

a nerve net without a brain, then a brain with sixty regions, then a second, slower system running on hormones



From diffuse net to centralized brain *

- sponges show division of labour among cells but no true nervous system
- Hydra: the first true nervous system, a nerve net with no polarity, impulse spreads any direction
- Planaria: first animal with a true CNS, a cerebral ganglion plus ventral cords
- cords joined ladder-fashion by transverse commissures, the ladder-type system

Nerve vs tract, myelination

- an axon bundle OUTSIDE the CNS is a nerve, the same INSIDE is a tract
- medullated nerves: medullary sheath plus neurilemma.
non-medullated: neurilemma only
- medullated conduction is ~50x faster than non-medullated
- nerve wrapping, inner to outer: endoneurium (per fibre), perineurium (per bundle), epineurium (whole nerve)

Neuron, structure

- structural and functional unit of the nervous system: cyton, dendron, axon
- cyton: nucleus, Nissl's granules (riboprotein, make transmitter enzymes), neurofibrils (impulse transmission)
- dendrons: many branched processes, carry signals TOWARD the cyton
- axon: single, unbranched, carries signals AWAY from the cyton, arising at the axon hillock
- axon ends in telodendrons and holds no Nissl's granules

the whole story of nervous evolution is one trend: net with no direction, to cords with a ladder, to a brain with named regions

Neuroglia, by location *

Cell type	Location	Function
Oligodendrocytes	CNS	form the myelin sheath (white matter)
Microglia	CNS	brain macrophages, from monocytes, clear debris
Astrocytes	CNS	star shaped, most abundant, maintain blood-brain barrier
Ependymal cells	CNS	line ventricles/central canal, make and circulate CSF
Schwann cells	PNS	form the myelin sheath of PNS nerves
Satellite cells	PNS	support neuron cell bodies

