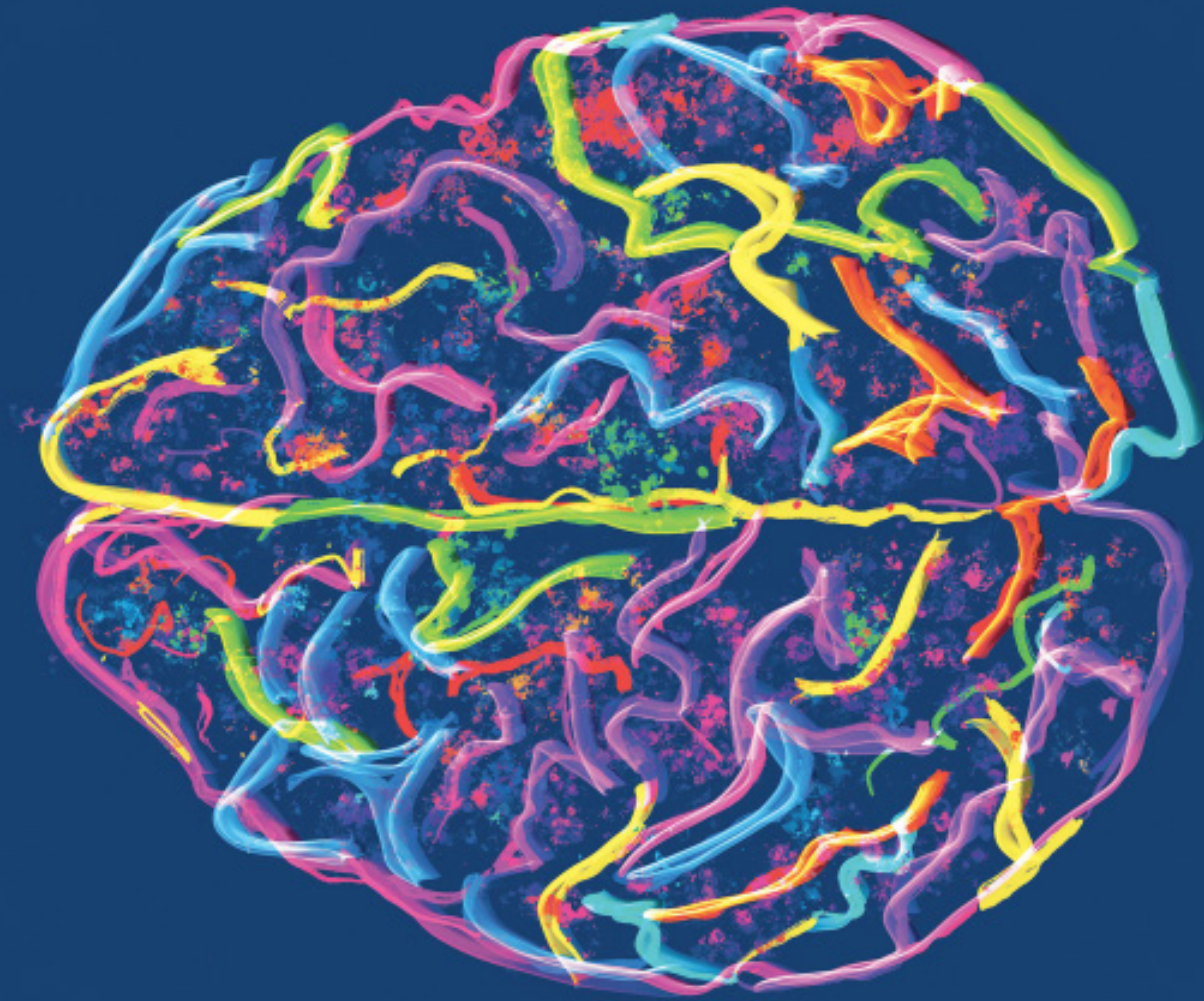


# COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

Fifth Edition



Marie T. Banich and Rebecca J. Compton

All chapters have  
been updated and  
streamlined

## BRIEF CONTENTS

Preface	xvii
Acknowledgments	xix
Dedication	xx
<b>Part I Fundamentals</b>	<b>1</b>
Chapter 1 Introduction to the Nervous System	2
Chapter 2 Historical Perspectives	38
Chapter 3 Methods	63
<b>Part II Neural Bases of Mental Functions</b>	<b>93</b>
Chapter 4 Motor Control	94
Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception	128
Chapter 6 Object Recognition	160
Chapter 7 Spatial Cognition	189
Chapter 8 Language	214
Chapter 9 Memory and Learning	245
Chapter 10 Attention	283
Chapter 11 Executive Function and Higher-Order Thinking	316
Chapter 12 Emotion	347
Chapter 13 Social Cognition	372
<b>Part III Broader Applications</b>	<b>399</b>
Chapter 14 Psychopathology	400
Chapter 15 Brain Development and Plasticity	431
Chapter 16 Generalized Cognitive Disorders	466
Chapter 17 Cognitive Neuroscience and Society	496
Appendix	518
Glossary	521
References	537
Index	632

The chapter text has been **reduced by ten percent** compared with the previous edition and updated to **integrate findings from new approaches**, including transcranial magnetic stimulation, diffusion tensor imaging, multi-voxel pattern analysis, studies examining functional connectivity, and meta-analytic methods.



## CHAPTER 9

### Memory and Learning

9.1 What Is Memory?	247	9.5.2 Consolidation and Storage: How Critical Is the Hippocampus?	267
9.2 Hippocampal Damage Causes Amnesia, a Disorder of Long-Term Memory	247	9.5.3 Retrieval: Hippocampal, Prefrontal, and Parietal Mechanisms	269
9.2.1 Global Nature of the Deficit	248	Hippocampus: Pattern Completion	271
9.2.2 Temporal Profile of Affected Memories	249	Prefrontal Cortex: Strategic Retrieval	271
9.2.3 Spared Abilities	252	Parietal Cortex: Attentional Aspects of Retrieval	271
Spared Working Memory	252	In Focus: Does Sleep Help You to Remember?	272
Spared Skill Learning	255		
9.3 Multiple Memory and Learning Systems	256	9.6 The Relationships between Memory Systems	274
9.3.1 What Distinguishes Memory Systems?	256	9.6.1 Theoretical and Computational Reasons for Distinct Memory Systems	274
9.3.2 Memory and Consciousness	256	9.6.2 Interacting Memory Systems for Different Types and Stages of Learning	275
9.4 Nonhippocampal Regions Involved in Memory and Learning	259	9.7 Working Memory: The Ability to Hold and Manipulate Information On-Line	275
9.4.1 Domain-Specific Neocortical Regions: Initial Processing and Subsequent Access	259	9.7.1 Patients with Deficits in Working Memory	276
9.4.2 The Basal Ganglia: Skill Learning	260	9.7.2 Studies with Nonhuman Animals: A Role for the Prefrontal Cortex?	276
9.4.3 The Amygdala: An Interface between Memory and Emotion	262	9.7.3 Insights from Neurologically Intact People	277
9.4.4 Anterior Temporal Regions: Amodal Storage of Semantic Information	264	9.8 Summary	280
9.5 Brain Systems for Different Stages of Memory	265		
9.5.1 Encoding: The Medial Temporal Lobe and Prefrontal Regions	265		
The Medial Temporal Lobe	265		
Prefrontal Regions	267		

Chapters open with an outline to provide a clear conceptual structure of the contents.



246

## Chapter 9

In response to a seizure disorder that could not be controlled effectively by anticonvulsant medications, in 1953 a young man underwent an experimental surgical procedure that removed portions of his medial temporal lobe that we now know are critical to memory. Although the surgery was successful in reducing his seizures, it resulted in a profound deficit in memory. From that point onward, he was unable to remember the events of his life or the people he met after the surgery, such as his physicians and other caregivers, or to learn new facts about the changing world around him. After the surgery he could not tell his age, the current date, or any aspect of his recent history, such as where he was living and how long he had lived there. His memory was no better for people in the public eye or the public events in which they figured. Such deficits persisted until his death in 2008 at the age of 82.

Nevertheless, throughout his life, he still expressed a wide range of memory abilities. He could reason and solve problems, recognize objects, and perform voluntary and reflexive motor acts appropriate to all manner of objects and situations. These abilities, along with his full range of linguistic skills, demonstrated that he could access the considerable store of knowledge that he had acquired early in life before the surgery. His ability to remember the remote past prior to his surgery seemed largely intact, as was his ability to hold information in memory temporarily while working with it, as long as he was not interrupted.

Remarkably, he was able to acquire and express a variety of new skills, such as mirror drawing or reading words presented backward. He did so despite being unable to remember that he had ever been asked to perform such tasks! Like neurologically normal people, he improved gradually with practice and his ability generalized to items he had not seen previously, such as novel backward words.

Because of the mixture of memory loss and memory retention, his life had some surreal qualities. For example, he enjoyed solving crossword puzzles and could happily do the same crossword puzzle over and over again, because he didn't notice the repetition. Although he also enjoyed watching television shows, they were difficult for him to understand because the commercials caused him to forget the story line. He could also hold a perfectly reasonable conversation, except that his conversation was devoid of current content; he could not tell you about recent weather conditions or the books that he had most recently read. If you avoided such topics, you would be hard-pressed to notice any memory deficit at all. However, if you left even for only a few minutes, upon returning he could not remember what you had been conversing about, and, most likely, could not remember having ever met you!

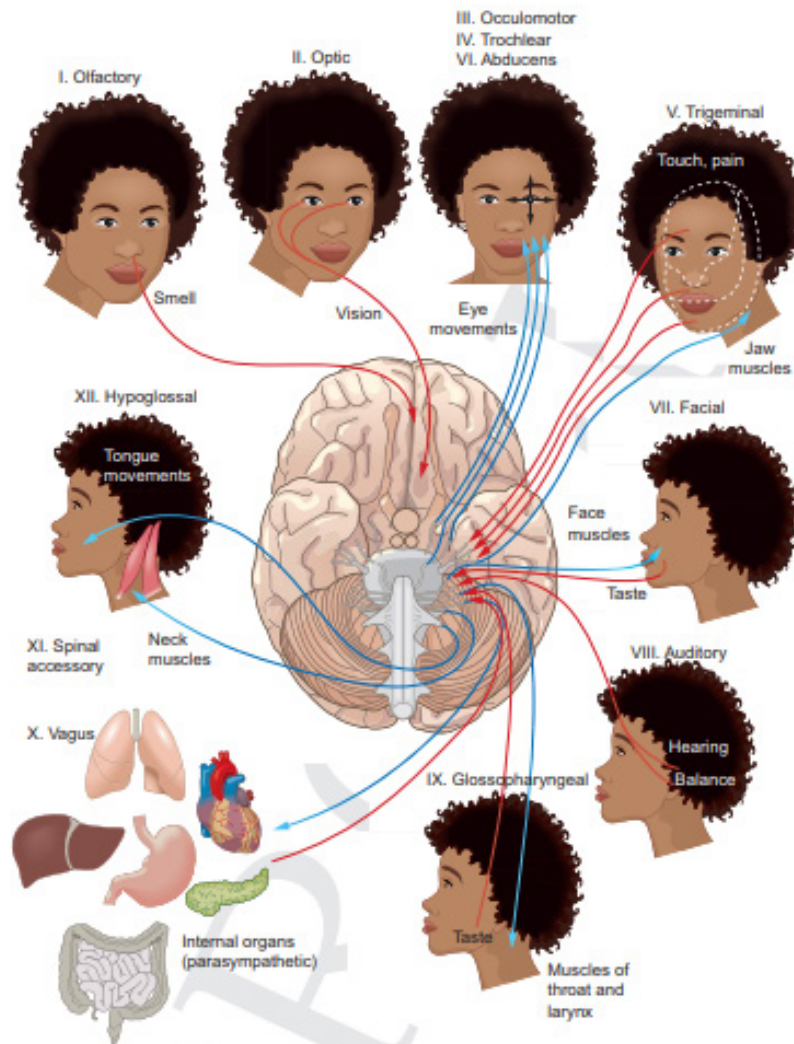
The patient in the opening vignette of this chapter is known in the scientific literature by his initials, H.M. After realizing the unintended effects of the operation, his surgeon, Dr. Henry Scoville, contacted Brenda Milner and her colleagues at McGill University in Montreal to unravel the mystery of his memory loss. Professor Milner discovered the divide in H.M.'s memory that we just discussed: the paradox that while certain aspects of memory were lost after removal of his medial temporal lobe, others were retained (Scoville and Milner, 1957). This work was critical in demonstrating the existence of at least two separable systems that support our ability to remember. As noted by Eric Kandel, who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 2000 for his work on the molecular mechanisms of memory formation, "[t]he study of H.M. by Brenda Milner stands as one of the great milestones in the history of modern neuroscience. It opened the way for the study of the two memory systems in

the brain, and provided the bases for everything that came later."

H.M.'s contribution to our understanding of memory did not stop there. Over the years, H.M. has been a central figure in scientific research. He has been the subject of numerous studies by his former students and colleagues, and his case has been exhaustively documented in the scientific literature (Squire, 2009). H.M. in his case was not just a patient; he was a person. His memory loss was not just a medical condition; it was a life-altering event. His story has become a classic example of how a single case can lead to major breakthroughs in our understanding of the human mind. His memory loss was not just a medical condition; it was a life-altering event. His story has become a classic example of how a single case can lead to major breakthroughs in our understanding of the human mind.

Opening case histories pique student interest and make connections to everyday life and real people and events.





**FIGURE 1.9** Locations at which the 12 cranial nerves enter (sensory) or exit (motor) the brain, and each nerve's function. A ventral (bottom) surface view of the brain is shown in the middle. The majority of cranial nerves enter at the medulla. The magenta lines represent sensory functions; the purple lines show motor functions. Some cranial nerves are sensory only, and some are mixed.

### 1.4.3 Cerebellum: Fluid Movement

Located posterior to the medulla (see Figure 1.6) is the **cerebellum**, a brain region important for the regulation of muscle tone and guidance of motor activity. The cerebellum allows a pianist to play a piece of music seamlessly or a pitcher to throw a ball fluidly. Damage to the cerebellum does not result in paralysis, but instead interferes with precision of movement and disrupts balance and equilibrium. The classic test used to detect cerebellar damage is one in which the doctor asks a person to alternate between touching their own nose, and then the doctor's outstretched finger. Although a person with cerebellar damage can follow this command, the path taken by the hand from their nose to the doctor's

finger will be imprecise and shaky. This same imprecision also contributes to lack of coordination, a common manifestation of temporary cerebellar dysfunction, such as the punch-drunk syndrome, in which balance and coordination after sustaining a head injury.

Although the cerebellum is traditionally considered a motor structure, a specific region of the cerebellum, the lateral cerebellum, may also be linked to certain aspects of cognitive processing, allowing for fluidity and precision in decision-making (Stoodley, 2012). The lateral cerebellum is also involved in the timing of discrete temporal intervals, acting as the brain's internal clocks (Breska and Ivry, 2012).

Over 250 beautiful full-colour images with robust captions help students visualize and retain key concepts, enhancing multi-modal learning.

**NOTE:** Pages in this sample skip between chapters to give you insight into the book's features.







activity in this region increases in response to more abstract rewards, such as money.

The cell bodies of the third dopaminergic subsystem, the **mesocortical system**, are also located in the ventral tegmental area. The axons of these cells project to much of the cortex, especially the motor and prefrontal cortex, as well as prefrontal cortex, where they influence executive functions. These include working memory, which is the ability to keep information

in mind and executive functions including planning and decision-making but not of other functions. These cognitive functions are also affected by these areas that have had this system (Goldman-Rakic, 1991).

As you can see, different regions of the brain have different neurotransmitter systems. Some actually have high levels of noradrenaline. In a disorder, they are both affected and cholinergic. The release of new long-term potentiation to maintain noradrenergic systems influence attention and memory. Given these areas of overlap, some current research is designed to help understand how these various neurotransmitter systems

Key terms are introduced in **boldface** and **defined in a glossary** at the back of the book.

Each chapter includes an '**In Focus**' box that explores in depth a specific applied issue in cognitive neuroscience, helping students see the implications of research for real life.

### IN FOCUS: Can Herbs Really Improve Your Memory, Attention, and Mood?

*Balm is sovereign for the brain, strengthening the memory and powerfully chasing away the melancholy.*  
(John Evelyn, 1699)

Although we may think that the use of herbal supplements and therapies is a new and trendy approach to treating a variety of disorders, it is actually a time-honored practice, as attested to by this quotation. Long used in traditional Chinese medicine and the Ayurvedic practices of India, herbal supplements are now being used increasingly as an alternative to standard pharmaceutical products in Europe and to a lesser degree in the United States. For example, memory problems are treated by herbalists and aromatherapists in the United Kingdom with rosemary, lemon balm (a member of the mint family), and sage, while ginkgo, derived from the leaf of the *Ginkgo biloba* tree, a plant native to China, is used there as well as in Europe, especially in France and Germany to treat dementia. St. John's wort, an aromatic perennial that is native to Europe, whose effects were known by ancient Greek and Roman physicians such as Hippocrates and Galen, is frequently used in Germany and other European countries to treat mild-to-moderate depression. Kava, derived from a shrub native to Polynesia and the Pacific Islands and traditionally taken as a beverage mixed with water and coconut milk, is used to reduce anxiety and induce calm. Do these herbs have the claimed effect on thinking and mood, and, if so, how do they work?

Much controversy surrounds the answer to this question. One source of controversy is the fact that in the United States such substances are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, so dosages and purity are not monitored. In at least one case, however, local use of a plant in Eastern Europe, the Caucasian snowdrop (see Box Figure 1.1), for memory problems led to a new drug to treat Alzheimer's disease. Researchers there synthetically produced its active ingredient to create galantamine, now used in European countries and the United States, which has shown to be effective in slowing the decline associated with Alzheimer's disease (Tricco et al., 2018).



**BOX FIGURE 1.1** A plant, the Caucasian snowdrop, an extract from which is used to treat Alzheimer's disease.

The Alzheimer's drug, galantamine, is derived from an extract from this plant, which is a member of the daffodil family. It is thought to inhibit the breakdown of acetylcholine, thereby increasing the amount of acetylcholine in the synaptic cleft. This drug is an example of ethnobotany drug discovery, in which the local use of the plant in Eastern Europe led to investigations of its actions and then synthetic production of its active compound. Credit: rsester/Getty Images.

There is evidence of efficacy for at least some herbs, especially in treating dementia and depression. It was initially reported about 25 years ago in the Western scientific literature that ginkgo special extract EGB 761 slows the mental decline of people with Alzheimer's disease (LeBars et al., 1997). Since that time a variety of meta-analyses have documented its effectiveness at doses of about 240 mg in slowing the disease in people with mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's over the course of about half a year as compared

positive emotional state can be either high (excitation) or low-arousal (calmness, contentment). Arousal is a complex concept, including aspects of physiological arousal, and subjective feelings of alertness, which collectively appear to engage systems including brainstem nuclei, striatum, autonomic system, and cortical regions. The default mode networks (Satpute et al., 2009) and arousal is clearly a key aspect of emotion, but it is not easily localized.

Some researchers have pursued the idea that different emotional states may have “signatures” that are broader than tied to a single brain region or system. Studies taking this approach have used multivariate pattern analysis (see Chapter 3) in an attempt to identify patterns of brain activity that correspond with specific emotions (e.g., Kragel et al., 2016; Saarimäki et al., 2016; Touroutoglou et al., 2015). Although researchers still disagree about the best way to interpret the results of these studies (Clark-Polner et al., 2017), the results generally indicate that different emotional states are associated with unique yet highly overlapping patterns of activation. That is, different emotional states can be distinguished statistically based on their distributed patterns of brain activation, but they also share regions in common as well. For example, many emotional states are associated with increased activity in a “salience network” that includes the anterior cingulate cortex.

Chapter summaries allow students to review the material learned or preview what is to be discussed.

**Key Questions** are placed at the end of each section to reinforce the most important concepts. Bigger-picture **Thought Questions** at the end of each chapter are designed to expand students’ thinking to broader issues beyond the chapter content. These questions could serve as the basis for small-group discussions or could be used to elicit written responses from students.

**Key Question:** What aspects of emotion processing appear to involve cortical rather than only subcortical regions?

**Key Question:** What key regions do you think should be included in a summary of “the emotional brain”?

**Thought Question:** Some people argue that emotions are harder to study than other aspects of cognition because emotions are subjective. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

**Thought Question:** We often hear the distinction made between emotional thought versus rational thought. Is there a clear dividing line between emotion and reason? How does that distinction relate to the aspects of emotional processing covered in this chapter?

## 12.3 SUMMARY

### Subcortical Contributions to Emotion

- The hypothalamus mediates some of the physiological phenomena associated with emotional states, such as changes in the autonomic nervous system and endocrine function that are associated with fleeing or fighting.
- The amygdala is involved in learning the emotional significance of information and in producing a quick, instinctive, emotional response. The amygdala can also influence how attention is directed to emotionally significant events.
- The ventral striatum, or nucleus accumbens, is important in reward-seeking behavior. It is especially responsive to unpredicted rewards and becomes active when a person is anticipating a reward.

### Cortical Contributions to Emotion

- The insula is involved in representing internal body states that are relevant to emotion. It is also important for the coding for unpleasant tastes, and also plays a role in the experience and perception of disgust.



**Now in its fifth edition, this accessible yet thorough text highlights the most important theoretical, conceptual, and methodological issues in cognitive neuroscience. Written by two experienced researchers who excel at teaching, the consistent narrative ensures that concepts are linked across chapters, and the careful selection of topics enables readers to grasp the big picture without getting distracted by details.**

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- The illustration program has been updated to improve the consistency of visual motifs, and now includes more conceptual diagrams and figures to highlight major ideas
- The online resources have been expanded, with further reading and video links for every chapter



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