

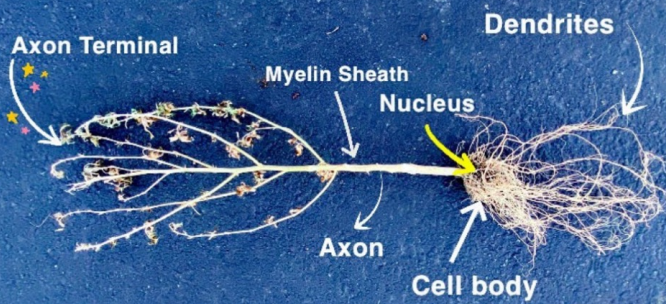
Northwest Noggin

Pandemic Connections:
Reconnecting our brains
one cell at a time

GRIESAR, W.S., LEAKE, J.



Maya English, Portland State University

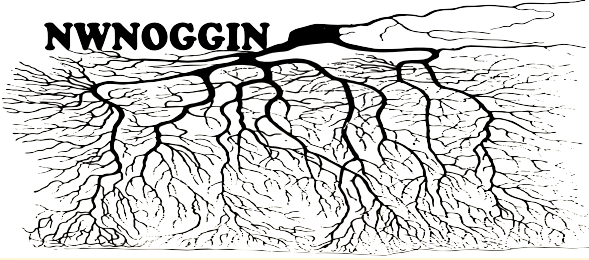


"I find it fascinating that there are so many things we can find in the natural world that looks similar to the neurobiological makeup of humans..."

#showusyourbraincell

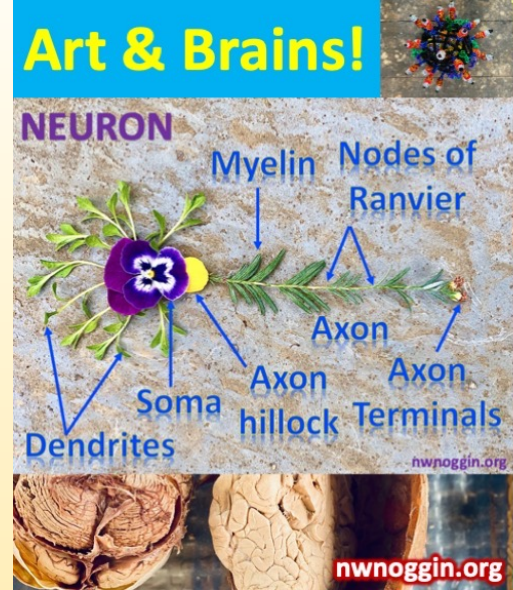
*How do we connect
with our community
during a global
pandemic?*

Noggin @ SfN



TEN YEARS!
ALL VOLUNTEER (everyone)
50,000+ community members

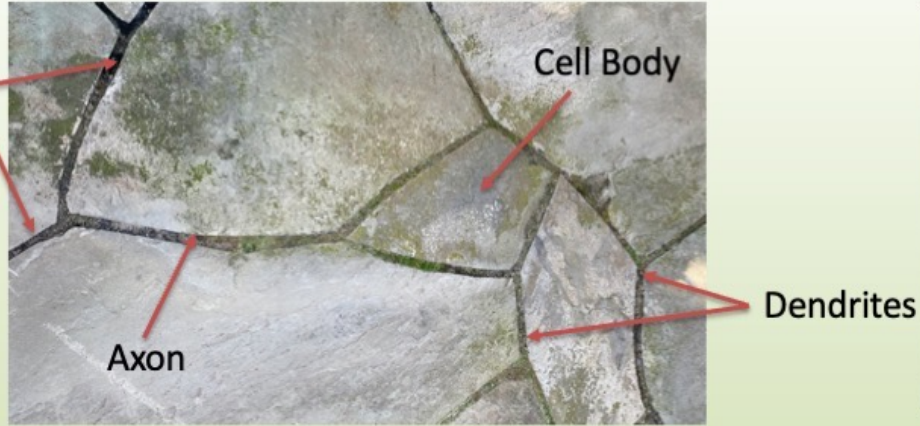
Our brains are home to billions of cells that reach out and connect. These networks of linked neurons and glia make us who we are, and let us perceive, think and behave. When separated by trauma or injury they are remarkably plastic, capable of establishing new synapses, developing creative approaches to navigating a complex world.



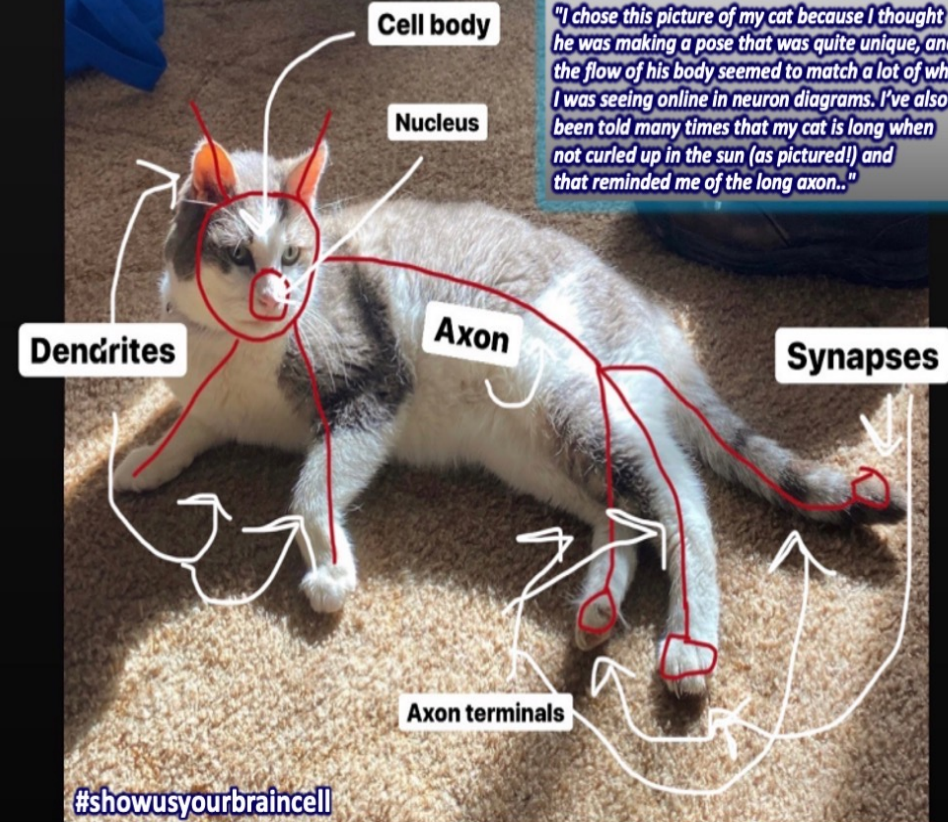
Nonprofit NW Noggin (nwnoggin.org) organizes undergraduates and graduates to collaborate, build community networks and inspire people about neuroscience and art. We bring diverse students excited by research and their own arts-integrated study of brains and behavior into K-12 public schools, youth correctional facilities, Congress, houseless youth centers, coffee shops and pubs to hear to what people already know and what they'd like to know, and to see where our stories and discoveries from labs and classrooms intersect. *We've talked with over 50,000 people since 2012!*



Take a look around you, what things do you see that share those structures?

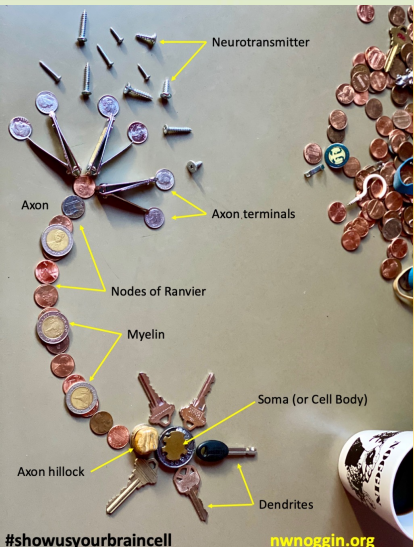
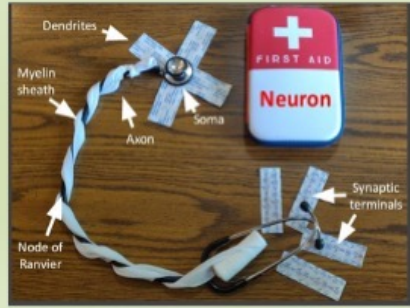


Leah Hutchinson, Portland State University



Can you construct a neuron out of things that you find?

What things for you represent the function of a neuron? Or the function of specific parts of a neuron? Do those things have personal meaning, or say something about you?



In 2020, with COVID-19 suspending in-person outreach, we developed a new, found object brain cell project we could engage in online. We asked people to look around their own environment and find objects that reminded them of neurons or glia. See more examples: nwnoggin.org

#showusyourbraincell

nwnoggin.org

We brought this project to K-12 classrooms in the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii, and presented it through two global webinars in collaboration with BrainFacts.org, a public information initiative of The Kavli Foundation, the Gatsby Charitable Foundation and the Society for Neuroscience. The brain cells created and posted online with the hashtag #showusyourbraincell are extraordinary - beautiful, compelling, informative - and offer windows into people's individual lives and circumstances. Many took the opportunity to explain the materials used and their significance, connecting essential aspects of other fields and cultures to basic structural components of our brains.

Tuna Jig Neuron

Axon
(rolled up shrimp netting)

Axon terminals
(tuna jigs)

Jigging is a type of fishing where your boat stays in place, or slowly drifts, while the line is jerked up and down to imitate the swimming of prey

In Oregon, tuna jigs are primarily used for trolling, a style of fishing where you pull hooks through water behind your boat

Cell Body
(lure for salmon trolling)

Dendrites
(tuna jigs)

LEARN MORE:
<https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu>

By Amanda Gladics, Oregon Sea Grant, OSU

#showusyourbraincell

Axon terminals

Axon

Soma

Dendrites

Burrito Neuron

By John Phillips, Bree Russell, Tony Camber & Will Kendall
Support houseless youth at p:ear (www.pearmentor.org)

#showusyourbraincell

Action & Potential in Outreach, Education & Research

A second FREE Society for Neuroscience global webinar with BrainFacts.org & nwnoggin.org

Join Richard Wingate, the Head of Anatomy at Kings College London and Editor in Chief of BrainFacts.org, and Leigh Wilson, Research Associate at Kings and an avid outreach practitioner, as they explore the question: "What does outreach mean to you?"

Moderated by Bill Griesar and Jeff Leake of NW Noggin

Thursday, September 24, 2020, 10am Pacific time; 1pm Eastern

Go to brainfacts.org for registration and more information

BrainFacts.org | SFN SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE | AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION | nwnoggin.org



A pandemic is traumatic, separates networks, and makes it hard to connect. Yet like our brain cells, we can adapt and find new approaches to our ever-changing world. Building excitement and awareness of discoveries, educational options and careers through arts-integrated neuroscience outreach also trains new scientists to collaborate, engages more people, and increases awareness and support for community investment in both brain research and the arts.