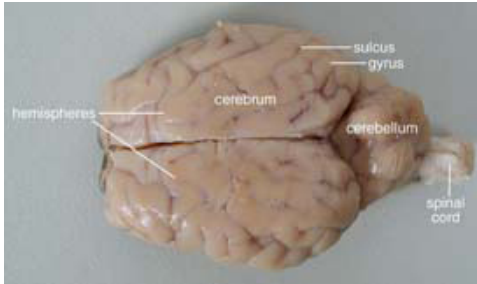


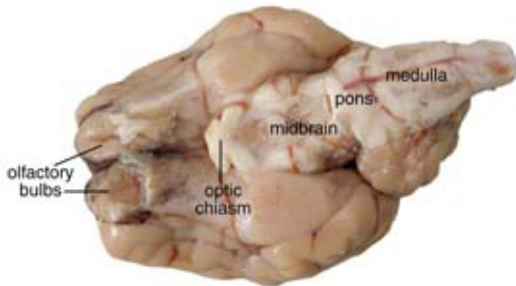
Bio 40B lab #2 Sheep Brain Dissection

1) Set the brain down so the flatter side, with the white **spinal cord** at one end, rests on the dissection pan. Notice that the brain has two halves, or **hemispheres**. Can you tell the difference between the **cerebrum** and the **cerebellum**? Do the ridges (called **gyri**) and grooves (**sulci**) in the tissue look different? How does the surface feel



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2) Turn the brain over. You'll probably be able to identify the **medulla**, **pons**, **midbrain**, **optic chiasm**, and **olfactory bulbs**. Find the **olfactory bulb** on each hemisphere. These will be slightly smoother and a different shade than the tissue around them. The olfactory bulbs control the sense of smell. The nerves to the nose are no longer connected. The nerves to the mouth and lower body are attached to the **medulla**; the nerves to the eyes are connected to the **optic chiasm**.



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3) Place the brain with the curved top side of the cerebrum facing up (fig 1 above). Use a [scalpel](#) (or sharp, thin knife) to slice through the brain along the center line, starting at the cerebrum and going down through the cerebellum, spinal cord, medulla, and pons. Separate the two halves of the brain and lay them with the inside (median) surface facing up.

4) Use the labeled picture (fig 3) to identify the **corpus callosum**, **medulla**, **pons**, **midbrain**, and the place where pituitary gland attaches to the brain. (In many preserved specimens the pituitary gland is no longer present. It is not pictured.) Use your fingers or a teasing needle to gently probe the parts and see how they are connected to each other. What does that opening inside the corpus callosum lead to? How many different kinds of tissue can you see and feel?

- The **corpus callosum** is a bundle of white fibers that connects the two hemispheres of the brain, providing coordination between the two.
- The **medulla** is located right under the cerebellum. In this the nerves cross over so the left hemisphere controls the right side of the body and vice versa. This area of the brain controls the *vital functions* like heartbeat and respiration (breathing).
- The **pons** is next to the medulla. It serves as a bridge between the medulla and the upper brainstem, and it relays messages between the cerebrum and the cerebellum.
- The **pituitary gland**, which produces important hormones, is a sac-like area that attaches to the brain between the pons and the optic chiasm. This may or may not be present on your specimen.

5) Look closely at the inside of the cerebellum. You should see a branching 'tree' of lighter tissue surrounded by darker tissue. The branches are **white matter (arbor vitae)**, which is made up of nerve axons. The darker tissue is **gray matter (folia)**, which is a collection of nerve cell bodies. You can see gray and white matter in the cerebrum, too, if you cut into a portion of it.

6) Important pointers:

- **Ventricles** contain cerebrospinal fluid
- The **occipital lobe** receives and interprets visual sensory messages
- The **temporal lobe** is involved in hearing and smell. You can find this by looking on the outside of one of the hemispheres. You will see a horizontal groove called the *lateral fissure*. The temporal lobe is the section of the cerebrum below this line.
- The **frontal lobe** also plays a part in smell, plus dealing with motor function
- The **parietal lobe** handles all the sensory info except for vision, hearing, and smell.
- The **thalamus** is a 'relay station' for sensory information. It receives messages from the nerve axons and then transmits them to the appropriate parts of the brain.

