Cellular & Subcellular Components of the Nervous System

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Learning Objectives

- Understand the differences between neurons & glia
- Understand neuronal morphology and subcellular components
- Understand the classifications of neurons
- Understand the different types of glia and their function
- Understand the histology methods used to label different cell types

History: Santiago Ramon y Cajal



(1852-1934)

Established the Neuron Doctrine: the nervous system is made up of discrete individual cells





Cell Types in the Nervous System

Neurons

- Are excitable (produce action potentials)
- Sense environmental changes
- Process information
- Control muscles & organs
- Form circuits/networks
- Do not divide



Glia

- Provide structural support
- Take up neurotransmitters & ions from extracellular space
- Myelinate neuronal processes
- Secrete trophic factors, cytokines & transmitters
- Phagocytose cellular debris
- Are part of the blood-brain barrier
- Promote movement of CSF
- Direct migration of neurons



Neuronal Morphology



Subcellular Components of Neurons



Pathway for Secreted Proteins



Axonal Transport



Axons





Louis Antoine Ranvier (1835-1922)



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Dendrites and Spines





Spines are Dynamic







Types of Synapses



Types of Synapses

Electrical Synapse



Chemical Synapse



Asymmetrical synapse

= Excitatory

Postsynaptic Density





Symmetrical synapse =Inhibitory



Ribbon Synapse





Classification of Neurons: by Morphology Bipolar ne Retinal neuron







Classification of Neurons: by Function/Connectivity



Efferent neuron = projects FROM CNS Afferent neuron = projects TO CNS

Classification of Neurons: by Dendrite Structure







Granule neuron







Classification of Neurons by Axon Length

Golgi Type I vs. Golgi Type II











Classification of Neurons by Neurotransmitter Released



Summary

- Differences between Neurons & Glia
- Neuronal morphology:
 - Axons vs. Dendrites
 - Spines
 - Synapses: Excitatory vs. Inhibitory
- Classifications of neurons:
 - By morphology
 - By function
 - By dendrite structure
 - By axon length
 - By axon diameter
 - By Neurotransmitter



Neuroglia or just Glia



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Rudolf Virchow (1821-1902)

Radial Glia







Astrocytes



Astrocyte Role in Synaptic Transmission



Astrocyte Role in Synaptic Transmission

Astrocytes Respond to Painful Stimuli

Calcium Signaling in Astrocytes

Blood Brain Barrier

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Reactive Astrocytes

Oligodendrocytes & Schwann Cells

Oligodendrocytes & Schwann Cells

(sensory, somatic motor or visceral motor) being surrounded by cytoplasm of a neurilemmal (Schwann) cell

Learning Increases Myelination

d UR 200 µm SR 200 µm

MBP= myelin basic protein

b Before learning

c After learning

Initiation of Myelination Induced by Neuronal Activity

MBP= myelin basic protein

White Matter is Decreased in Several Diseases

Astrocytes Regulate the Connection of Myelin to Axons

Satellite Glial Cells

Microglia

Injury signals activate resting microglia

Resting (ramified) microglia

Reactive (activated) microglia

Phagocytic microglia (brain macrophages)

Primary vs. Secondary Phagocytosis

Ependymal Cells

Choroid Plexus

Cresyl violet

Klüver-Barrera (Luxol fast blue)

Holmes silver stain

Hemtatoxylin & Eosin (H&E)

Immunohistochemistry/Immunofluorescence

Fluorescently labeled secondary antibody

Immunofluorescence

Electron Microscopy: SEM & TEM

Summary

- Function of Glial cells:
 - Radial Glia
 - Astrocytes
 - Oligodendrocytes
 - Schwann cells
 - Satellite glial cells
 - Microglia
 - Ependymal cells
- Neurohistological techniques
 - Cresyl violet
 - Luxol fast blue
 - Holmes silver stain
 - Golgi stain
 - H&Ĕ
 - Immunohistochemistry
 - SEM & TEM

