

The Nervous System

The nervous system is the network of all the neurons or nerve cells in the body. This system allows us to receive process and transmit information from both within and outside of the body. The nervous system has been classified into different divisions according to function. It consists of the central nervous system (CNS) and the peripheral nervous system (PNS). The CNS consists of the brain and spinal cord. The function of the CNS is to analyse information arriving from the PNS and initiate appropriate responses, to be sent via the PNS to the muscles and organs of the body. The PNS consists of the somatic nerves, which run to and from the CNS. The PNS can be further divided into two divisions of the autonomic nervous system (ANS).

There are three types of nerve cell or neuron: Sensory neurons, interneuron and motor neurons. The transmission of information within neurons is electrical. Action potentials are transmitted along axons, provided the stimulus is strong enough.

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