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**Central Nervous System** Fox Chapter 8

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## **General Scheme of CNS**

receive sensory inputs, coordinate response of the organs & functions of the body



& brainstem autonomic nervous system & glands Spinal somatic nerves -> physiological responses -> skeletal muscle

isual cortex

## Structure of CNS

Central Nervous System: spinal cord & brainstem, cerebellum, cerebrum

Afferents and Efferents: spinal nerves & cranial nerves

Features of CNS:

Ventricles and Central Canal: filled with cerebral spinal fluid

cerebral cortex: "bark" of the brain -- where cerebral neurons are located.

gray matter: cell bodies of neurons

white matter: axon fibers of neurons (the wires) corpus callosum: the giant fiber bridge that connects the two hemispheres of the cerebrum

gyrus: the bulging part of a wrinkle on the cortex

sulcus: the valley of the fold (in between the wrinkles)

The more connections between parts of the cortex, the greater the surface area but also the more wrinkly the brain: the axons try to minimize distance between connected neurons.



























Lobe	Functions
Frontal	Voluntary motor control of skeletal muscles; personality; higher intellectual processes (e.g., concentration, planning, and decision making); verbal communication
Parietal	Somatesthetic interpretation (e.g., cutaneous and muscular sensations); understanding speech and formulating words to express thoughts and
	emotions; interpretation of textures and shapes
Temporal	Interpretation of auditory sensations; storage (memory) near the temples of auditory and visual experiences
Occipital	Integration of movements in focusing the eye; ob-caput - back of the h correlation of visual images with previous visual experiences and other sensory stimuli; conscious perception of vision
Insula	Memory; sensory (principally pain) and visceral integration







The most famous case of brain damage that causes a change in morality remains that of Phineas Gage, a railroad laborer in Vermont who, one day in the fall of 1848, suffered a horrific on-the-job injury. Gage, the foreman of a crew laying track outside the town of Cavendish, was tamping black powder into a hole drilled in rock when he apparently struck a spark. In a flash of explosion, the tamping iron, a three-and-a-half-foot-long bar an inch in diameter, blew through his left cheek and clean out the top of his head, landing some 30 yards behind him. "It essentially severed the front third of his brain," Eslinger says. "The surgeon who came to the scene described that he insert a could finger through either side of the wound and actually touch them. It was just this clean hole."

www.rps.psu.edu/ indepth/brainscans1.htm



It Warren Anatomical Museum, Francis A. Counterey Library of Med



Amazingly, Gage survived, and was in fact strong enough to resume work in less than a year. His basic mental faculties — motor skills, memory, speech — were essentially intact. What had changed, profoundly and irrevocably, was his personality. Where before the accident, Gage had been regarded as an excellent foreman, thoughtful, shrewd with money, and well-spoken, afterward he was described as "fitful, irreverent, and grossly profane," and acting with little regard for others. His friends said he was "no longer Gage."

struction of the lesion incurred by Phineas Gage, in which an iron bar was driven thro frontal cortex as a result of a blasting accident.

## **Somatosensory Cortex and Motor Cortex**

Somatosensory cortex: Located right behind central sulcus

Termination of sensory (touch) information coming from the skin

Motor cortex: Located right in front of central sulcus

Cerebral neurons that initiate movement, sending axons directly and indirectly to spinal moto neurons

Homunculus "little person" <u>Topographic</u> map of sensory input to the somatosensory cortex and motor output of motor cortex

Parts of the body with highest density of sensory receptors get a bigger share of the somatosensory cortex dedicated to processing.

Parts of the body with the finest motor control (most muscles) get a bigger share of the motor cortex.

Note that both somatosensory relays and motor relays cross-over: so left side of body -> right side of cortex, and vice versa.













## **Brainstem and Hypothalamus**

- 1. Brainstem monitors internal chemical signals and controls autonomic function (e.g. breathing, heart rate, digestion)
- 2. Brainstem carries out reflexive functions to respond to acute (immediate) changes in bodily function (e.g. postural changes in blood pressure).
- 3. Hypothalamus also uses neural and endocrine signals to monitor peripheral variables
- 4. Hypothalamus controls long-term homeostasis by hormonal signals via the pituitary gland or by neural outputs through the brainstem





