

TYPES OF CELLS IN NERVOUS TISSUE

Neuroglial Cells ("nerve glue"): support/sustain neurons

- 1) Astrocytes ("star cells"):
 - most numerous
 - help maintain appropriate chemical environment for neurons
 - contribute to the blood-brain barrier
 - hot area in brain research....much evidence that astrocytes communicate and regulate neuronal activity
- 2) Microglia:
 - phagocytic, clean up debris and pathogens
- 3) Ependymal:
 - ciliated
 - circulate cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- 4) Oligodendrocytes ("multi-finger cells"):
 - wrap neurons in an insulating myelin sheath; white matter
 - more myelin=faster transmission
 - found in the CNS
- 5) Schwann cells:
 - myelinate neurons in the PNS

Neurons: Transmit electrical signals over long distances.