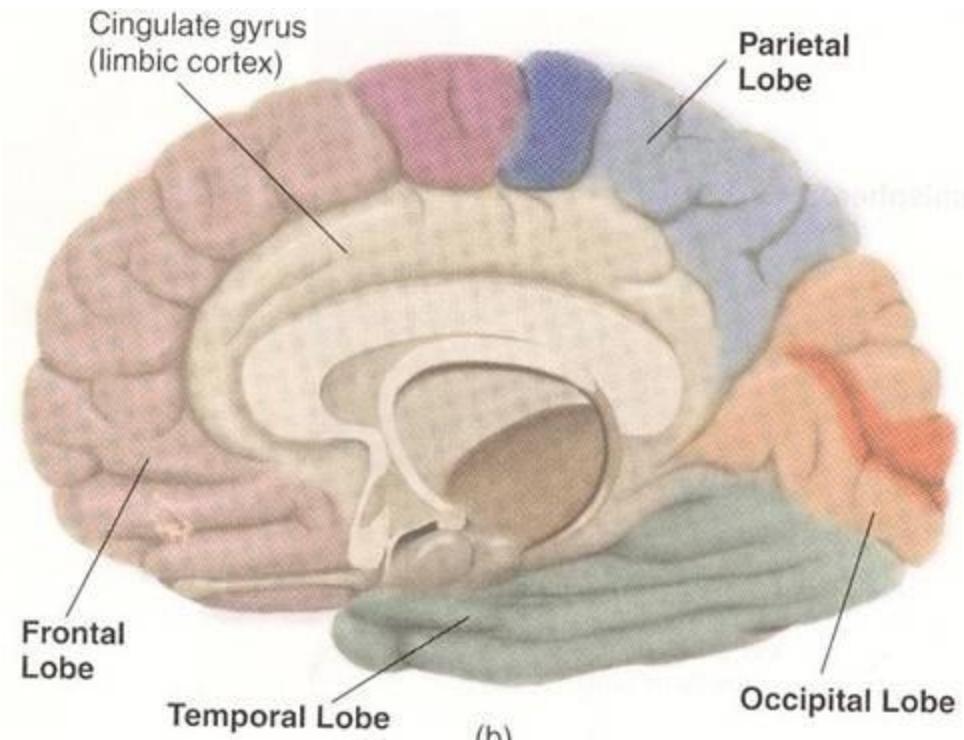
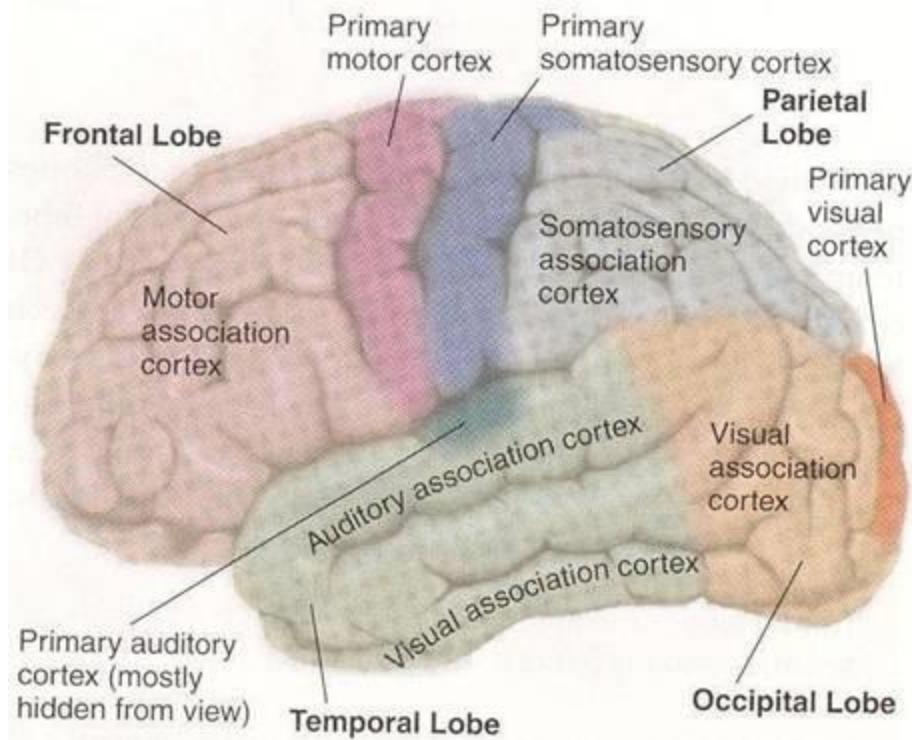
1. *in vitro* and *in vivo* differences
2. Anatomical 'constraints'



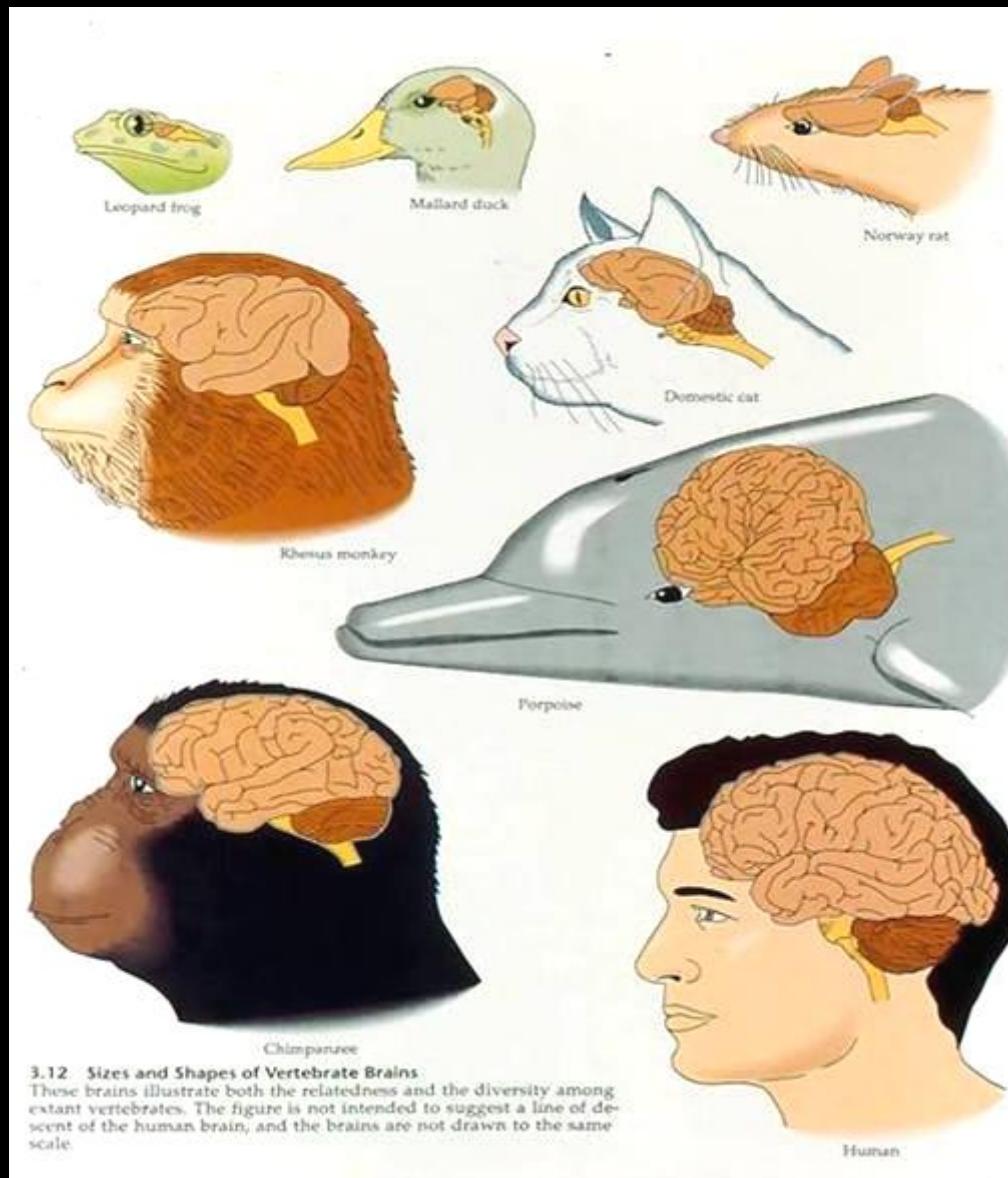
In vivo brain functional exploration

Why in vivo?

3. Functional segregation and integration

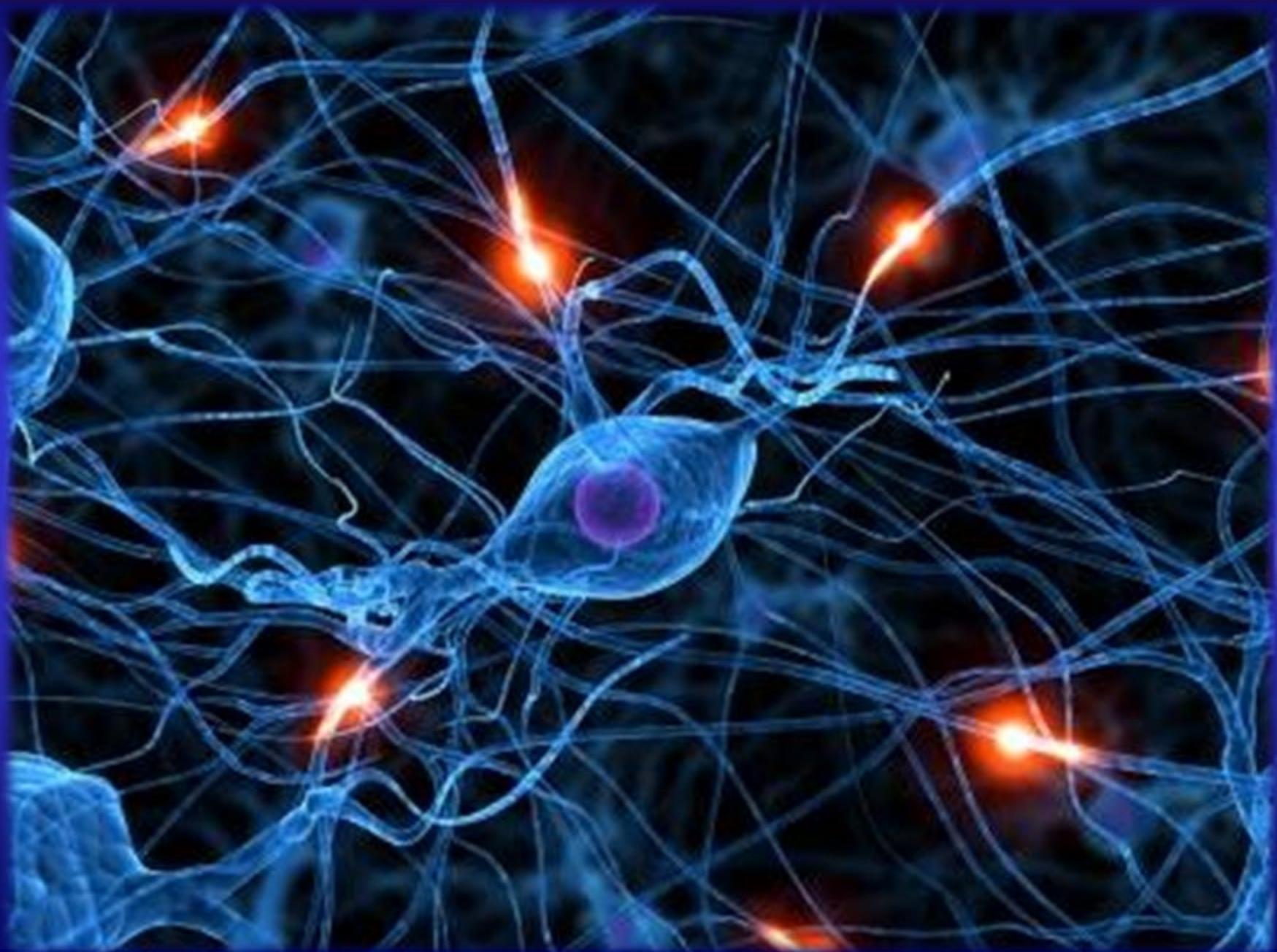


In vivo brain functional exploration

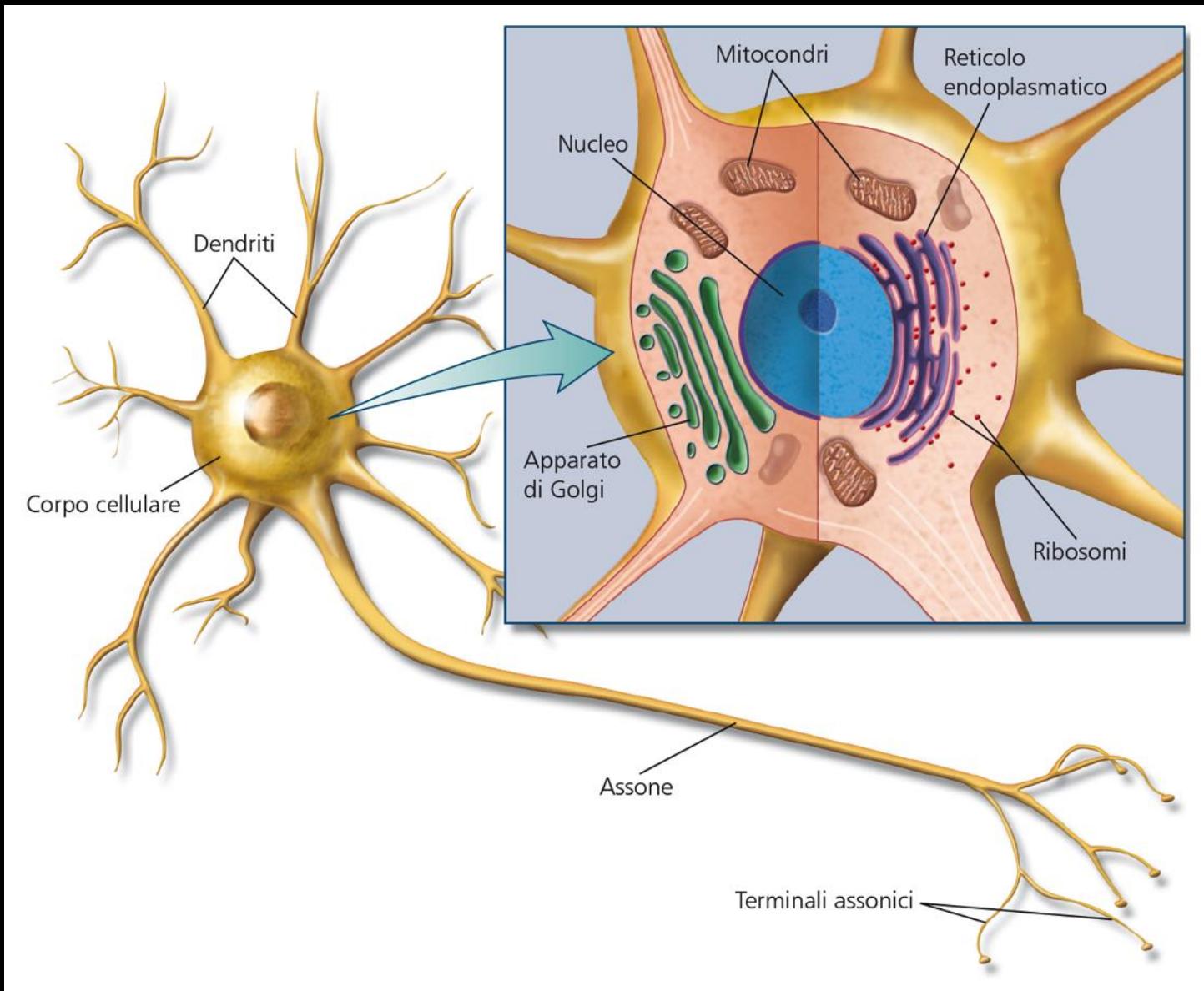


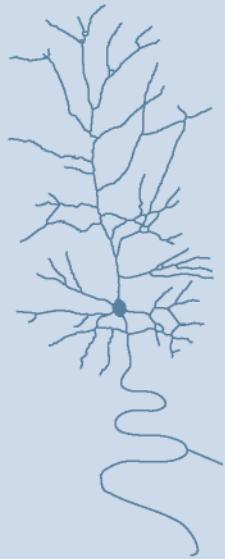
Why in vivo?
**4. Limitations
of animal
models**

In vivo brain functional methodologies

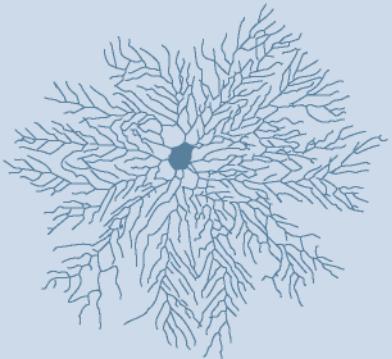


Neurons

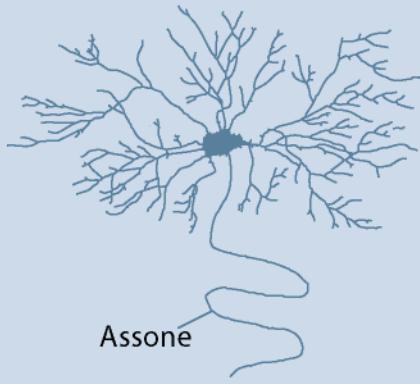




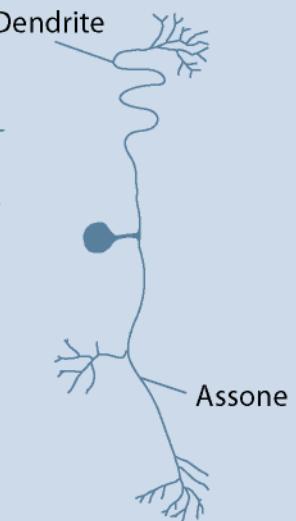
Cellula piramidele
(corteccia)



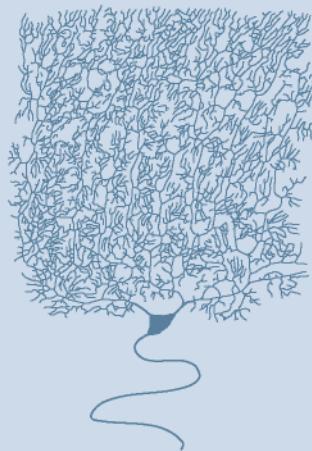
Cellula associativa
(talamo)



Motoneurone
(midollo spinale)

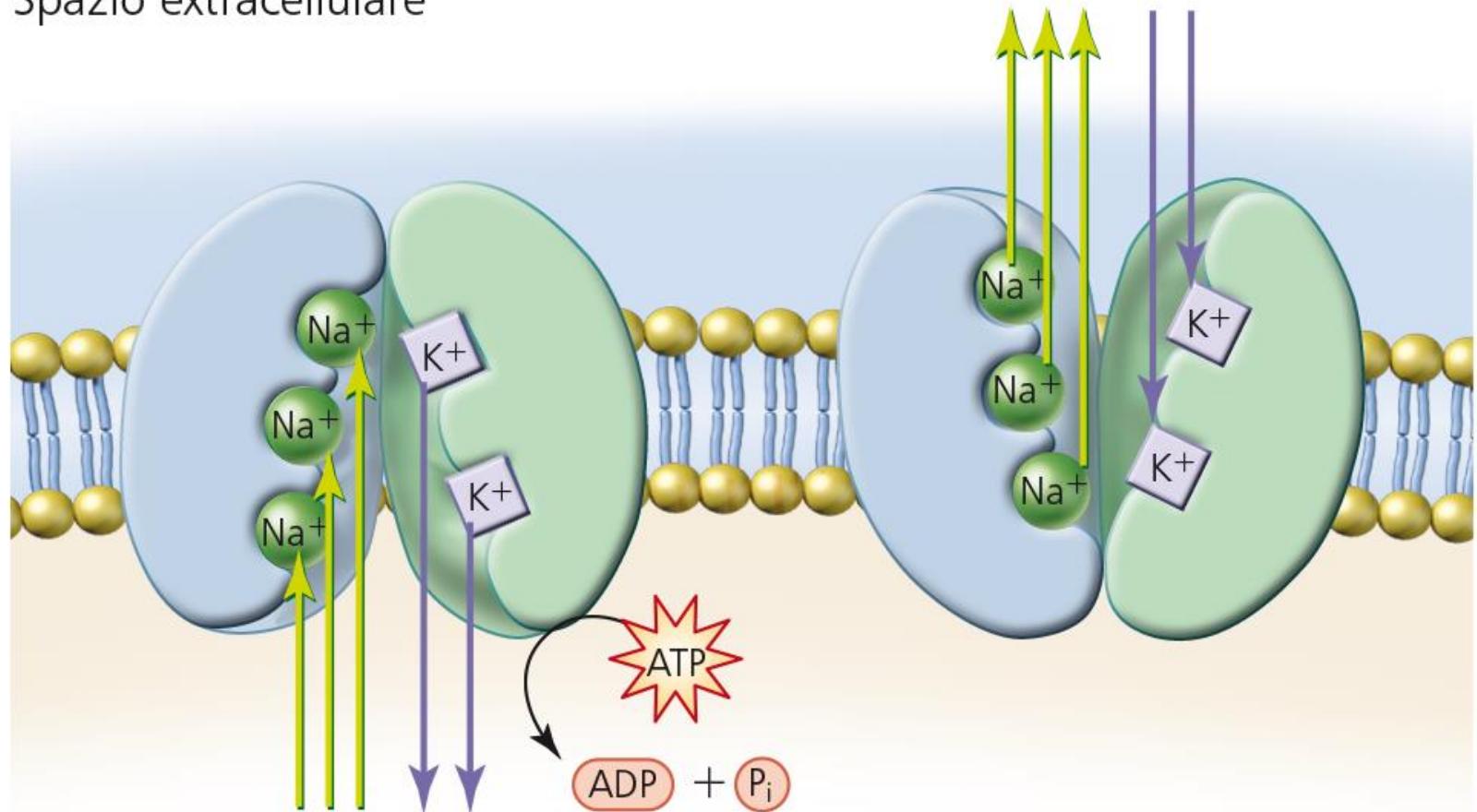


Cellula somatosensoriale
(pelle)

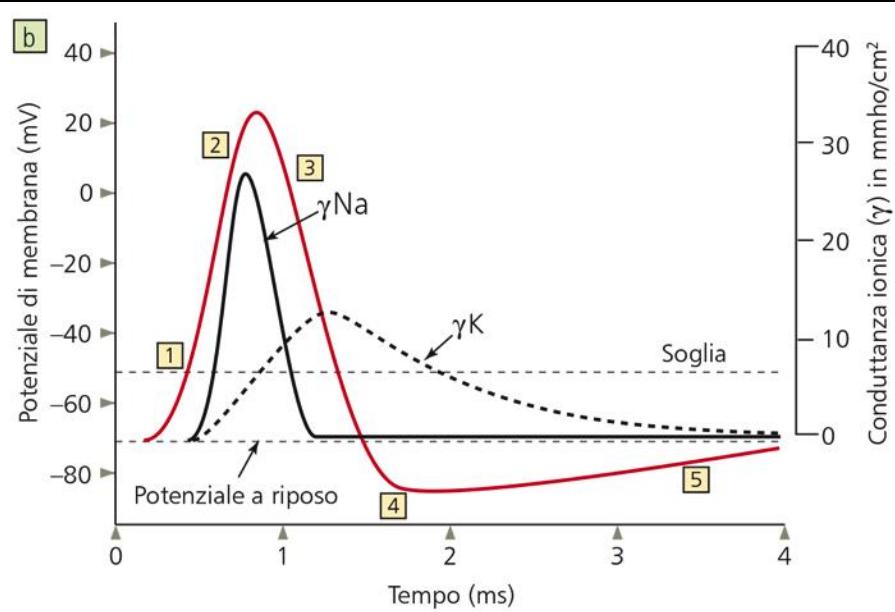
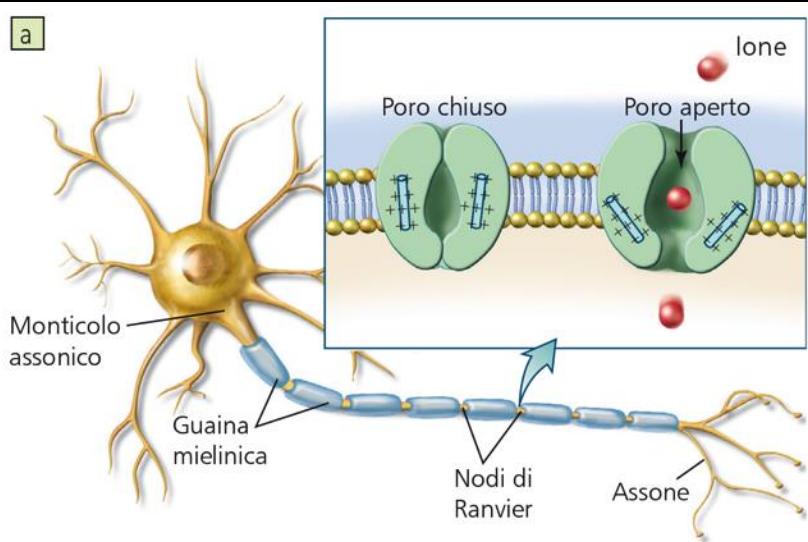


Cellula di Purkinje
(cervelletto)

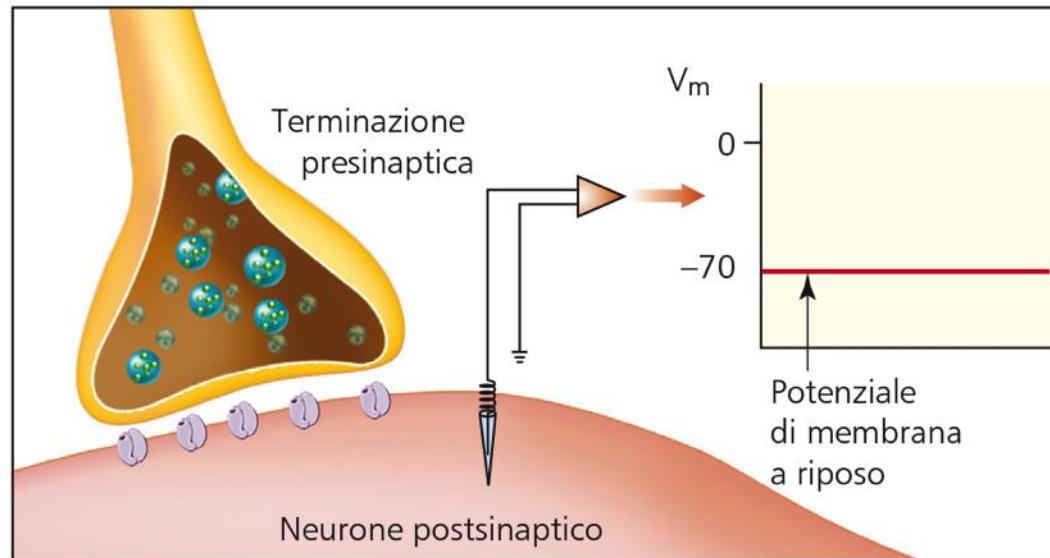
Spazio extracellulare



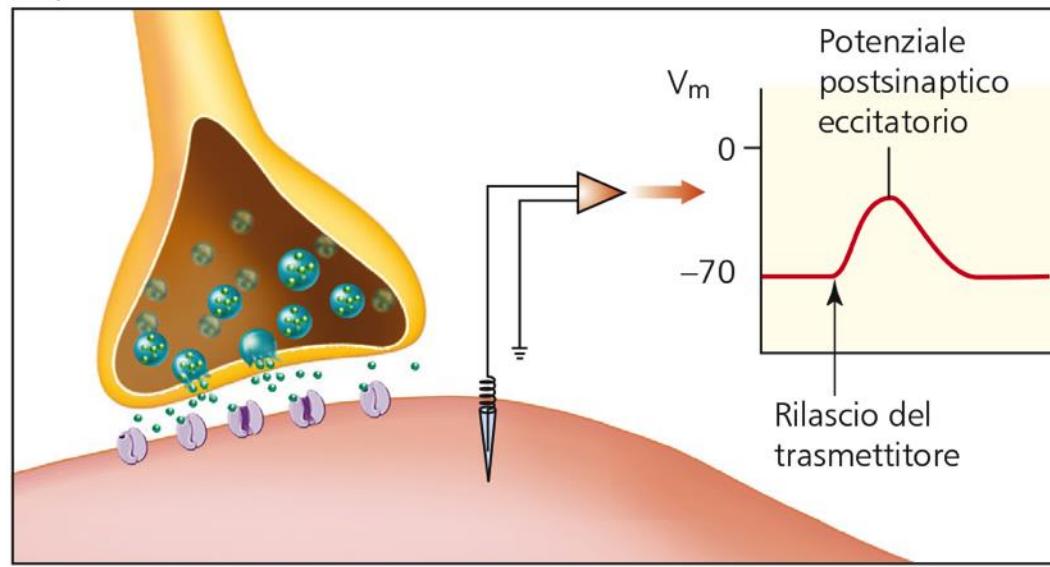
Fluido intracellulare



Prima del rilascio del trasmettore



Dopo il rilascio del trasmettore



To summarize:

- **Na/K pump**
- **Summation**
- **Action Potential**
- **Synaptic transmission**

THE STRUCTURES OF NEUROTRANSMITTERS

STRUCTURE KEY: ● Carbon atom ○ Hydrogen atom ○ Oxygen atom ● Nitrogen atom ● Rest of molecule

ADRENALINE

Fight or flight neurotransmitter



Produced in stressful or exciting situations. Increases heart rate & blood flow, leading to a physical boost & heightened awareness.

NORADRENALINE

Concentration neurotransmitter



Affects attention & responding actions in the brain, & involved in fight or flight response. Contracts blood vessels, increasing blood flow.

DOPAMINE

Pleasure neurotransmitter



Feelings of pleasure, and also addiction, movement, and motivation. People repeat behaviours that lead to dopamine release.

SEROTONIN

Mood neurotransmitter



Contributes to well-being & happiness; helps sleep cycle & digestive system regulation. Affected by exercise & light exposure.

GABA

Calming neurotransmitter



Calms firing nerves in CNS. High levels improve focus; low levels cause anxiety. Also contributes to motor control & vision.

ACETYLCHOLINE

Learning neurotransmitter



Involved in thought, learning, & memory. Activates muscle action in the body. Also associated with attention and awakening.

GLUTAMATE

Memory neurotransmitter



Most common brain neurotransmitter. Involved in learning & memory, regulates development & creation of nerve contacts.

ENDORPHINS

Euphoria neurotransmitters



Released during exercise, excitement, & sex, producing well-being & euphoria, reducing pain. Biologically active section shown.



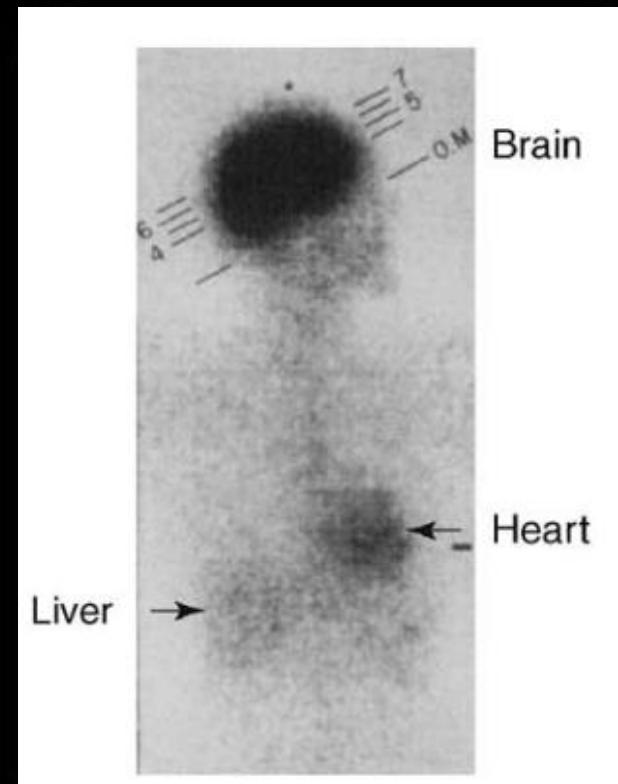
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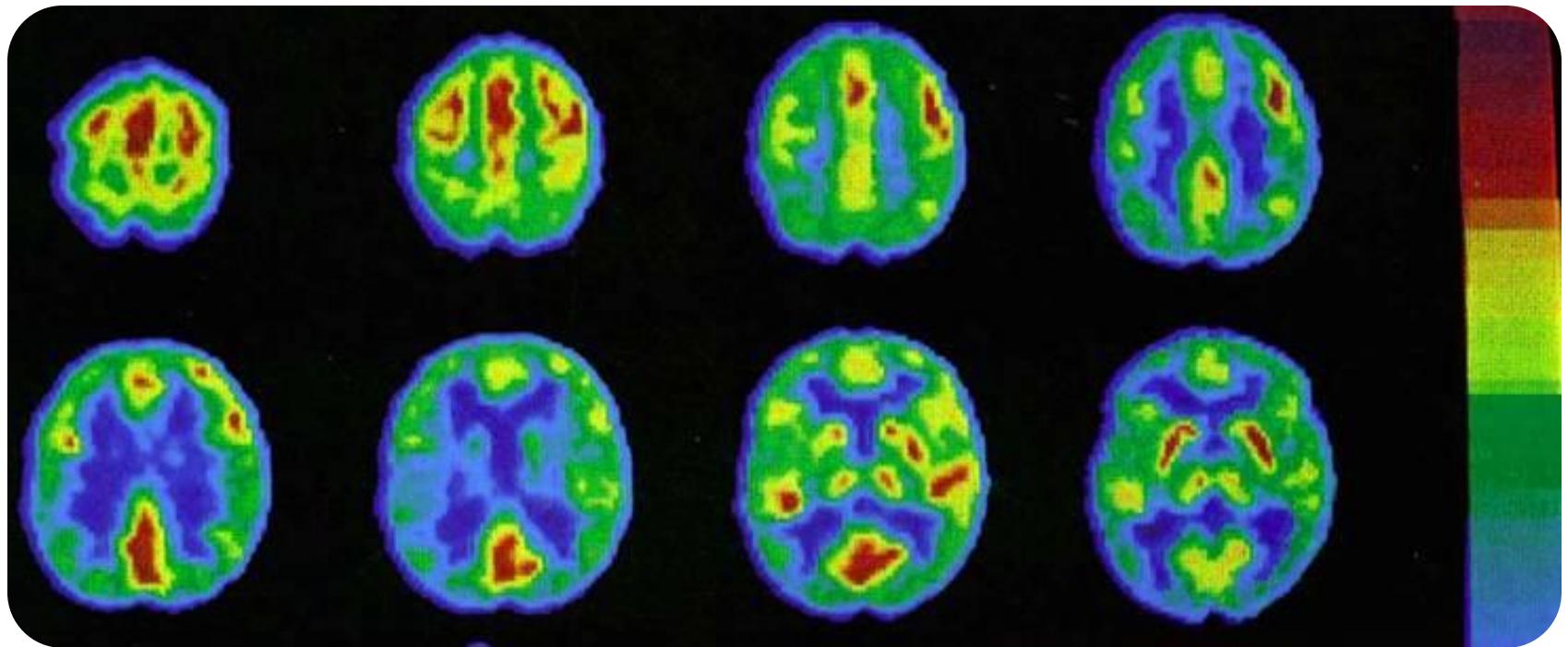


Cerebral metabolism of glucose

- Brain tissue includes neurons and glia cells
- In physiological conditions, glucose oxydation to CO_2 and H_2O is the unique metabolic pathway to produce ATP
- Glucose and oxygen supplies strictly rely on cerebral blood flow
- Human brain:
 - ~2% of total body weight
 - receives 15% basal cardiac output and consumes 20% of O_2
 - extracts about 10% blood glucose
 - limited glycogen storage
 - Blood supply increases in 'activated' brain regions



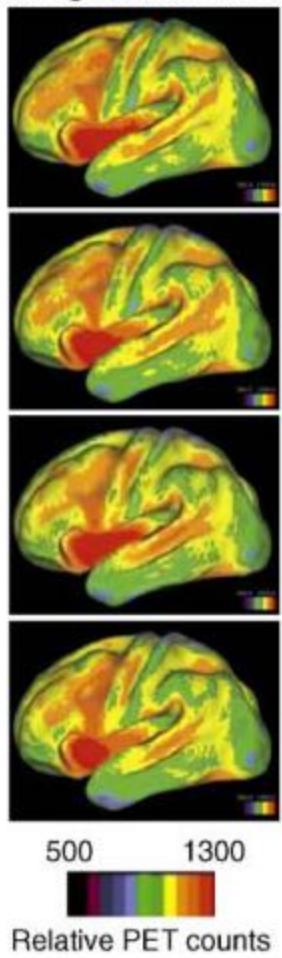
Our brain never rests...



Glucose consumption at rest as measured by PET

Our brain never rests...

Averaged blood flow



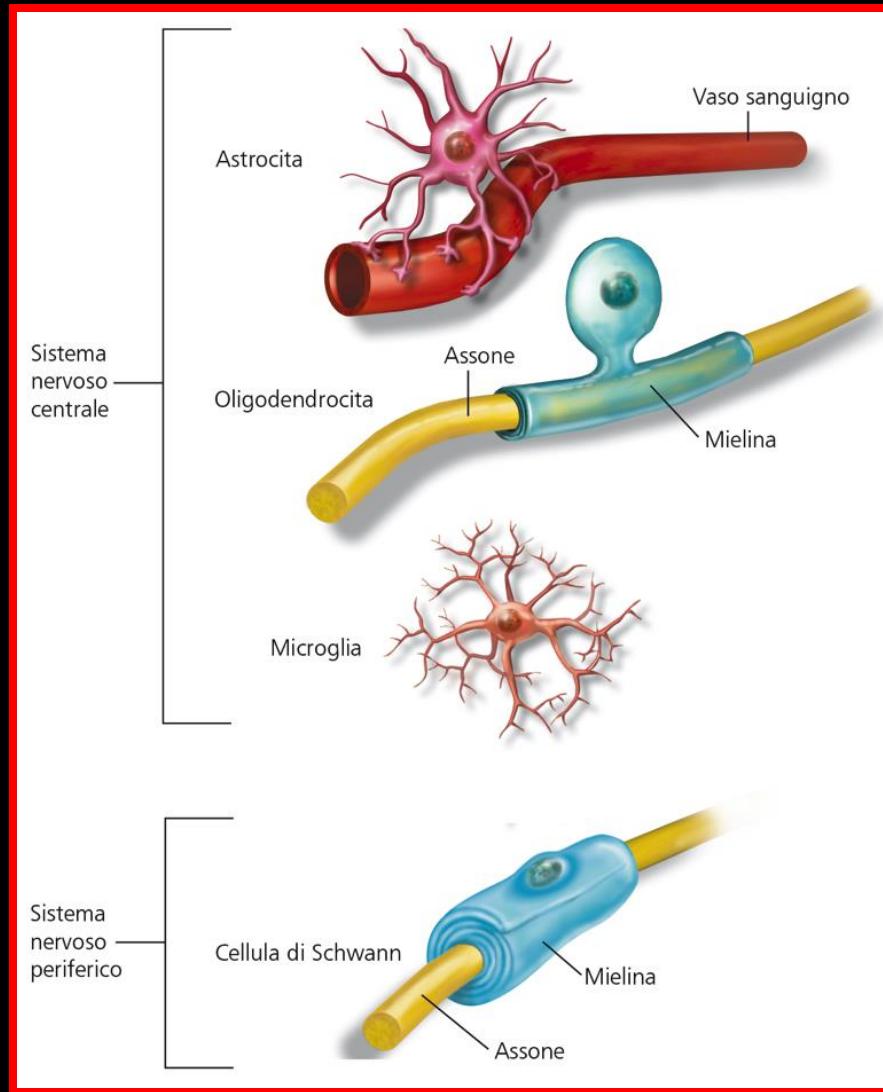
Which are the resting state or task-dependent responses?

Neurovascular coupling

- Increases in neuronal synaptic activity are accompanied by increases in regional blood flow supply (coupling)
- Blood flow supplies glucose and oxygen to neurons
- In healthy conditions, glucose oxydation is the only metabolic pathway to produce ATP in the neuron
- ATP restores neuron membrane potential
- ATP consumption is located at a synaptic level
- Glucose consumption represents an indirect parameter to assess synaptic neuronal activity

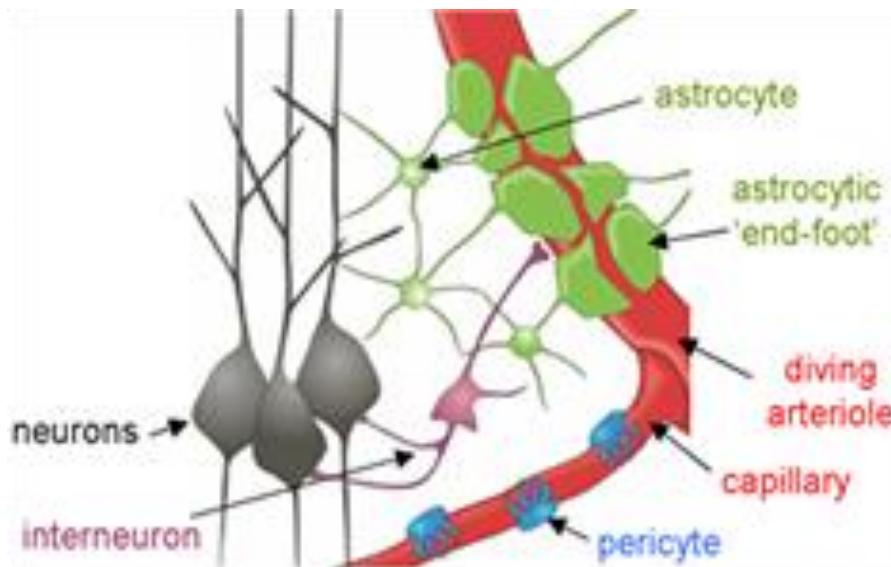
Neurovascular coupling

- Brain tissue includes neurons and glia cells



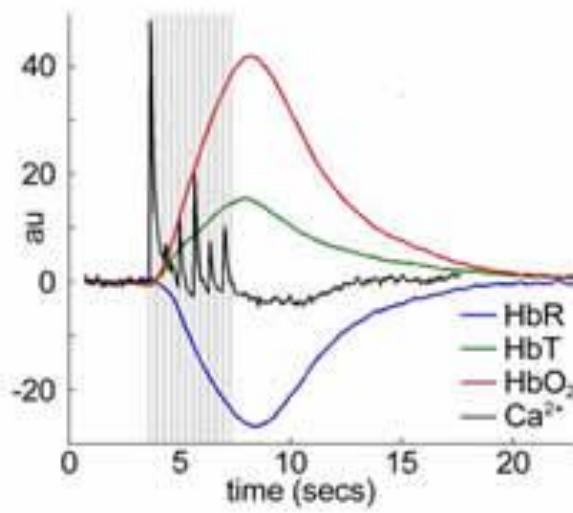
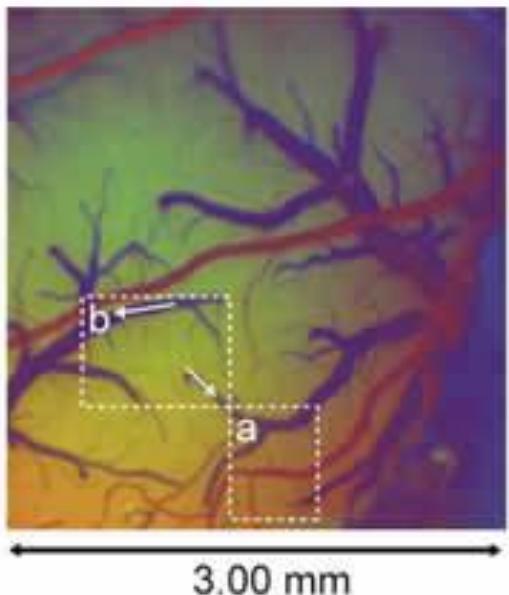
Neurovascular coupling (functional hyperemia)

- A local increase in cortical blood flow accompanies almost all neuronal responses to stimulus in the brain
- However, little is understood about the interrelation between blood flow and the neuronal activity that underlies it
- More importantly, normal functioning of the brain depends critically on the integrity of neurovascular coupling (e.g., Alzheimer's and age related neurodegeneration)



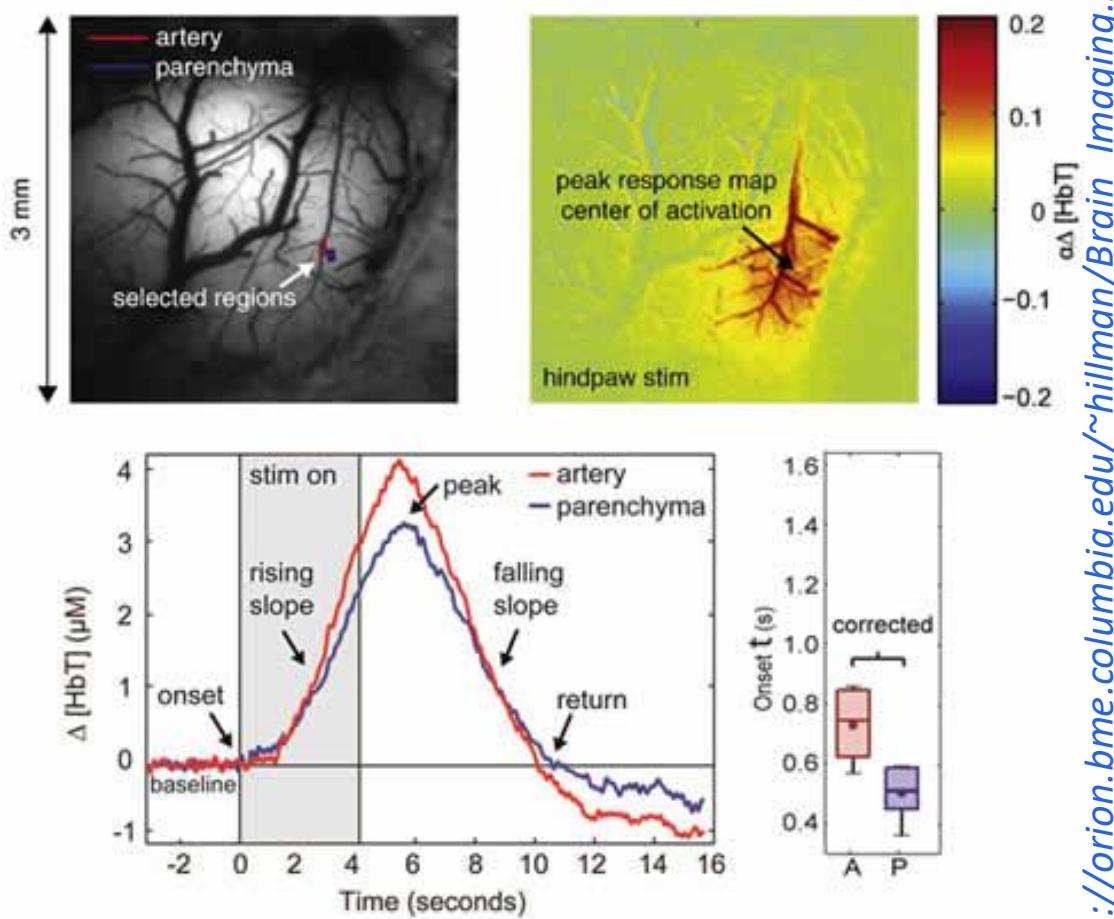
Neurovascular coupling

- The typical hemodynamic response consists of a rapid increase in HbT and HbO with a concomitant decrease in HbR.
- This response corresponds to a local increase in blood flow and in the amount of oxygenated blood present in the region, due to rapid dilation of the pial arterioles and little or no dilation (passive or active) of pial veins (so far, fMRI models assumed that the majority of HbT changes occurred in the venous compartment!)

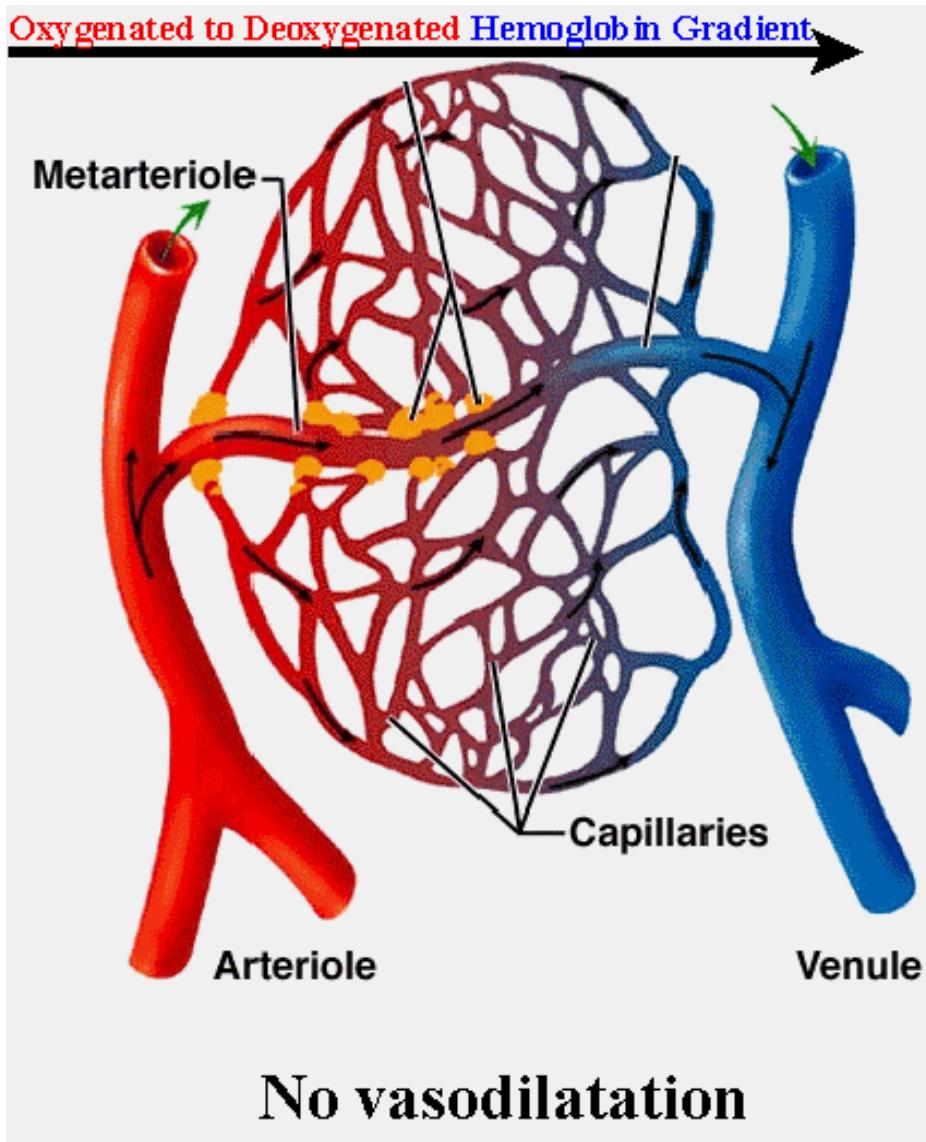


Neurovascular coupling

- HbT changes in the parenchyma originating from the capillary bed precede dilation of pial arterioles by a few hundred milliseconds
- We observed high speed (2-4 mm/s) retrograde propagation of vasodilation
- Dilations over 1mm away were seen within 400 milliseconds of stimulus onset



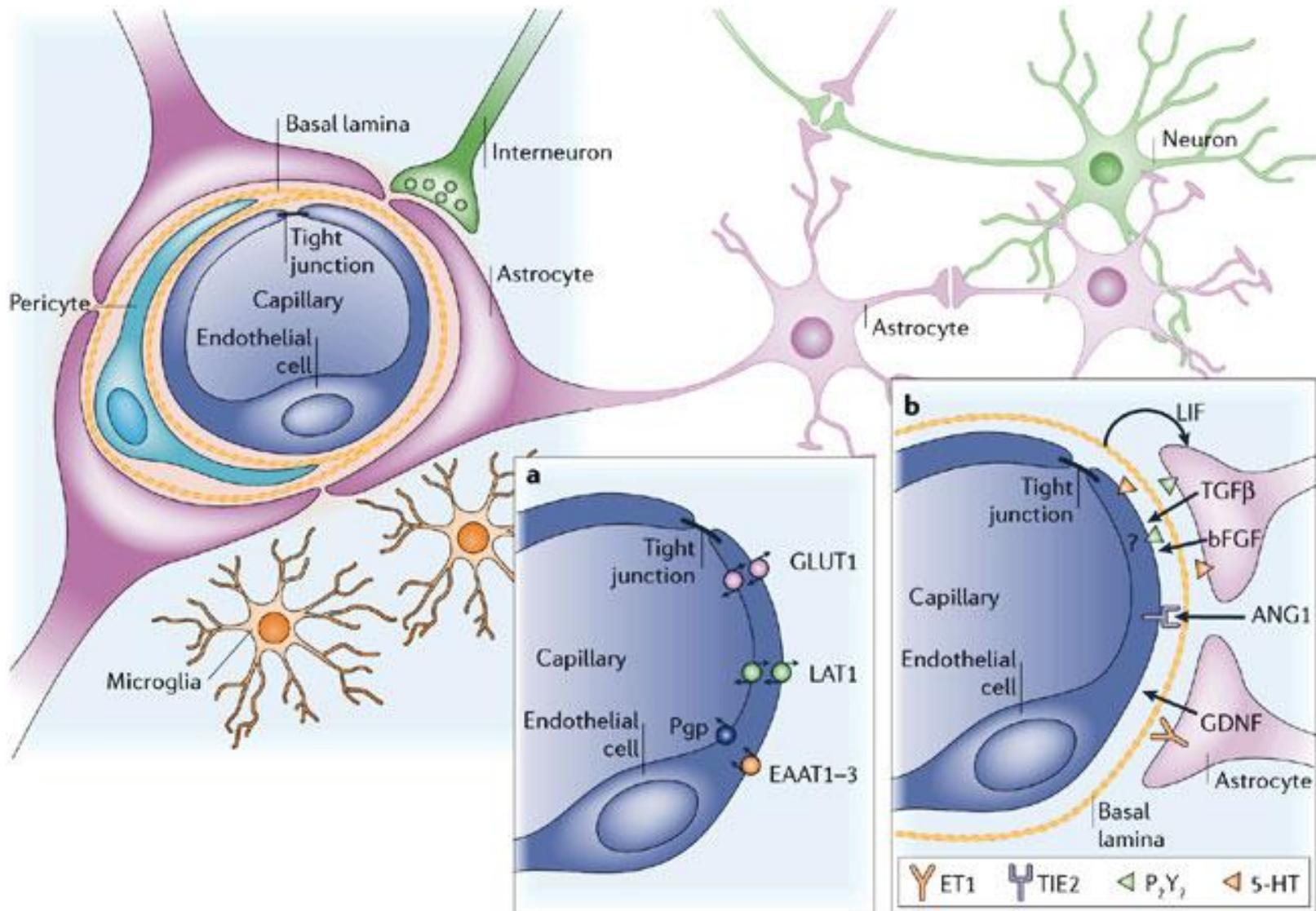
Neurovascular coupling



Neurovascular coupling

- Astrocytes possess many properties that make them attractive candidates for involvement in neurovascular coupling:
 - can sense the presence of local glutamate release via their metabotropic glutamate receptors
 - can release a range of vasoactive products including prostaglandins and potassium ions
 - are present around vessels in the brain
 - exhibit transient increases in intracellular calcium during stimulation
- Astrocytes ensheath all sub-pial vessels; diving arterioles, capillaries and ascending veins, but that they do not exhibit preferential relationships with diving arterioles and seem unlikely to be the primary mediators of long-distance, rapid dilation of pial arteriole branches... what about *endothelium*?

Neurovascular coupling



The homeostatic role of the BBB

4. Provides nutrients and removes catabolites

5. Selects the transport of substances to neurons

6. Modulates the release of molecules with hormonal function

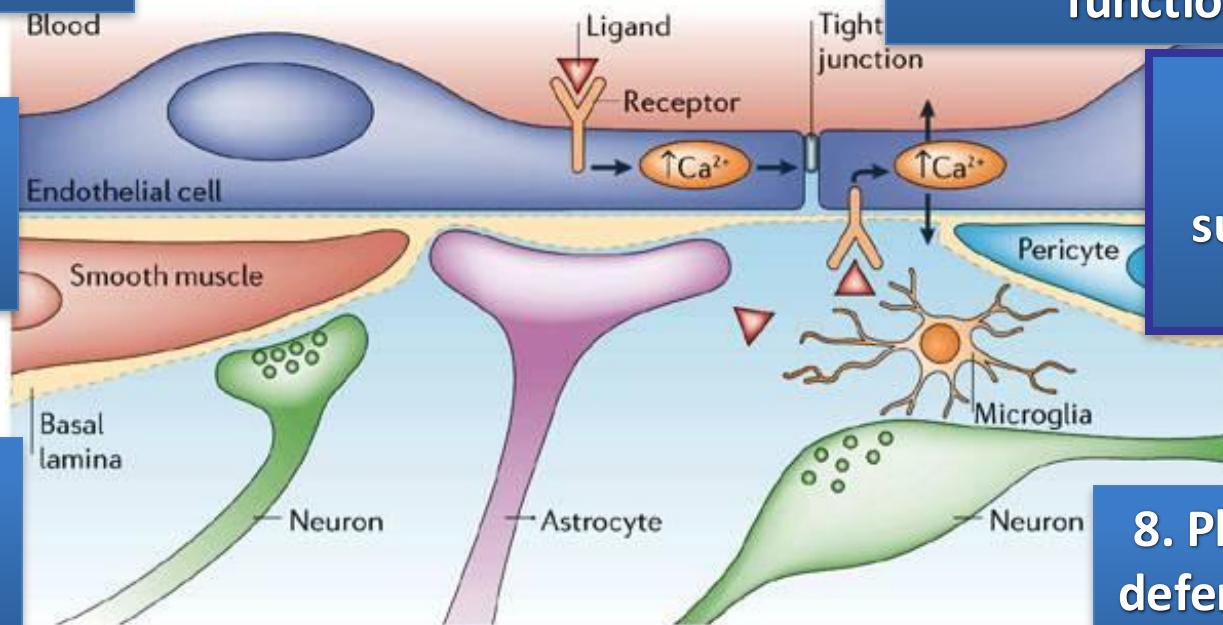
3. Regulates the neuronal architecture

2. Regulates the vascular scaffold

1. Regulates ion and fluid exchange

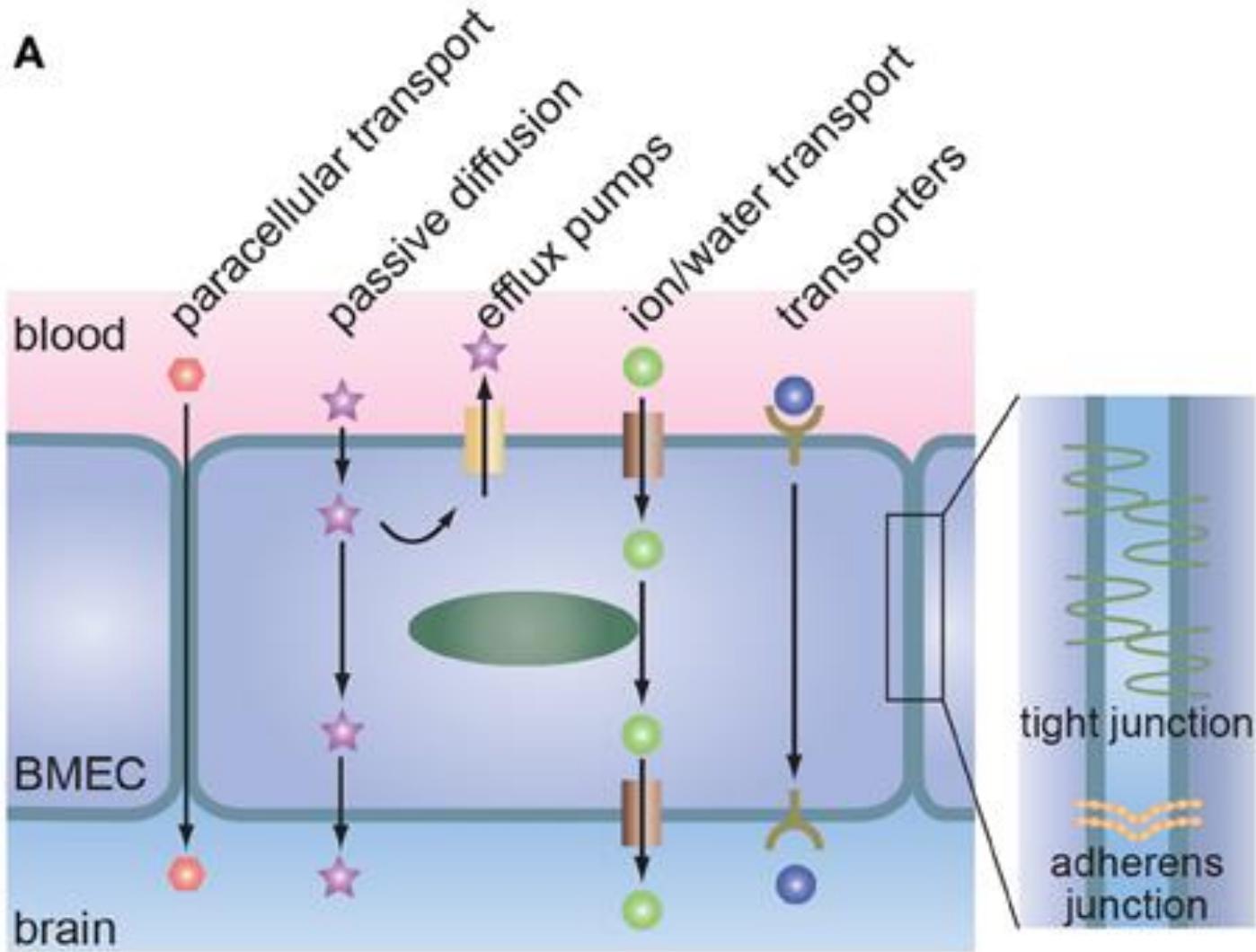
7. Regulates blood flow supply through vasodilation

8. Phagocytic and defense properties

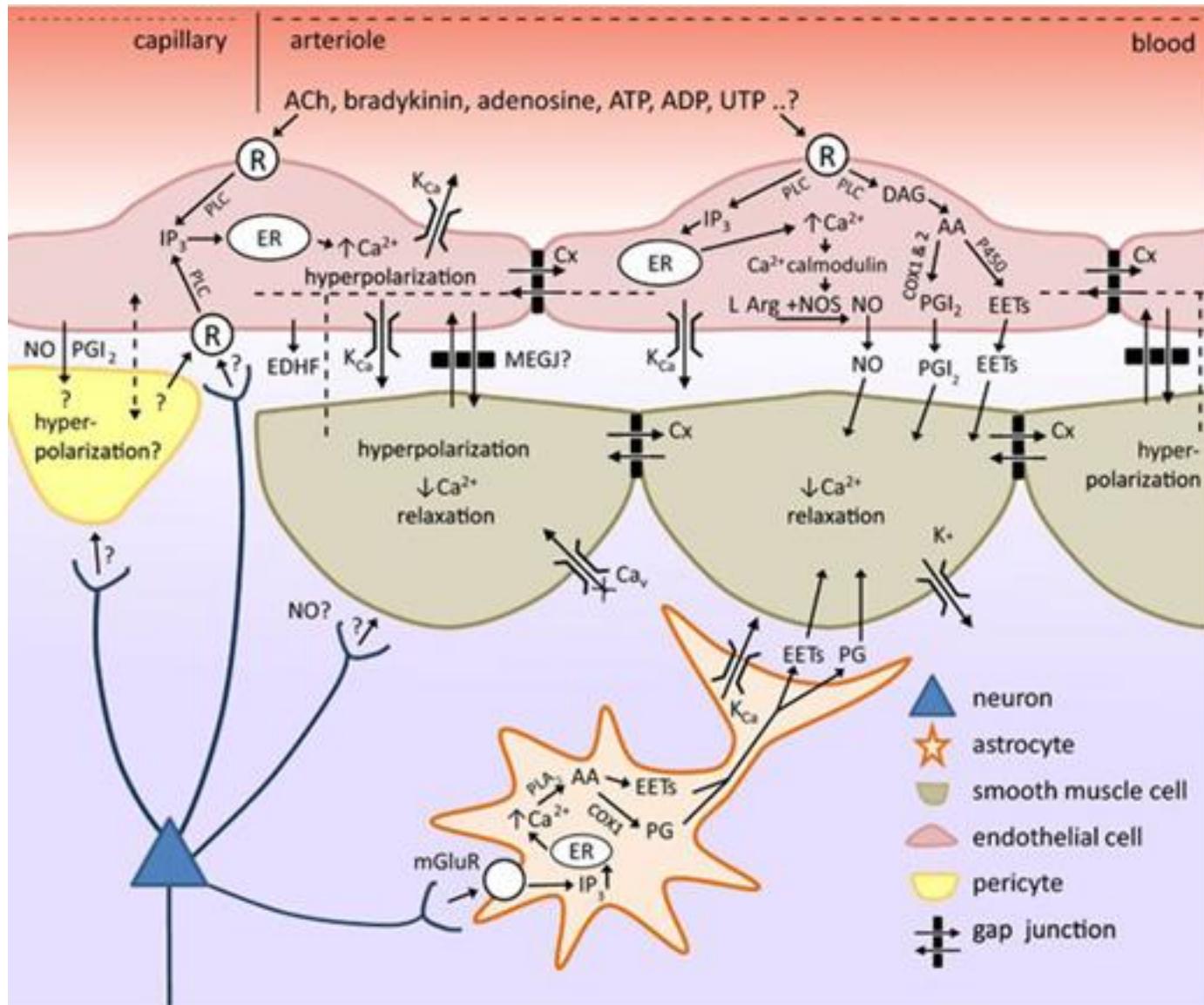


~20 m² per 1.3 kg of nervous tissue!

The homeostatic role of the BBB

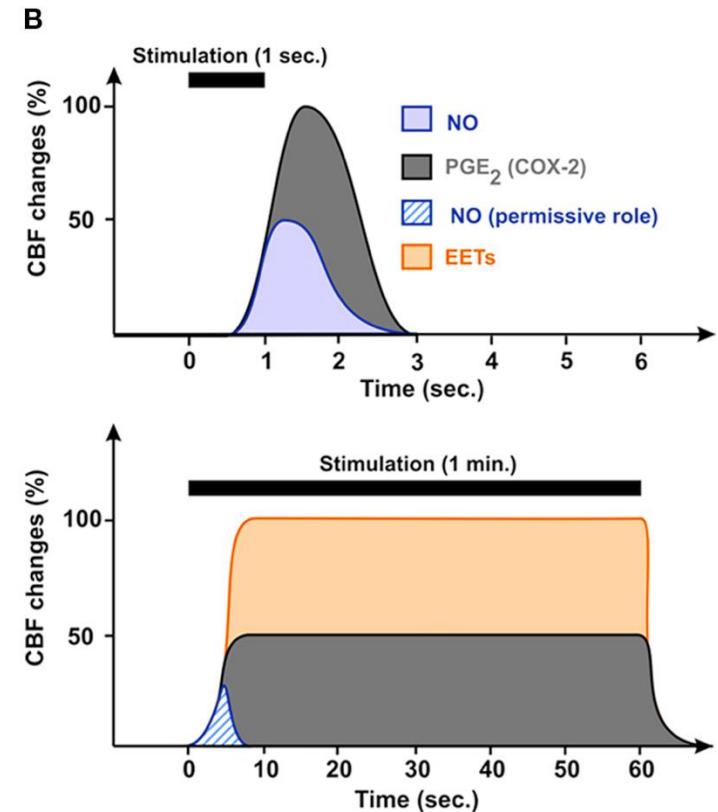
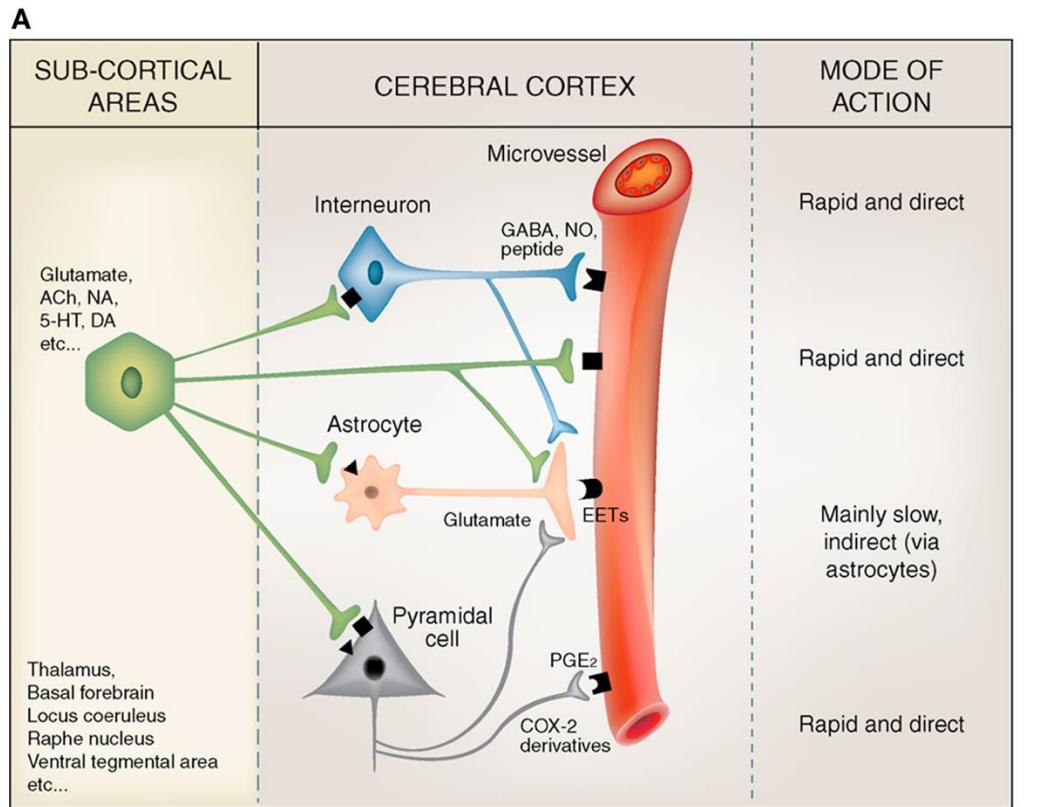


Neurovascular coupling: endothelium

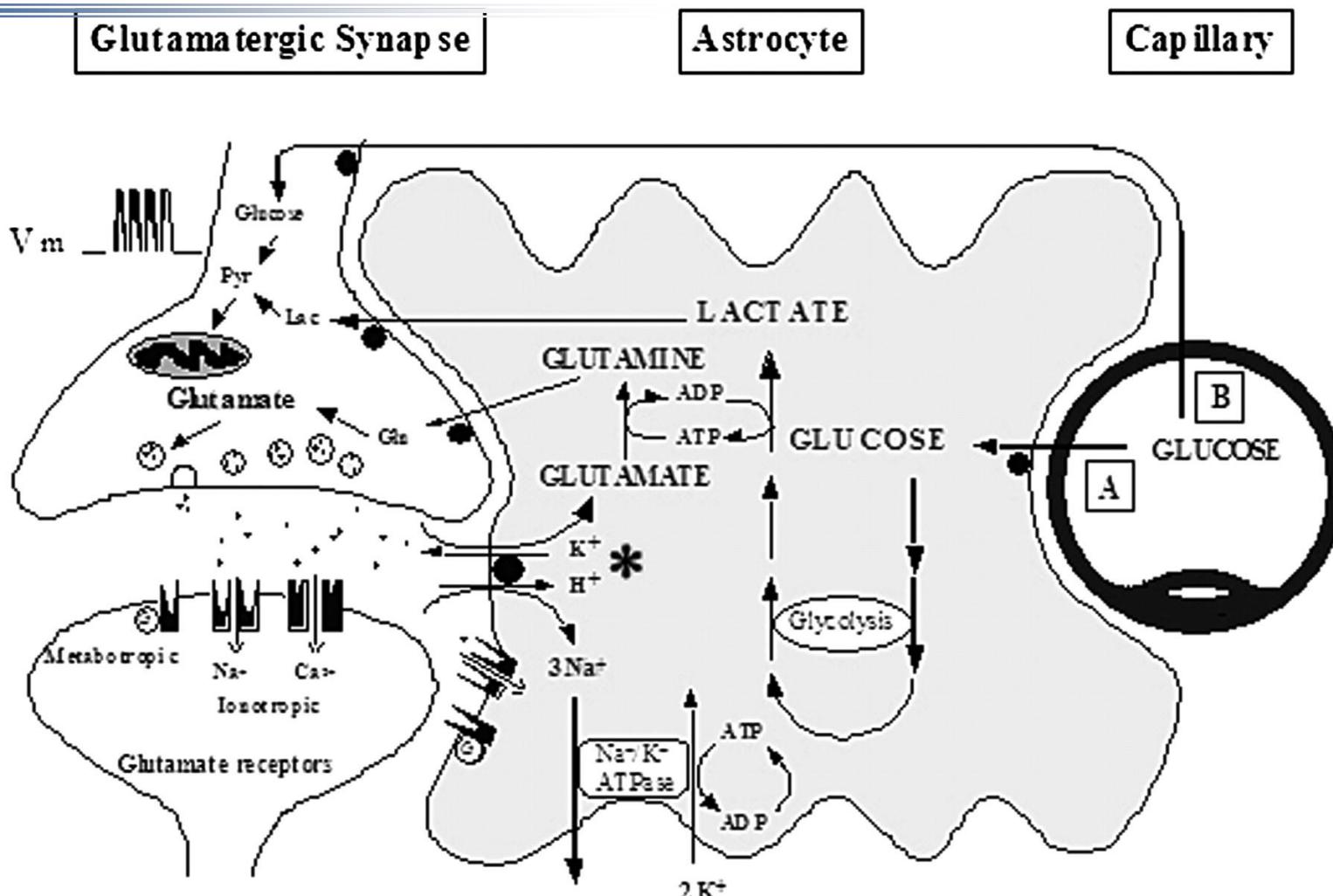


Neurovascular coupling: where are the neurons?

- Regulation of microvessels by pyramidal cells, GABA interneurons and astrocytes, and their effects to temporally regulate CBF changes
- Brief stimulations (1 s) are more likely to involve neurally-derived mediators whereas sustained stimulation (1 min) are more susceptible to recruit astrocyte-derived messengers

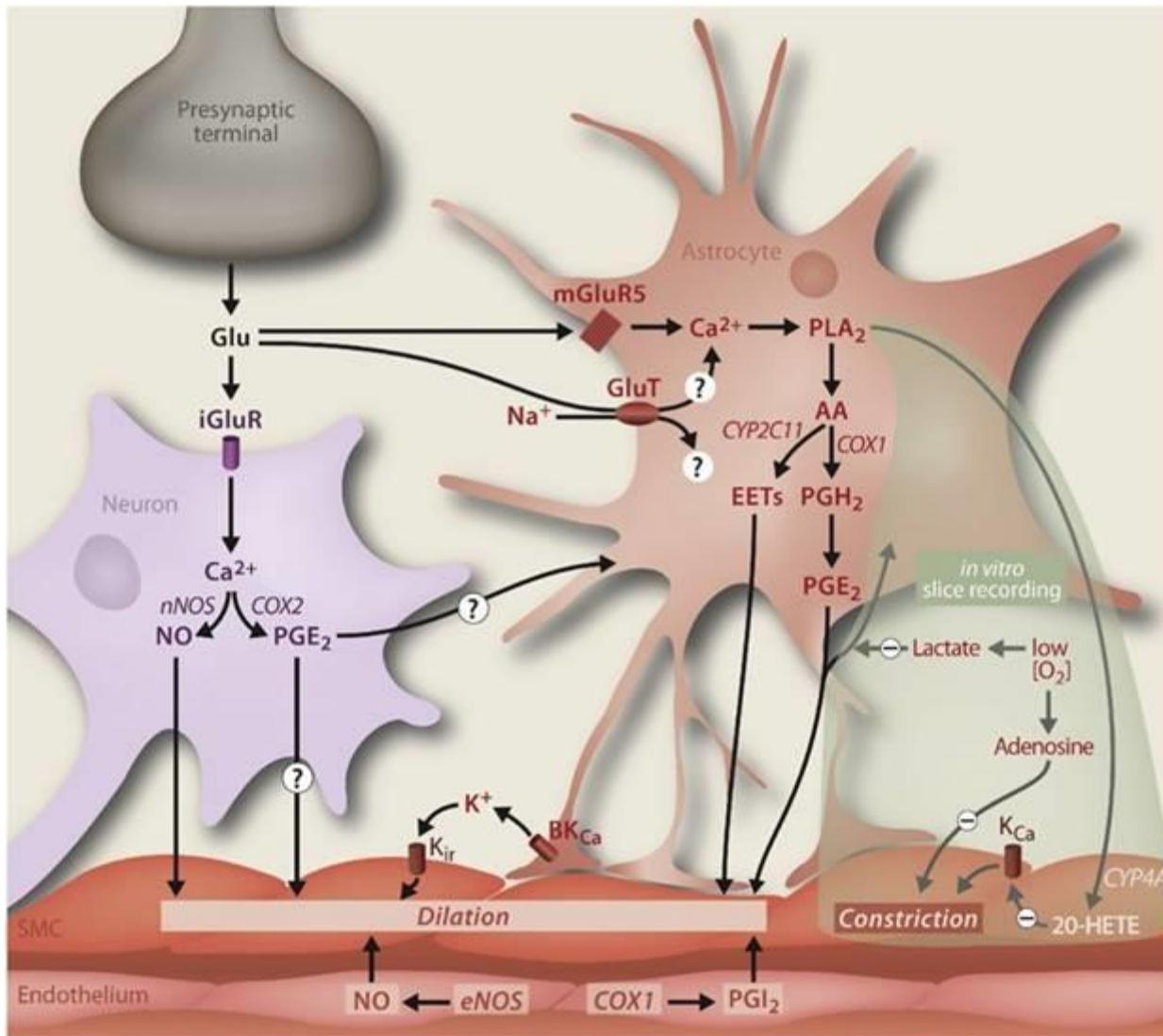


Neurovascular coupling: where are the neurons?

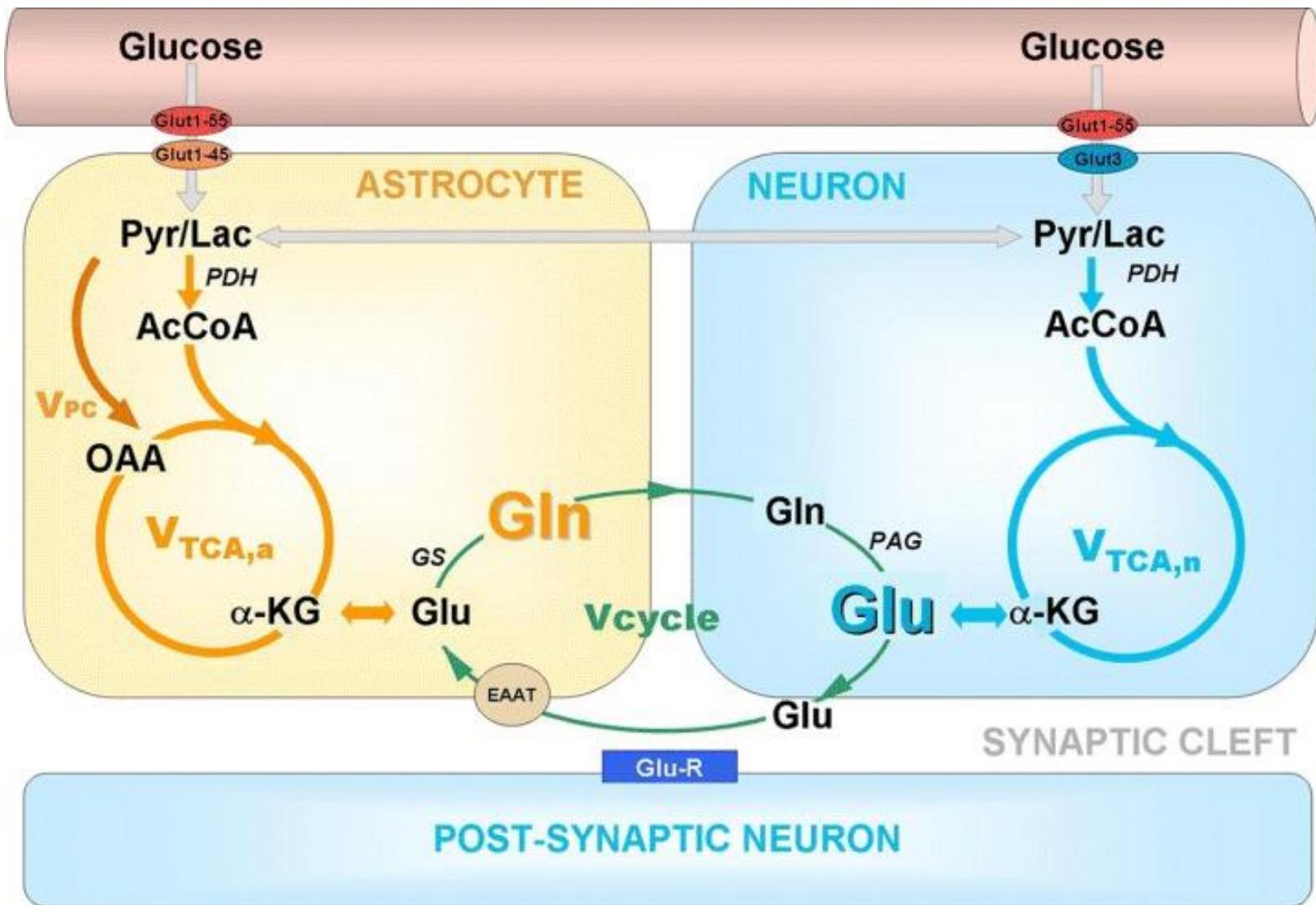


Pierre J Magistretti Am J Clin Nutr 2009;90:875S-880S

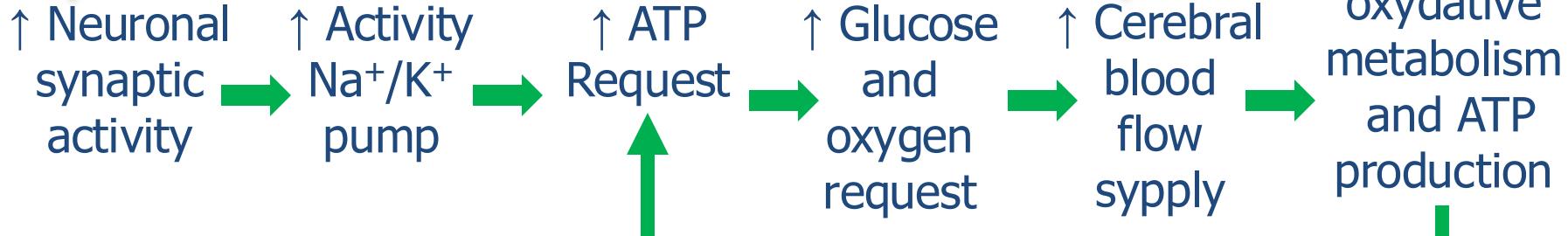
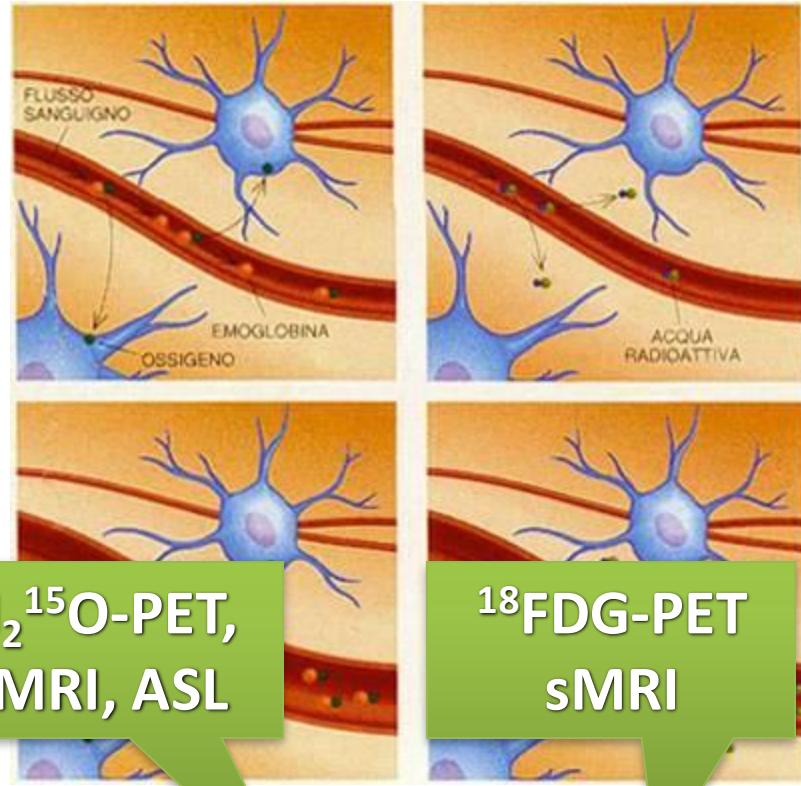
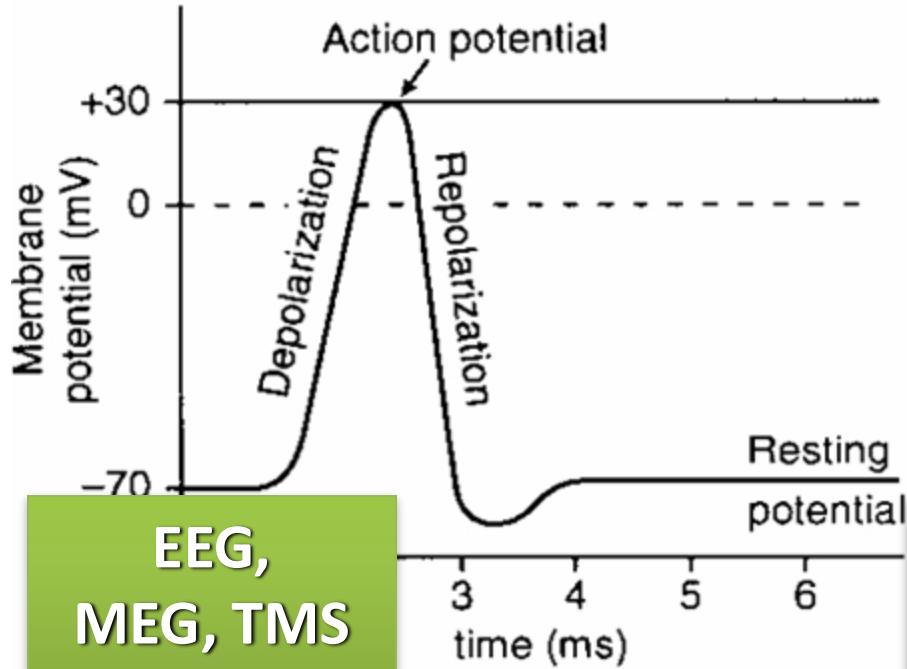
The cerebrovascular unit: where the ‘signal’ comes from

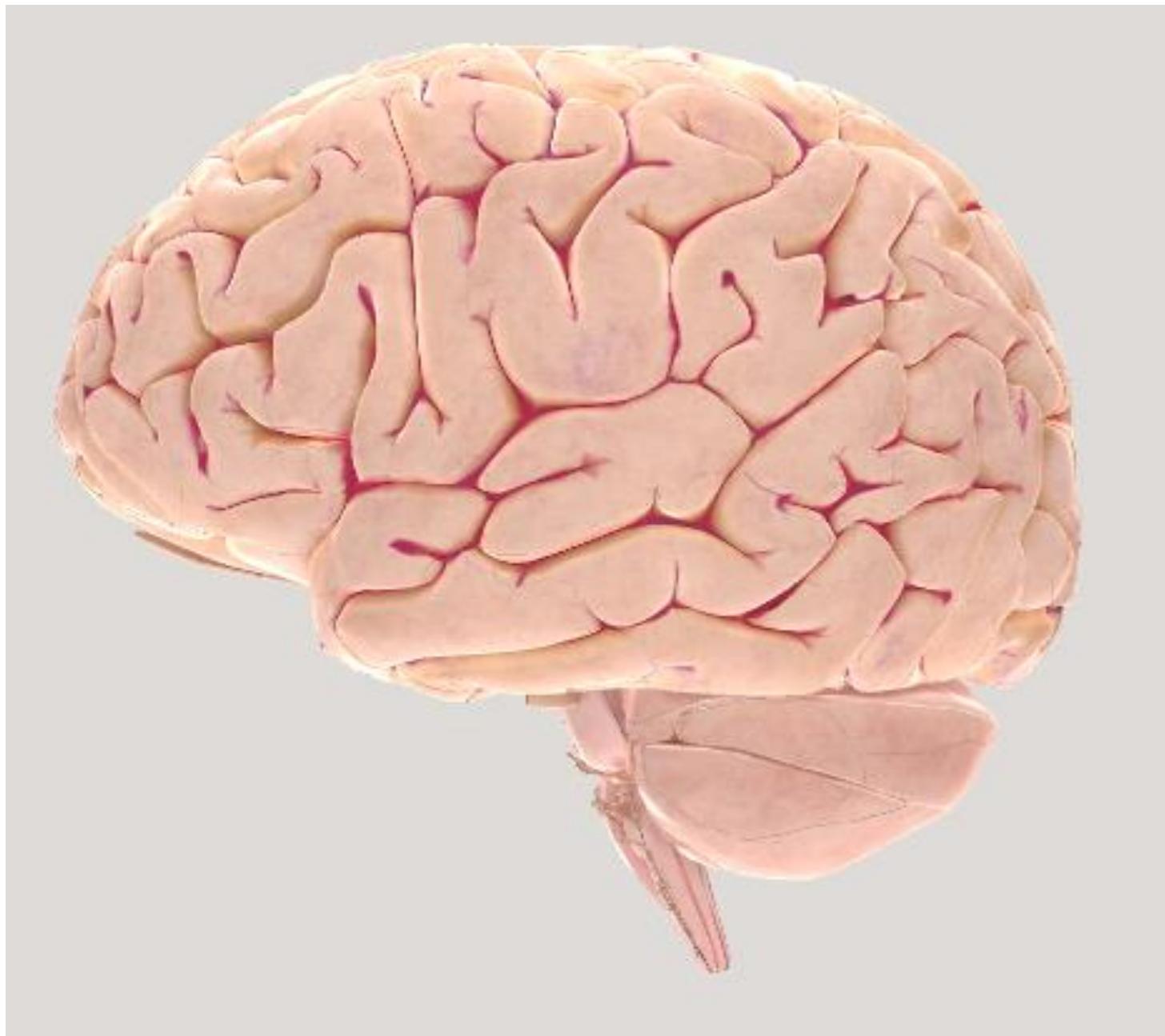


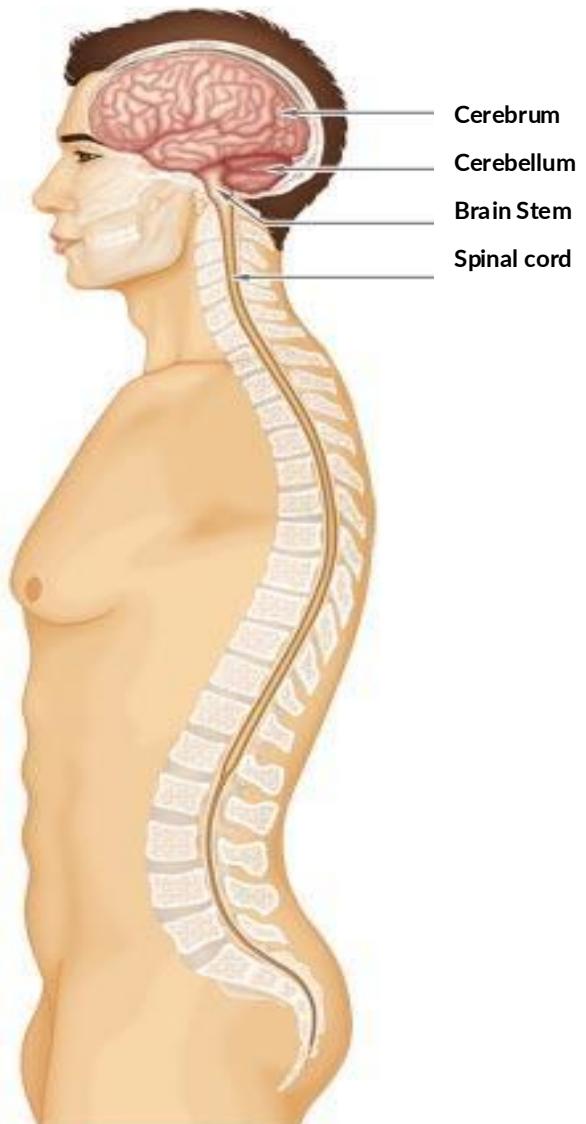
Neurovascular coupling: where are the neurons?



The cerebrovascular unit: where the ‘signal’ comes from







Cerebrum

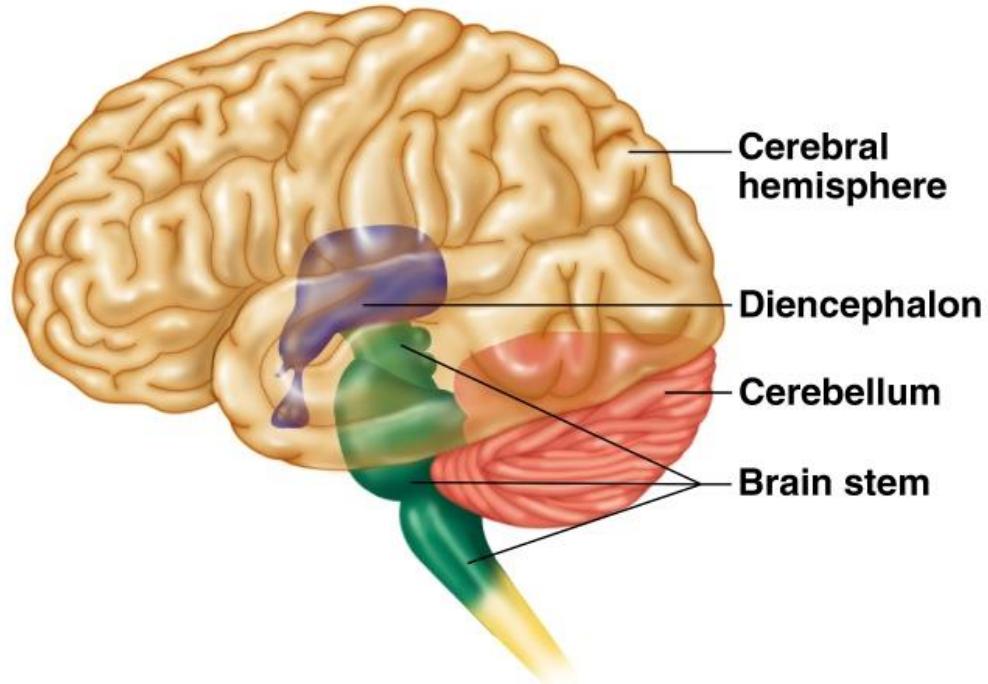
Cerebellum

Brain Stem

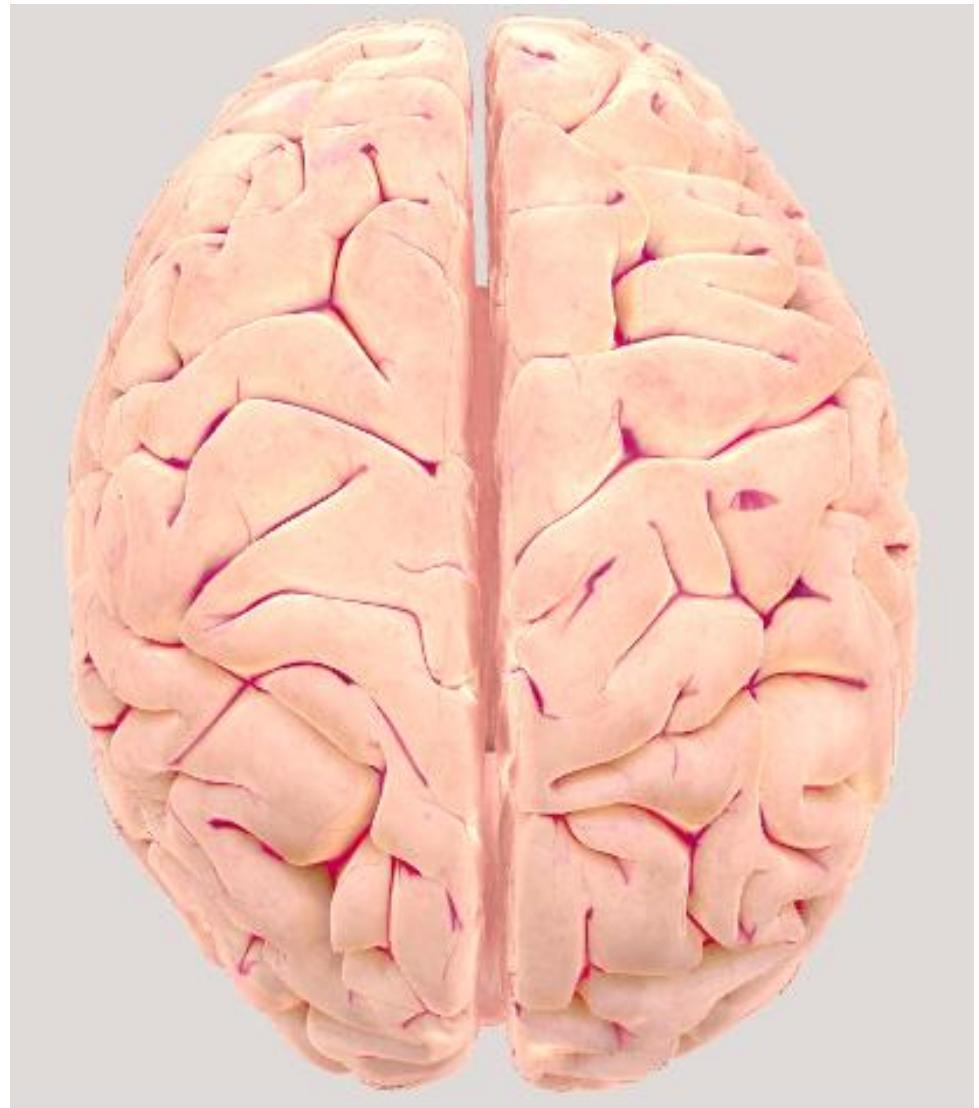
Spinal cord

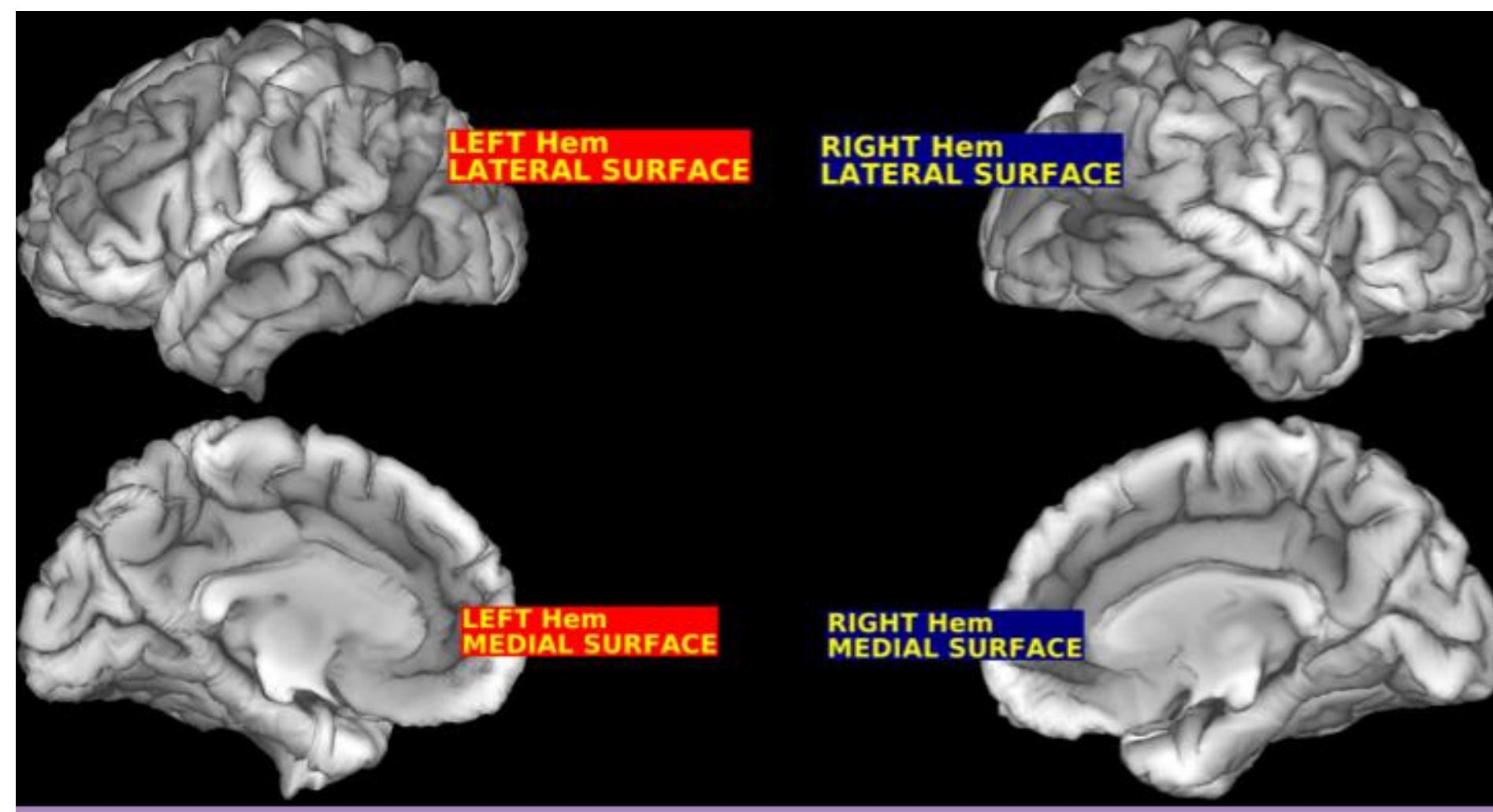
Regions of the Brain

- Cerebral hemispheres
- Diencephalon
- Brain stem
- Cerebellum



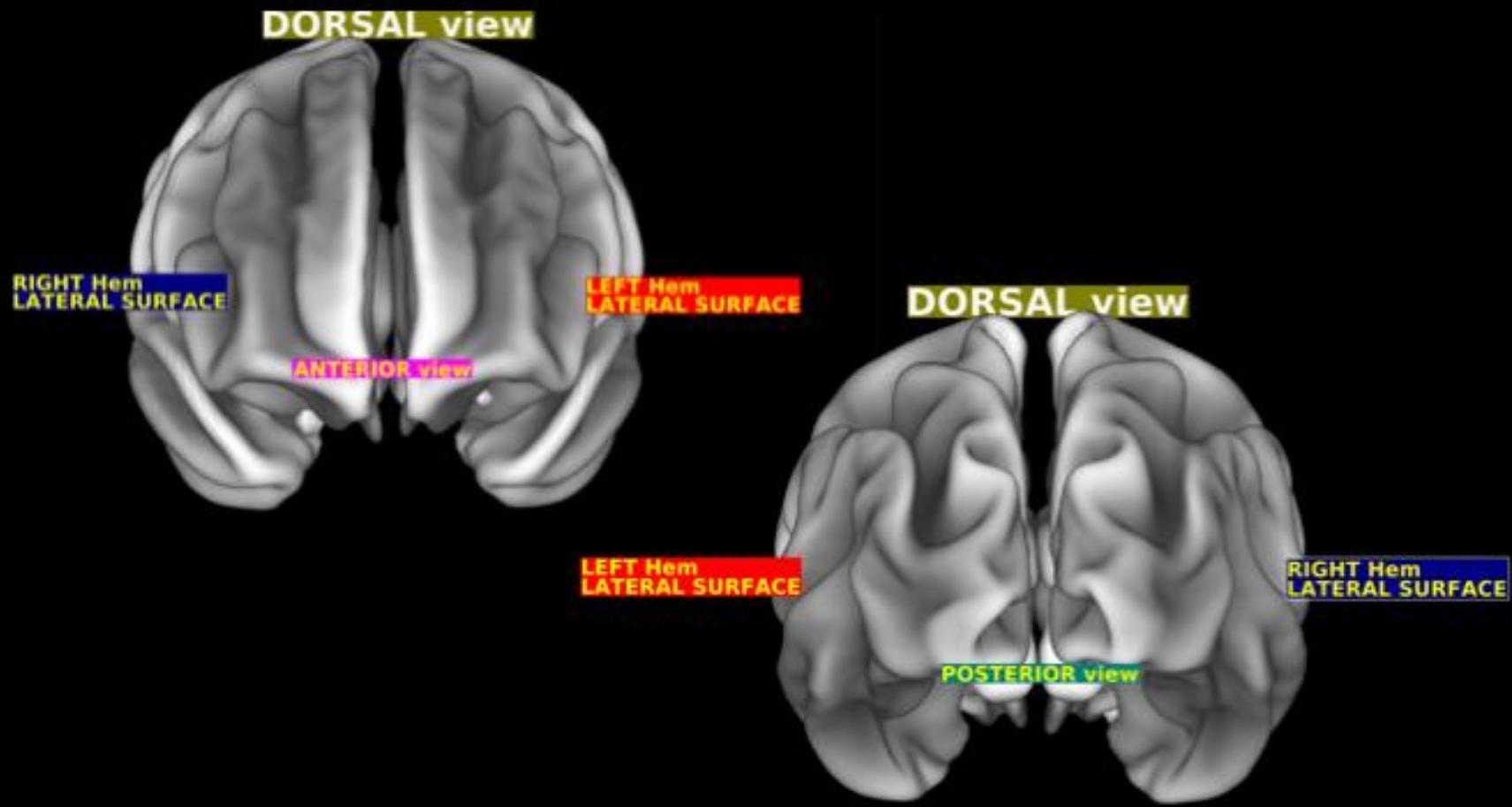
**The *cerebrum*, divided
into 2 hemispheres**





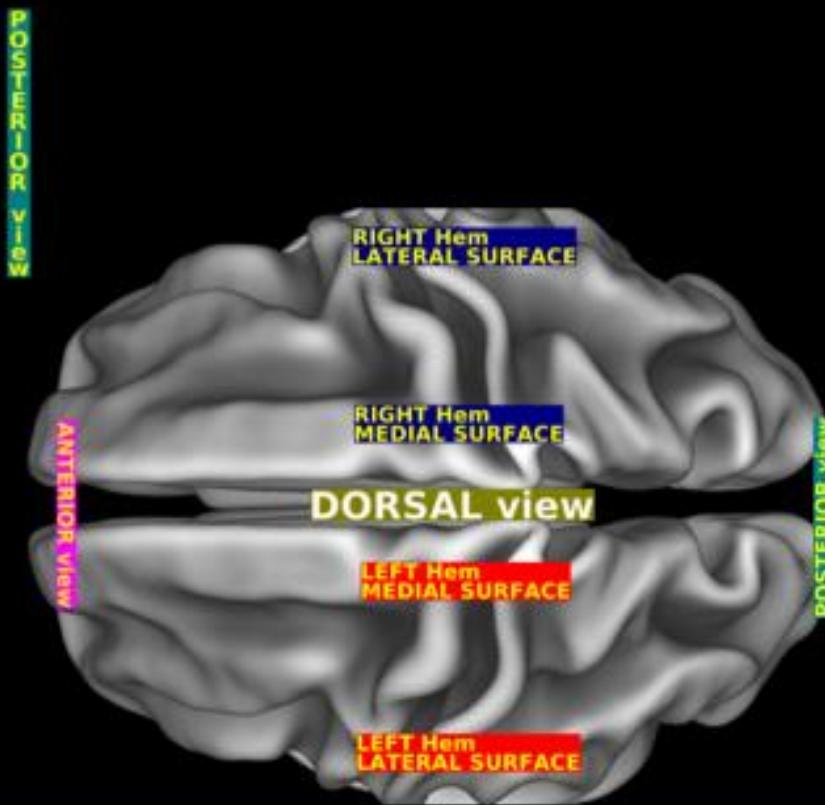
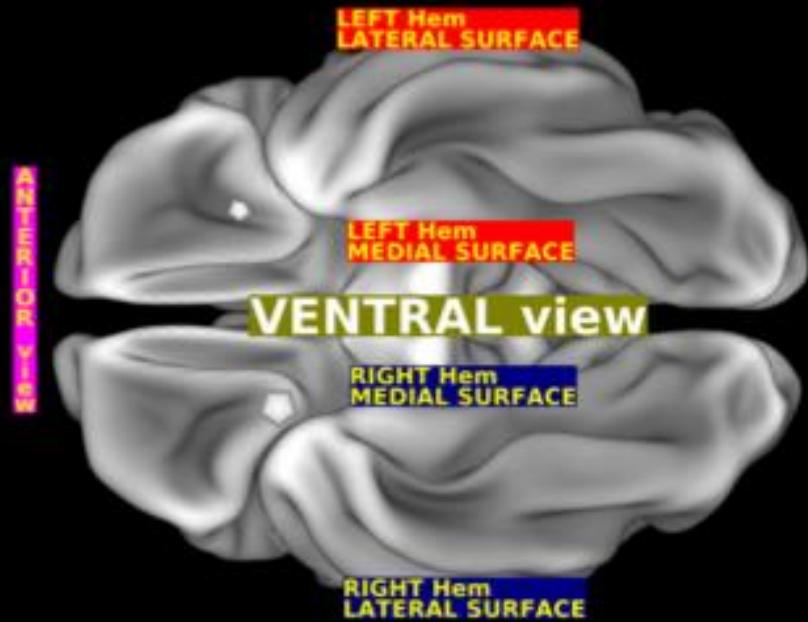
CEREBRAL HEMISPHERES

a first subdivision



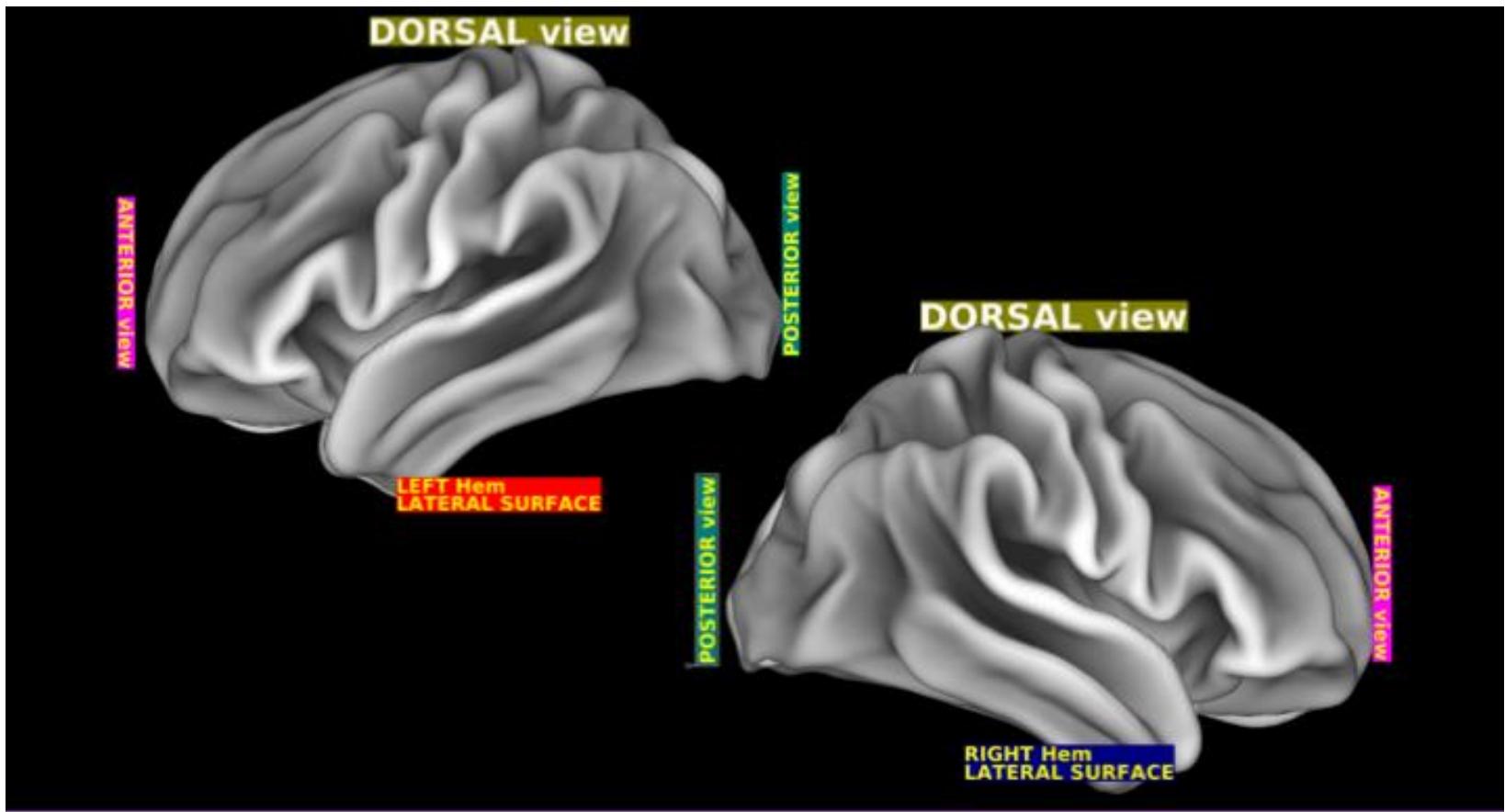
CEREBRAL HEMISPHERES

a first subdivision



CEREBRAL HEMISPHERES

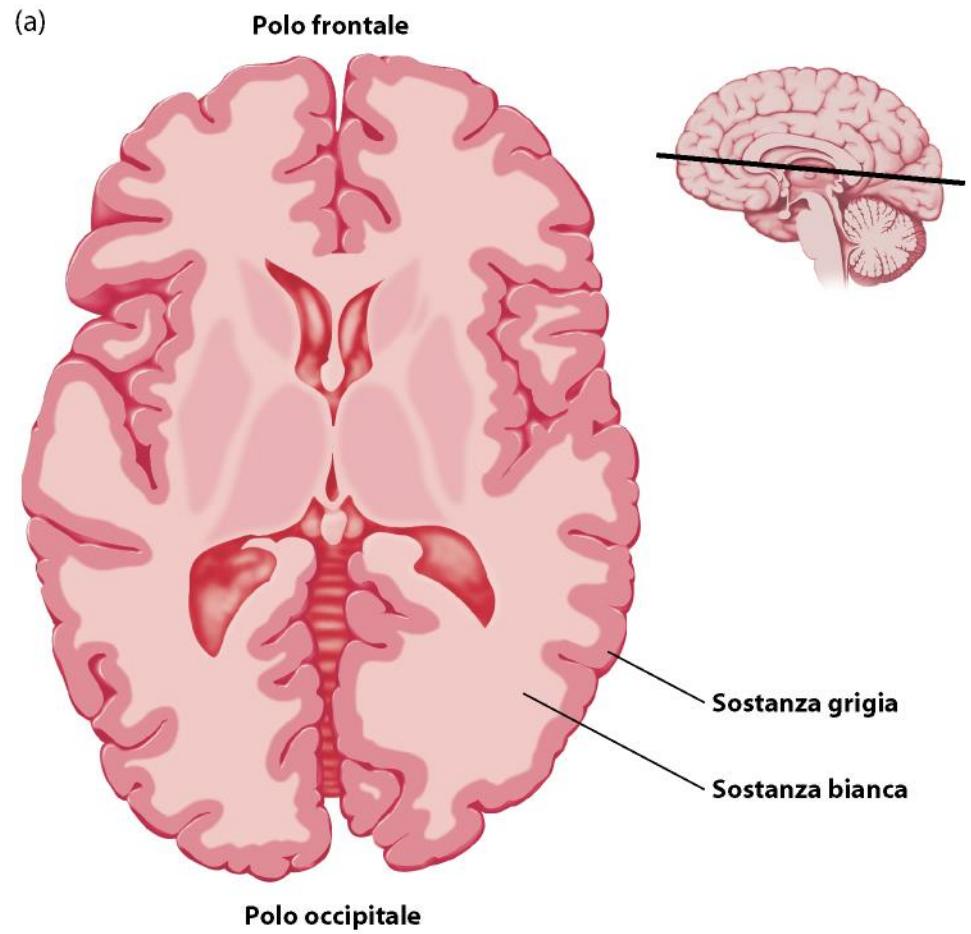
a first subdivision



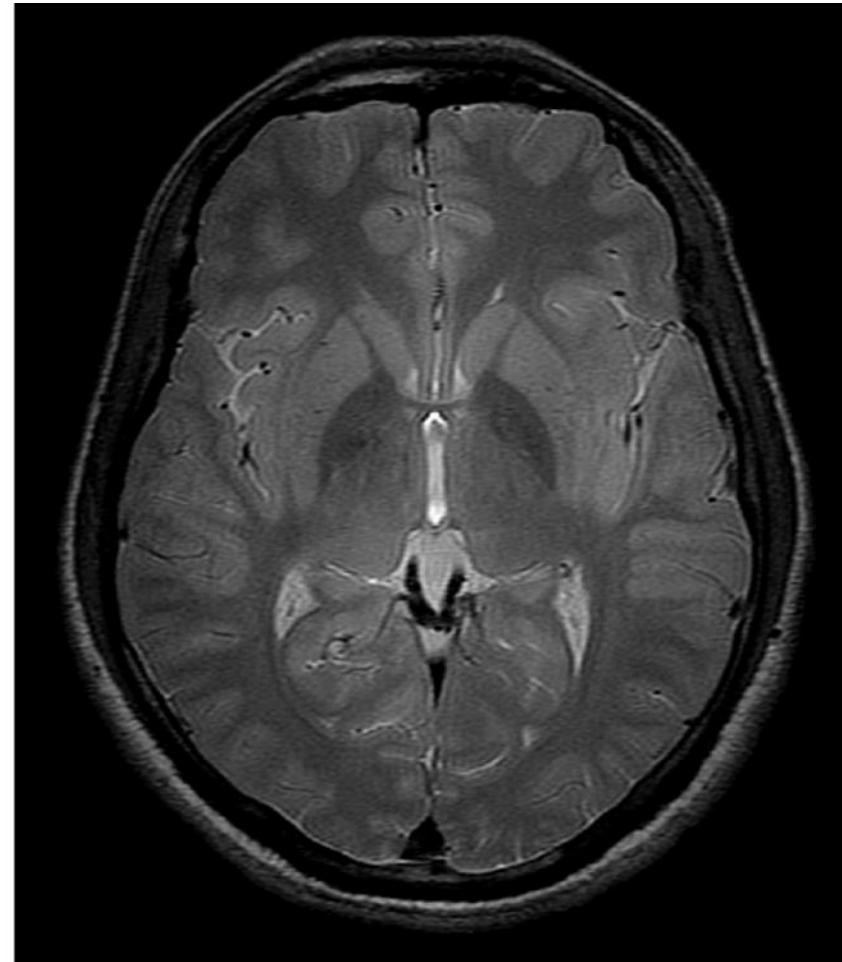
CEREBRAL HEMISPHERES

a first subdivision

(a)

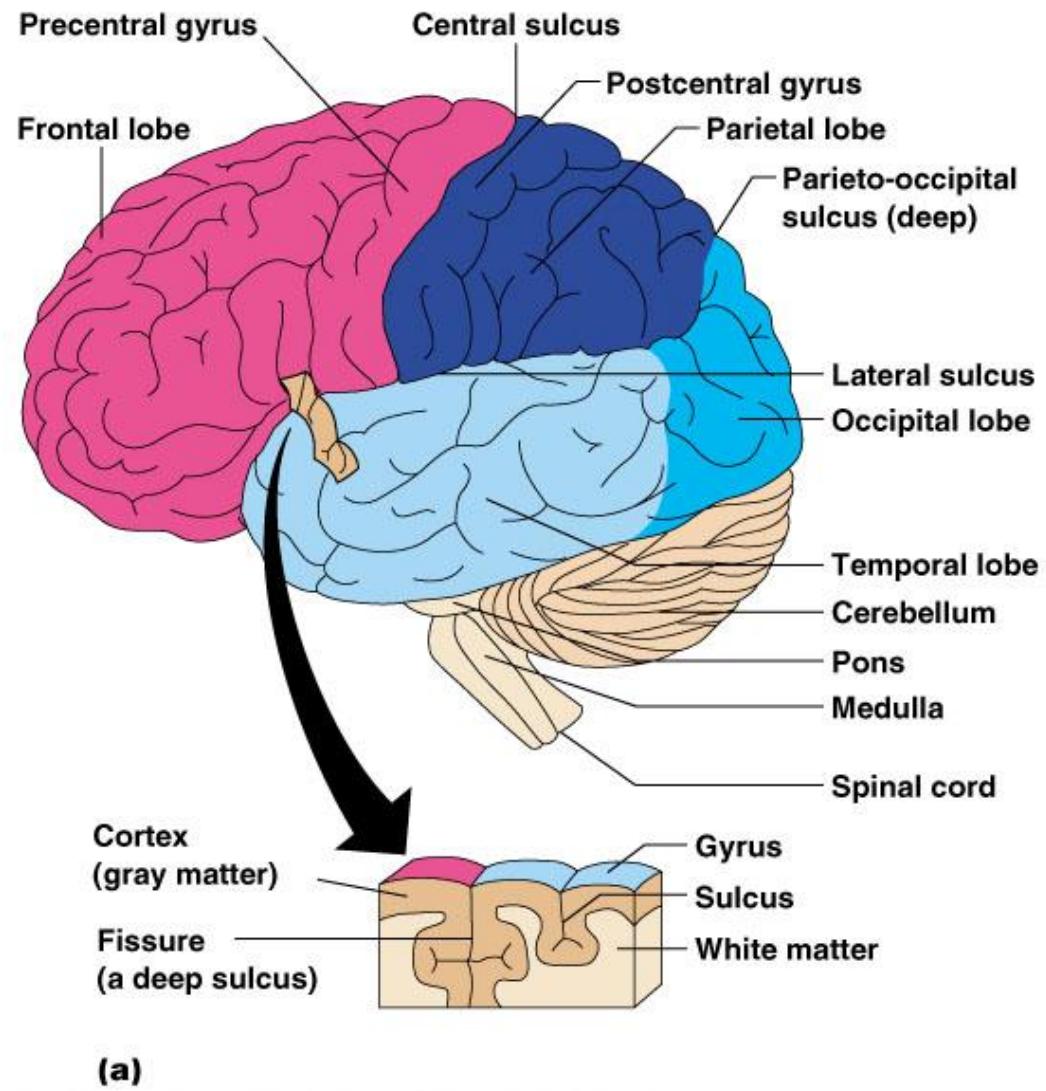


(b)



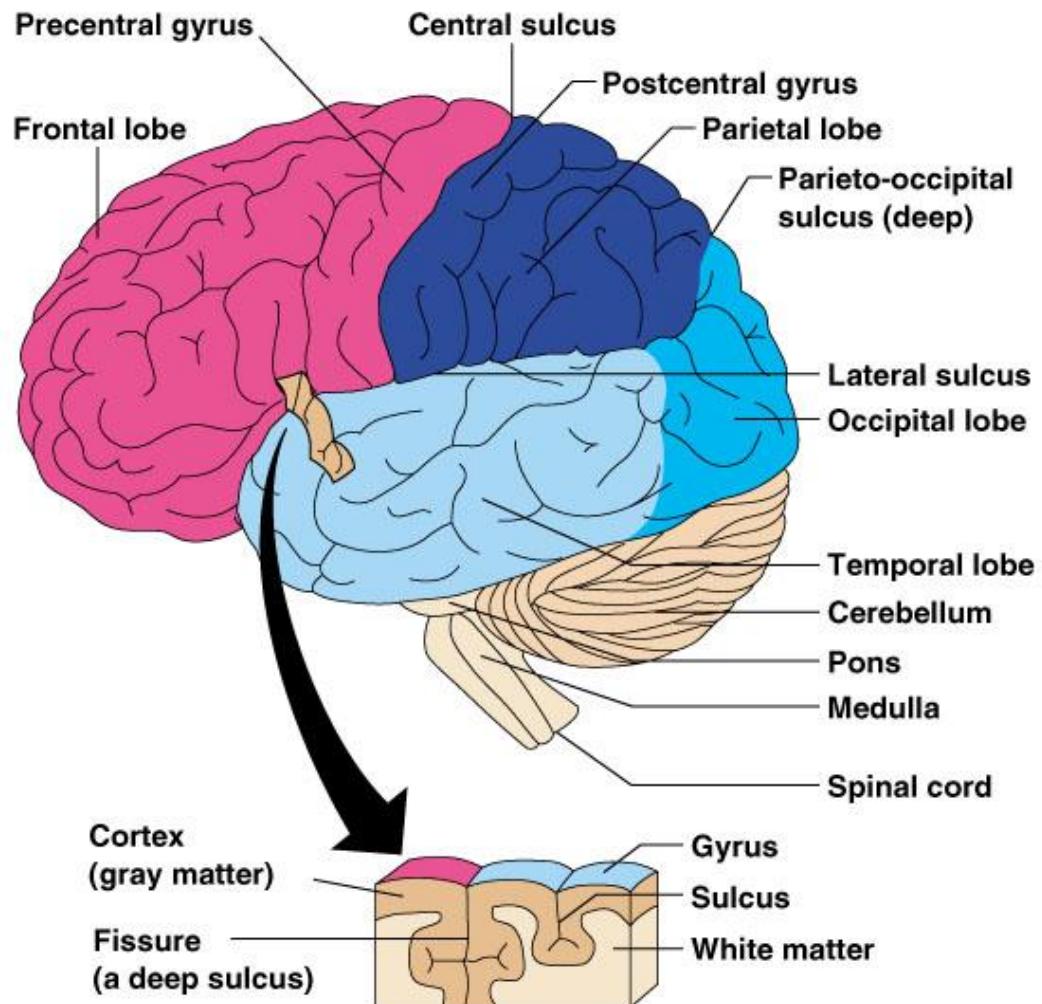
Cerebral Hemispheres (Cerebrum)

- Paired (left and right) superior parts of the brain
- Include more than half of the brain mass



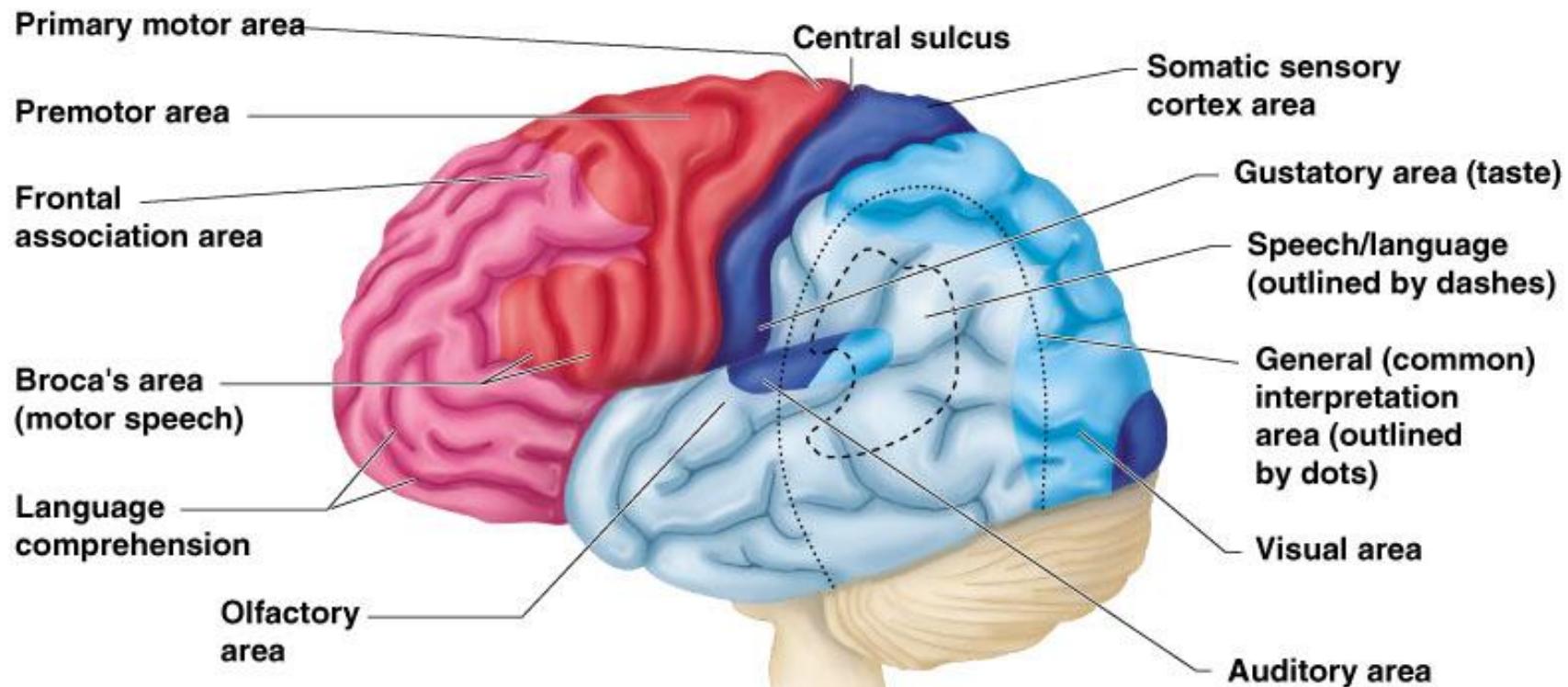
Cerebral Hemispheres (Cerebrum)

- The surface is made of ridges (gyri) and grooves (sulci)



(a)

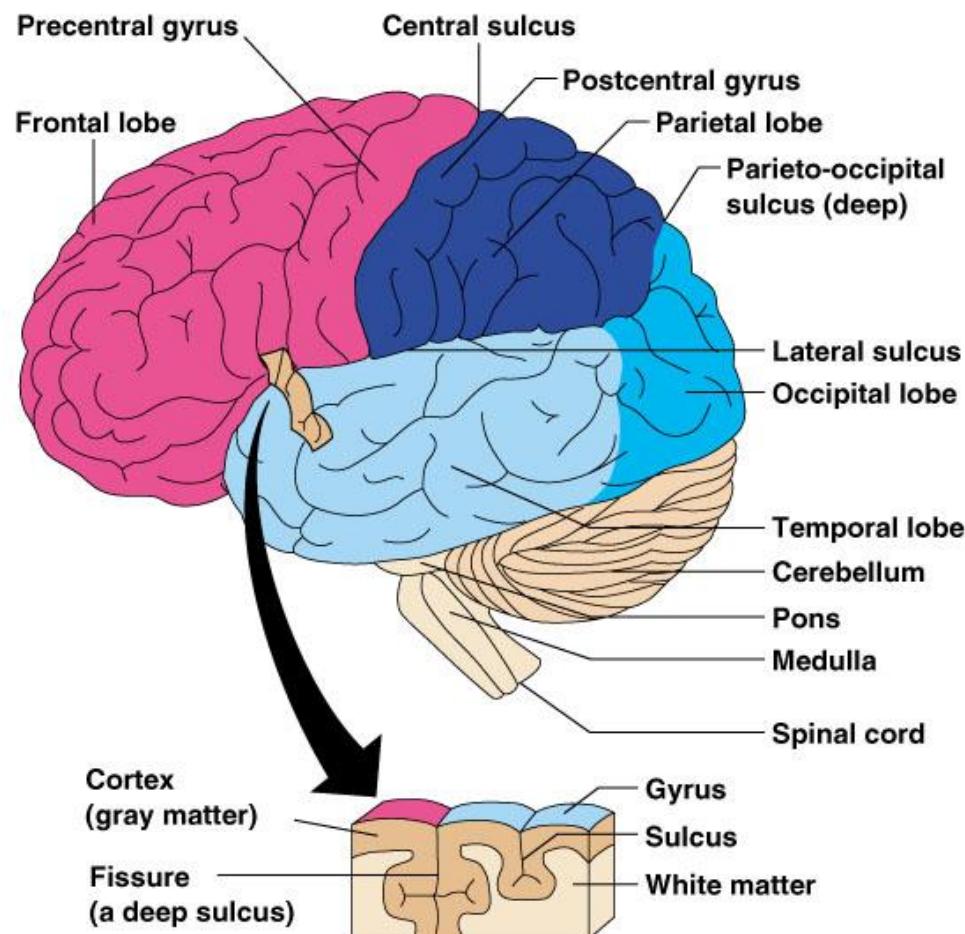
Specialized Area of the Cerebrum



(c)

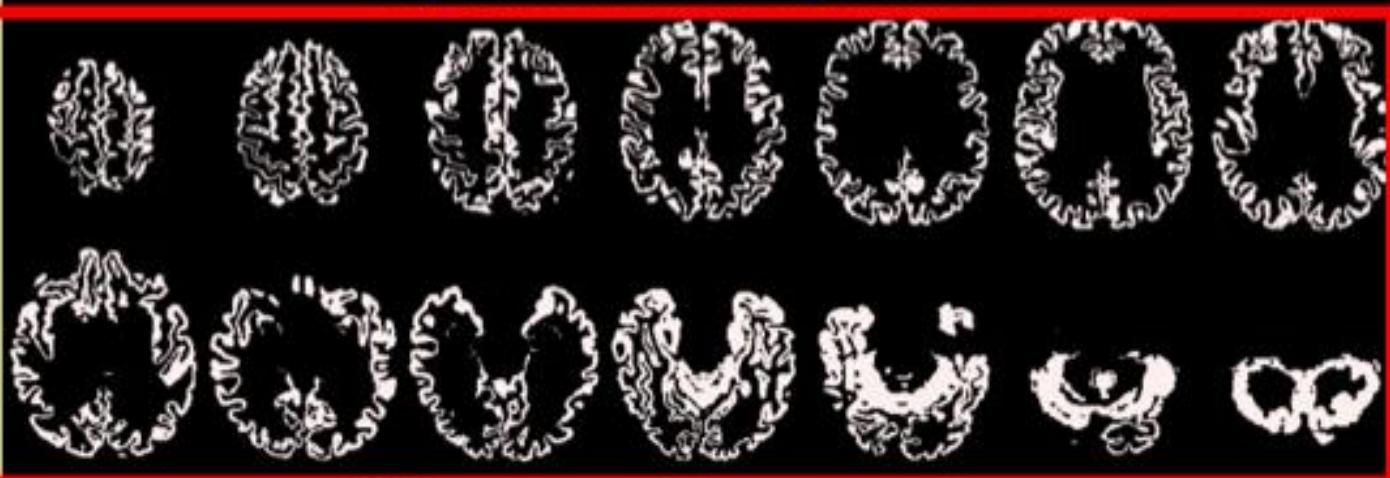
Layers of the Cerebrum

- Gray matter
 - Outer layer
 - Composed mostly of neuron cell bodies

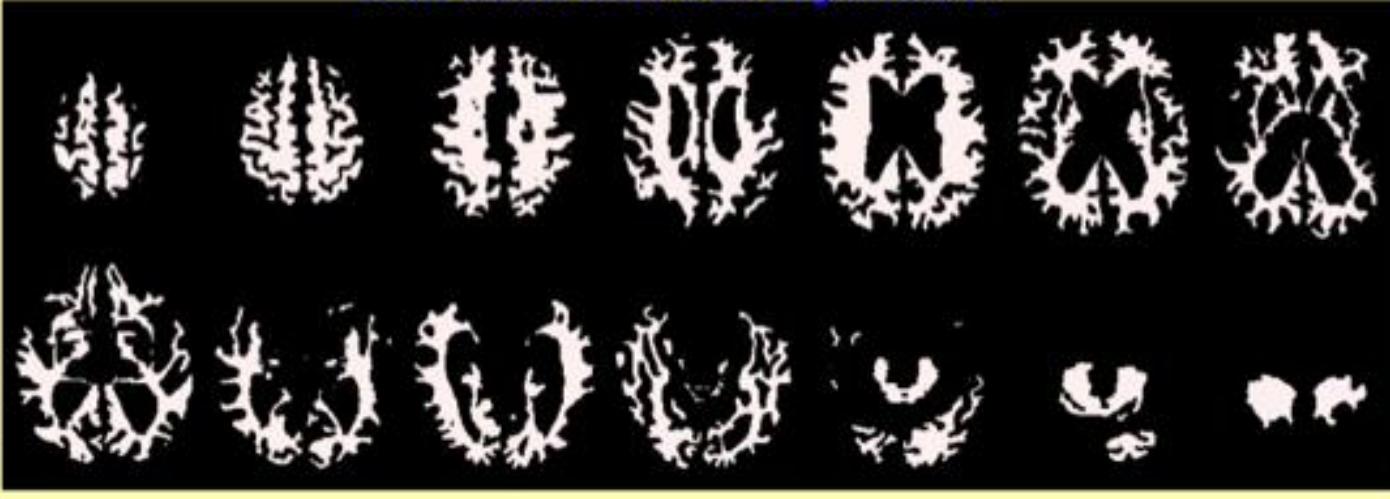


(a)

Grey matter mask from segmentation



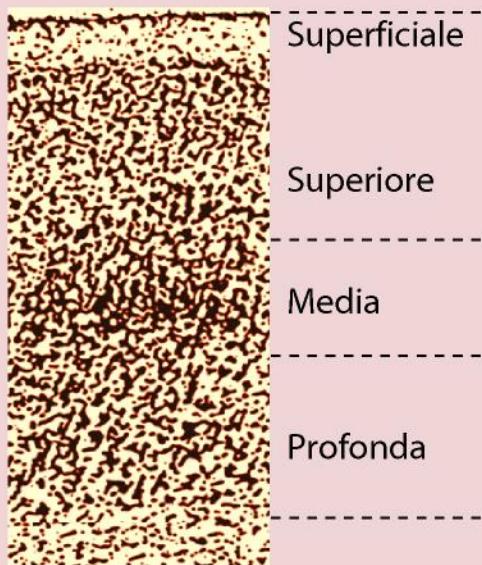
White matter mask from segmentation



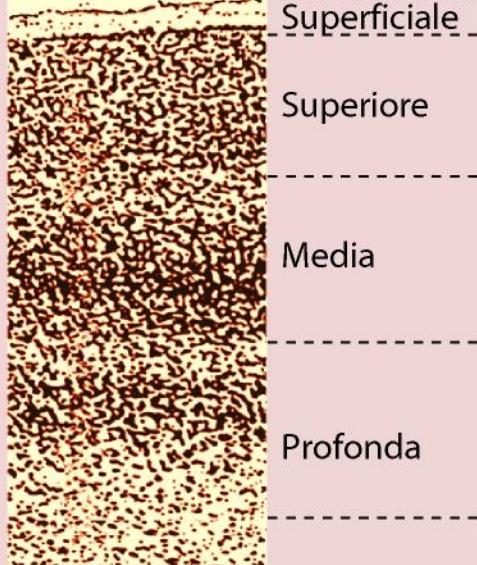
Gray matter contains neurons (top). That is where synapses do happen!

White matter is made up of all the axons departing from neurons (bottom)

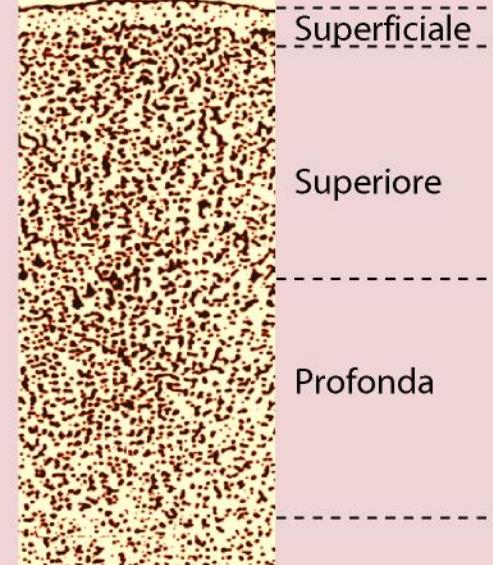
Corteccia parietale



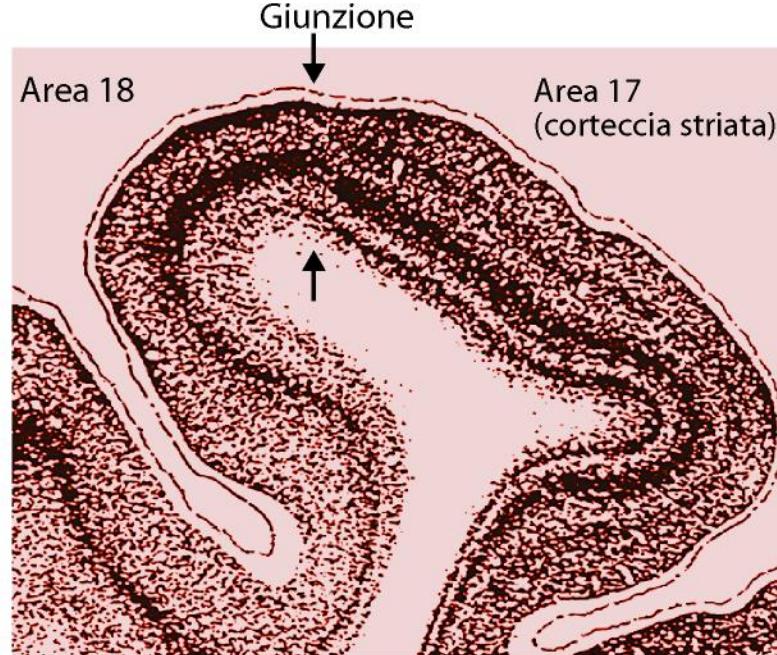
Corteccia striata



Corteccia motoria

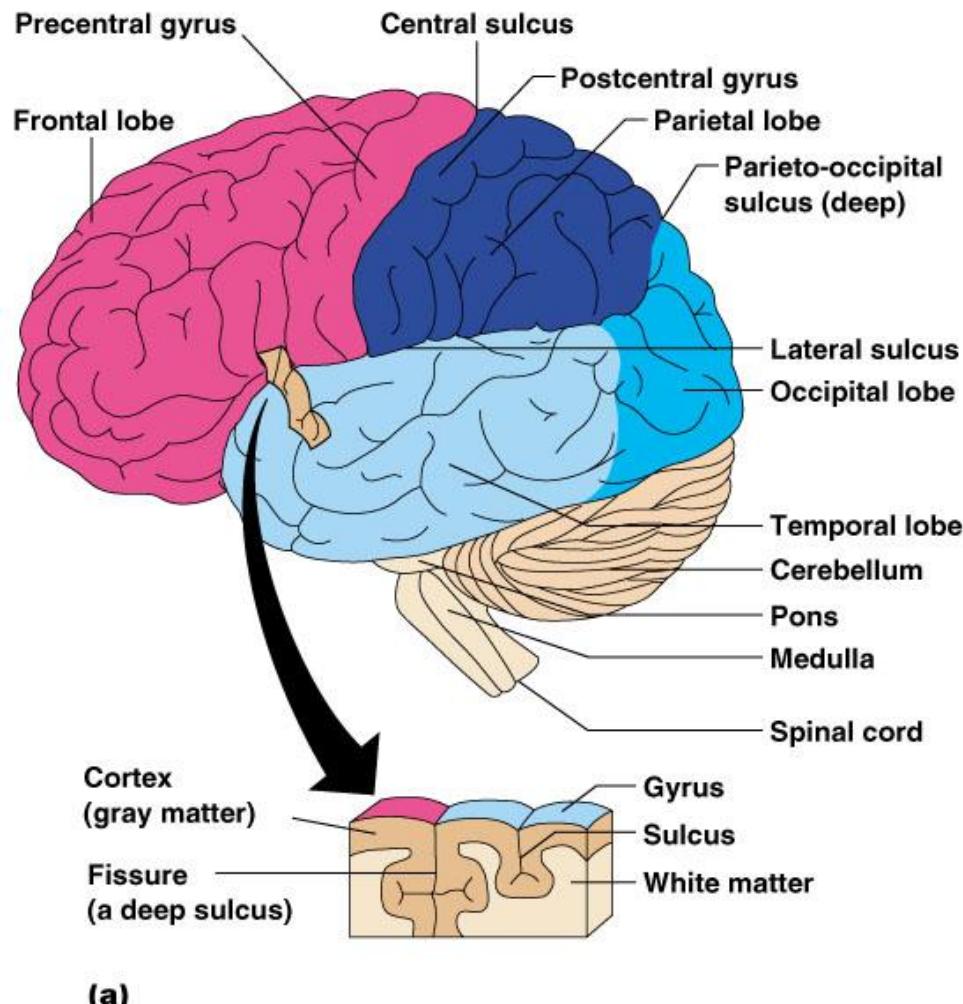


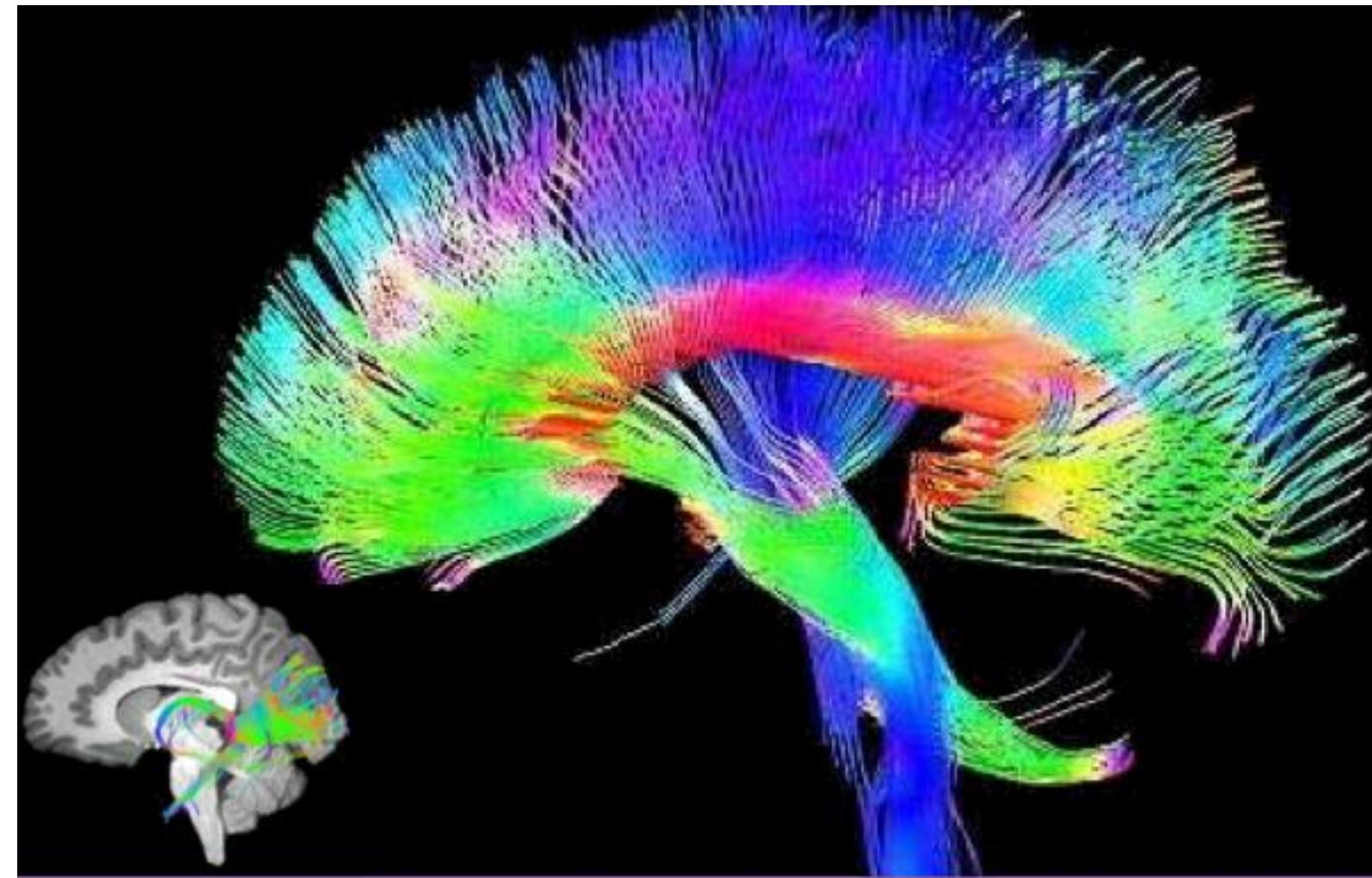
Giunzione



Layers of the Cerebrum

- White matter
 - Fiber tracts inside the gray matter
 - Example: corpus callosum connects hemispheres



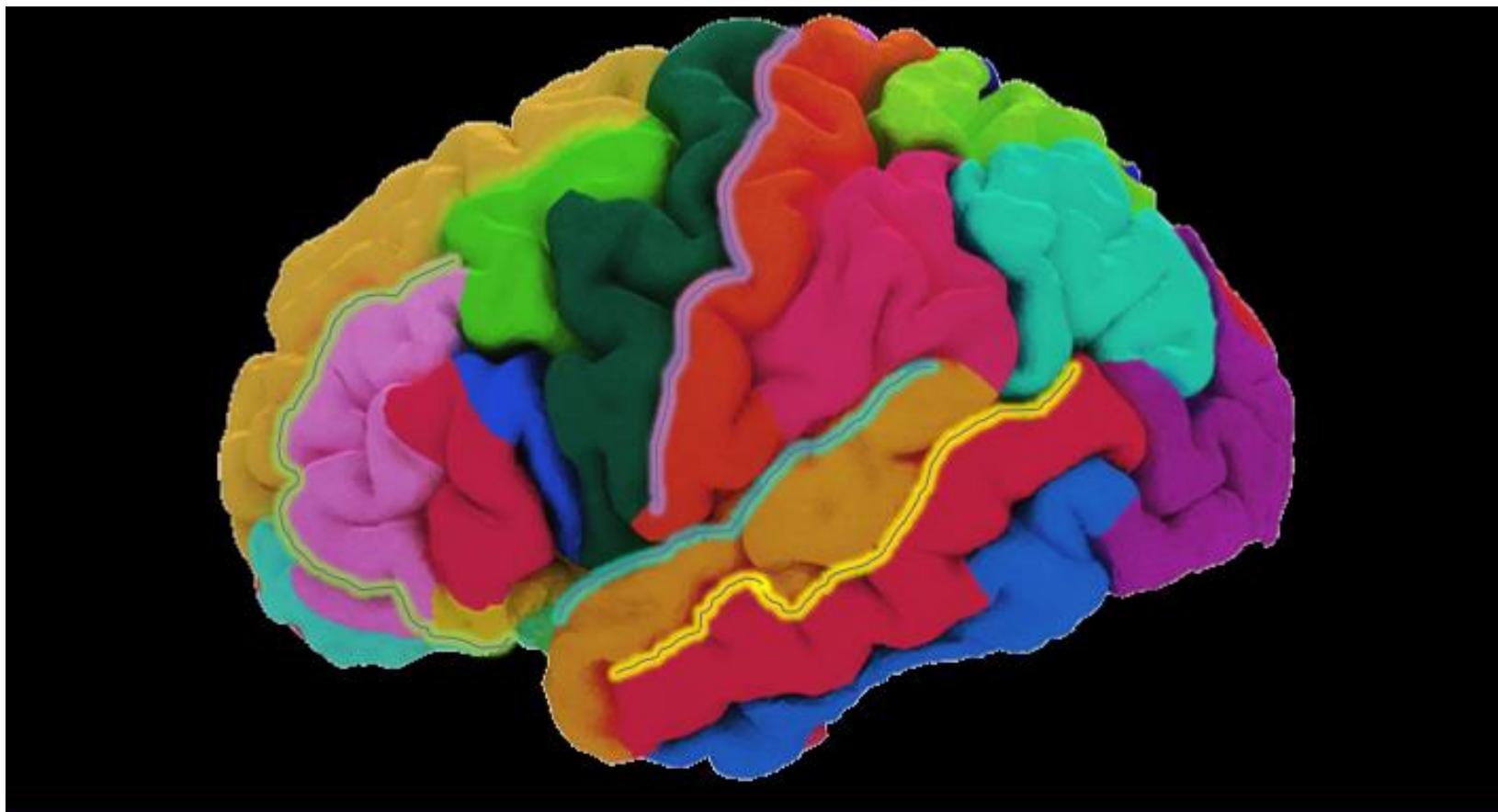


White matter is organized in fiber bundles, ascending and descending, which come and go to and from the brain and the spinal cord. White matter appears as white because of its covering made up of myelin, a fatty substance favoring the propagation of the electrical signal.

white matter is the highway for synapses

Lobes of the Cerebrum

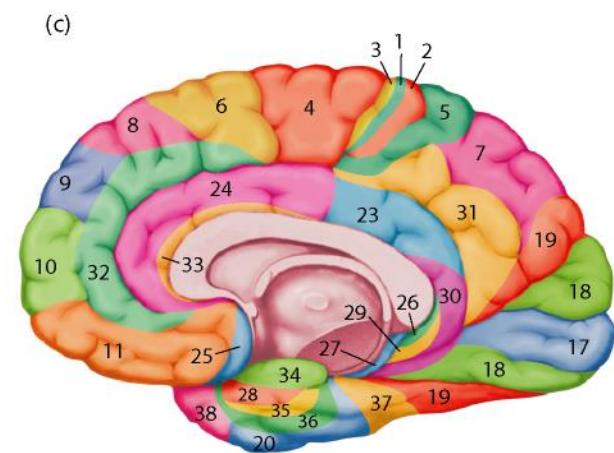
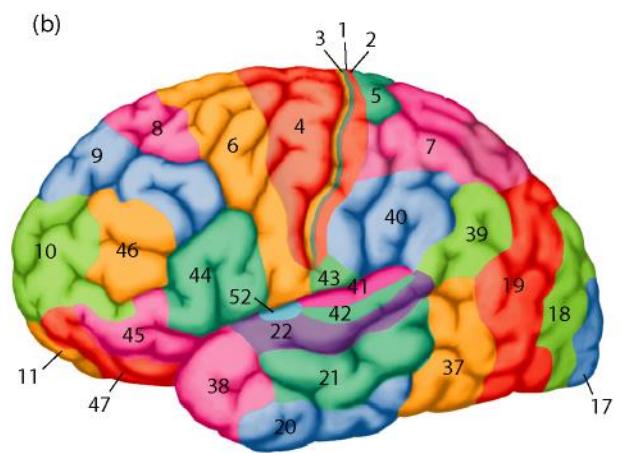
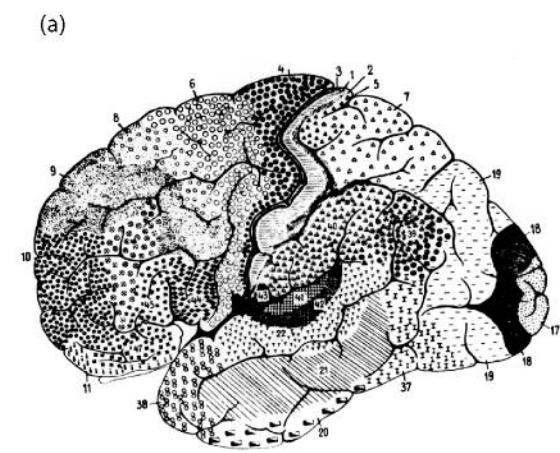
- Fissures (deep grooves) divide the cerebrum into lobes
- Surface lobes of the cerebrum
 - Frontal lobe
 - Parietal lobe
 - Occipital lobe
 - Temporal lobe



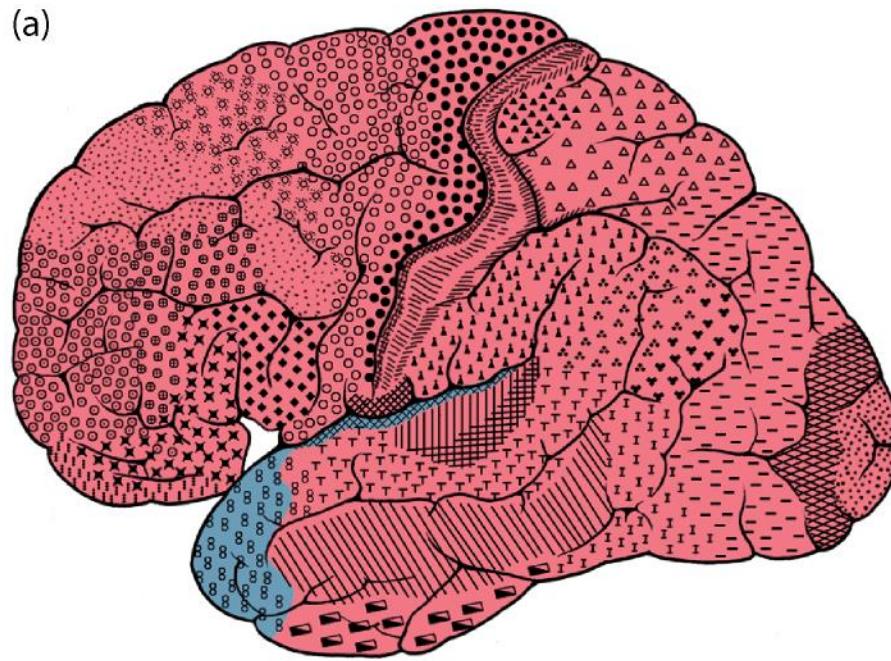
inferior frontal gyrus
superior temporal gyrus
middle temporal gyrus
precentral gyrus



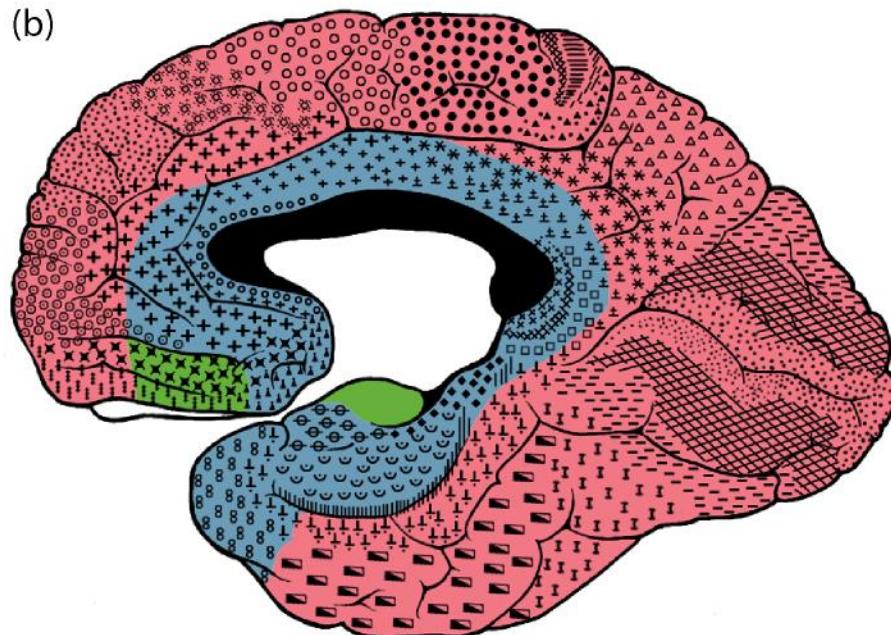
inferior frontal sulcus
superior temporal sulcus
central sulcus
lateral sulcus – sylvian fissure



(a)

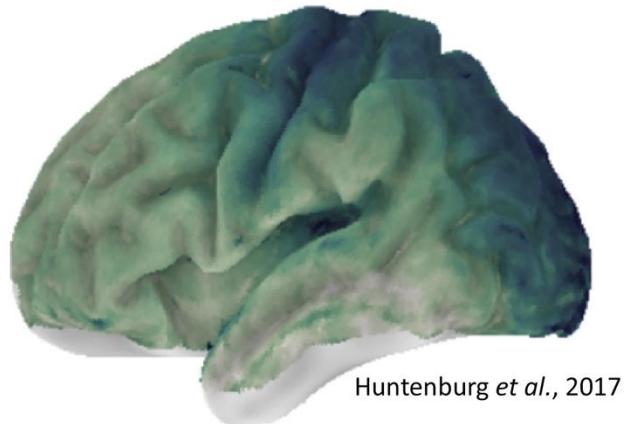


(b)



(A)

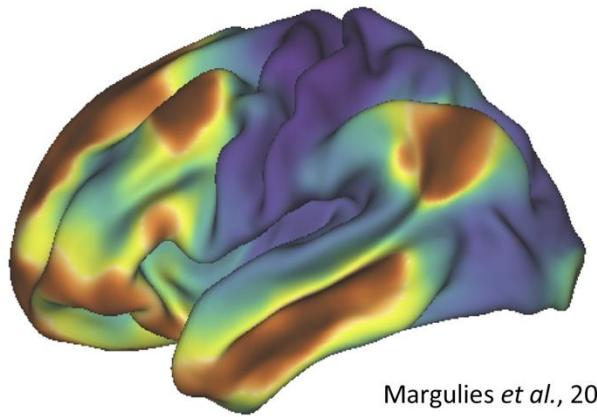
Myelin



High
Low

(B)

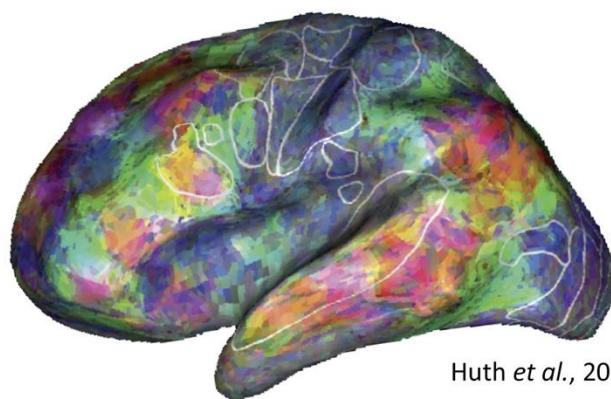
Connectivity



Unimodal
Transmodal

(C)

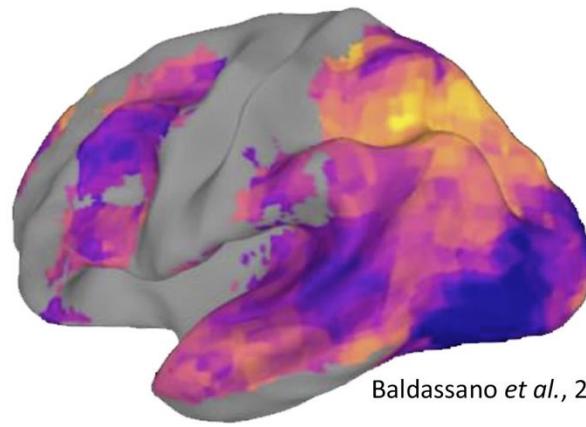
Semantic



Concrete
Abstract

(D)

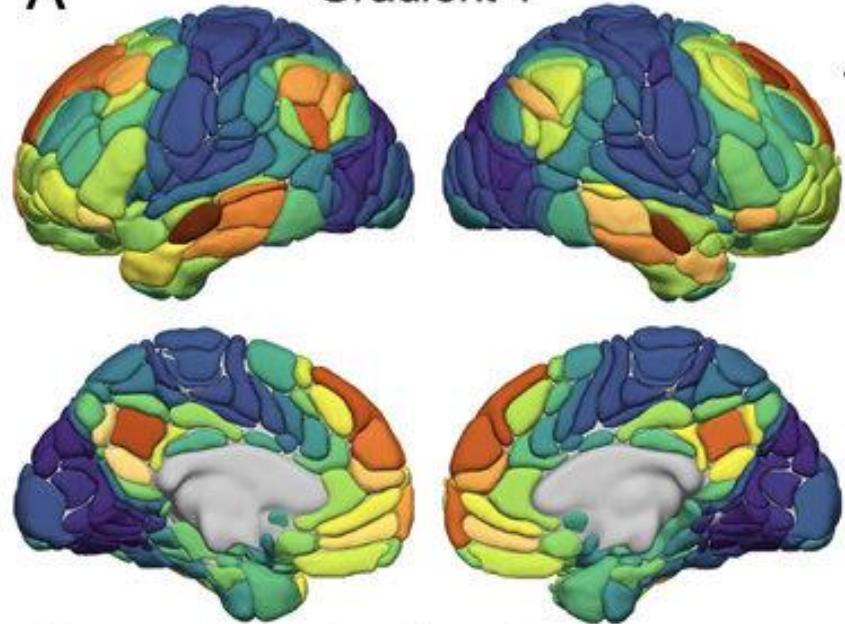
Temporal hierarchy



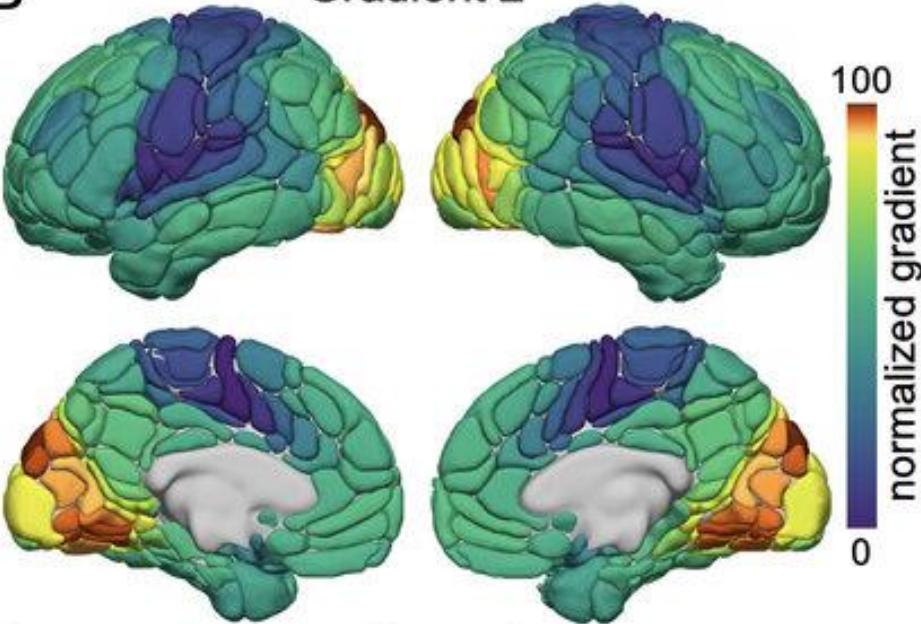
Short
Long

A

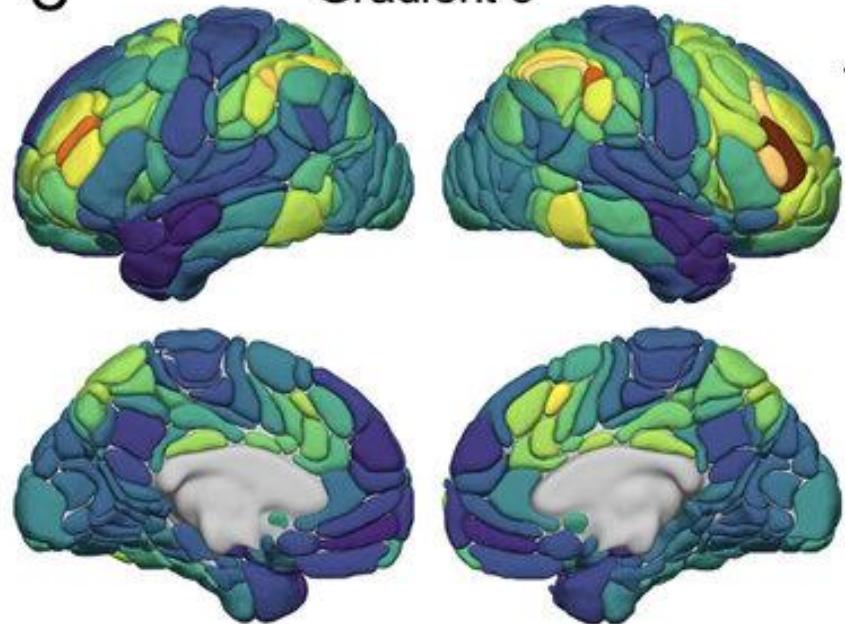
Gradient 1

**B**

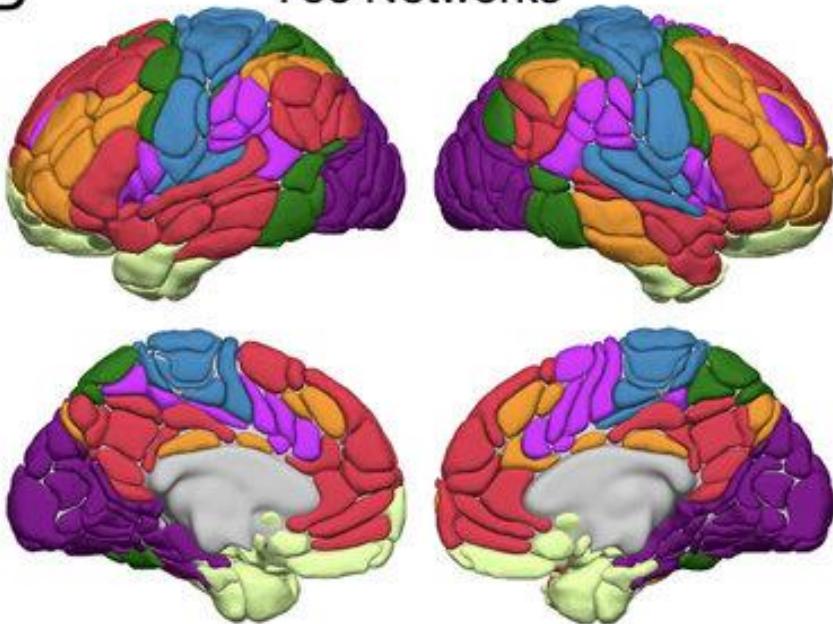
Gradient 2

**C**

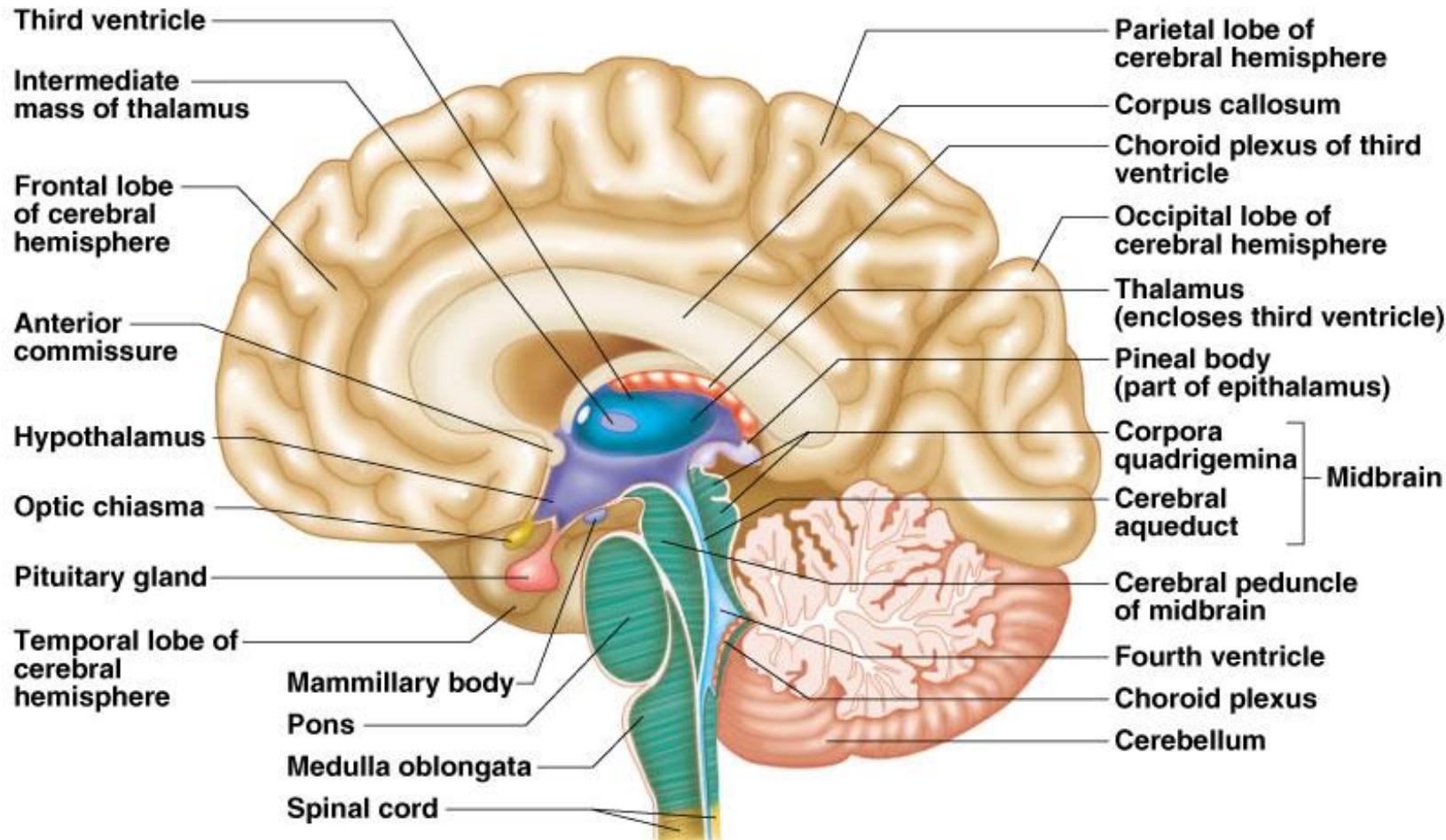
Gradient 3

**D**

Yeo Networks

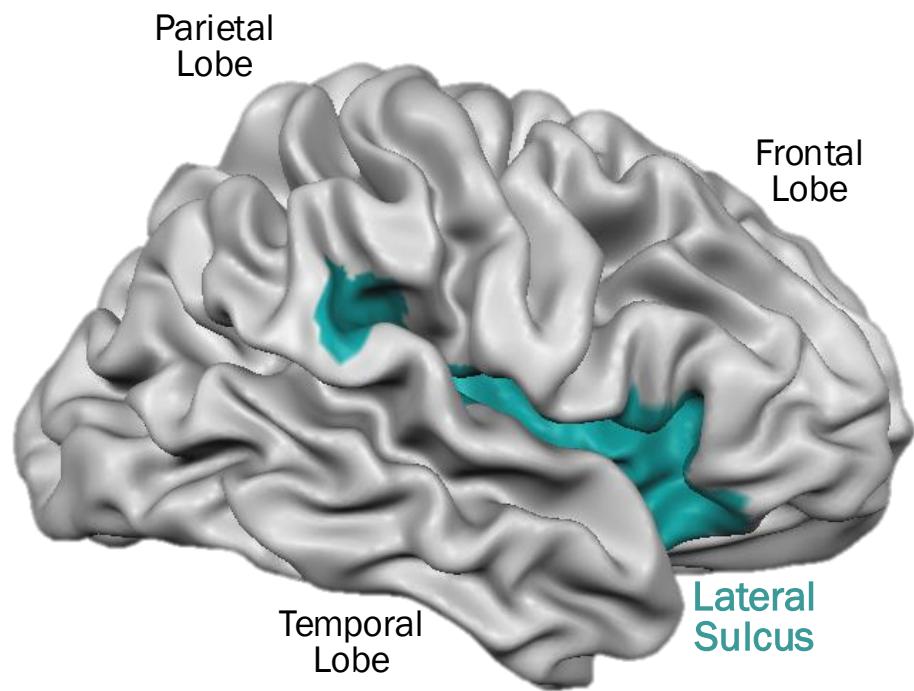
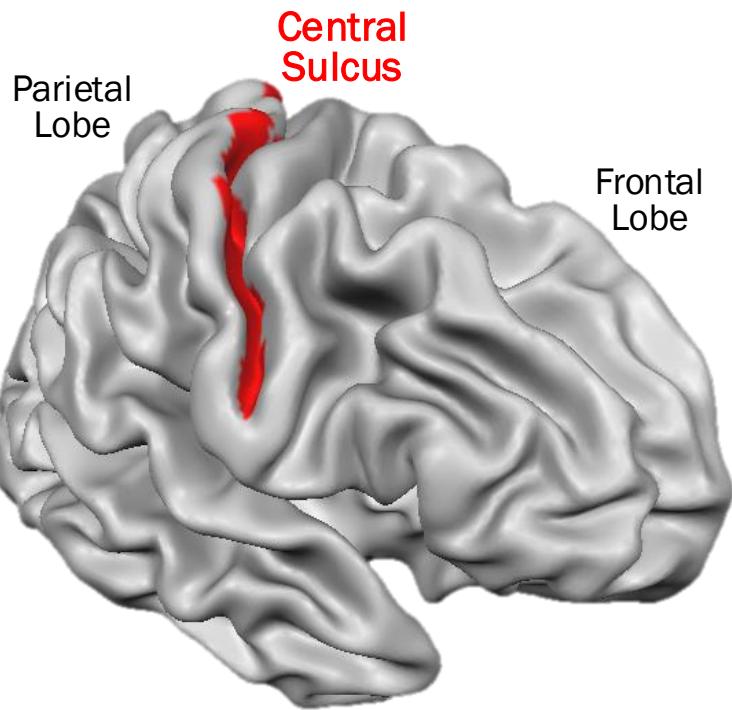


Lobes of the Cerebrum



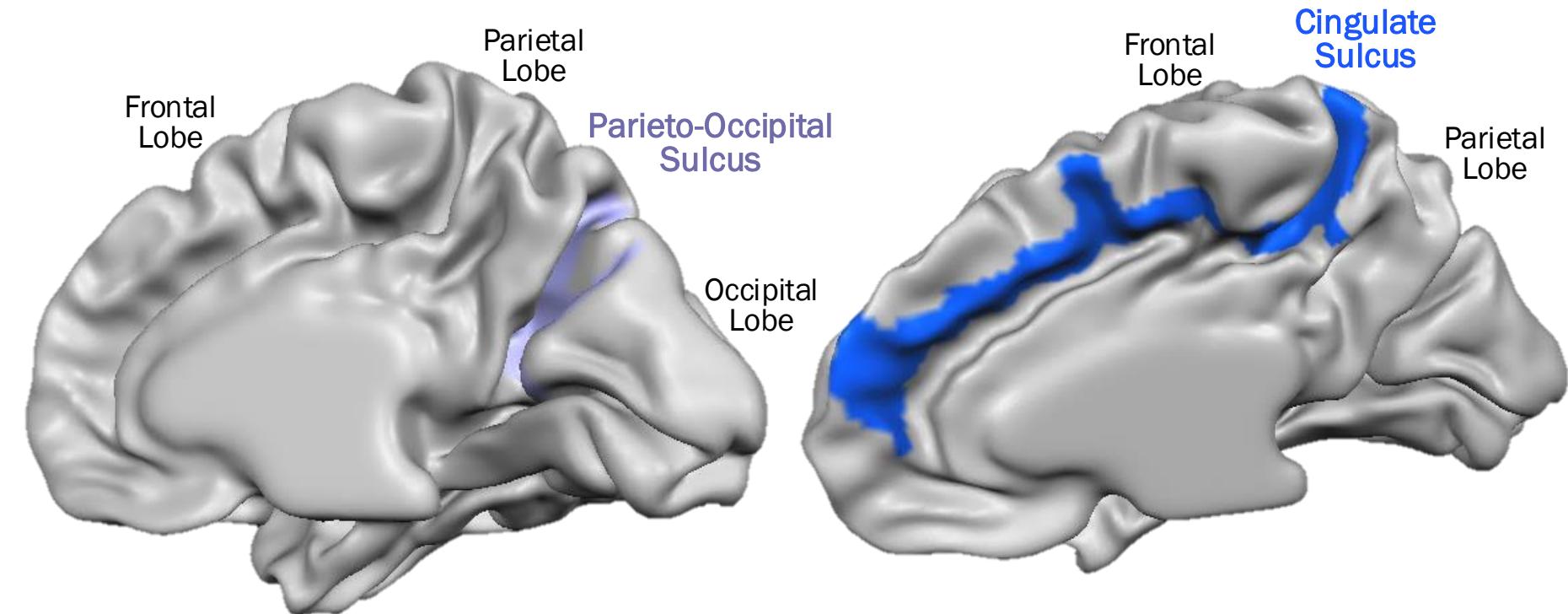
(a)

CENTRAL AND LATERAL SULCUS



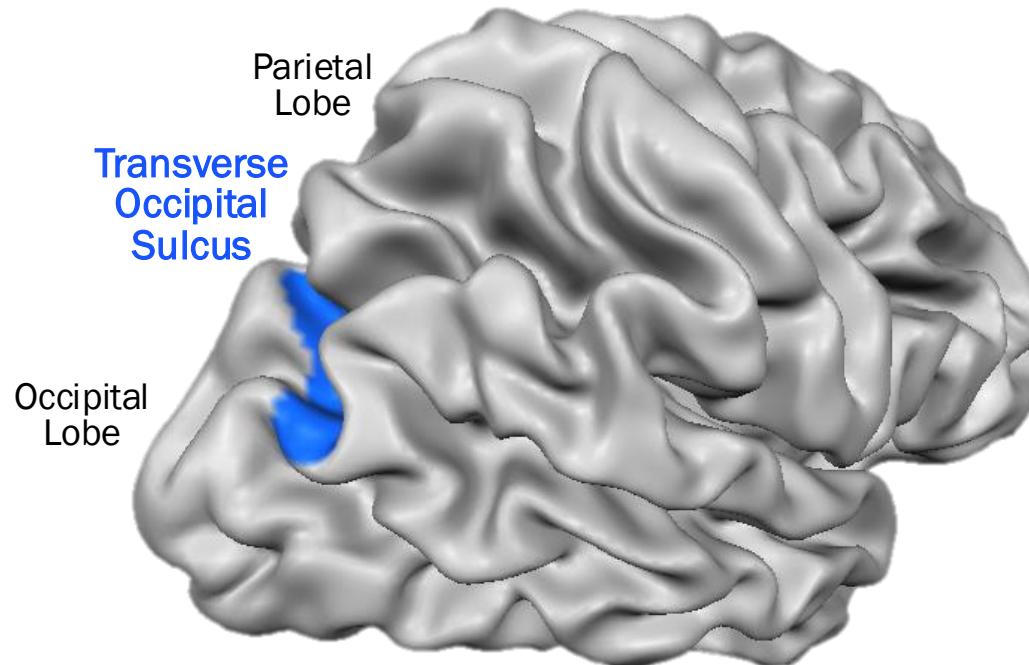
- These sulci are the most continuous fissures of the lateral surface of the brain and have an early ontogenetic development
- Morphology of CS and LS is similar between subjects and these sulci are a common landmark also in non-human primates' brain
- On the lateral surface of the brain, CS separates the frontal lobe from the parietal lobe, while LS separates the frontal and parietal lobes from the temporal lobe (below)

PARIETO-OCCIPITAL AND CINGULATE SULCUS



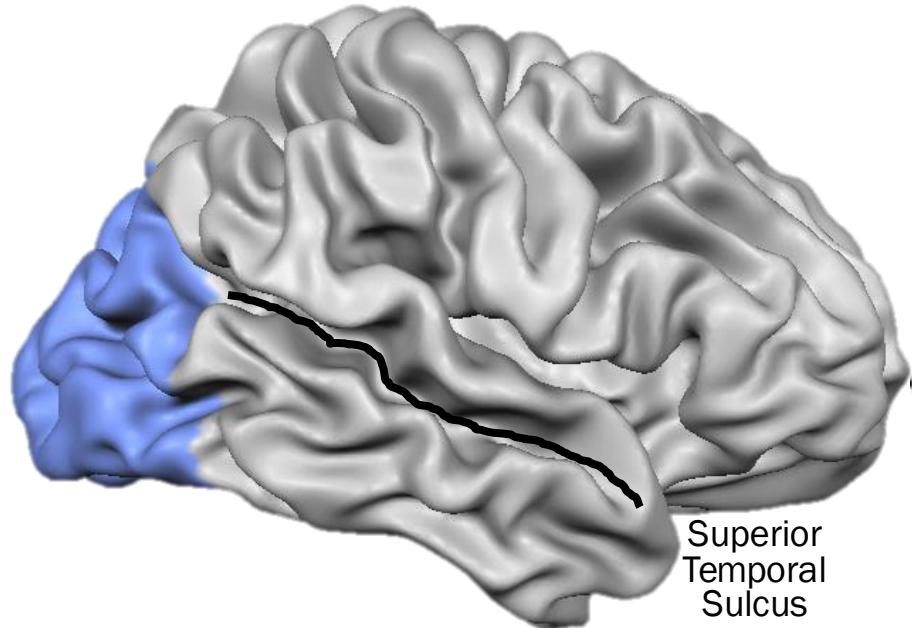
- These fissures are important landmarks on the medial surface of the brain: PO sulcus divides the medial regions of the parietal lobe from the occipital lobe. The ascending ramus of the CING sulcus separates the frontal from the parietal lobe on the medial surface of the brain
- Due to its shape, the part of parietal cortex lying between PO and CING is known as “precuneus”

TRANSVERSE OCCIPITAL SULCUS

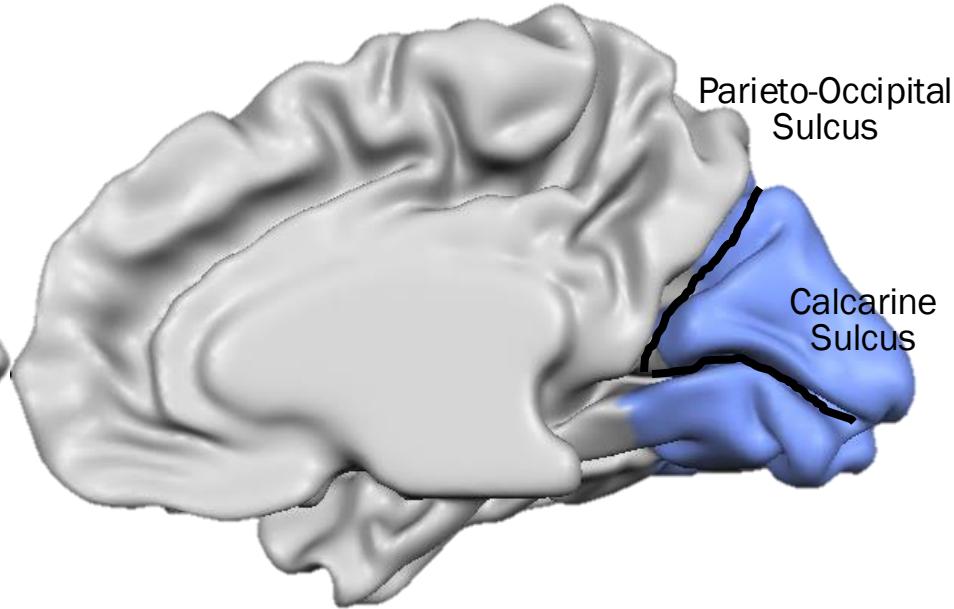


- The TO sulcus represents the boundary between parietal and occipital lobe on the lateral surface of the brain. Unlike other sulci that delineate lobes, TO is much more variable between individuals and it is not easy to identify
- The functional overlap between posterior temporal and occipital cortices is also reflected by the lack of one or more sulci that divide the temporal from the occipital lobe. This uncertainty also exists for the temporo-parietal junction on the lateral surface of the brain

OCCIPITAL LOBE



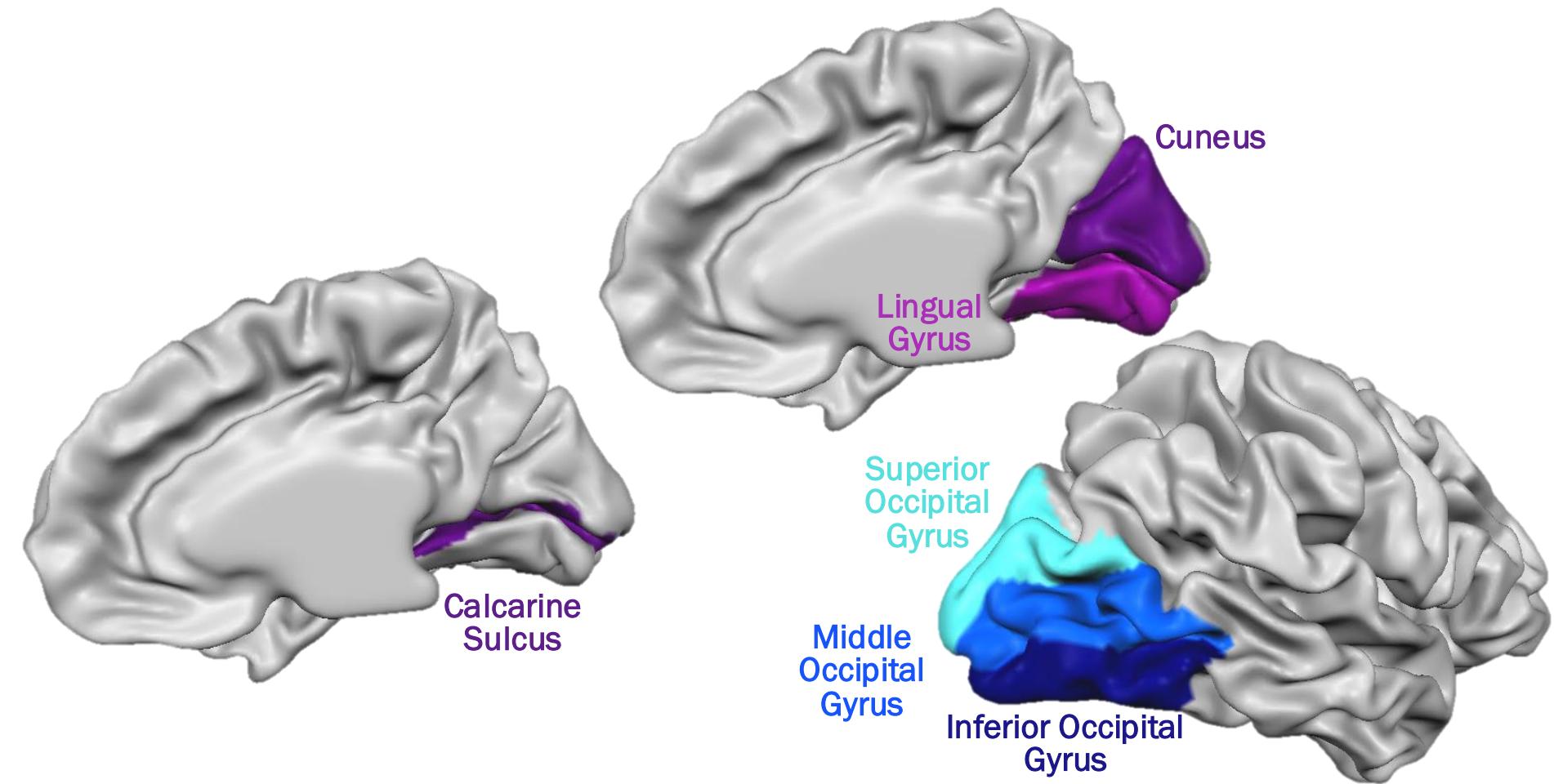
Lateral View



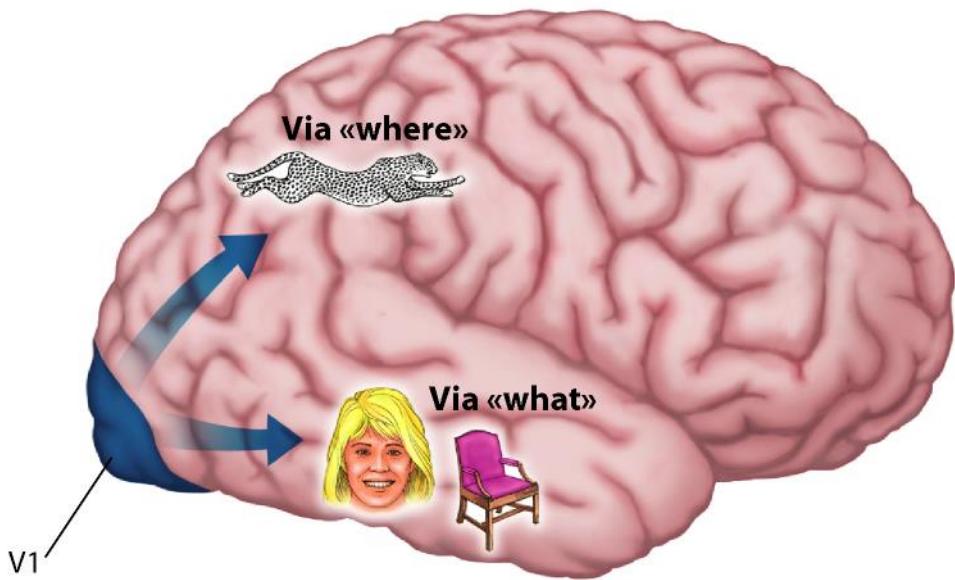
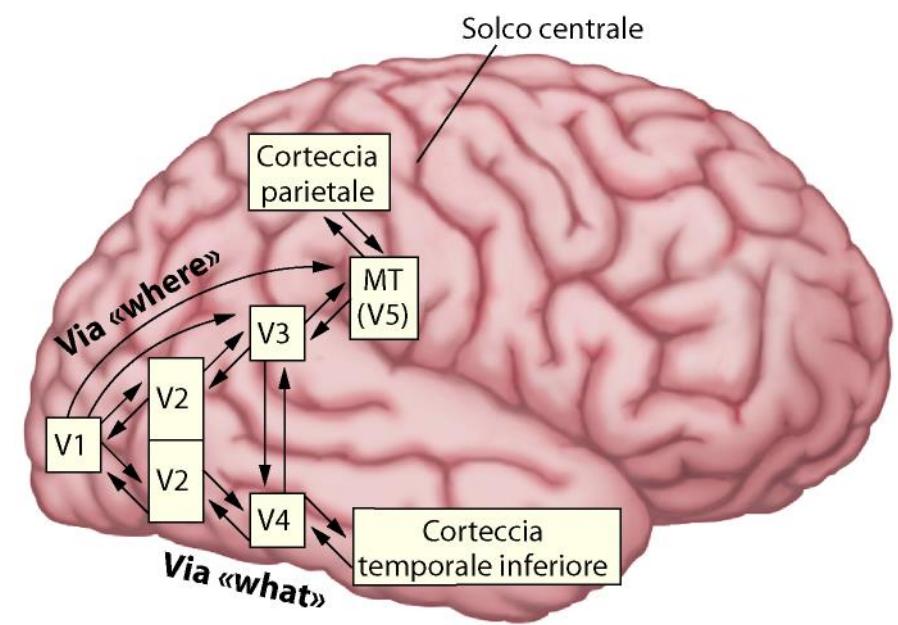
Medial View

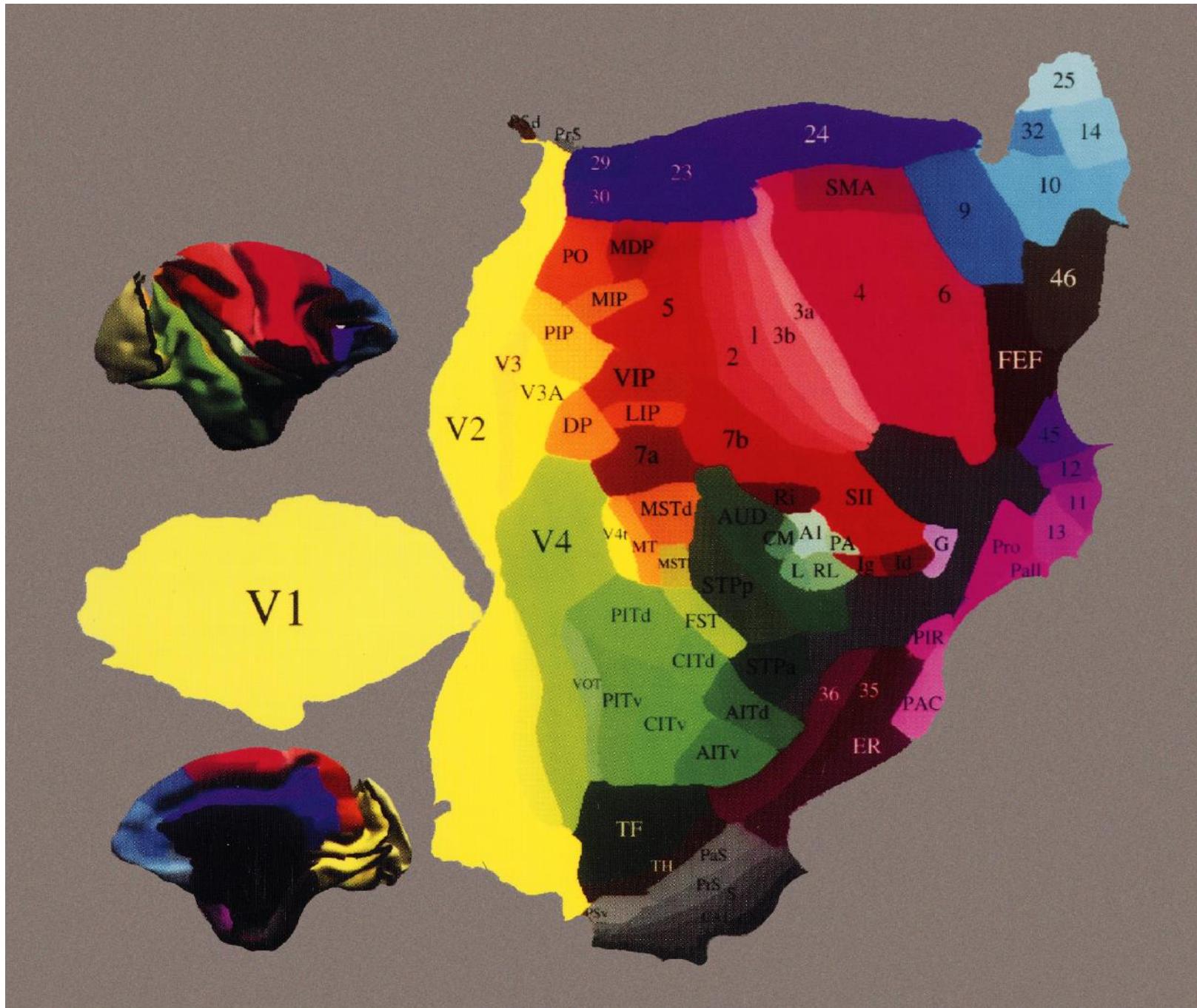
- The Occipital Lobe is entirely devoted to the analysis of visual stimuli and it comprises the primary visual cortex (lying along the calcarine sulcus) where the visual information is organized in a retinotopic manner
- Lesions produce selective impairment of the visual field (i.e., from scotoma to hemianopsia)

SULCI AND GYRI OF THE OCCIPITAL LOBE

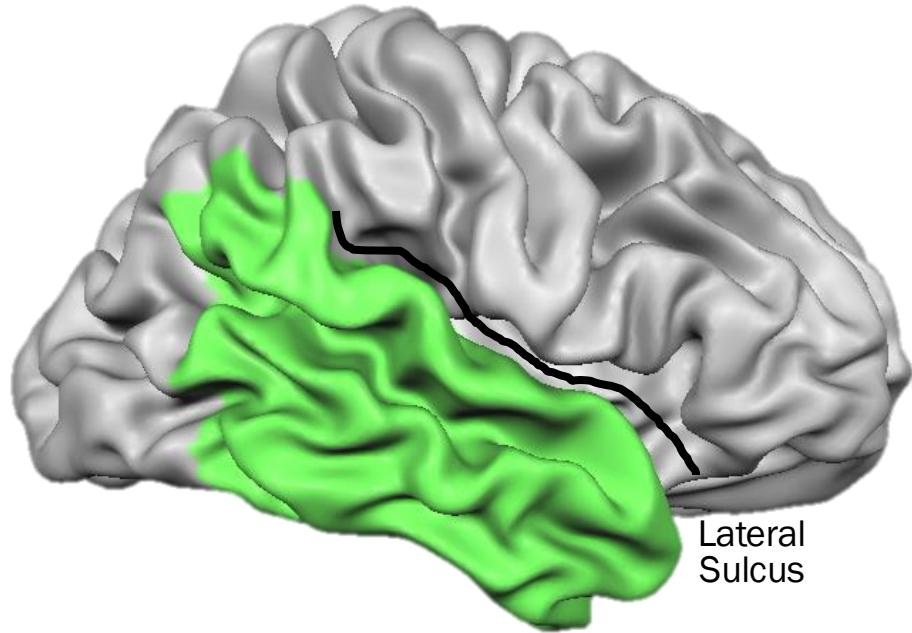


The primary visual cortex lies in the fold of the calcarine sulcus and receives retinotopic inputs from the retina. Higher order visual cortices, devoted to the analysis of specific characteristics of the retinal input (e.g., orientation, borders, etc), span across other occipital lobe structures (i.e., cuneus, lingual gyrus, IOG, MOG, SOG).

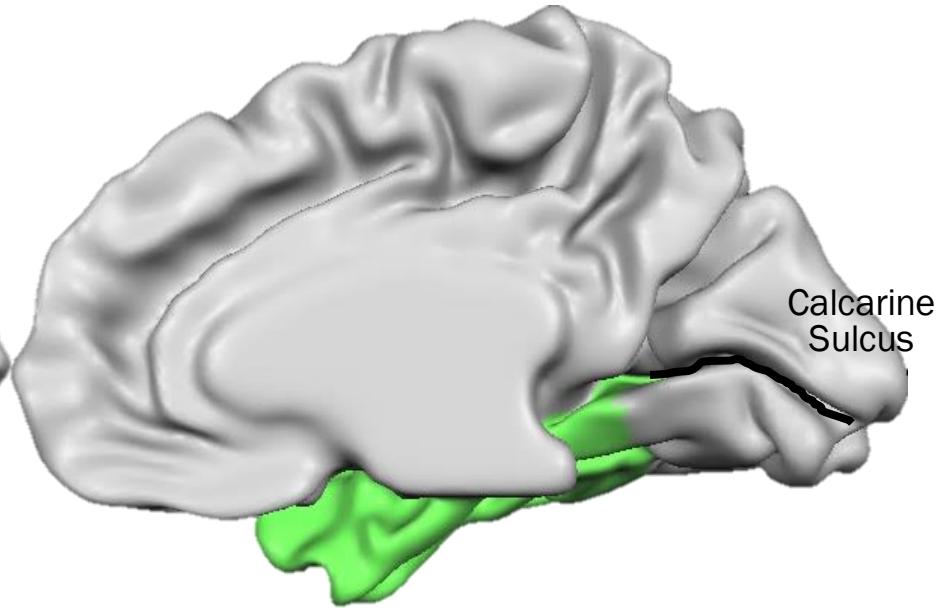




TEMPORAL LOBE



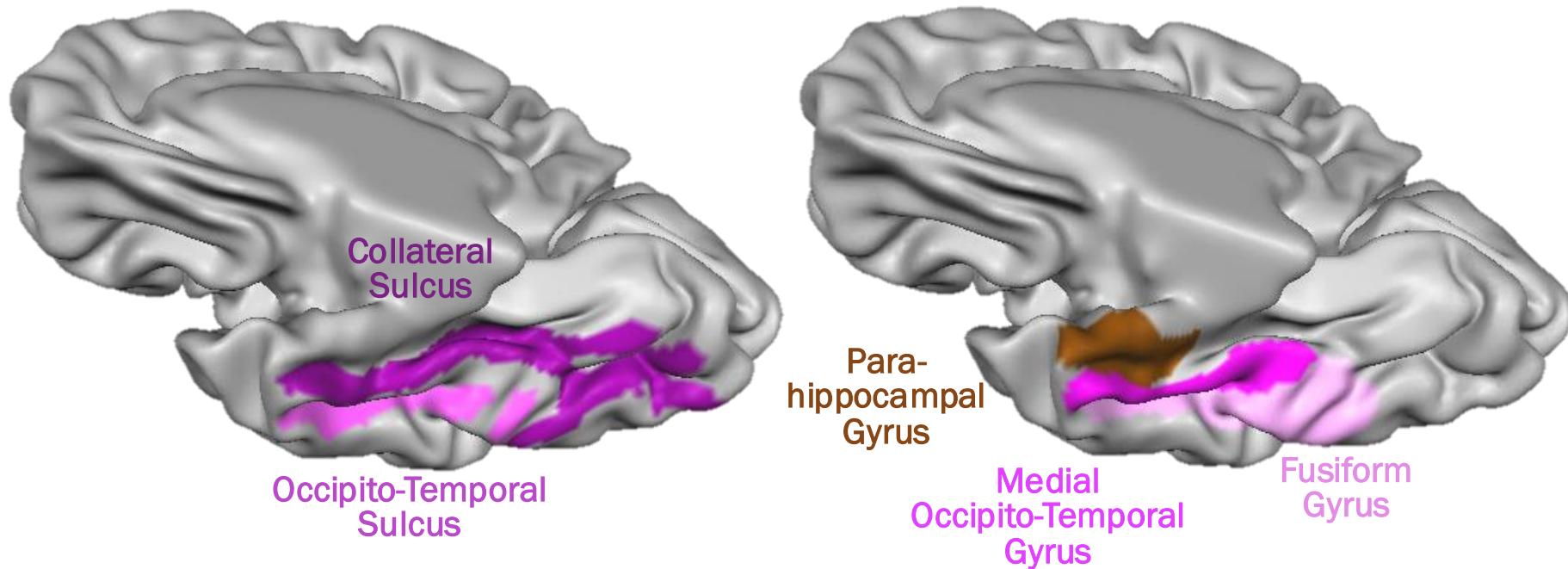
Lateral View



Medial View

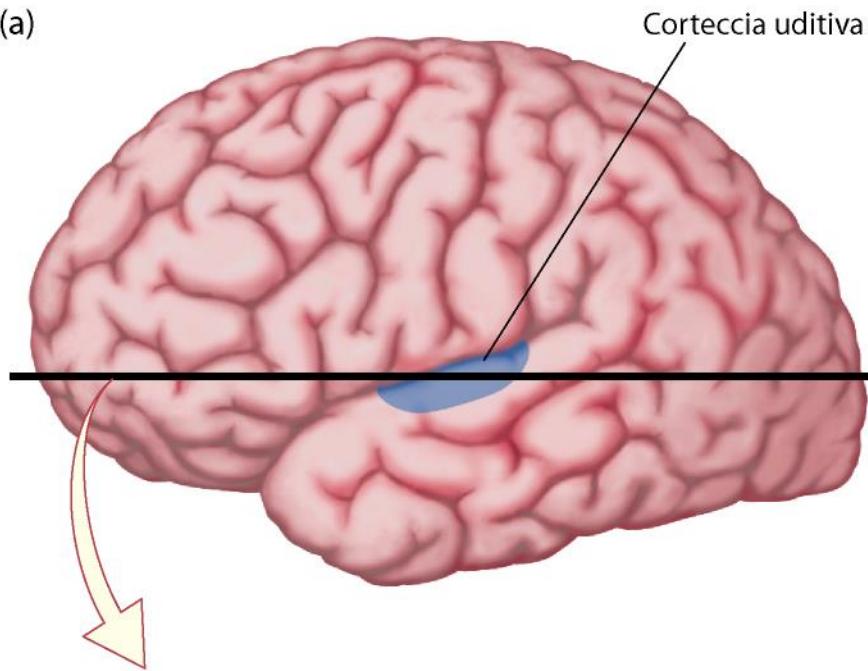
- Processing of acoustic stimuli and language comprehension. Its ventral and posterior portions are involved in visual perception (e.g., motion discrimination, object recognition)
- Lesions of the superior part of the lateral temporal cortex lead to language comprehension deficits, while the disruption of ventral temporal regions produces object-specific agnosia (i.e., prosopagnosia = face blindness)

SULCI AND GYRI OF THE TEMPORAL LOBE (2)

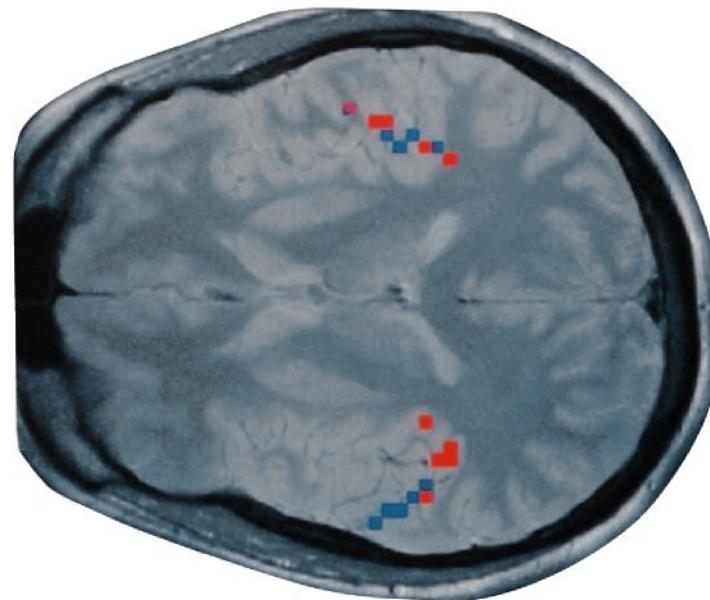


PHG: complex aspects of memory and learning, as well as processing of places and environments (PPA, parahippocampal place area); FG: higher-order processing of visual information (color discrimination within area V4, face processing within the FFA – fusiform face area)

(a)



(b)

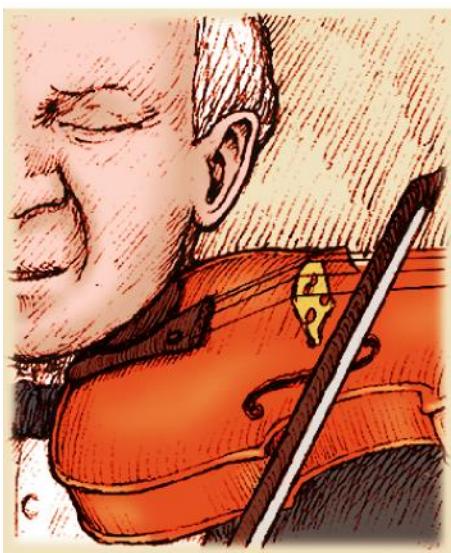




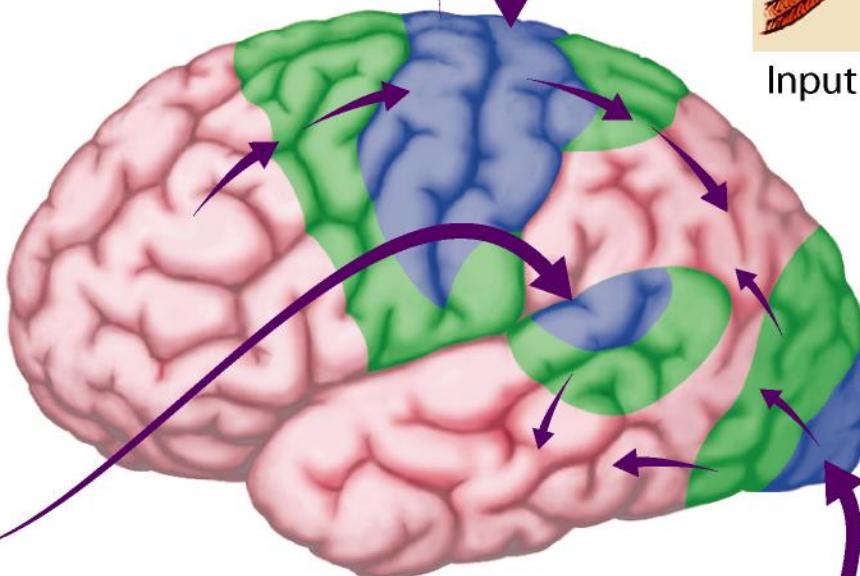
Output motorio



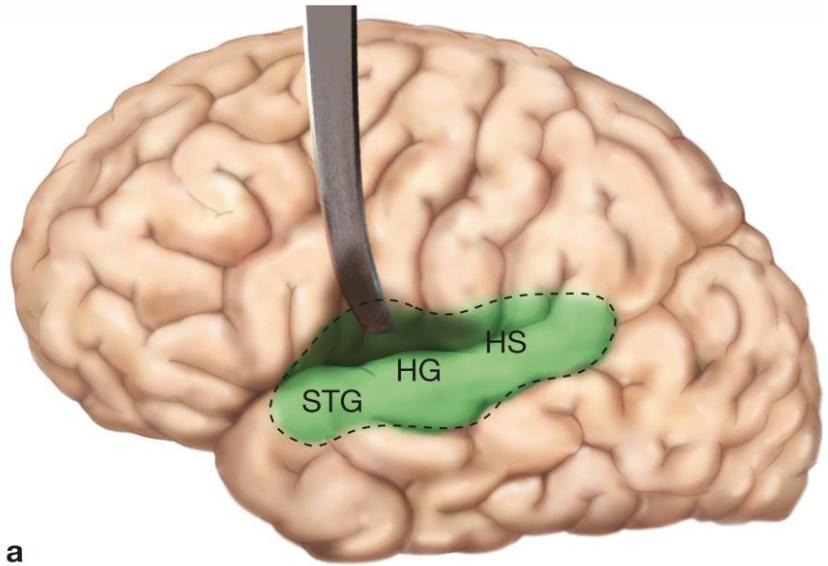
Input somatosensoriale



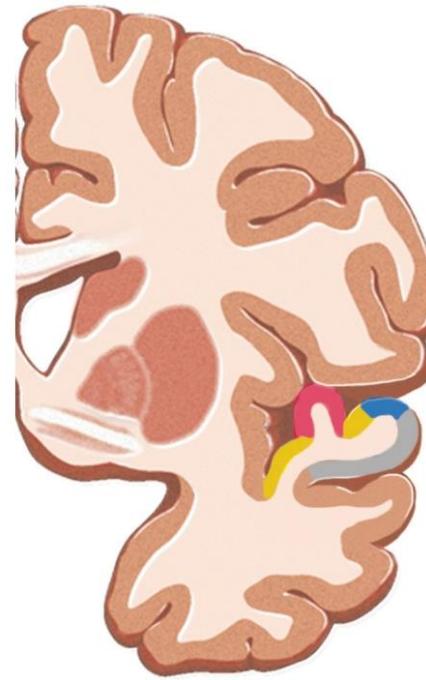
Udito



Visione



a



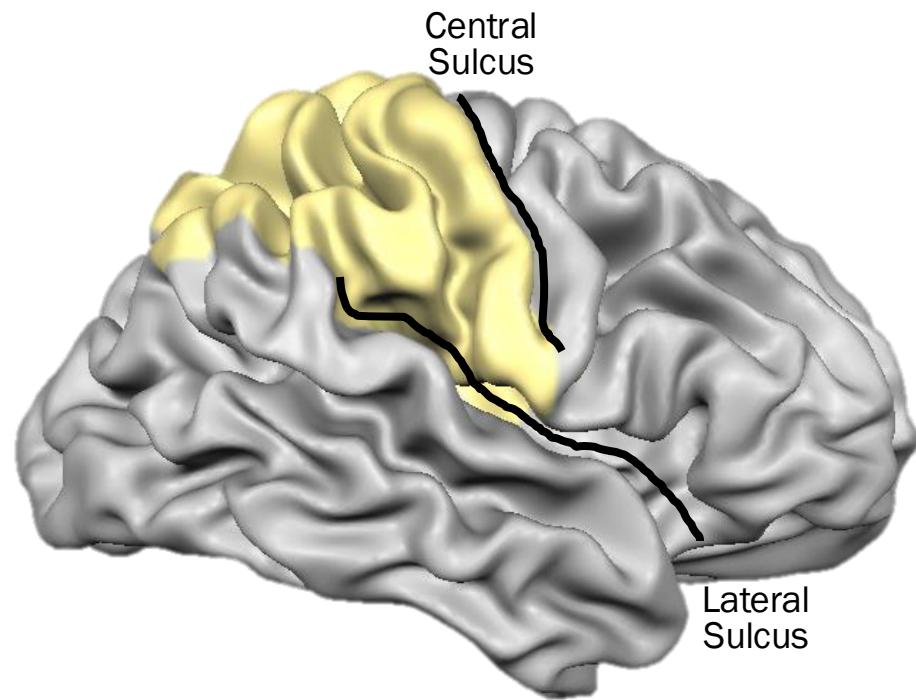
b

- █ HG
- █ Area della cintura
- █ Area della paracintura
- █ STG

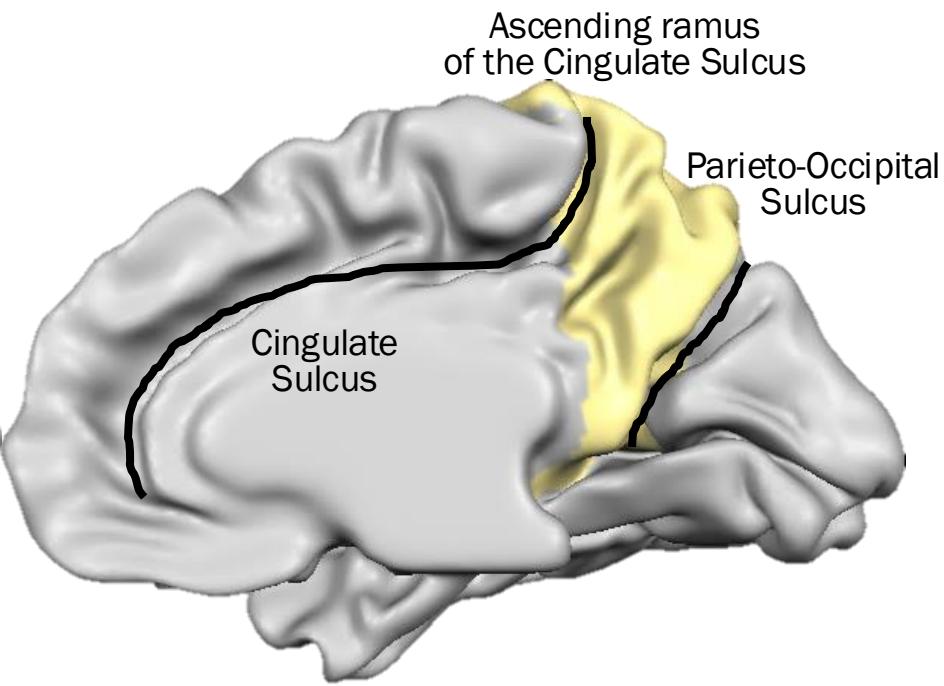
Figura 2.44 La corteccia uditiva umana.

(a) La corteccia uditiva primaria è situata nei giri temporali trasversi (giro di Heschl, HG), sepolti entro il solco laterale e inclusi nell'area di Brodmann 41 dei lobi temporali. Questa regione corticale e le circostanti aree uditive di associazione contengono rappresentazioni degli stimoli acustici. HS = solco di Heschl (*Heschl's sulcus*); STG = giro temporale superiore (*superior temporal gyrus*). (b) Vista coronale che mostra il giro di Heschl dentro il solco laterale.

PARIETAL LOBE



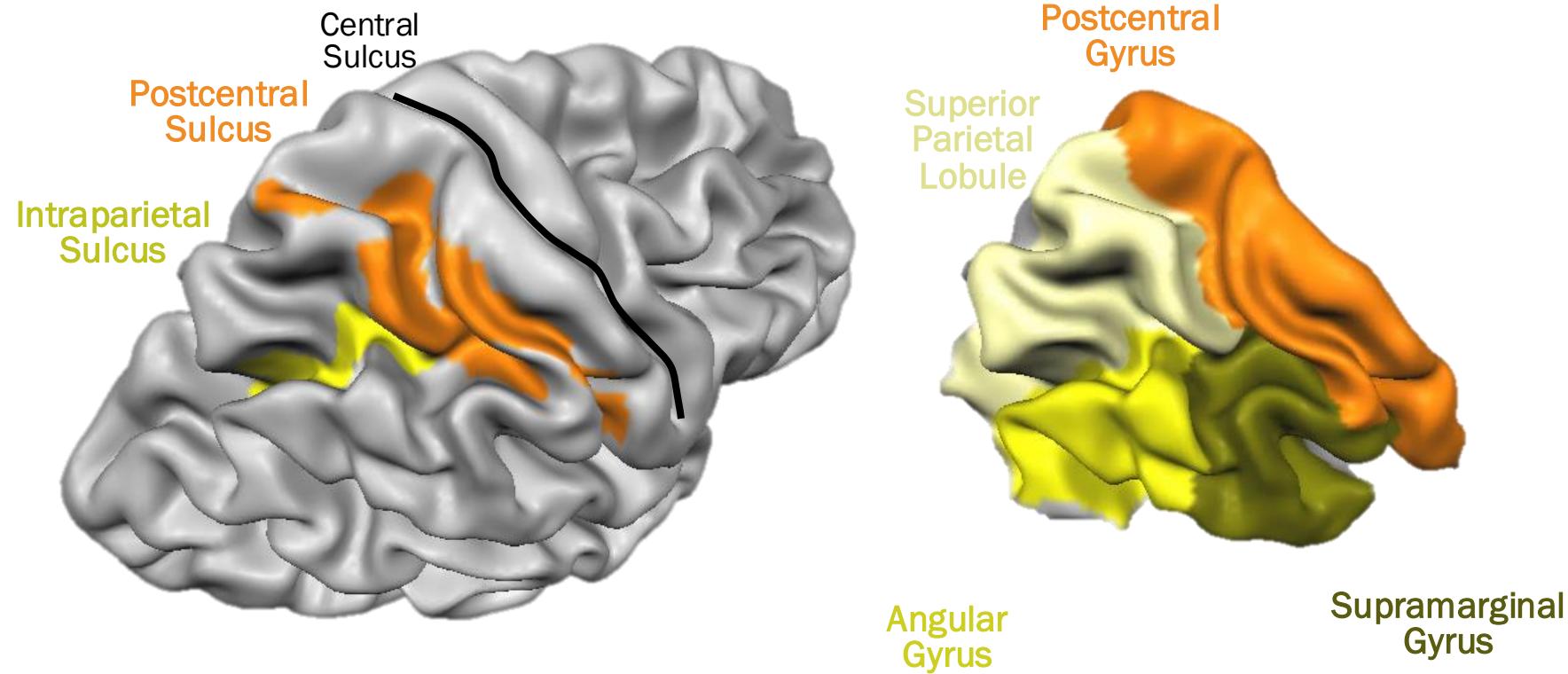
Lateral View



Medial View

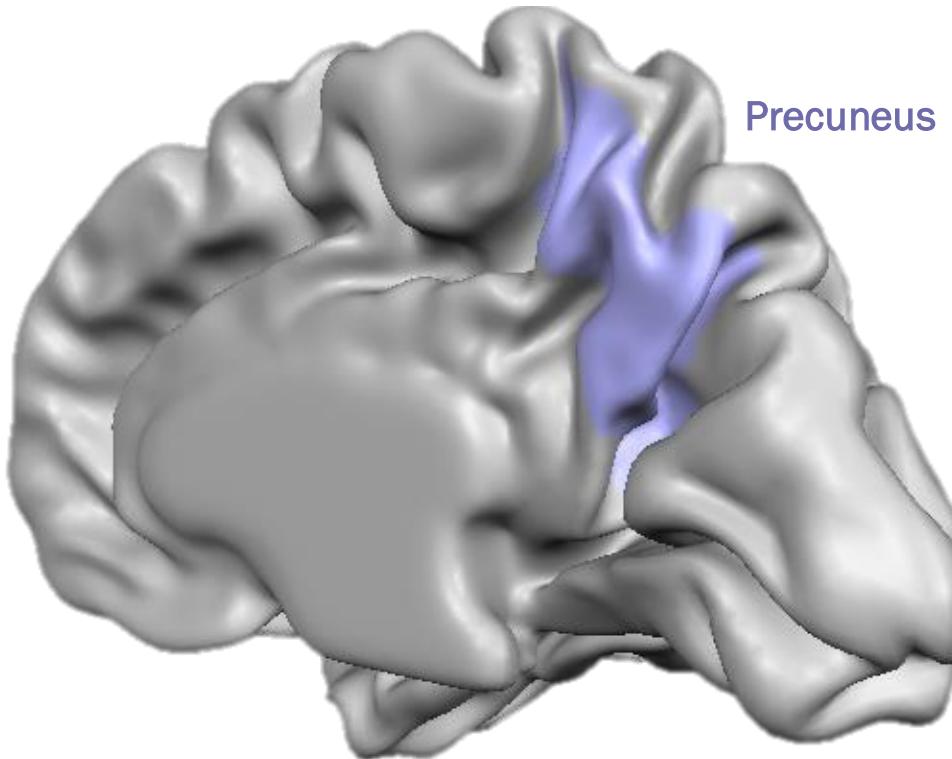
- Processing of somatosensory stimuli, spatial localization and action planning. Parietal lobe comprises also associative cortices that are involved in awareness and attention
- Lesions produce attention deficits and apraxia (i.e., inability to perform complex actions)

SULCI AND GYRI OF THE PARIETAL LOBE (1)



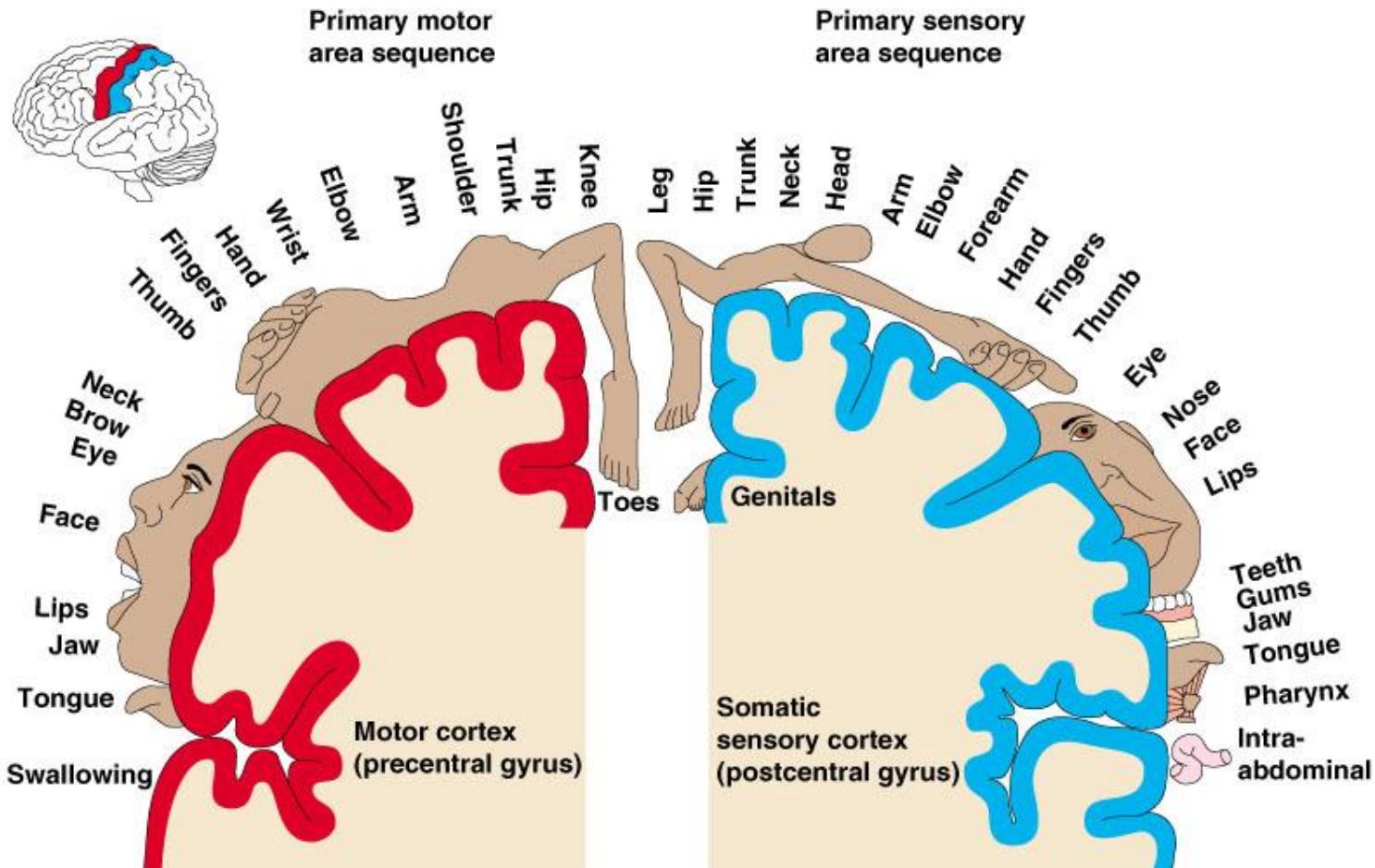
AG: semantic processing (speech comprehension) and numeric concepts (e.g., math); PostCG: primary somatosensory cortex responsible for the sense of touch, receives projections organized in a somatotopic manner; SMG: secondary somatosensory cortex; SPL: spatial attention, orientation, visuo-motor interaction during grasping and action execution

SULCI AND GYRI OF THE PARIETAL LOBE (2)

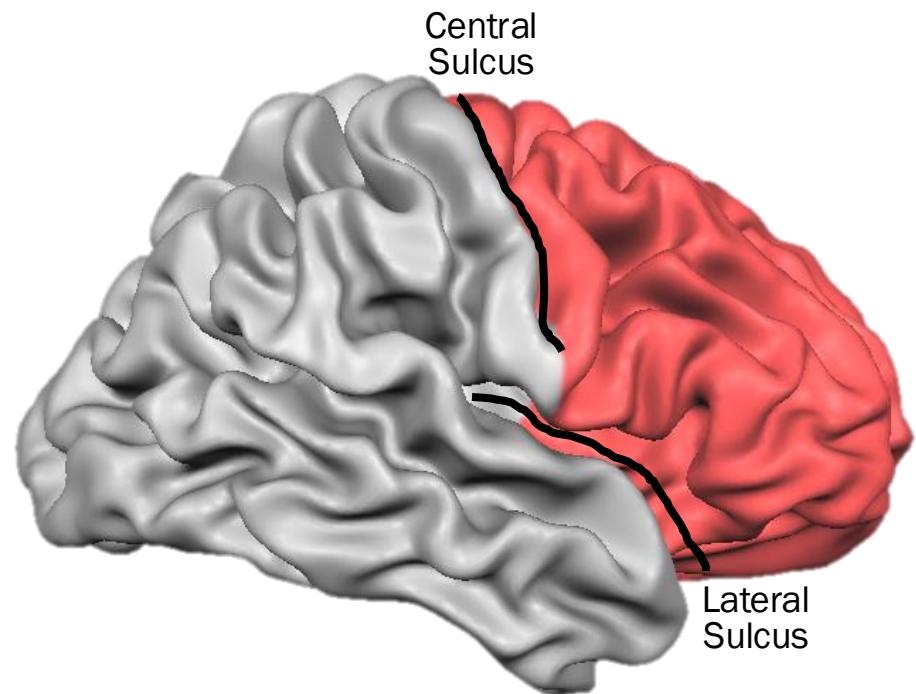


Precuneus is one of the most relevant nodes of the “default mode network” a set of brain regions that exhibit high metabolic consumption and it seems to be associated with conscious processing of stimuli and awareness

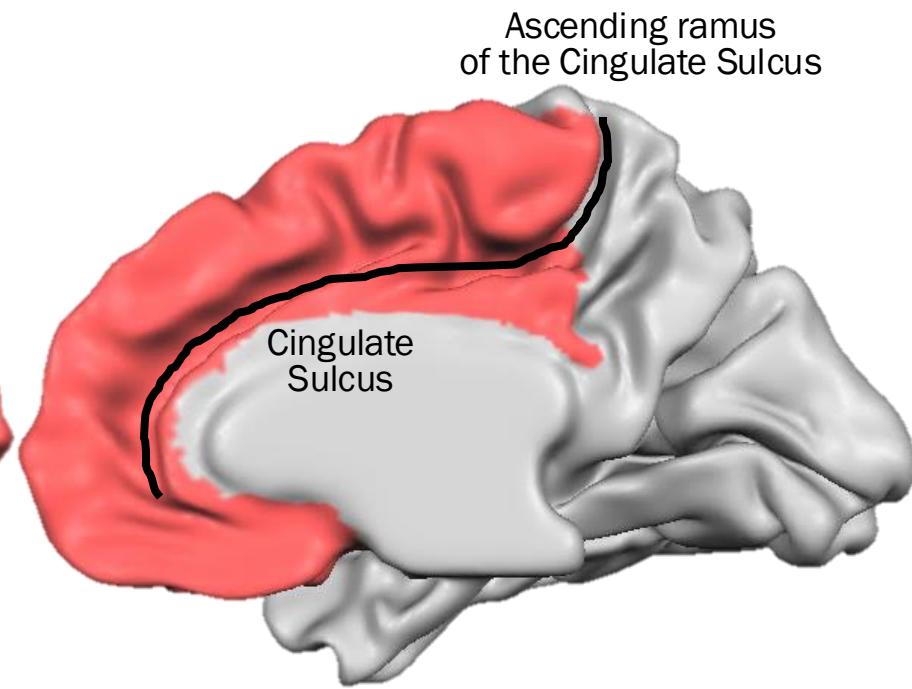
Sensory and Motor Areas of the Cerebral Cortex



FRONTAL LOBE



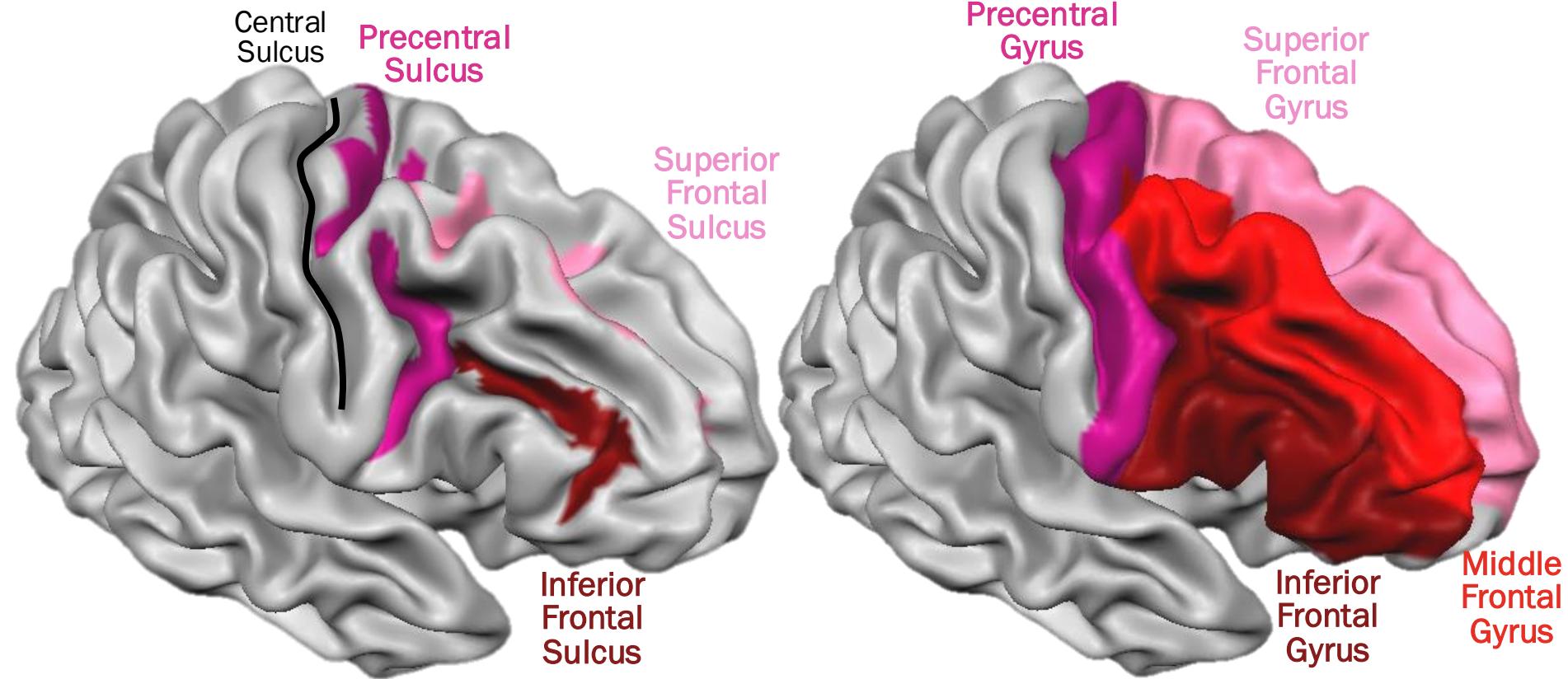
Lateral View



Medial View

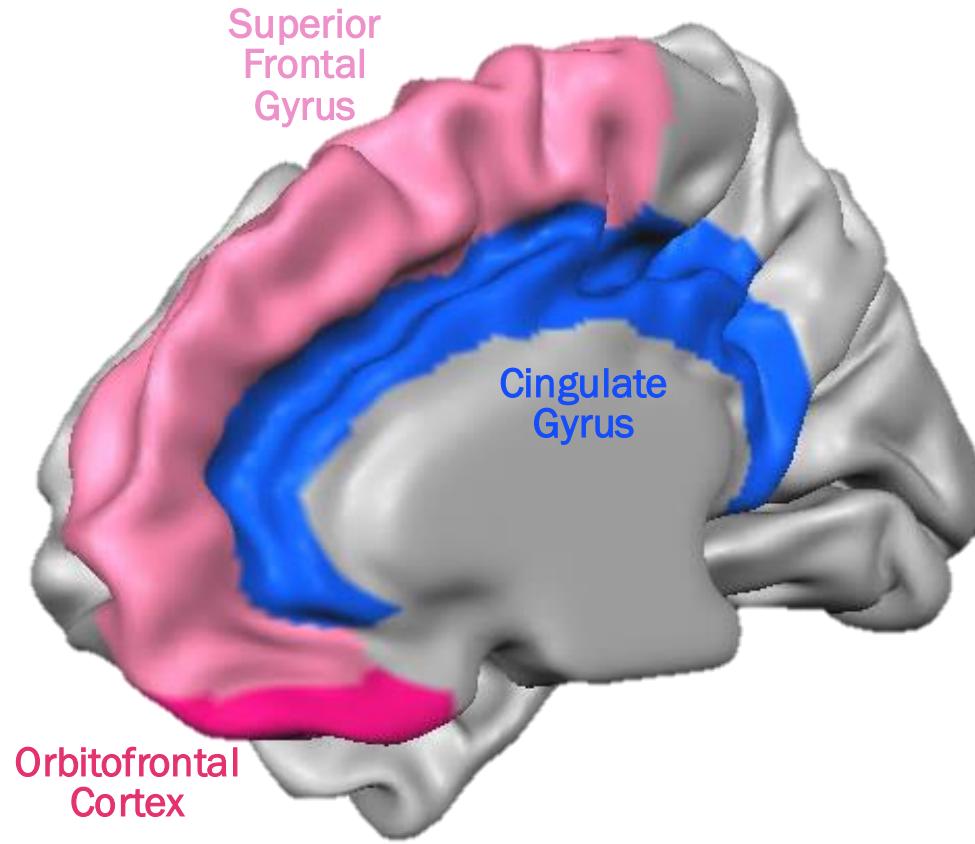
- Motor execution and higher cognitive functions (e.g., language production, impulse inhibition, reasoning and problem solving)
- Lesions mainly affect personality and behavior (e.g., Phineas Gage case), as well as the ability to speak (e.g., left hemisphere Broca's aphasia)

SULCI AND GYRI OF THE FRONTAL LOBE (1)



Left IFG: speech production; MFG: working memory, control and planning; SFG: premotor and supplementary motor cortex for motor planning and gaze control (frontal eye field); PreCG: primary motor cortex, somatotopic representation of muscles (i.e., Penfield homunculus)

SULCI AND GYRI OF THE FRONTAL LOBE (2)



CingG: emotional response to pain, conflict and error monitoring;
OFC: decision-making, reward/punishment system

Corteccia
prefrontale

Aree
corticali di
associazione

Dall'ipotalamo

Giro del cingolo

Fornice

Nucleo
anteriore
del talamo

Giro
subcalloso

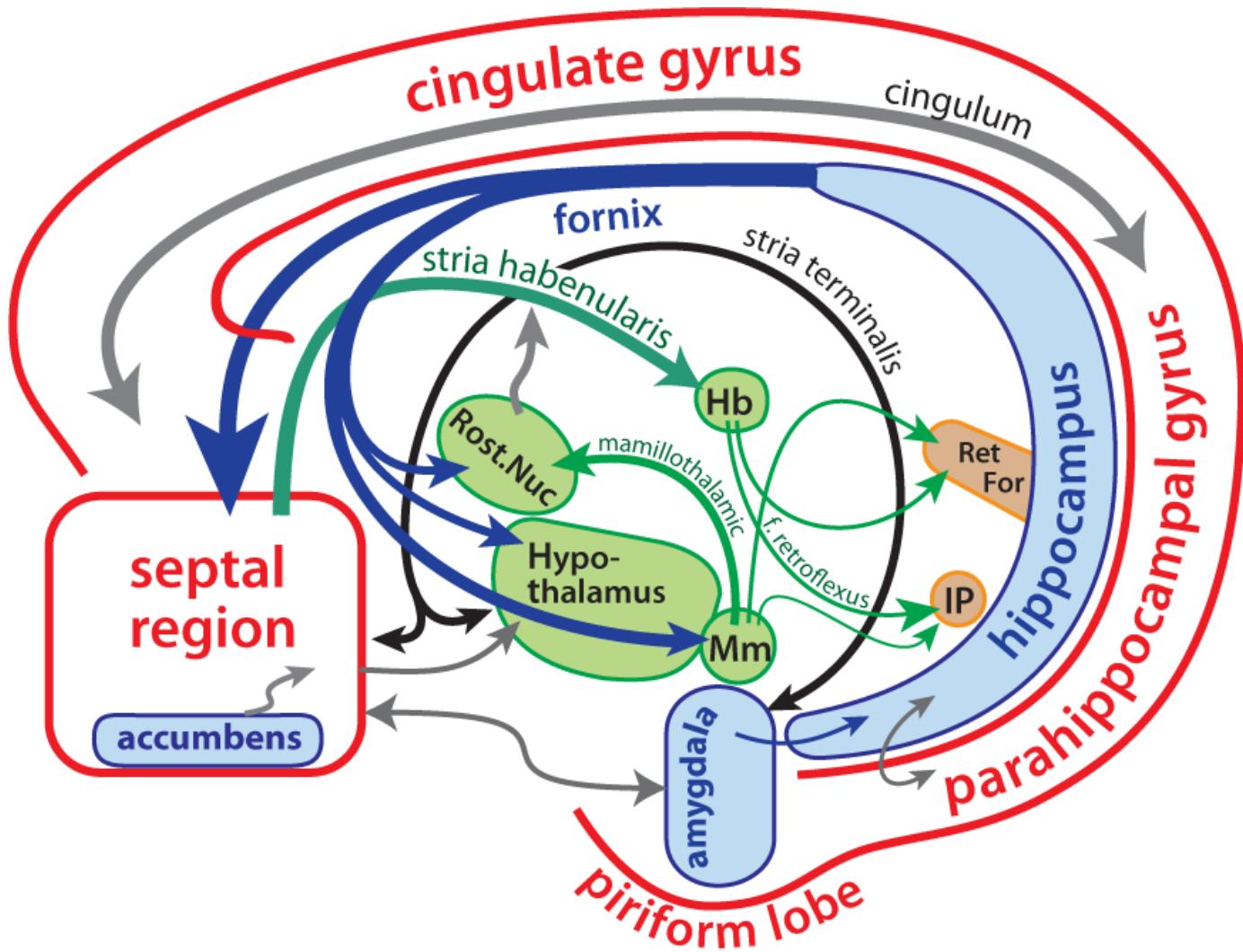
Corpo
mammillare

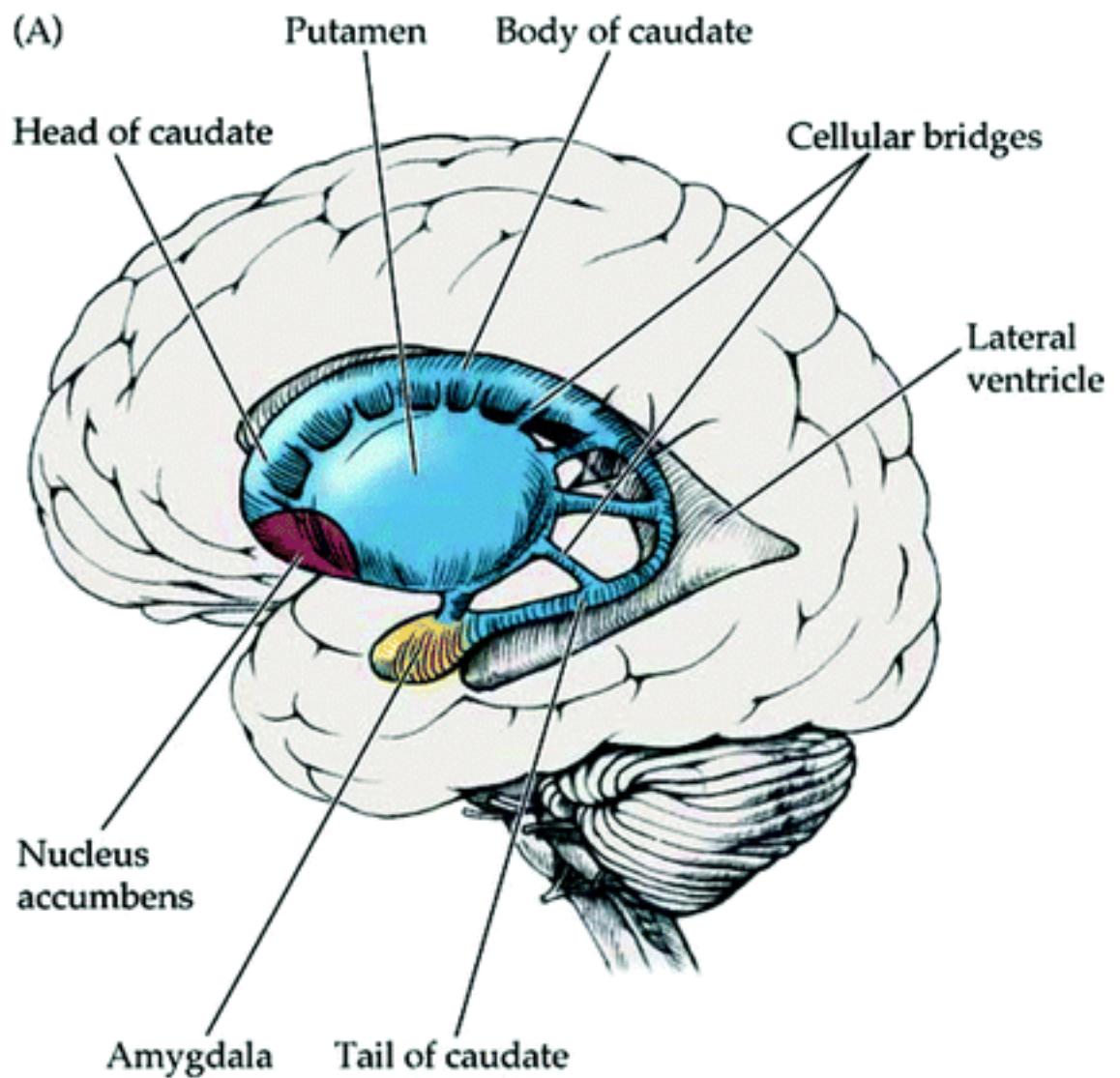
Ipotalamo

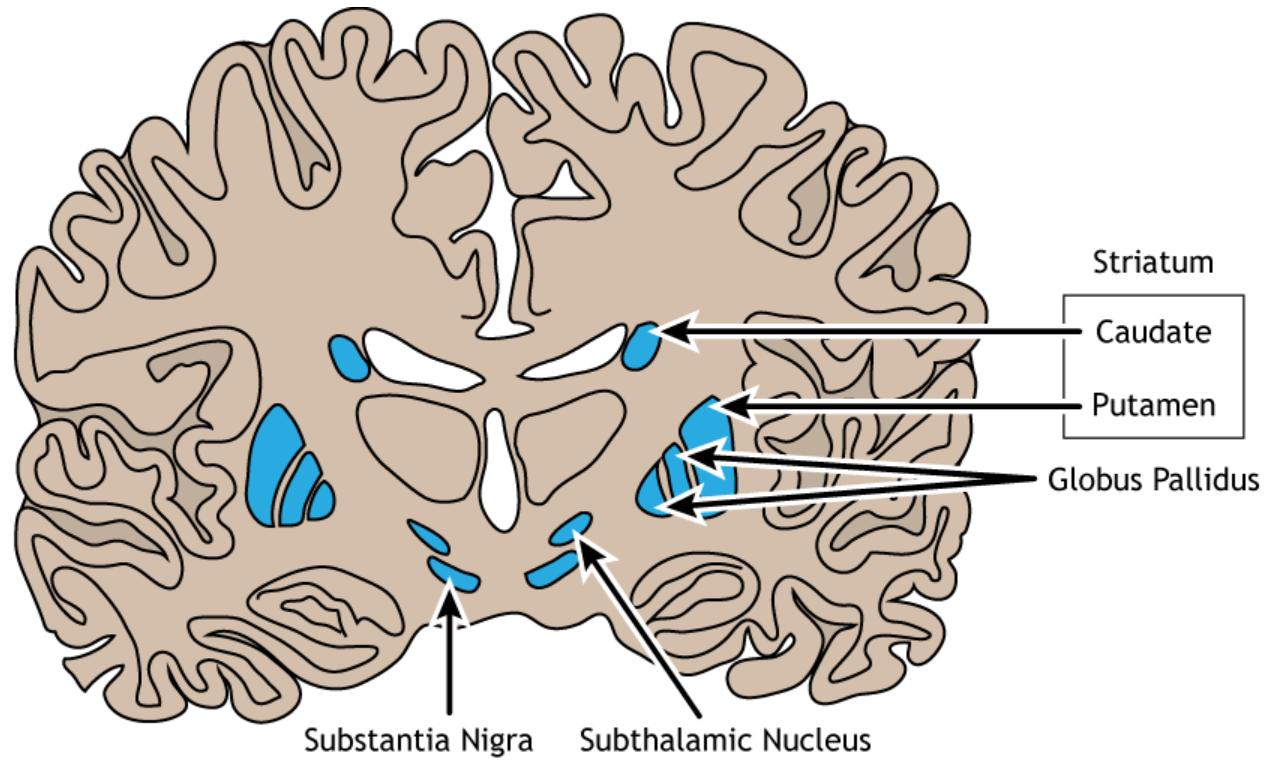
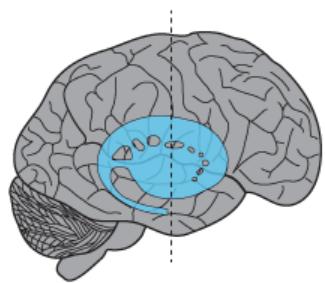
Amigdala

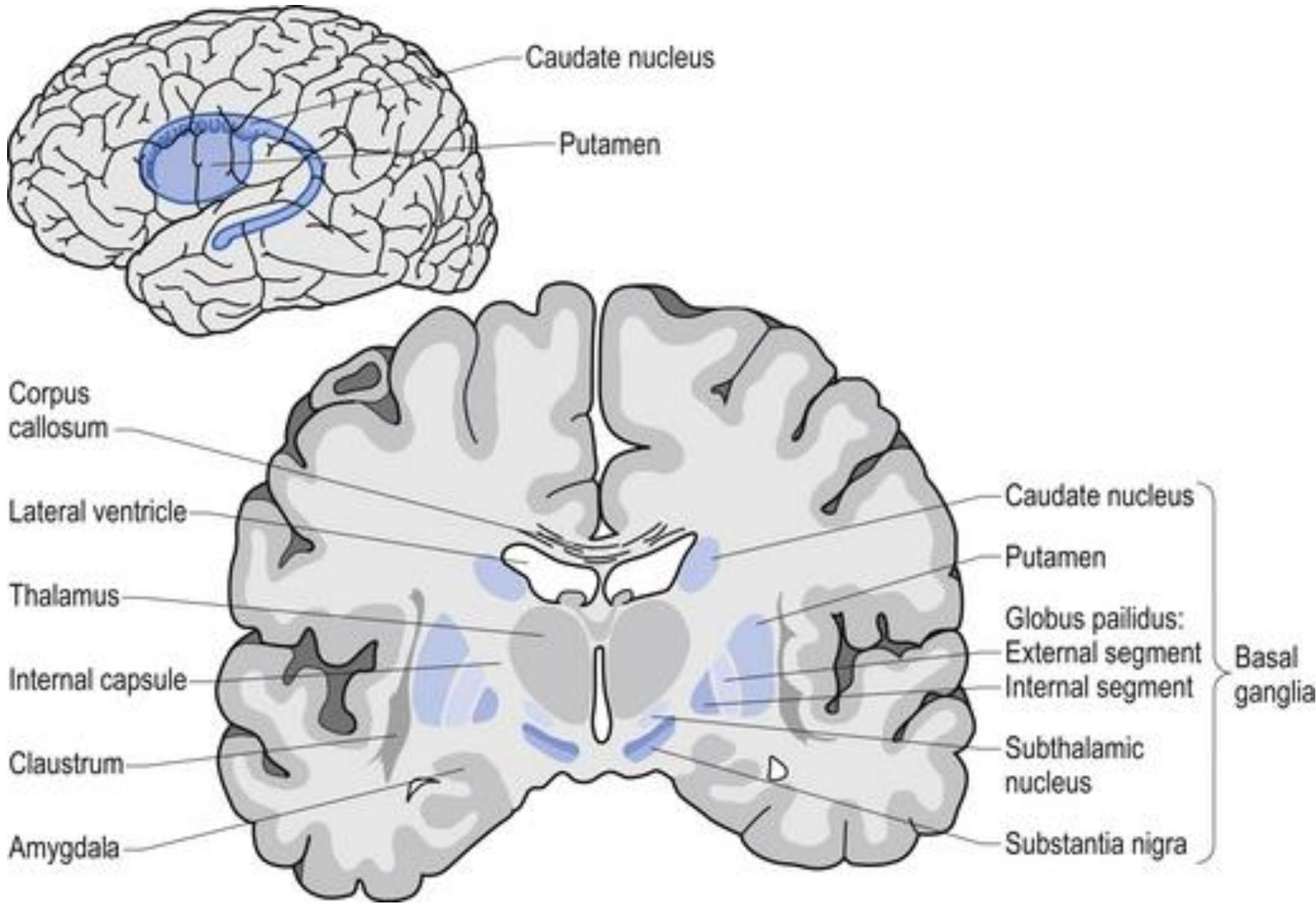
Ippocampo

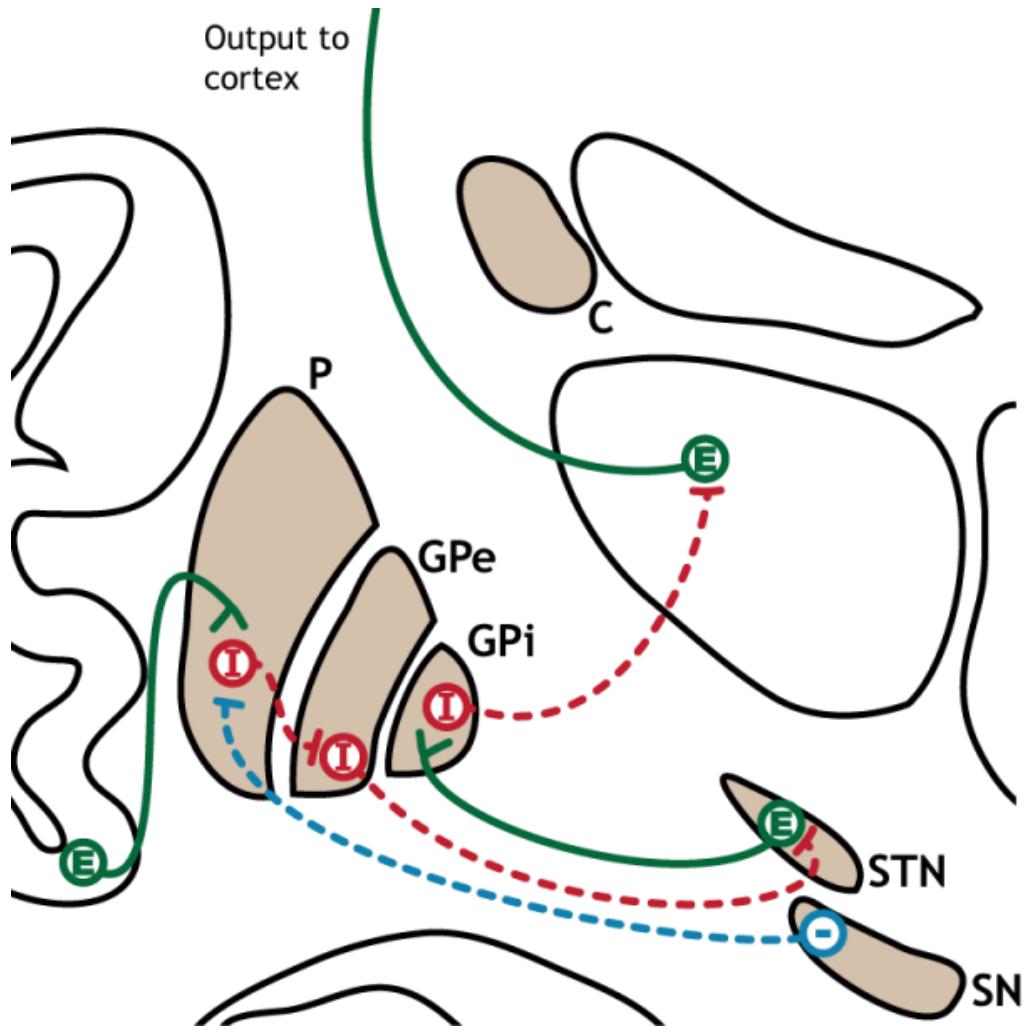
Corteccia
entorinica



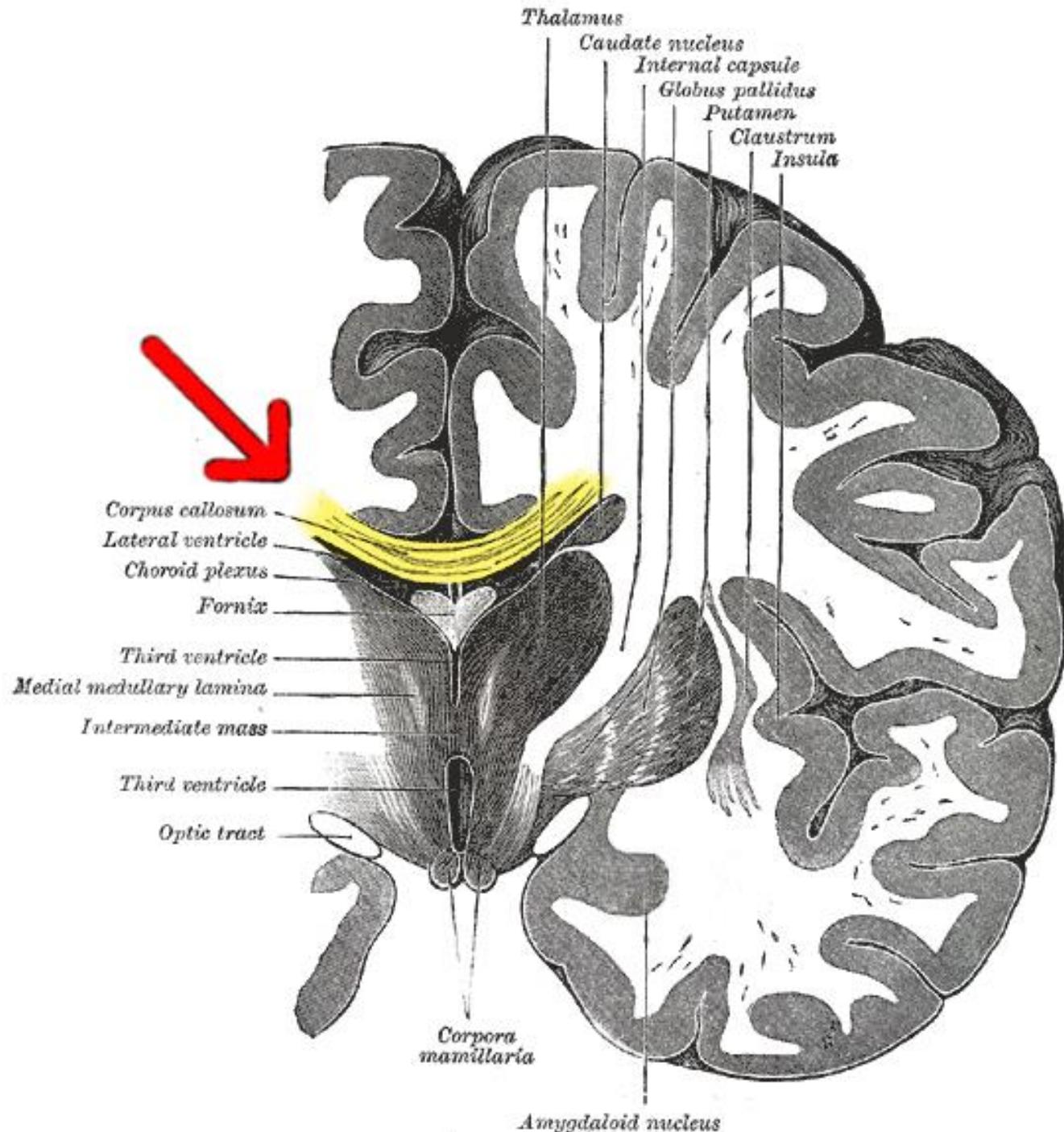








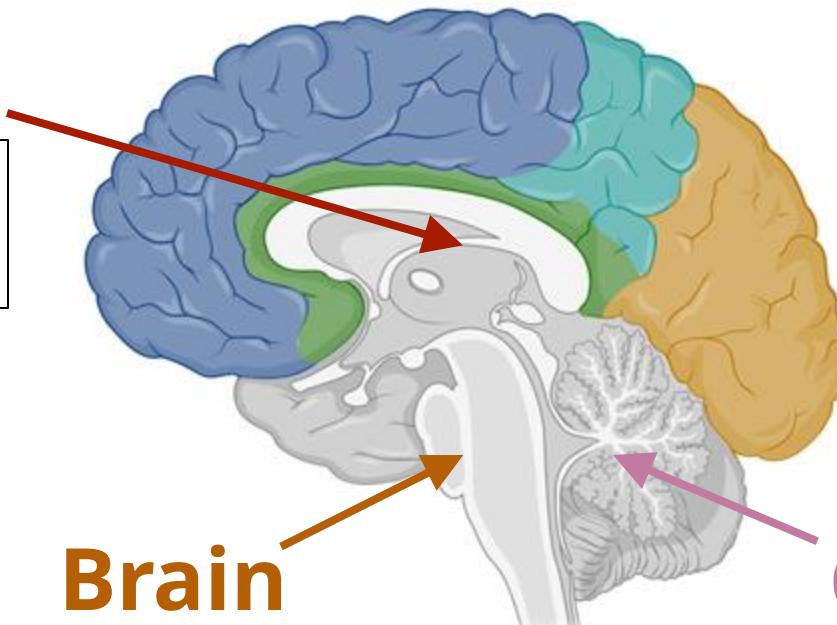
- (E) Excitatory glutamate projection
- (I) Inhibitory dopamine projection
- (I) Inhibitory GABA projection
- C Caudate
- P Putamen
- GPe Globus pallidus, external segment
- GPi Globus pallidus, internal segment
- STN Subthalamic nucleus
- SN Substantia nigra



Inner view of the brain: subcortical structures

Thalamus

Relay station for messages arriving from our senses in the body to the brain



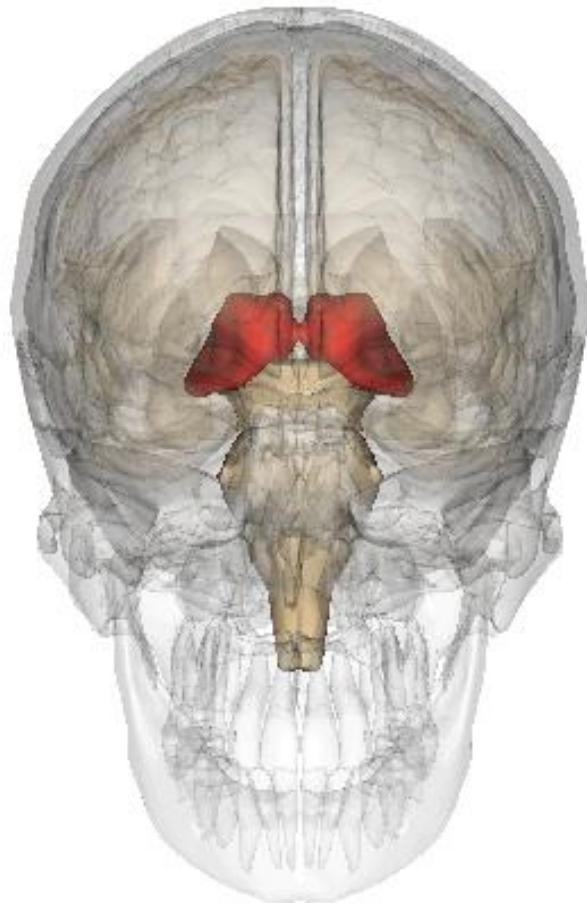
Brain stem

- Upper areas: basic functions (sleep, respiration, heart rate, blood pressure)
- Lower area: connects to spinal cord (sending and receiving messages from body)

- "Little brain"
- Movement coordination
- Learning new motor skills / movements
- Making predictions

Cerebellum

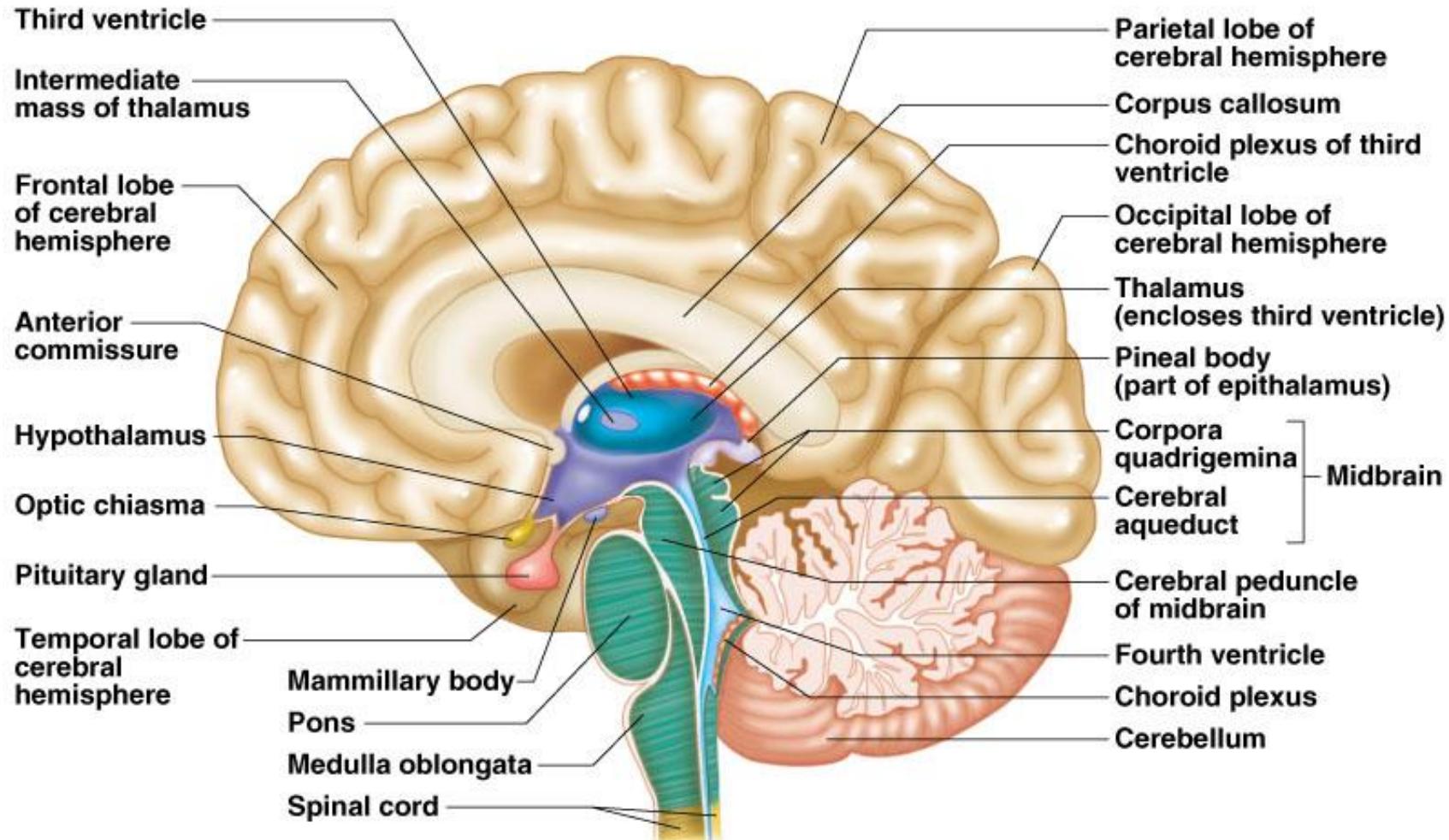
Thalamus



Diencephalon

- Sits on top of the brain stem
- Enclosed by the cerebral hemispheres
- Made of three parts
 - Thalamus
 - Hypothalamus
 - Epithalamus

Diencephalon

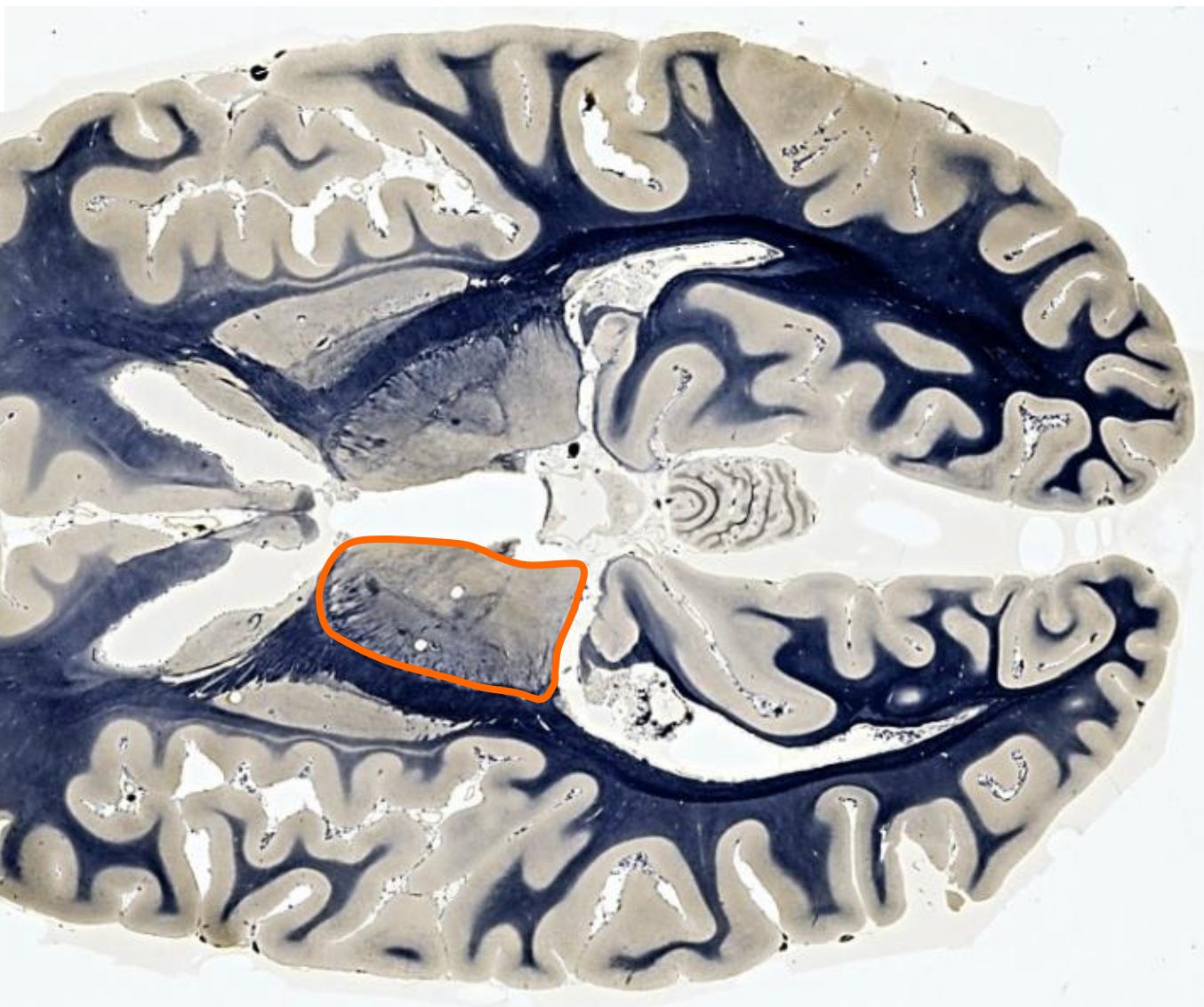


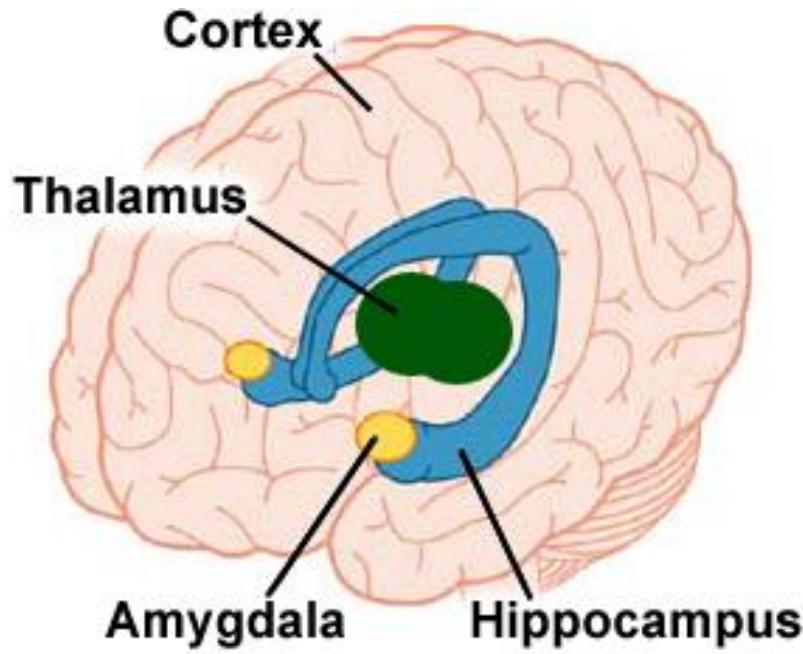
(a)

Thalamus

- **Surrounds the third ventricle**
- **The relay station for sensory impulses**
- **Transfers impulses to the correct part of the cortex for localization and interpretation**

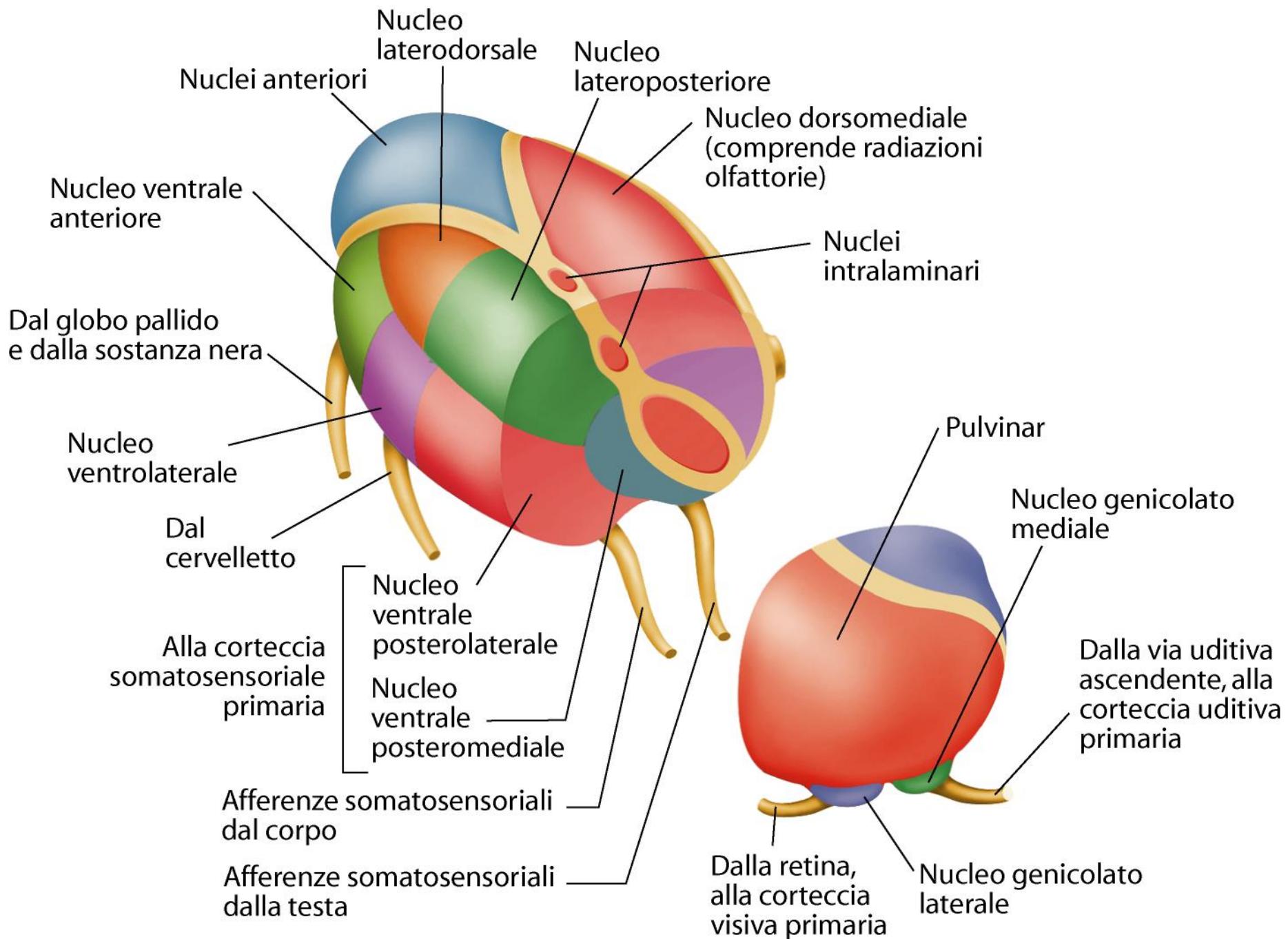
Thalamus





- Emotions and emotion regulation
- Anxiety and Fear
- Combining memories with emotions

- Forming and retrieving memories
- Spatial navigation

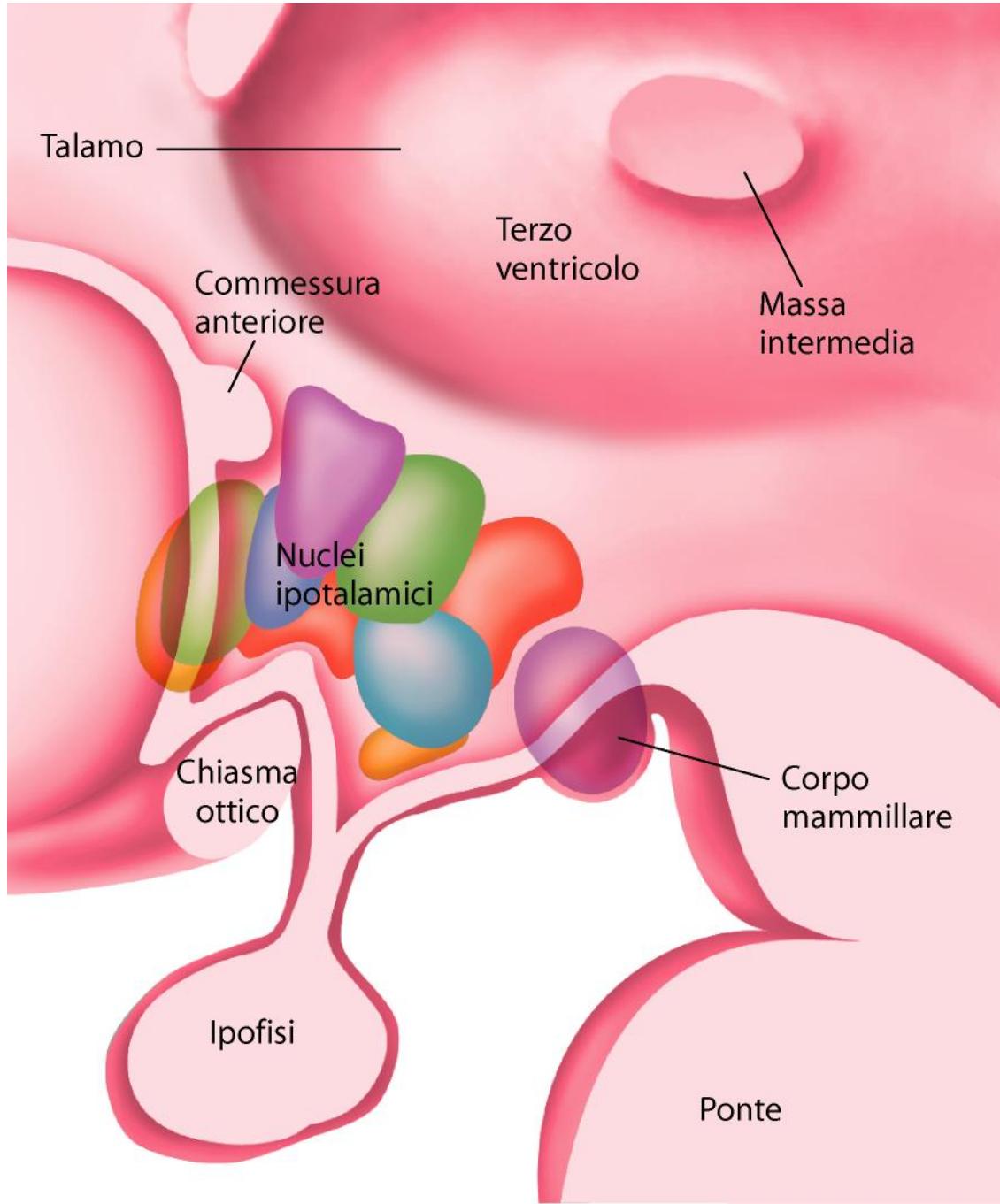


Hypothalamus

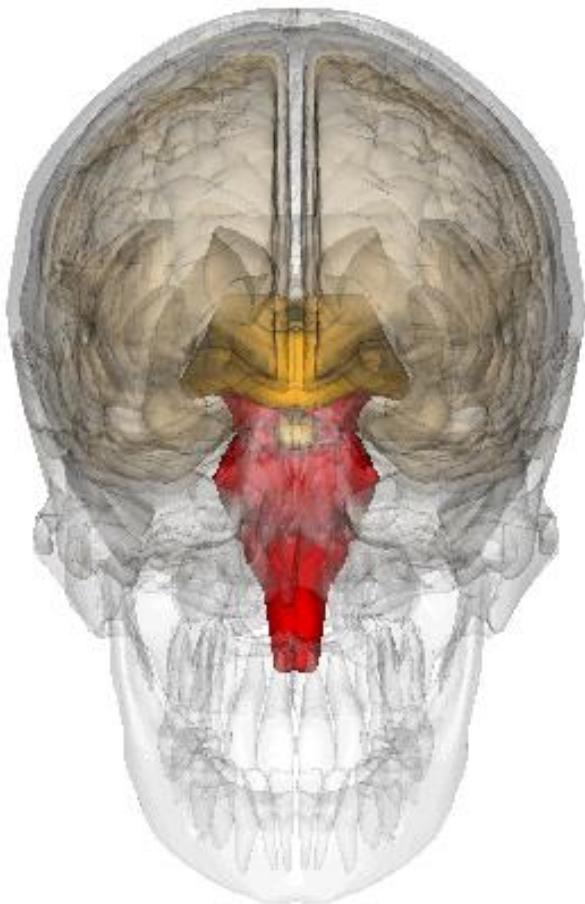
- Under the thalamus
- Important autonomic nervous system center
 - Helps regulate body temperature
 - Controls water balance
 - Regulates metabolism

Hypothalamus

- An important part of the limbic system (emotions)
- The pituitary gland is attached to the hypothalamus

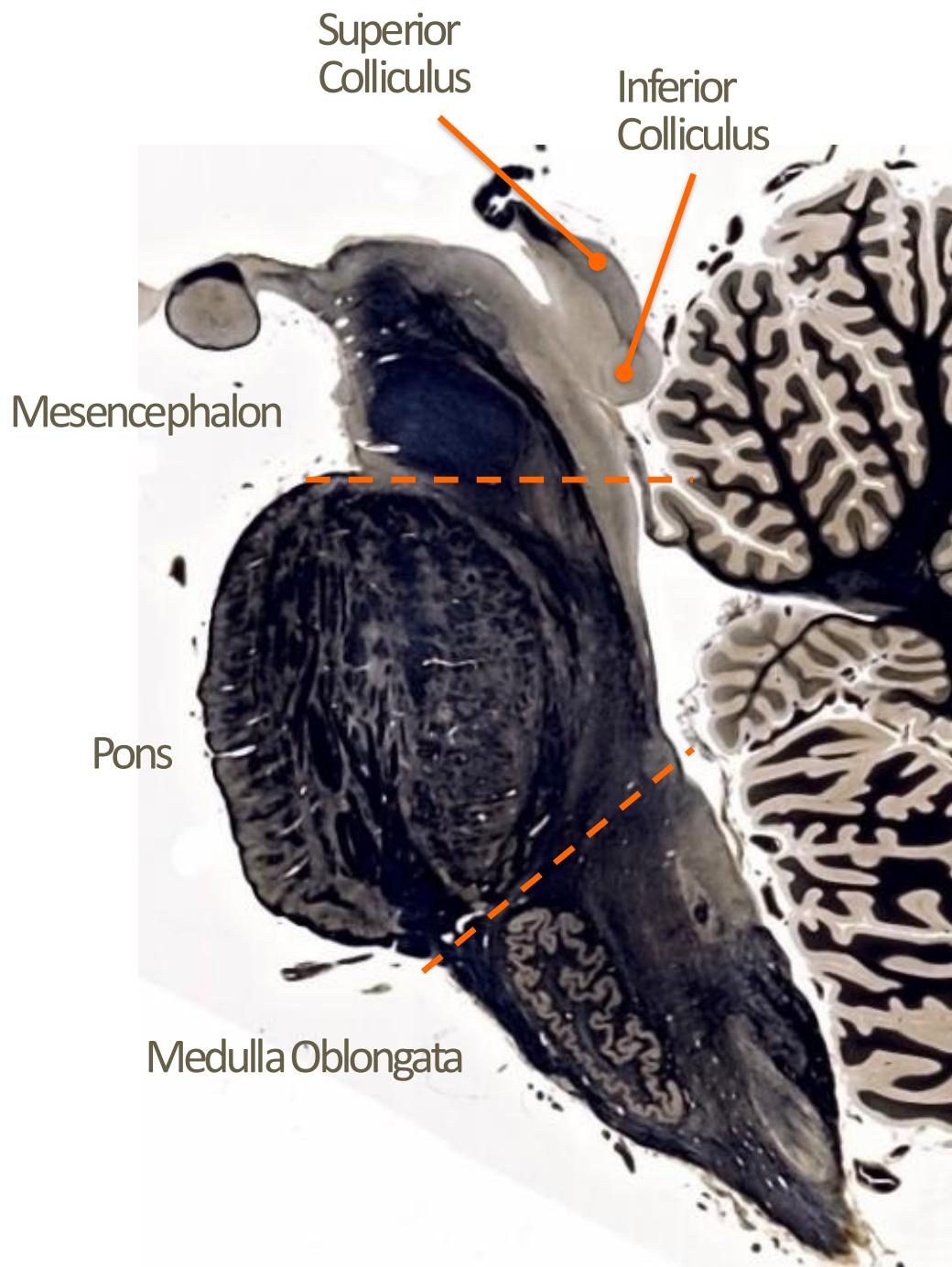


Brainstem

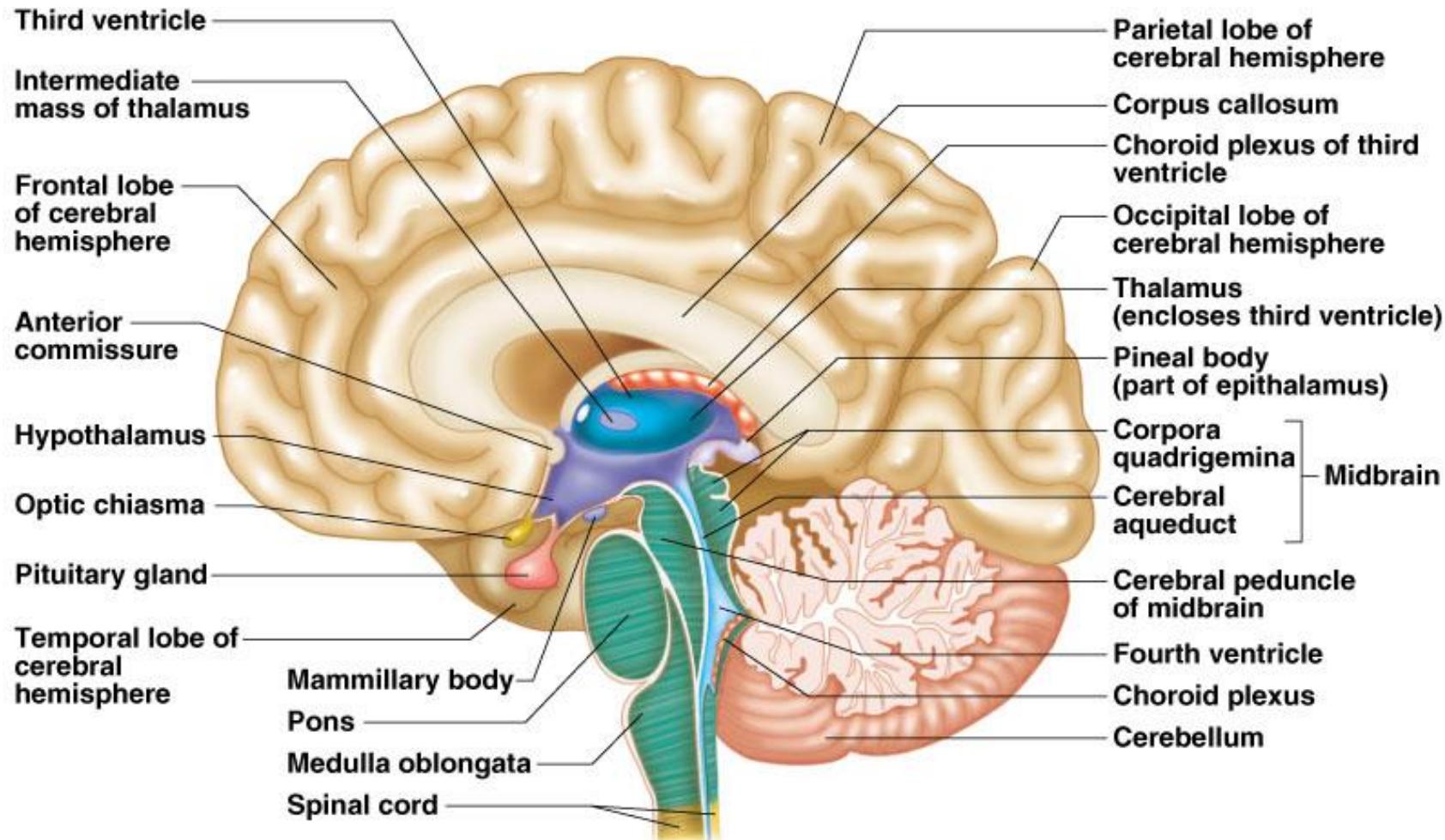


Brainstem



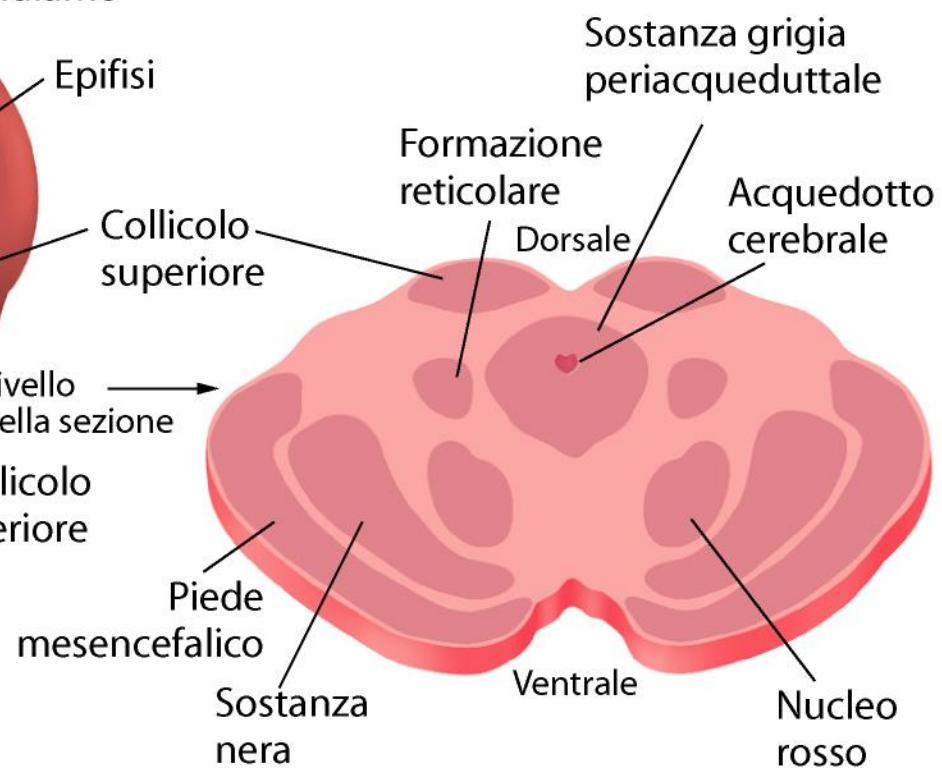
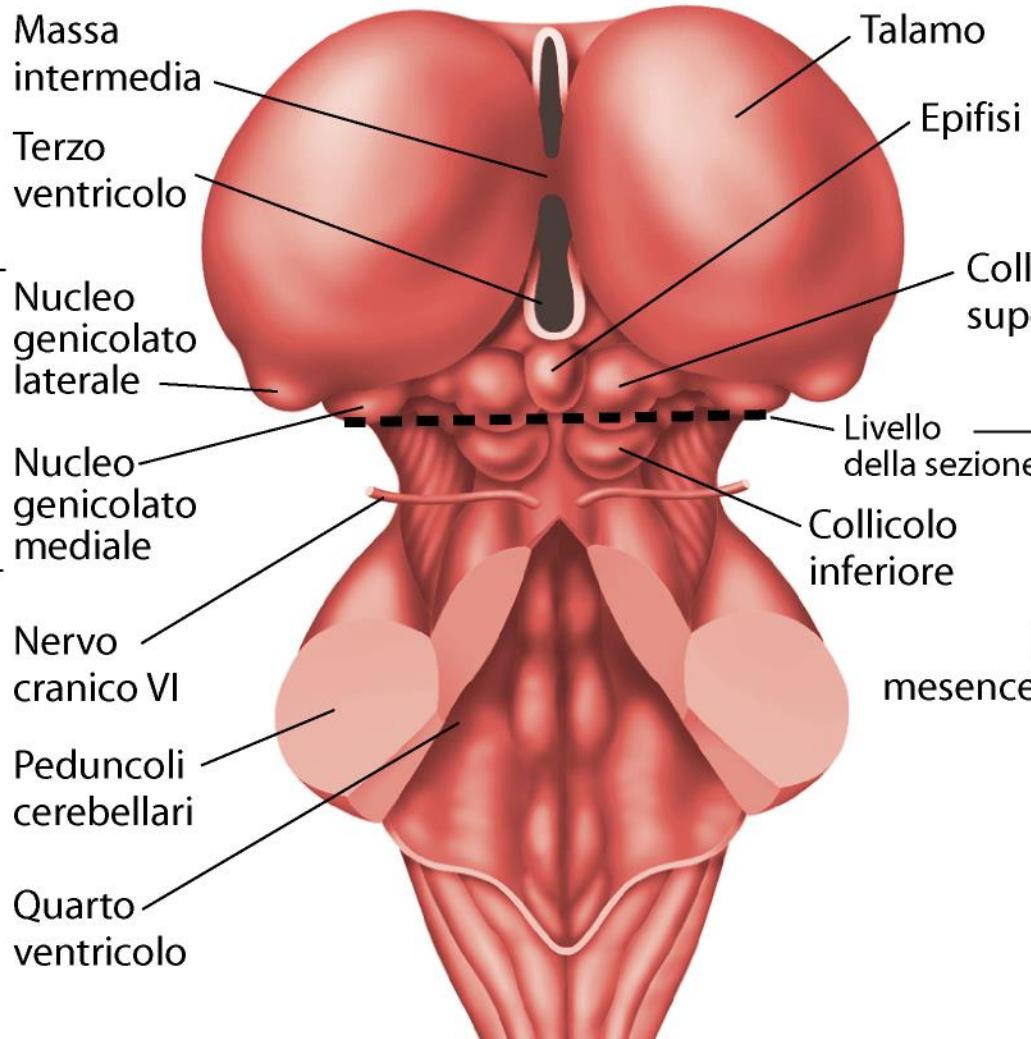


Brain Stem



(a)

Stazioni talamiche



Brain Stem

- Attaches to the spinal cord
- Parts of the brain stem
 - Midbrain
 - Pons
 - Medulla oblongata

Midbrain

- **Mostly composed of tracts of nerve fibers**
 - **Reflex centers for vision and hearing**
 - **Cerebral aquaduct – 3rd-4th ventricles**

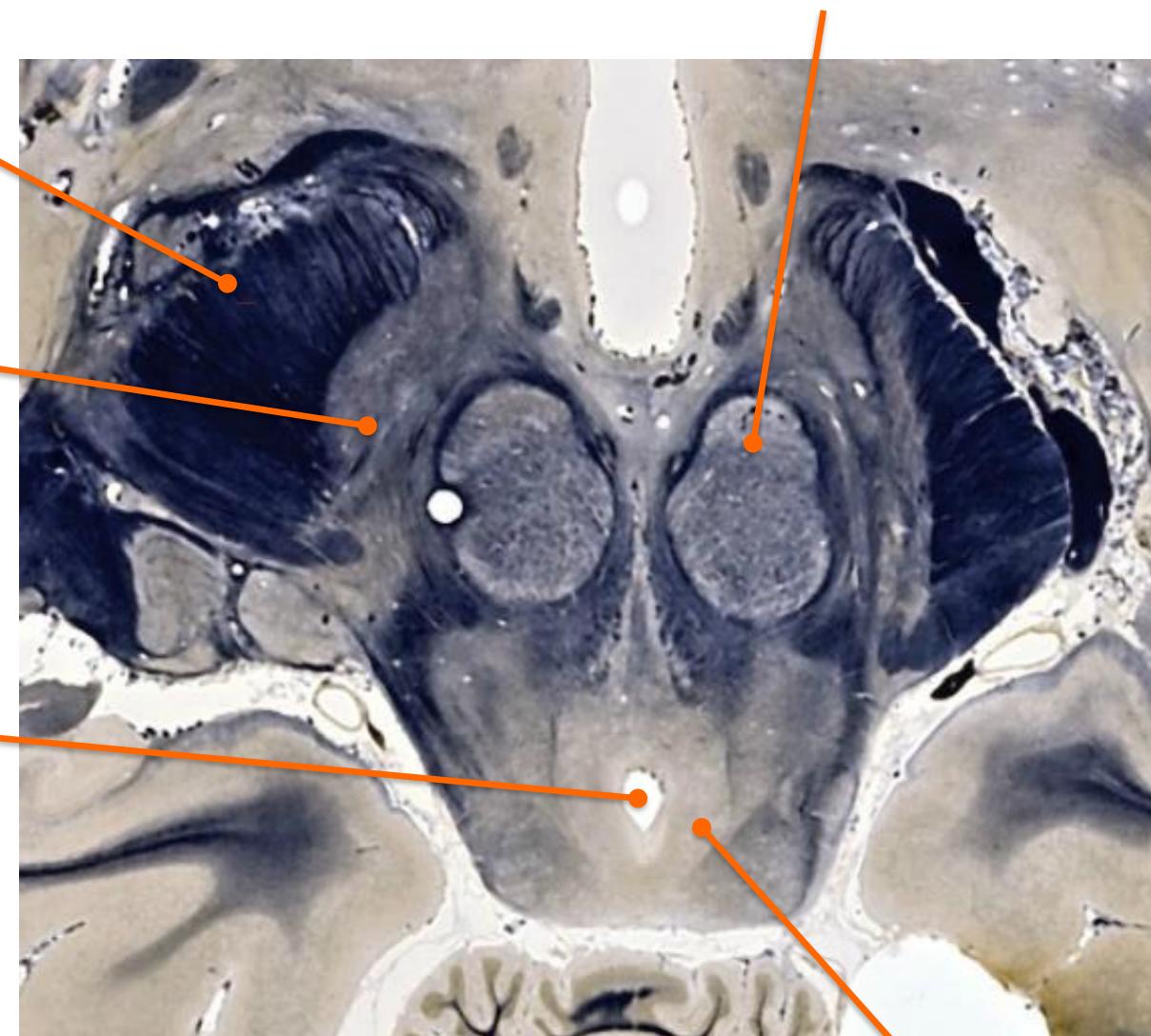
Mesencephalon

Red Nucleus

Cerebral
Peduncle

Substantia
Nigra

Aqueduct
of Sylvius



Periacqueductal
Grey Matter

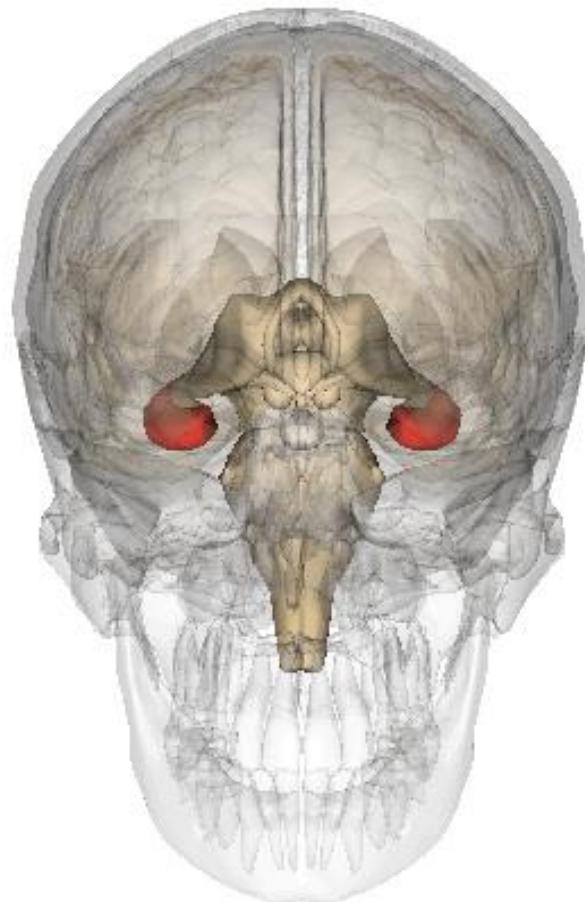
Pons

- The bulging center part of the brain stem
- Mostly composed of fiber tracts
- Includes nuclei involved in the control of breathing

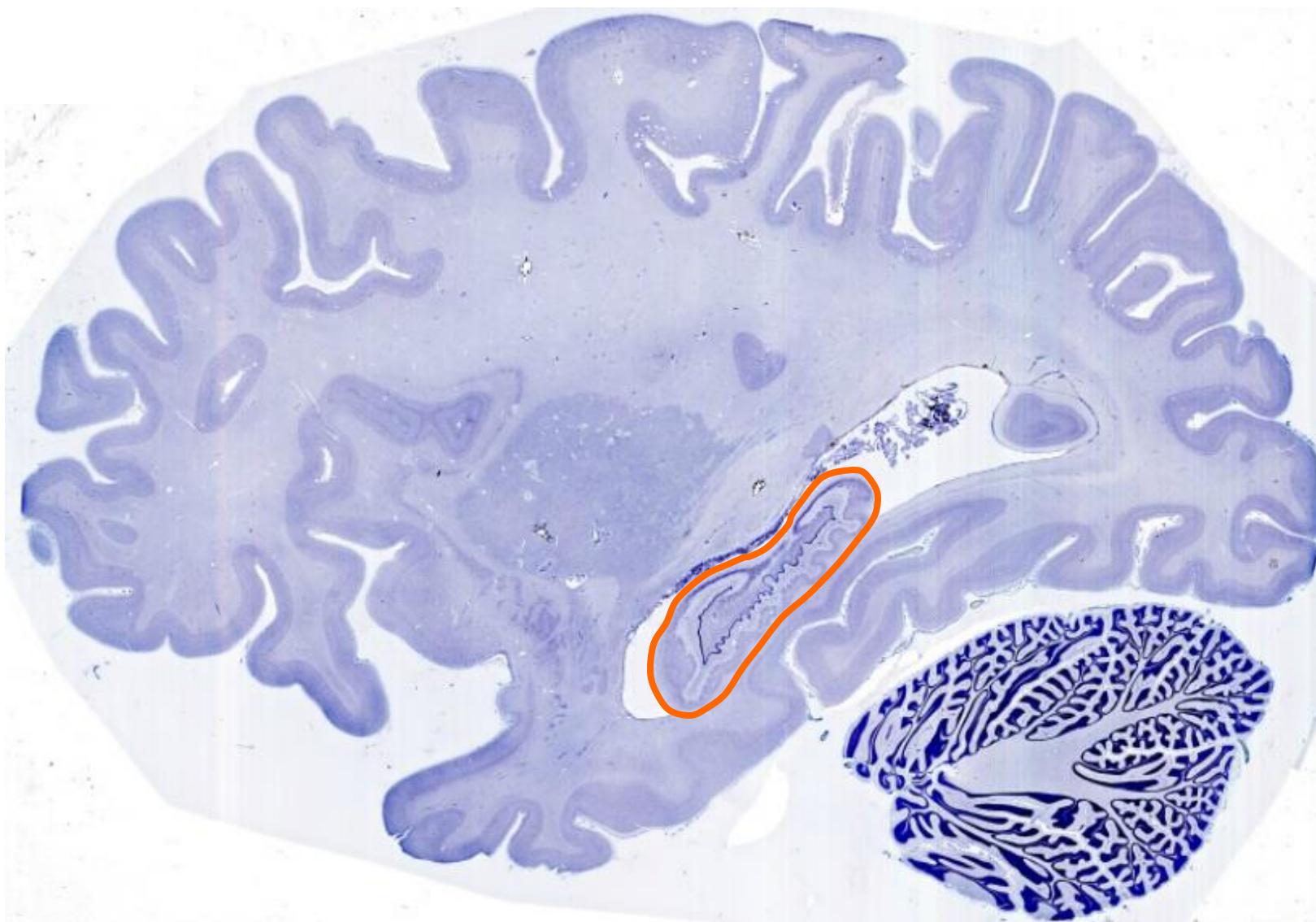
Medulla Oblongata

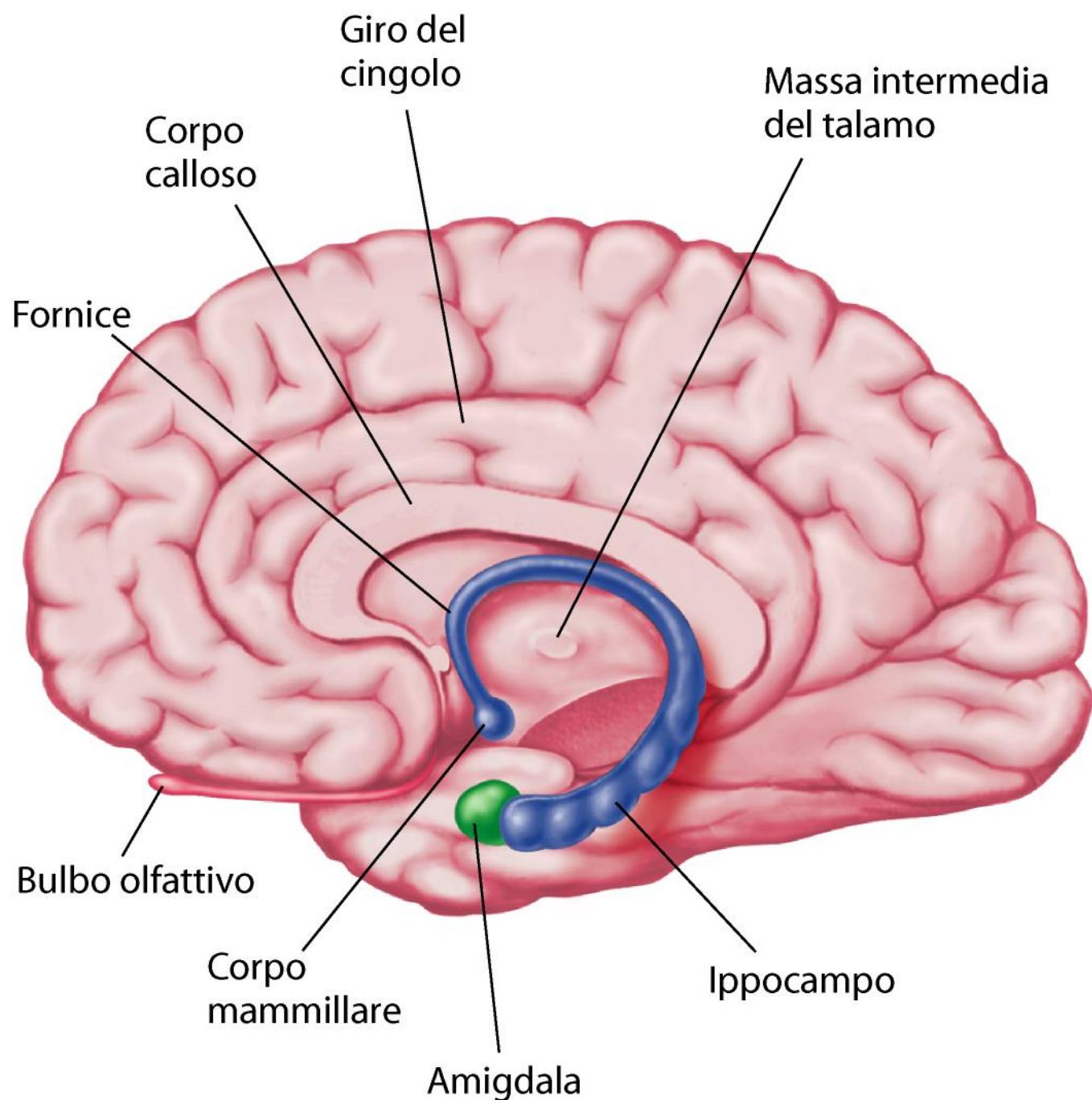
- The lowest part of the brain stem
- Merges into the spinal cord
- Includes important fiber tracts
- Contains important control centers
 - Heart rate control
 - Blood pressure regulation
 - Breathing
 - Swallowing
 - Vomiting

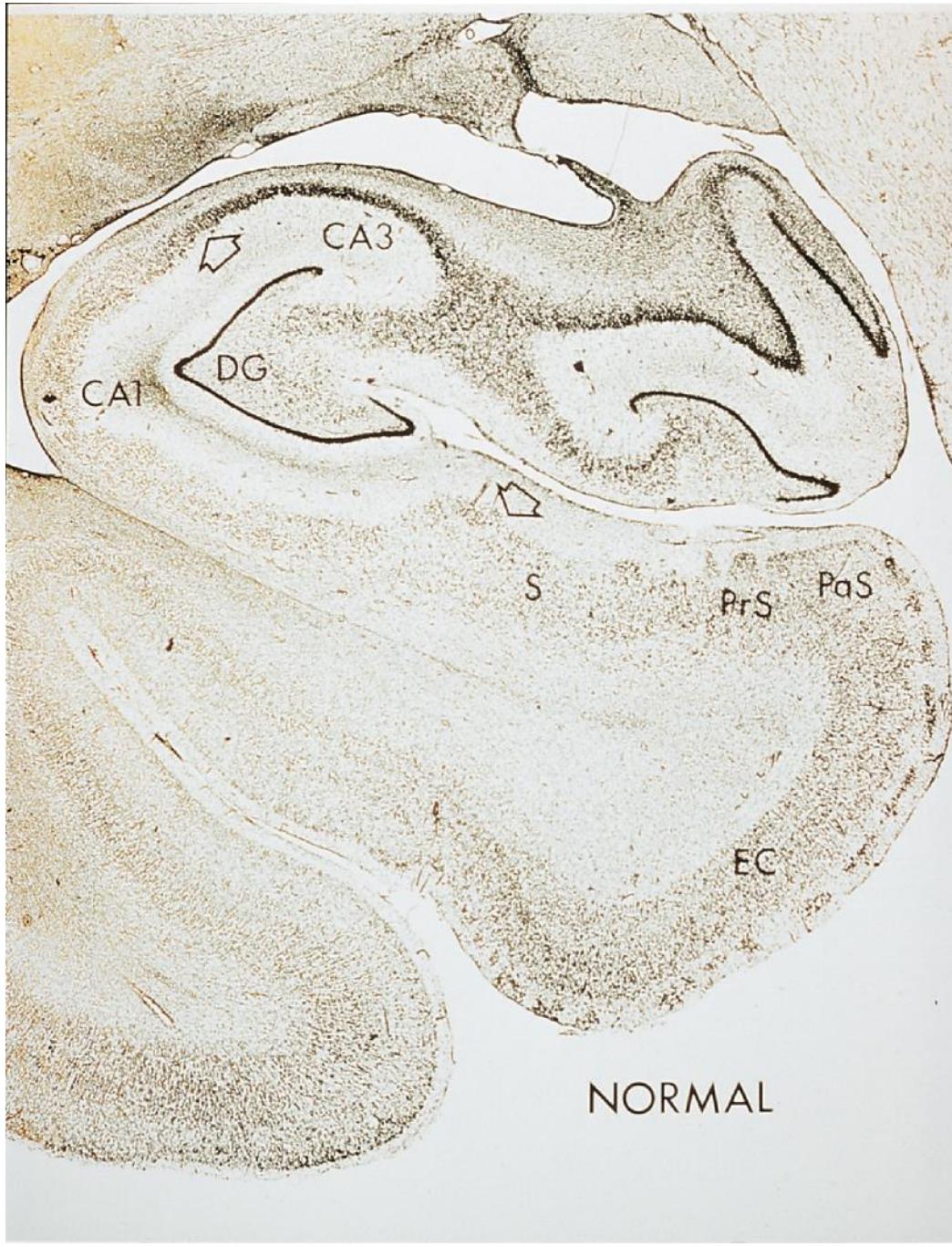
Hippocampus



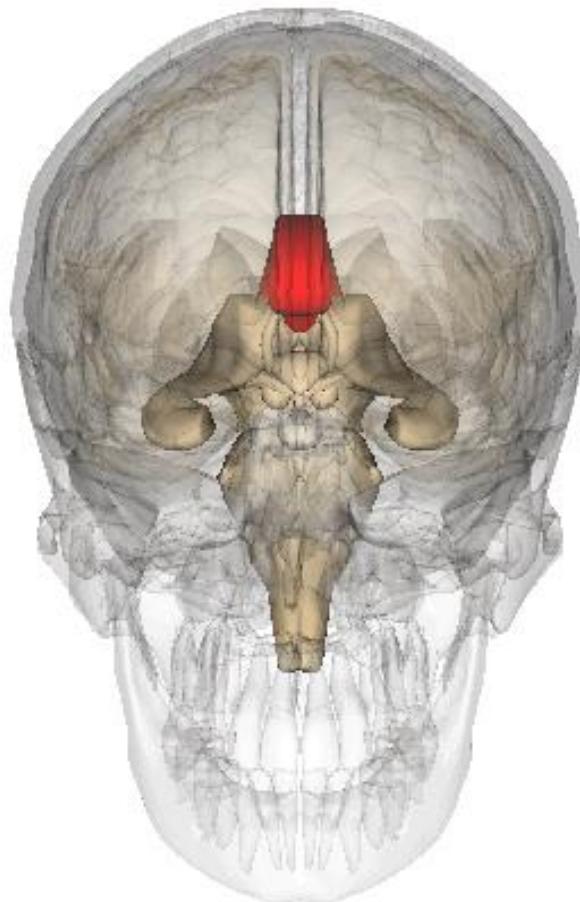
Hippocampus



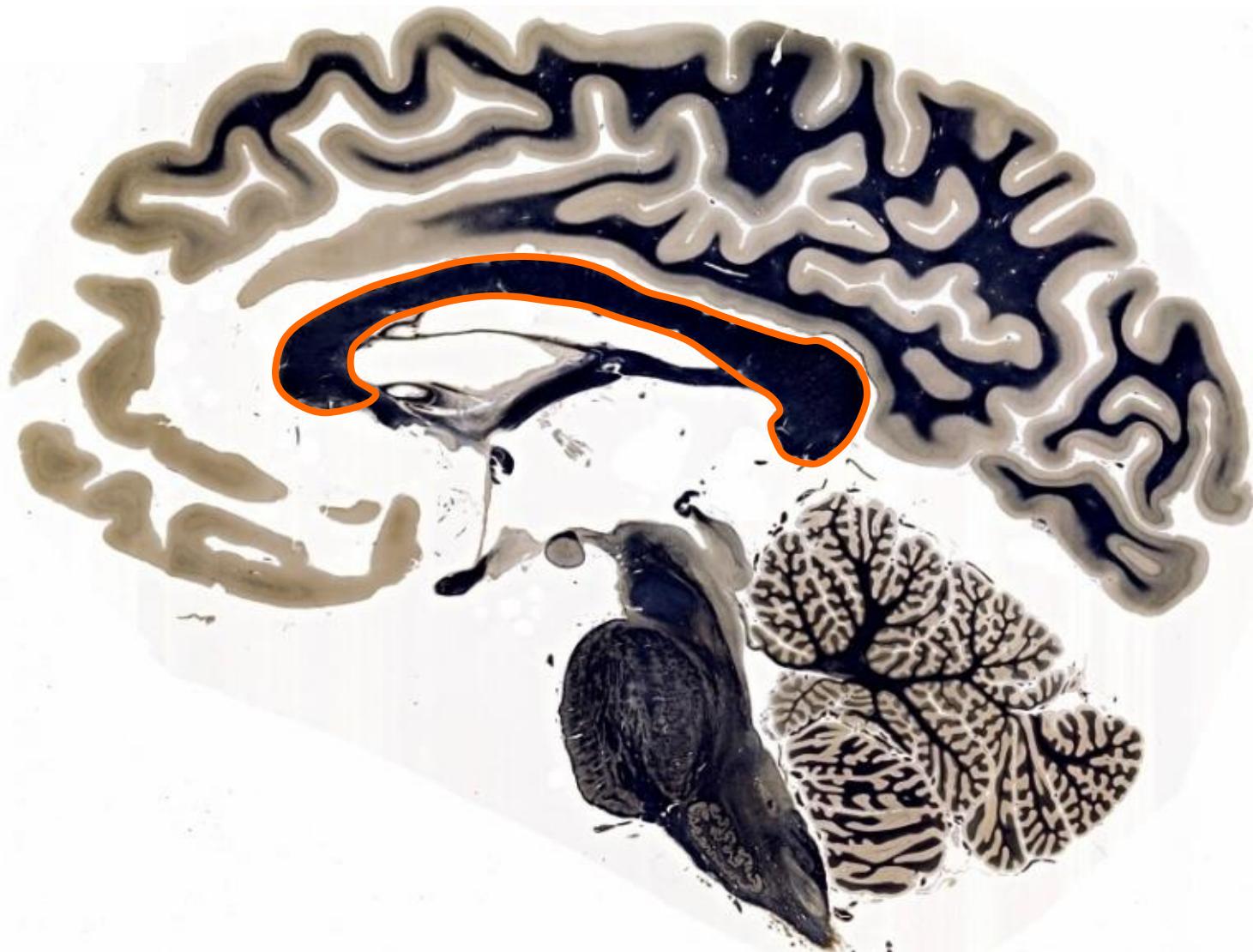


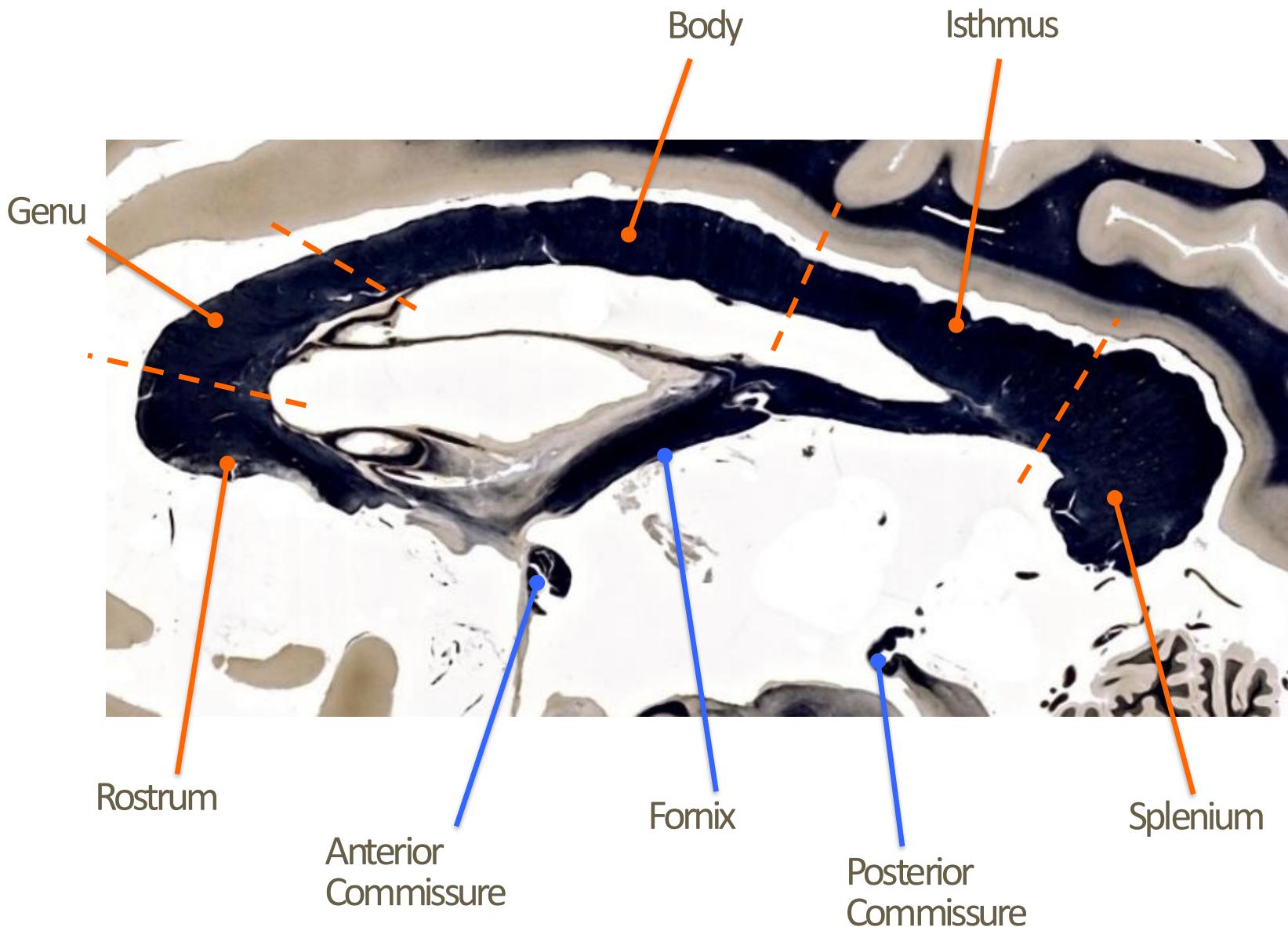


Corpus Callosum



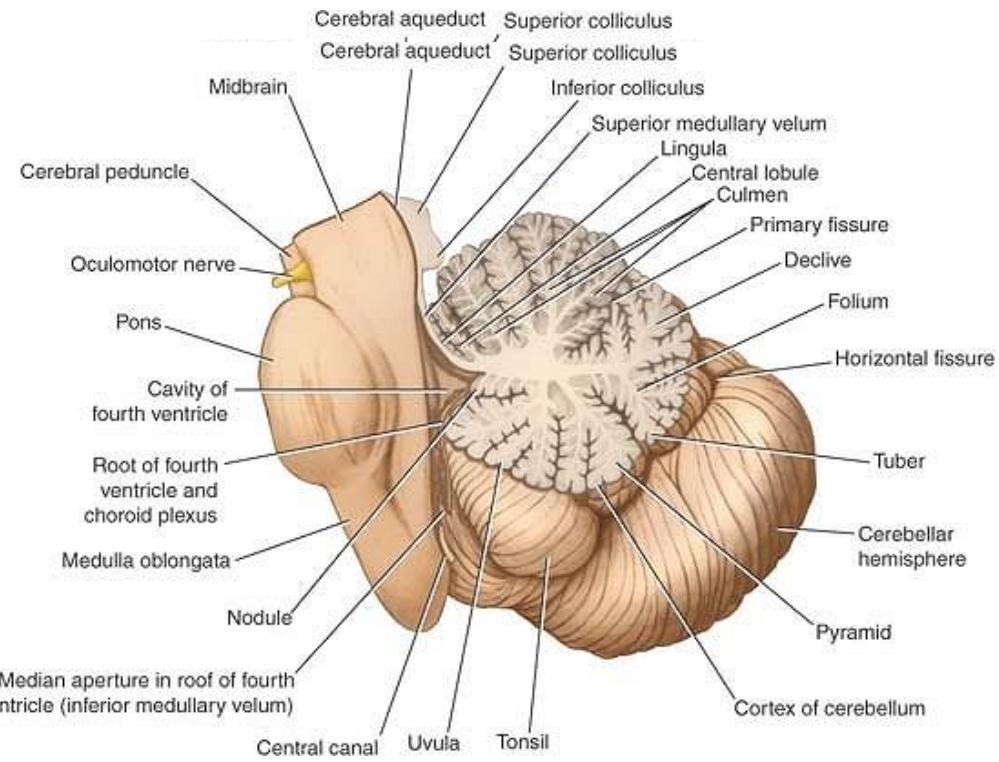
Corpus Callosum





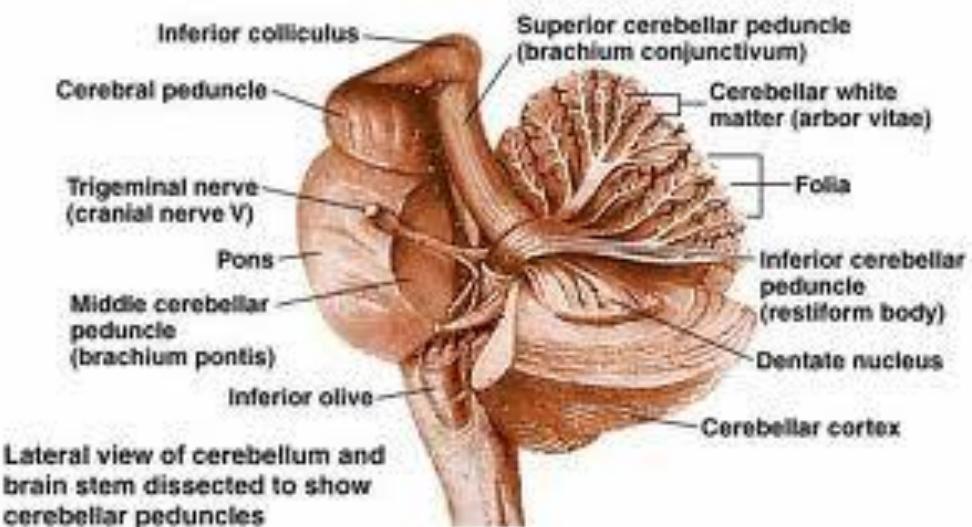
Cerebellum

- Situated in the posterior cranial fossa and is covered superiorly by the tentorium cerebelli.
- It is the largest part of the hindbrain (10% of total weight) and lies posterior to the fourth ventricle, the pons, and the medulla oblongata.
- It consists of two cerebellar hemispheres joined by a narrow median vermis.



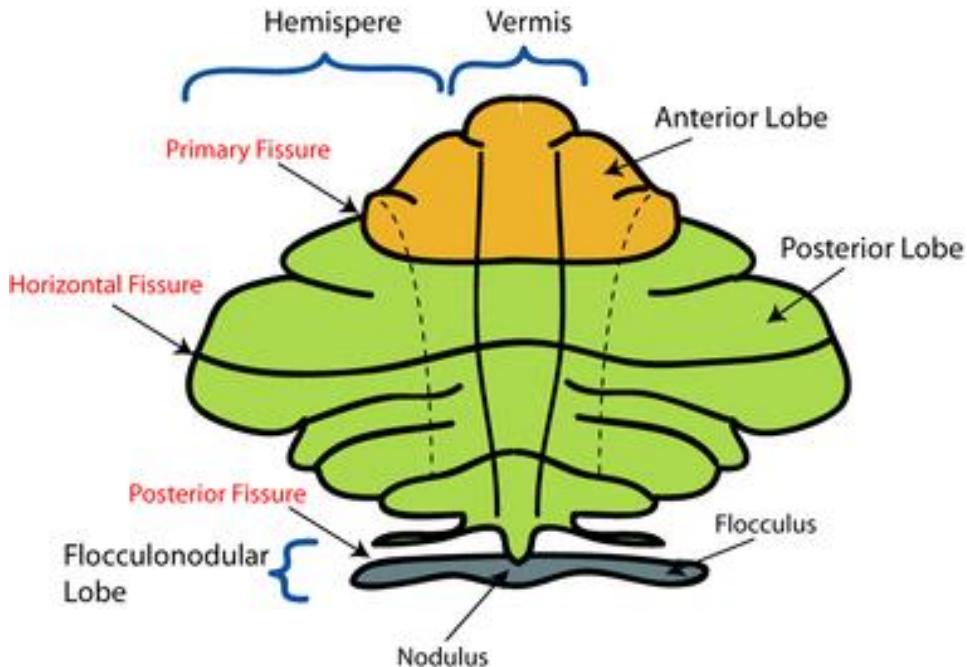
Cerebellum

- Three symmetrical bundles of nerve fibers called the superior, middle, and inferior cerebellar peduncles.
- Superior peduncle enters mid brain
- Middle peduncle consist of transverse fibres of pons
- Inferior peduncle connect with medulla



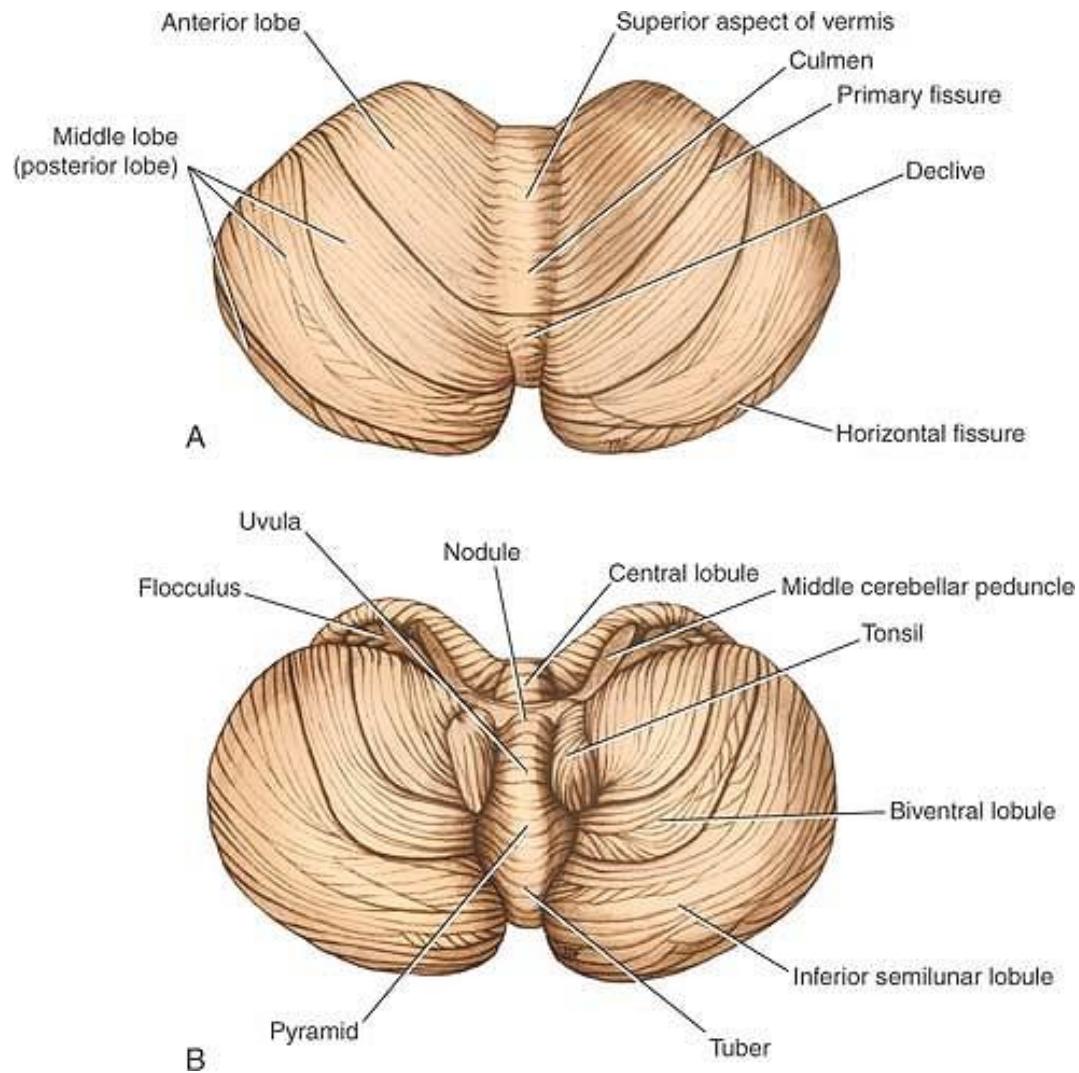
Cerebellum

- The cerebellum is divided into three main lobes: the anterior lobe, the middle lobe, and the flocculonodular lobe.
- The anterior lobe may be seen on the superior surface.
- It is separated from the middle lobe by a wide V-shaped fissure called the primary fissure.
- The middle lobe (sometimes called the posterior lobe), which is the largest part of the cerebellum, is situated between the primary and uvulonodular fissures.
- The flocculonodular lobe is situated posterior to the uvulonodular fissure.

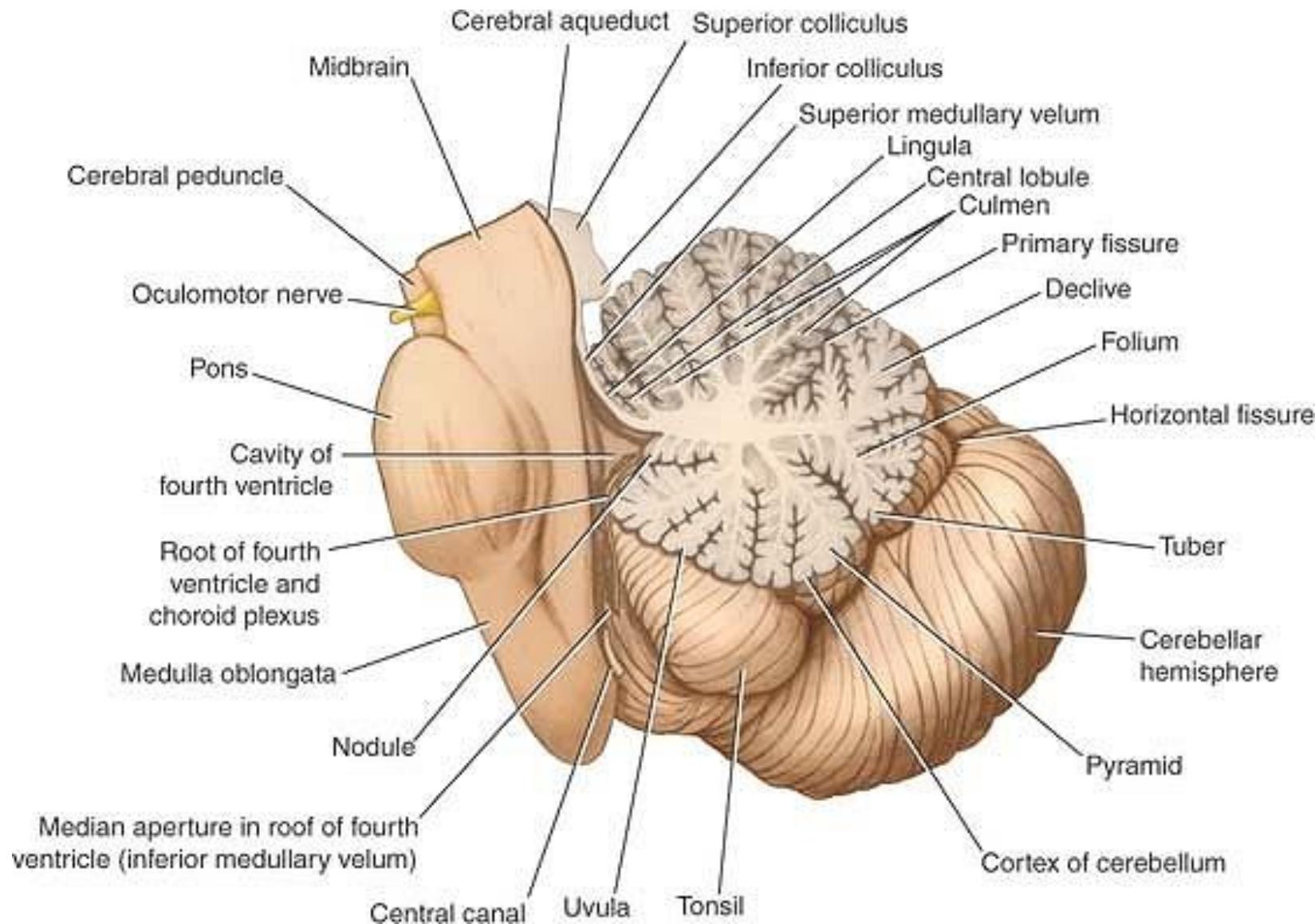


Cerebellum

- Sup part of vermis
- ✓ Lingula
- ✓ Culmen
- ✓ Declive
- ✓ Folium
- Inferior part of vermis
- ✓ Tuber
- ✓ Pyramid
- ✓ Uvula
- ✓ Nodule

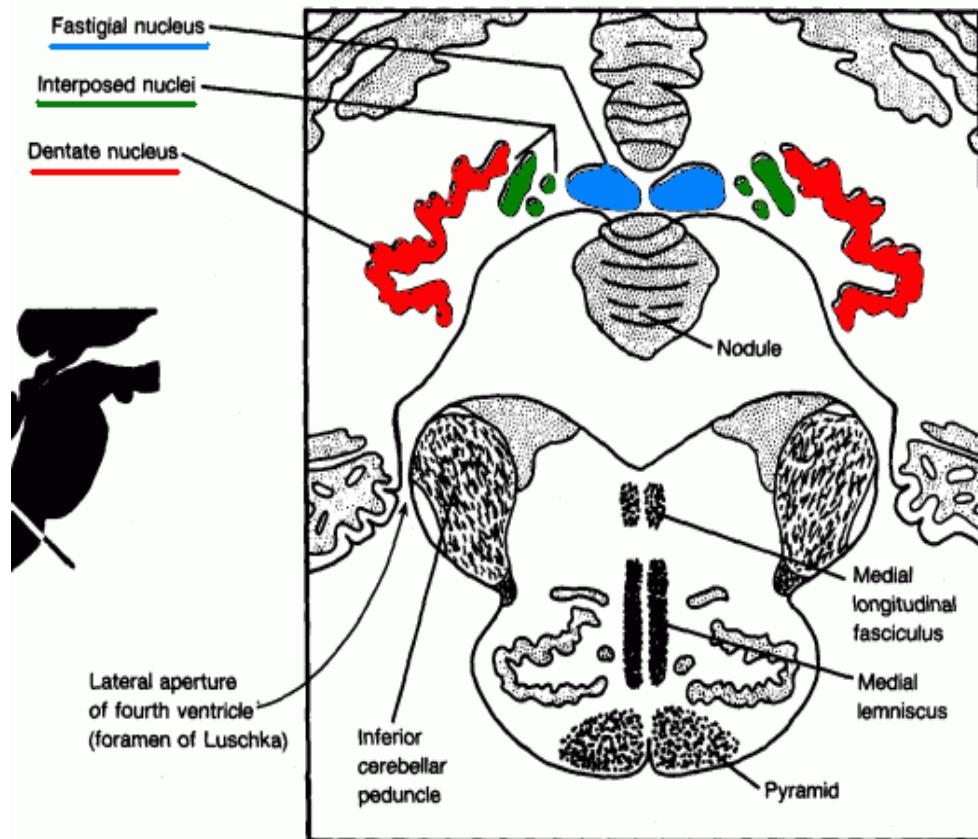


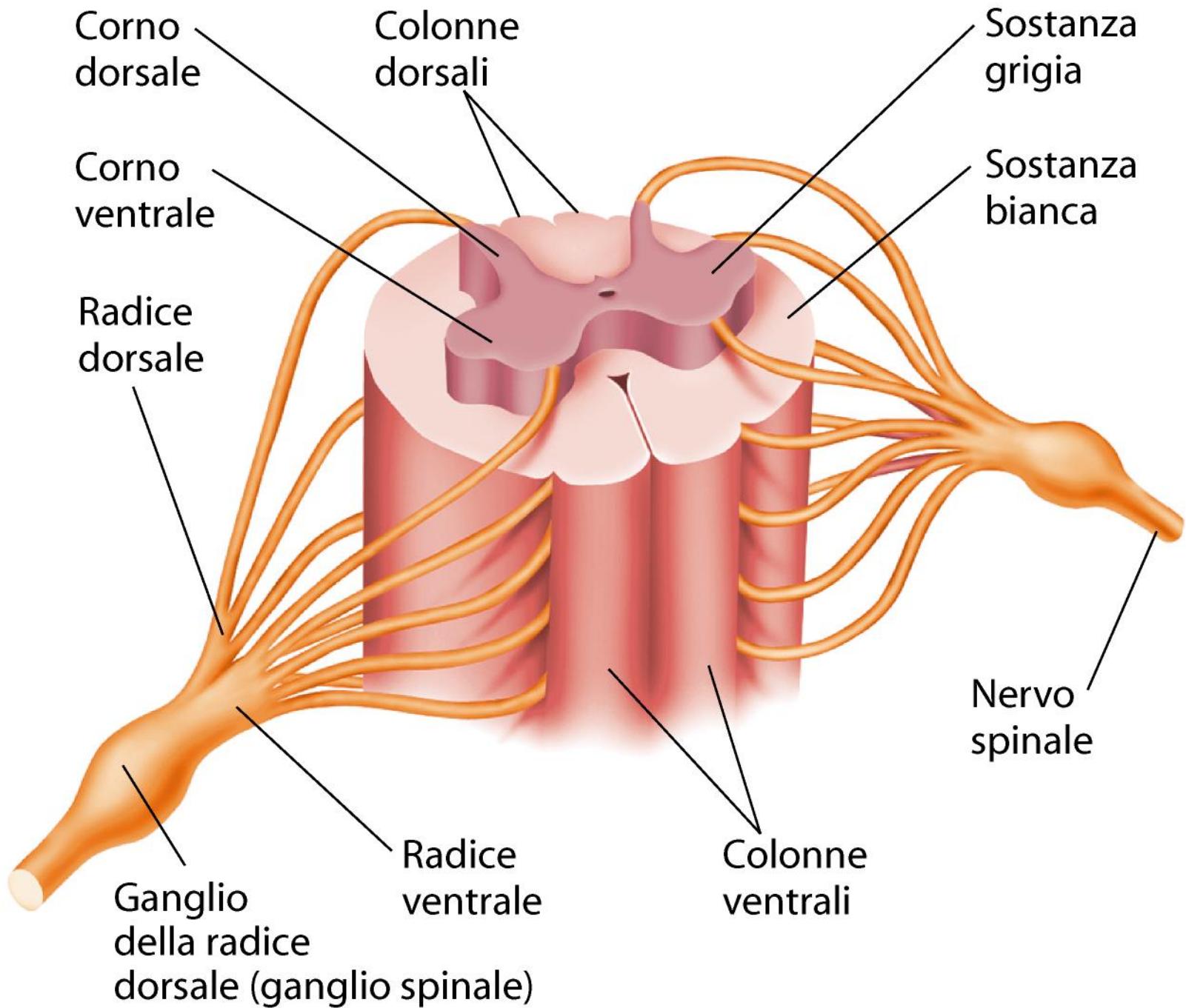
Vermis



Cerebellar nuclei

- Histologically made up of three layers
- Embedded in white matter are four paired nuclei
- Dentate is largest
- Main connection is cerebropontocerebellar
- Efferent fibres pass to contralateral red nucleus, thalamus, and cerebral cortex.





Sezione parasimpatica

