Oligodendrocytes

Form myelin sheaths in CNS

Schwann Cells - form myelin sheaths in PNS

Cross section of myelin sheaths that surround

Oligodendrocytes - envelop an average of 15 axonal internodes each

Schwann cells - envelop only one internode

Microglia

- phagocytes
- mobilized after injury, infection or disease
- arise from macrophages outside of NS
Contact with axons essential for induction and maintenance of myelin sheath.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myelin Forming Schwann Cells</th>
<th>Non-Myelin Forming Schwann Cells</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expresses major myelin proteins</td>
<td>Expresses NCAM, L1, NGF</td>
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What triggers myelination?

In Schwann cells, axon diameter (only largest myelinated) and total axonal surface area important.

cAMP triggers expression of some myelin proteins and suppresses expression of NCAM and NGF receptors.

In oligodendrocytes, myelin expression dependent upon presence of astrocytes.

Myelin Components

MAG - myelin associated glycoprotein
- minor component of myelin
- expressed early and next to axon
- structurally similar to other surface recognition molecules (NCAM, T cell surface antigens)

Thought to be important for myelin initiation

Myelin Components

Central and peripheral myelin also contain myelin basic proteins.
- Seven related proteins produced from a single gene by alternative splicing.
- Proteins are highly antigenic.

Inject into animals autoimmune response called experimental allergic encephalitis (demyelination in CNS)
Used as a model for multiple sclerosis - impaired sensory or motor performance

Demyelination interferes with impulse conduction, sensory perception and motor coordination.

Mice - shiverer mutation (recessive) - Deletion 5 of 6 exons for myelin basic protein on chromosome 18
cause tremors, frequent convulsions and die young

Homozygous - less than 10% normal myelination

Inject wild type gene into fertilized eggs - transgenic mice express gene at right time
produce about 20% of normal amount of proteins
much more myelination
occasional tremors but do not convulse and have normal life span

Glia and Axon Regeneration

If peripheral axons severed, they grow back because:
- axons and associated myelin break down
- axonal and myelin debris, removed by surviving Schwann cells and macrophages.
- tubular structures defined by basal lamina retained. Components contained in basal lamina potent promoters of neurite growth

Schwann cells secrete their own growth factors and have membrane proteins that aid neuron growth

Make natural tubes to “guide” axons
peripheral grafts containing support cells and cut axons

Also use of embryonic cells which are not subject to regeneration limitations
Inject Schwann cells into area

http://web.sfn.org/content/Publications/BrainBriefings/spinal_cord.html
Myelin in the brain and spinal cord gets in the way of axon regeneration

Interfering with myelin can aid axon repair and restore some function in rodents with spinal cord injuries.

- a vaccine against myelin prompted axons regrowth and treated animals regained some movement in their hind legs

Other possible approaches?

Identify specific molecules signaling macrophages to ingest and remove myelin from the damaged spinal cord.

Target specific components of myelin, instead of whole sheath

Some proteins present in CNS myelin:

At least MAG and Nogo are capable of causing growth cone collapse and inhibiting neurite outgrowth in vitro.

Have a common receptor (NgR).

Nogo, may be partly responsible for the inability of damaged axon fibers to repair.

The Nervous System

1) Central Nervous System

   Brain, spinal cord, retina

2) Peripheral Nervous System

   Everything (except the retina) outside of the brain and spinal cord

http://web.sfn.org/content/Publications/BrainBriefings/brain_spinalcord.html
**Peripheral Nervous System**

1) **Somatic** - carries voluntary motor and sensory information both to and from the CNS.

2) **Autonomic**
   - a. sympathetic
   - b. parasympathetic

3) **Enteric** - meshwork of nerve fibers that innervate the viscera (gastrointestinal tract, pancreas, gall bladder).

**Somatic Nervous System**

The cell body is located in either the brain or spinal cord and projects directly to a skeletal muscle.

**Peripheral Nervous System**

1) **Somatic** - peripheral nerve fibers that send sensory information to the central nervous system AND motor nerve fibers that project to skeletal muscle.

2) **Autonomic** - controls smooth muscle of the viscera (internal organs) and glands.
   - a. sympathetic - "fight" or take "flight" (run away)
   - b. parasympathetic - "rest" and "digest"

3) **Enteric**
Autonomic Nervous System

Preganglionic neuron - located in either the brain or the spinal cord and projects to an autonomic ganglion.

Postganglionic neuron - projects to the target organ.

Ways of Characterizing Peripheral Nervous System Nerves

1. Sensory (afferent) - carry information INTO the central nervous system from sense organs.
   OR
   Motor (afferent) - carry information away from the central nervous system (for muscle control).

2. Cranial Nerve - connects the brain with the periphery.
   OR
   Spinal Nerve - connects the spinal cord with the periphery.

3. Somatic - connects the skin or muscle with the central nervous system.
   OR
   Visceral - connects the internal organs with the central nervous system.

Central Nervous System

1) Spinal Cord
2) Cerebral Hemispheres - cerebral cortex and 3 deep lying nuclei: basal ganglia, hippocampus and the amygdala.
3) Diencephalon - thalamus and hypothalamus
4) Midbrain - superior and inferior colliculi
5) Medulla
6) Pons
7) Cerebellum
The Spinal Cord

The spinal cord runs from the base of the skull to the first lumbar vertebrae.
31 pairs of spinal nerves

A Simple Reflex

Afferent - sensory input.
Efferent - motor output.

Levels of the Spinal Cord

Dorsal Columns - contains primary afferent axons.

Ventral Columns - descending motor axons controlling posture.
Axons relaying info about pain and thermal sensation to higher levels

Lateral Columns - axons that ascend to higher levels and axons from nuclei in brain stem to motorneurons and interneurons in spinal cord.
The Cerebral Cortex

- Outermost layer of the cerebral hemisphere.
- Composed of gray matter.
- Cortices are asymmetrical. Both analyze sensory data, perform memory functions, learn new information, form thoughts and make decisions.

Then:

and Now:

Sulci - grooves
Gyri - elevated regions

The Frontal Lobes

Divided into:

a) **prefrontal area** - emotional control center and home to our personality. Involved in motor function, problem solving, spontaneity, memory, language, initiation, judgement, impulse control, and social and sexual behavior.

b) **premotor area** - contains neurons that produce movements.

The Parietal Lobes

Two functional regions:

1) Involves **sensation** and **perception**. Integrates sensory information to form a single perception (cognition).

2) Integrates **sensory input**, primarily with the **visual system** to construct a spatial coordinate system to represent the world around us.

The Occipital Lobes

Center of our visual perception system. Disorders of this lobe can cause visual hallucinations (visual images with no external stimuli) and illusions.

The Temporal Lobes

Involved in the primary organization of sensory input and also highly associated with **memory skills**. Left temporal lesions result in impaired memory for verbal material. Right side lesions result in impaired recall of non-verbal material, such as music and drawings. Language can also be affected by temporal lobe damage. Left lesions disturb recognition of words. Right damage can cause a loss of inhibition of talking.
agnosia: inability to recognize familiar objects, persons, sounds, shapes, or smells while the specific sense is not defective

Drawing abilities of two agnosic patients asked to copy pictures
1) visual agnosia is not due to poor acuity
2) although they copied the pictures, the patients could not IDENTIFY the pictures.

In patients with object agnosia, the occipital (the red area) or the inferotemporal cortex (the yellow area) are usually damaged.

Also:
Prosopagnosia
Neglect agnosia

Hippocampus - Learning and memory

Amygdala - Associated with emotions and coordinates actions of autonomic and endocrine systems.

Basal ganglia - Initiation and direction of voluntary movement. Balance (inhibitory), Postural reflexes.

Thalamus - processes and distributes almost all sensory and motor info going to and out of, the cerebral cortex.

Regulates levels of awareness and emotional aspects of sensory experiences through wide variety of effects on cortex.
Hypothalamus - Main function is **homeostasis**. Factors such as blood pressure, body temperature, fluid and electrolyte balance, and body weight are held to set-points.

- Receives inputs about the state of the body, and initiates compensatory changes.
- Extensive afferent and efferent connections with thalamus, midbrain and some cortical areas.

The Brainstem

- Lower extension of the brain where it connects to the spinal cord.
- Functions include those necessary for survival (breathing, digestion, heart rate, blood pressure) and for arousal (being awake and alert).
- Consists of:
  1. medulla oblongata
  2. pons
  3. cerebellum
  4. midbrain

**medulla oblongata** - primarily a relay station for the crossing of motor tracts between the spinal cord and the brain. It also contains the respiratory, vasomotor and cardiac centers, as well as many mechanisms for controlling reflex activities such as coughing, gagging, swallowing and vomiting.

**pons** - links different parts of the brain and serves as a relay station from the medulla to the higher cortical structures of the brain. It contains the respiratory center.

**Midbrain** - serves as the nerve pathway of the cerebral hemispheres and contains auditory and visual reflex centers.

The Cerebellum

- Involved in the coordination of voluntary motor movement, balance and equilibrium and muscle tone.
- Located just above the brain stem and toward the back of the brain.
- Cerebellar injury results in movements that are slow and uncoordinated.
INSIDE THE BRAIN OF MEGAN FOX

**400** Megan's corpus callosum connects the right & left halves of her brain, also called these, like halves of the earth

**hemispheres**

**800** A 2010 paper shows Megan’s amygdala maintains her “loss aversion” when faced with decisions about risking this

**money**

**1200** When Megan enjoys a fine meal, she’s employing the parietal these, right behind the frontal ones

**lobes**

**1600** The thalamus, part of this botanical-sounding part of Megan’s brain, receives all sensory input except smell

**brainstem ??**

**2000** Megan’s higher functions use her cerebral this; when she "hears" a song in her head, she’s using her brain’s auditory this

**cortex**

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The cerebellum ("little brain")

convolutions similar to those of cerebral cortex

Has an outer cortex, an inner white matter, and deep nuclei below the white matter.

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molecular layer-
outermost layer and is nearly cell-free.

**Purkinje cell**- monolayer of large cells

**granule cells**—dense layer of tiny neurons.

In the center of each folium is the white matter.
Purkinje Cells

Sole output from cerebellum

Receive input from granule cells

Purkinje cells arise from ventricular zone
Granule cells born in external germinal zone

Migration of granule cells arises late in development.
Must migrate along paths apparently blocked by obstacles.
Follow radial path because of Bergmann glia.

http://thalamus.wustl.edu/course/cerebell.html
Migration of cerebellar granule cells along glial fibers imaged in real time in vitro (left). Extension of parallel fibers in tissue slices, after implantation of dye-labeled cells into early postnatal cerebellar cortex (right). In both cases, the migrating cell extends a leading process along the glial fiber, moving at speeds of 20-50 microns/h.

For cell migration movies:
http://www.rockefeller.edu/labheads/hatten/hattenhome.html

Alternatively search for Hatten and cerebellum and go to lab projects

Development of cerebellum at birth correlated with a newborn animal’s powers of locomotion

**alttricial** - animals are relatively undeveloped at hatching or birth; rodents, carnivores and humans are examples of animals with alttricial young.

**precocial** - come out running; no extended period of parental care needed. Example: the Killdeer.