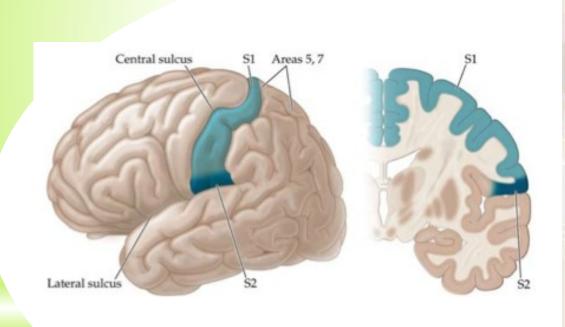
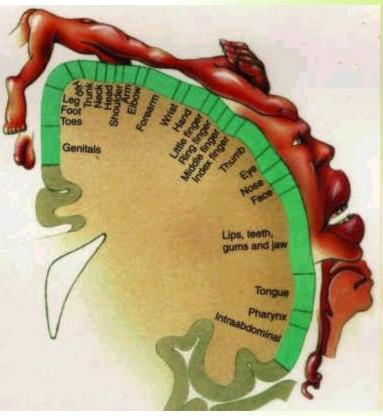
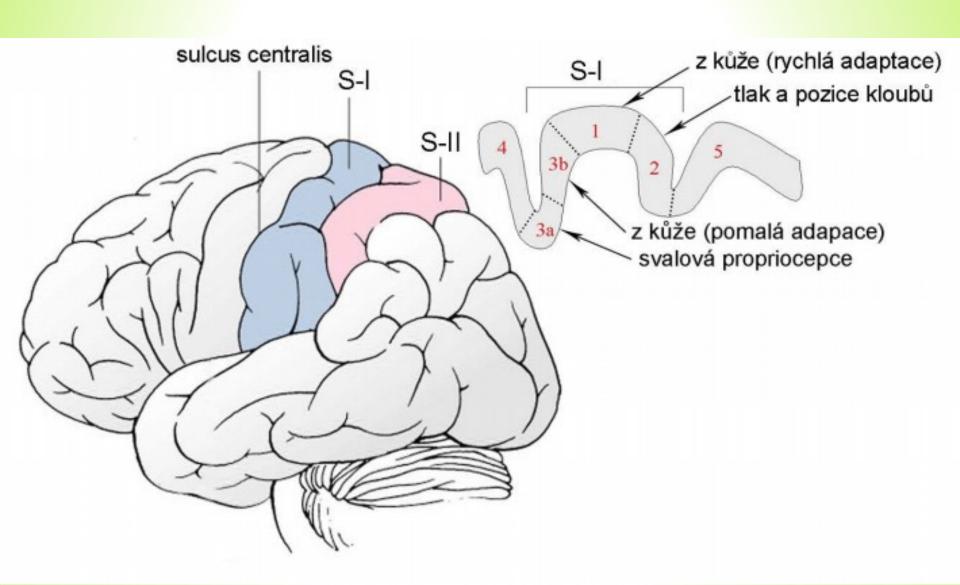
# CENTRAL REPRESENTATION OF THE TOUCH

# Primary somatosensory (somesthetic) cortex (SI)

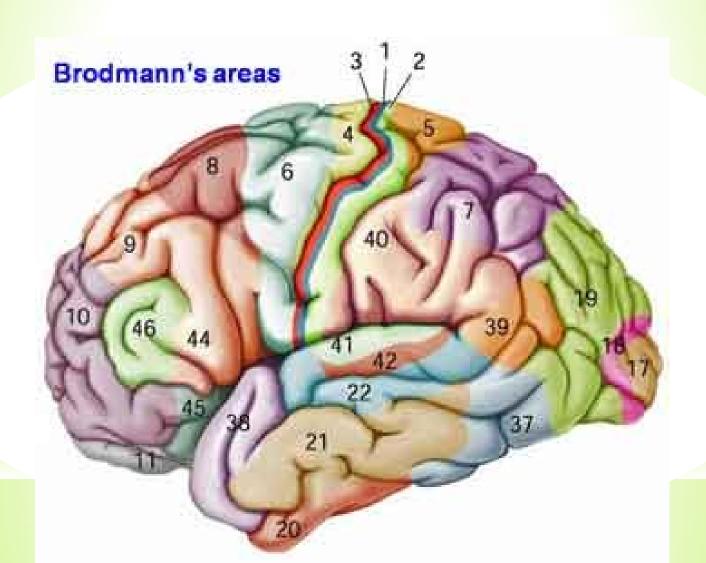


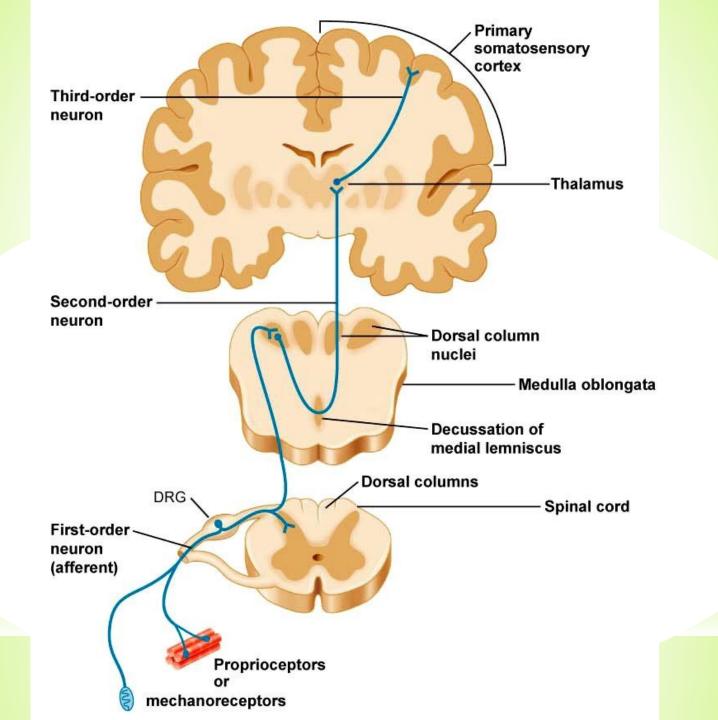


### Somatosensory cortex - a. 3,1,2

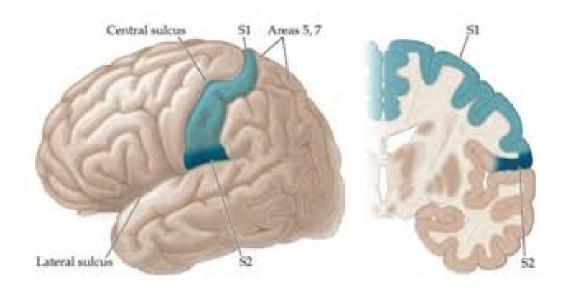


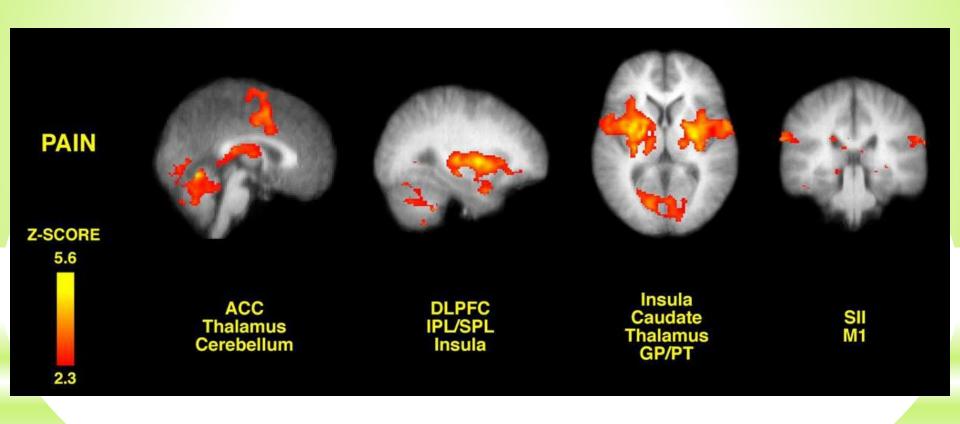
### Somatic sensory association area





### Secondary somatic sensory area (SII)





## **PAIN**

#### PAIN

- pain is a protective modality
- ☐ International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP): "Pain is an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage".
- pain threshold: individual and social influences

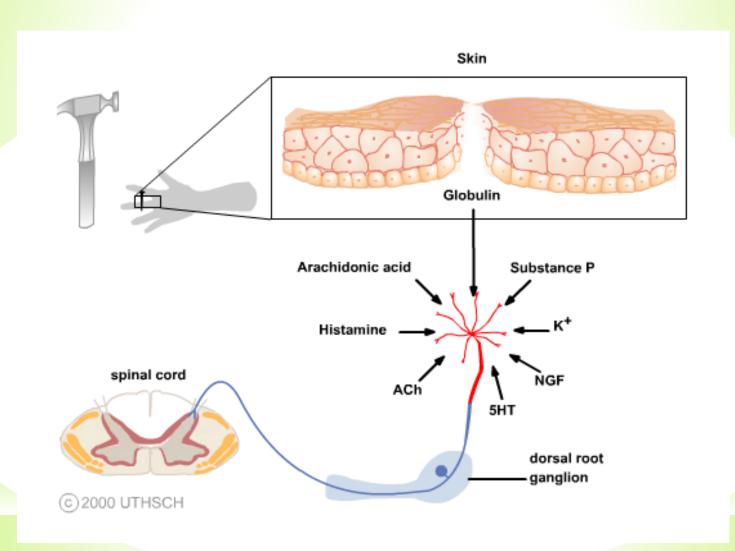
### Nociceptors/nocisensors

- nocer to injure or to hurt in Latin
- are activated by noxious mechanical, thermal or chemical stimuli
- detect signals from damaged tissue or the threat of damage
- free nerve endings found in the skin, muscles, joints, bones and viscera

### Nociceptors

- $\square$  nociceptors of A $\delta$  fibres (5-40 meters/sec)
  - Aδ mechanical nociceptors
  - Aδ thermal nociceptors
- □ nociceptors of C fibres (0.5-2.0 meters/sec)
  - C polymodal nociceptors react to thermal, mechanical and chemical stimuli
- □ silent nociceptors (MIA = mechanically insensitive afferents)
  - responsive after inflammation and tissue injury

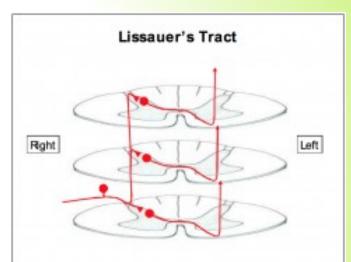
### Factors that activate nociceptors

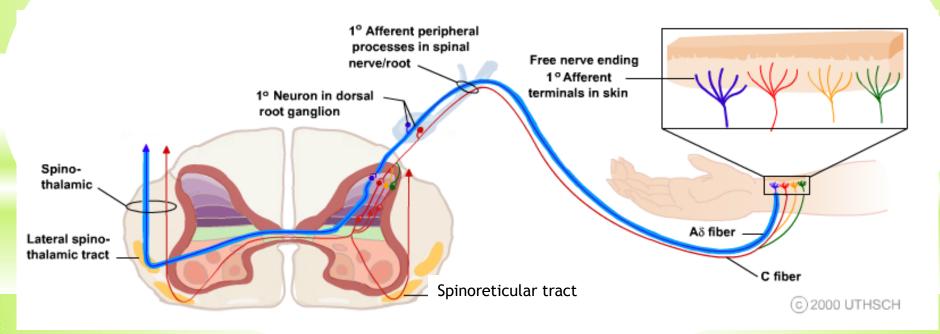


- Peripheral sensitization
- ☐ Central sensitization = activity- or use-dependent neuronal plasticity in the spinal cord
  - hyperalgesia exaggerated or prolonged response to noxious inputs
  - allodynia pain induced by normally innocuous inputs

### Nociceptive afferents

- $\Box$  A $\delta$  fibres thin myelinated fibres
  - sharp, localized pain
- C non-myelinated fibres
  - dull, non-localized pain





### Pain pathways from trunk and limbs

### PALEOSPINOTHALAMIC PATHWAY

- tr. spino-reticulo-thalamicus
- diffuse, non-localized pain
- autonomic and reflexive responses to pain stimuli
- emotional and affective reactions to pain
- intralaminar nuclei of the thalamus
- postcentral gyrus, insula and cingulate gyrus

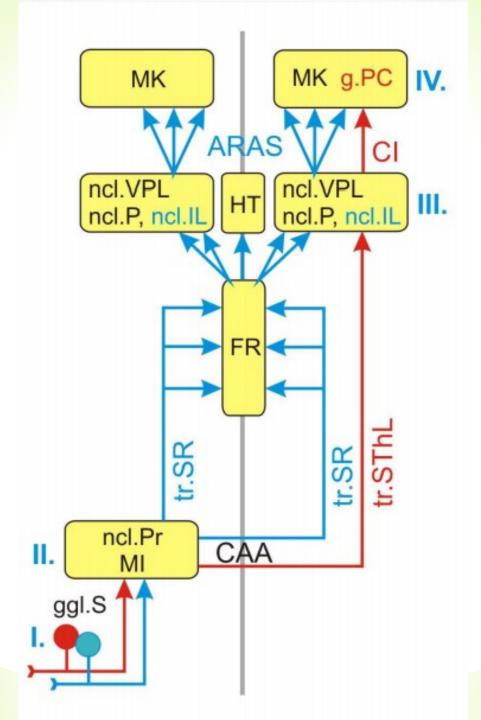
### NEOSPINOTHALAMIC PATHWAY

- ☐ tr. spino-thalamicus lat.
- sharp, localized pain
- ventral posterolateral (VPL) and posterior nucleus of the thalamus
- postcentral gyrus

Cortex

**Thalamus** 

Spinal cord



Paleospinothalamic pathway

Neospinothalamic pathway

### Pain pathways from head

TRACTUS TRIGEMINO-RETICULO-THALAMICUS

diffuse, non-localized pain

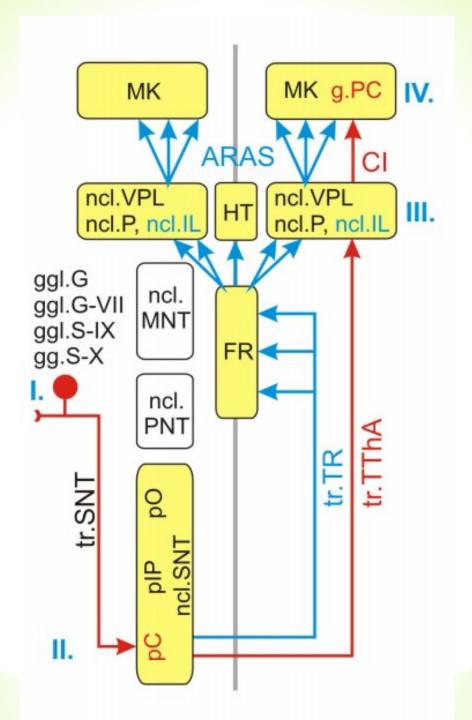
TRACTUS TRIGEMINO-THALAMICUS ANTERIOR

☐ sharp, localized pain

#### Cortex

**Thalamus** 

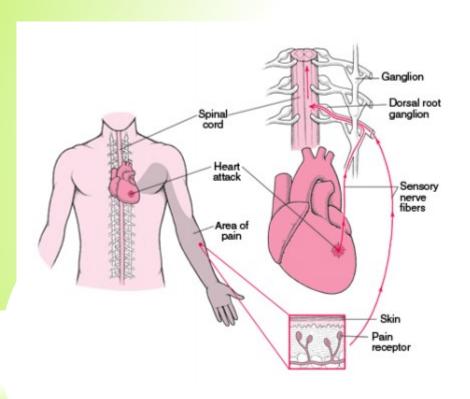
Medulla

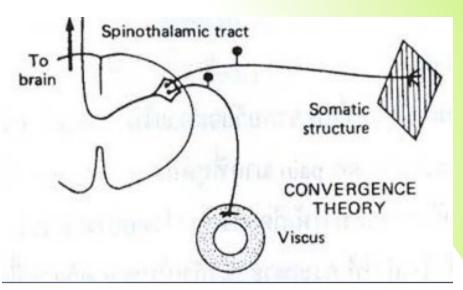


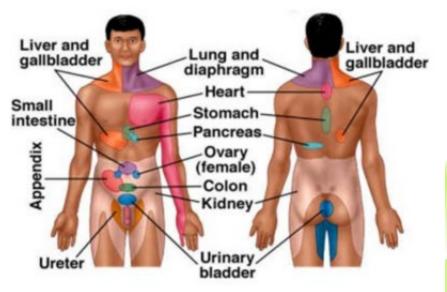
The phylogenetically old, paleospinothalamic and trigeminoreticulothalamic, pathways through the RF are concerned with the arousal and affective (emotional) aspects of somatic sensory stimuli.

In contrast, the direct, neospinothalamic and anterior trigeminothalamic, pathways are analytic, encoding information about modality, intensity, and location.

### Referred pain



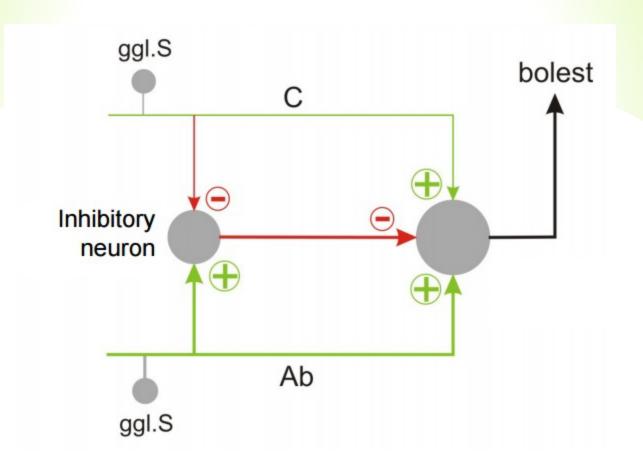




# MODULATING SYSTEMS OF NOCICEPTIVE PATHWAYS

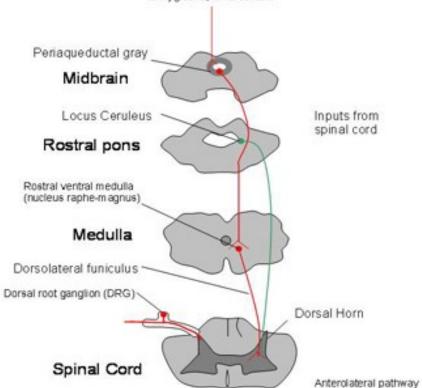
- level of modulation of nociceptive pathways
  - spinal cord ("gate control theory")
  - RF of brain stem
  - periaquaeductal gray matter (PAG)

### "Gate control theory"



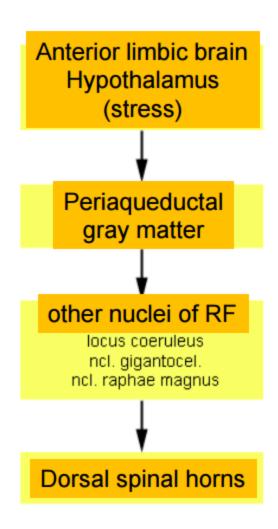


Inputs from hypothalamus, amygdala, and cortex





### Stress-induced analgesia



### SOMATOMOTOR PATHWAYS

# Some necessary components of proper motor control

- □ Volition
   □ Coordination of signals to many muscle groups
   □ Proprioception
   □ Postural adjustments
- ☐ Sensory feedback
- ☐ Compensation for the physical characteristics of the body and muscles
- ☐ Unconscious processing
- □ Adaptability

### Levels of movement regulation

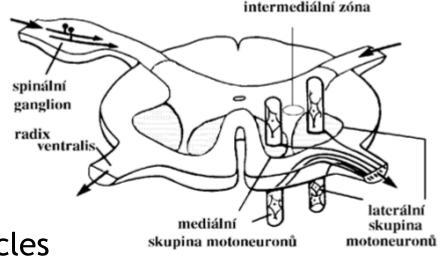
- spinal cord
- ☐ brain stem
- cortex

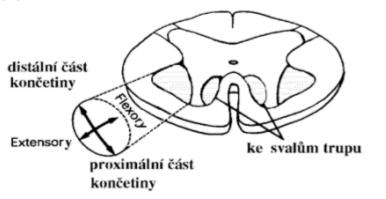
- □ cerebellum
- ☐ basal ganglia

### Lower motor neurons - spinal cord

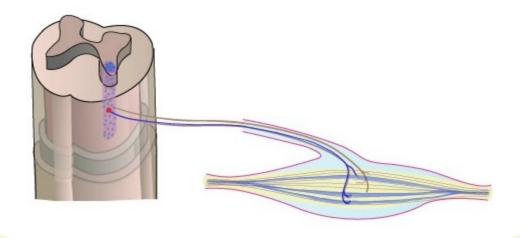
- α motoneurons
- γ motoneurons

- Somatotopic organization
  - medial column axial muscles
  - lateral column limb muscles
  - anteriorly extensors
  - posteriorly flexors





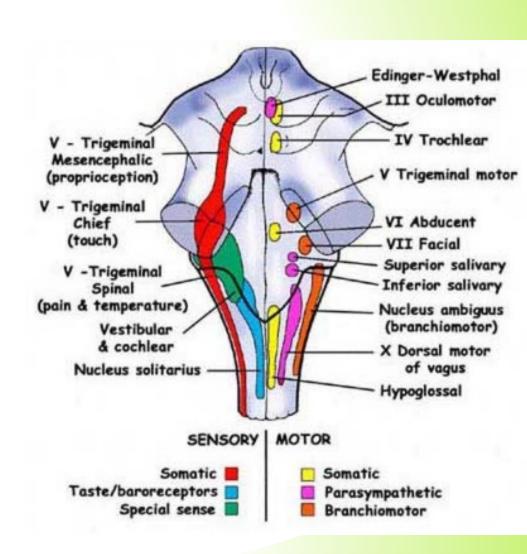
- Motor neurons have highly branched, elaborate dendritic trees, enabling them to integrate the inputs from large numbers of other neurons and to calculate proper outputs.
- The combination of an individual motor neuron and all of the muscle fibers that it innervates is called a motor unit.



- □ size of motor unit
  - small motor unit 1 motoneuron innervates several muscle fibers (extraocular muscles, muscles of hand)
  - large motor unit 1 motoneuron innervates
     500 1000 muscle fibers (back muscles)

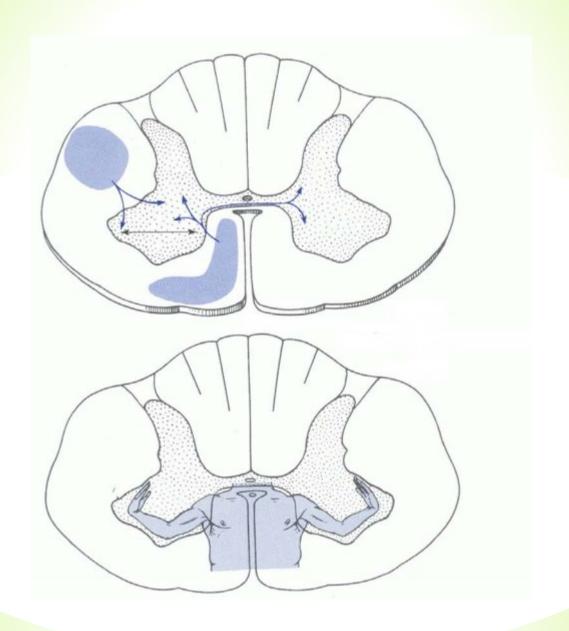
#### Lower motor neurons - brain stem

- Somatomotor nuclei CN III, IV, VI, XII
- Branchiomotor nuclei CN V, VII, IX, X, XI



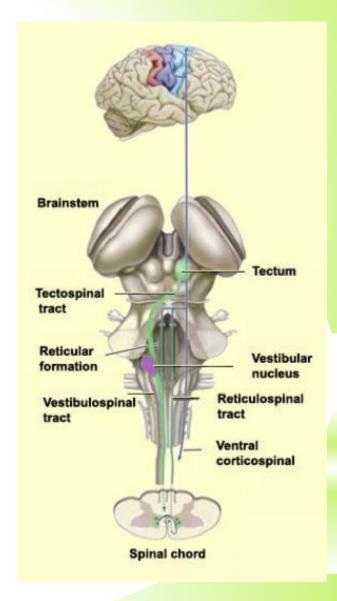
### Supraspinal system of movement control

- Medial system
  - bilateral
  - terminates on the interneurons or the medial column of lower motor neurons
  - controls maintenance of balance and postural movements
- Lateral system
  - mostly cross the midline and descend contralaterally
  - terminates on the interneurons or the lateral column of lower motor neurons
  - controls fine manipulative movements of the hand and fingers
- ☐ The "third" motor system
  - aminergic pathways of the brain stem



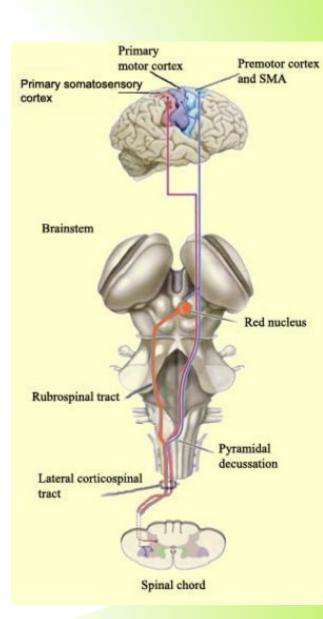
### Medial system

- Subcortical pathways
  - Medial and lateral vestibulospinal tracts - control of balance and postural movements
  - Tectospinal tract (sup. colliculus)
    - coordination of movements of the head and eyes during watching
  - Medial (pontine) and lateral (medullary) reticulospinal tracts
    - control of postural movements
- Cortical pathways
  - Anterior corticospinal tract
    - bilateral, medial column of lower motor neurons

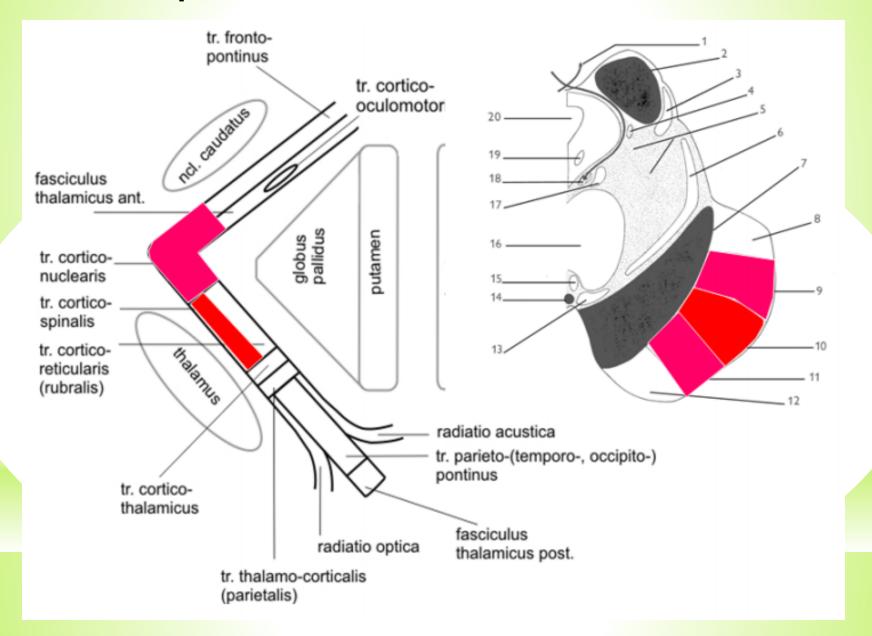


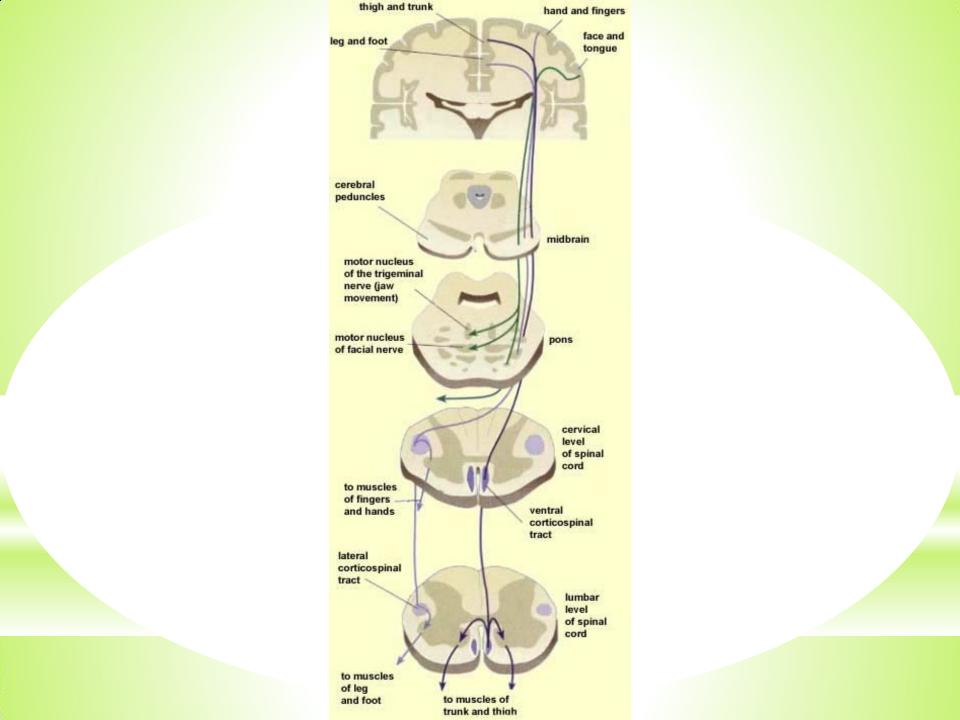
### Lateral system

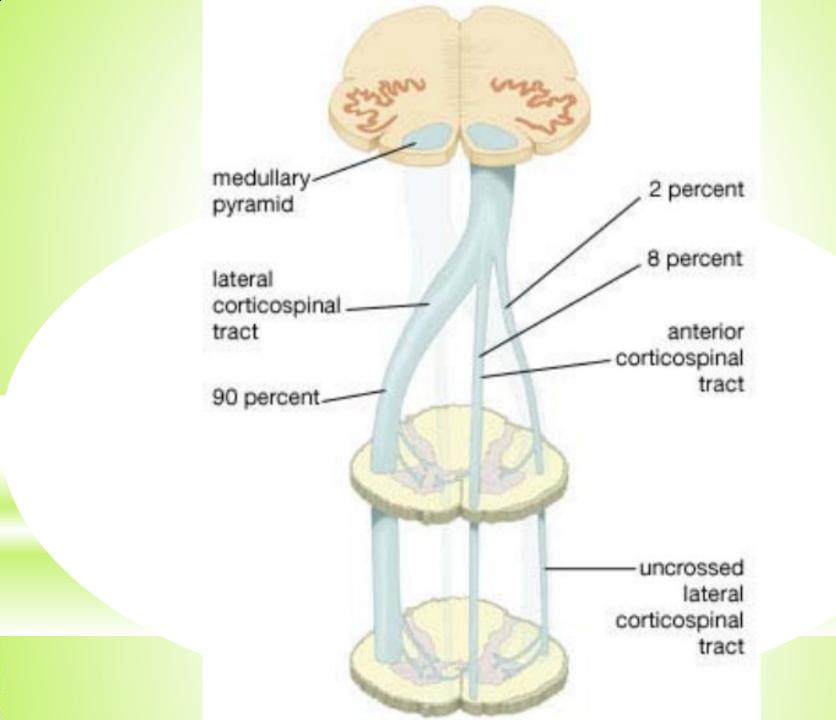
- Subcortical pathways
  - Rubrospinal tract
    - contralaterally descends to the lateral column
- Cortical pathways
  - Lateral corticospinal tract



### Corticospinal and corticonuclear tracts



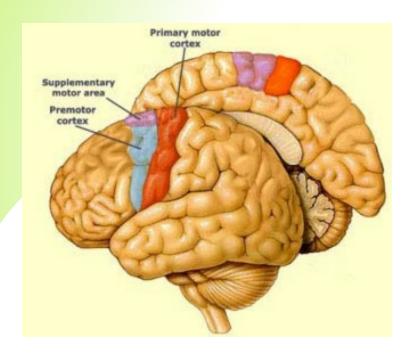


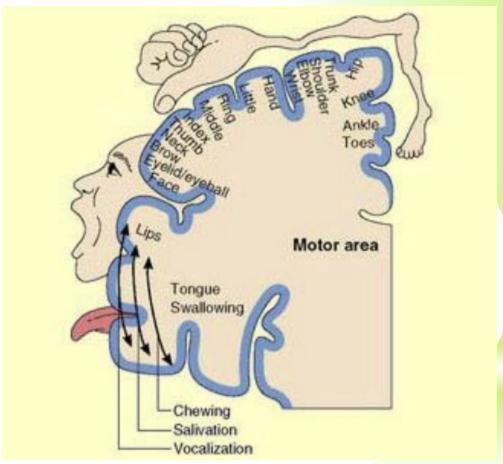


### The third system

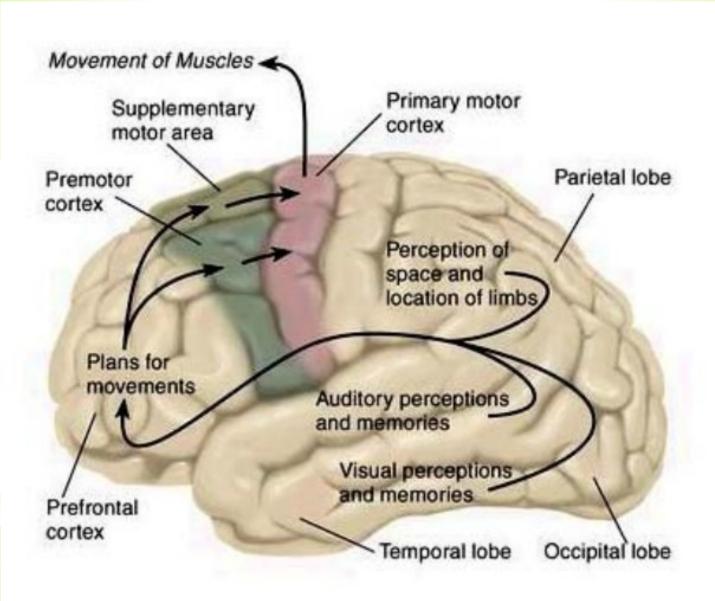
- ☐ the oldest one
- nuclei of RF raphespinal and coeruleospinal tracts
- control of involuntary emotional movements

### Motor cortex





### Planning of movements



Illustrations were copied from:

Neuroscience Online, the Open-Access Neuroscience Electronic Textbook

<u>Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy</u> <u>University of Texas Medical School at Houston</u>