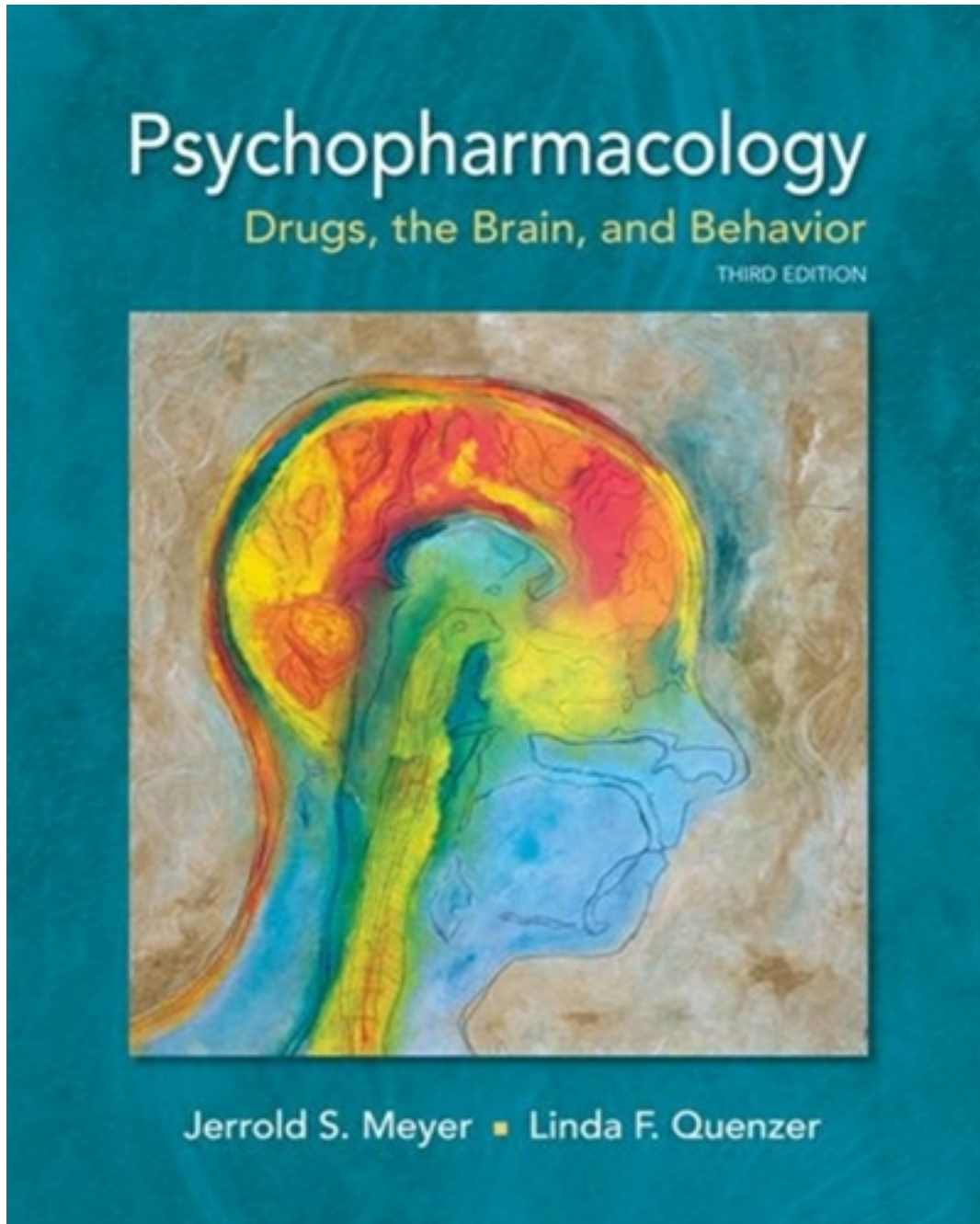


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Chapter 2: Structure and Function of the Nervous System

Multiple Choice

1. Neurons rely on _____ for protection, metabolic support, and insulation.

- a. mitochondria
- b. glial cells
- c. axoplasm
- d. dendritic spines

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

2. Neurons responsible for converting environmental stimuli into neural signals are known as

- a. sensory neurons.
- b. interneurons.
- c. motor neurons.
- d. pyramidal cells.

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

3. Neurons can be categorized by all of the following *except* by

- a. which neurotransmitters they release.
- b. their function (e.g., sensory versus motor).
- c. the size of the action potentials they generate.
- d. their morphology.

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

4. The _____ of the neuronal cell is/are found in the soma, while the _____ may be found throughout the cell.

- a. mitochondria; dendrites
- b. dendrites; axon
- c. nucleus; mitochondria
- d. nucleus; dendrites

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

5. Mitochondria are responsible for generating _____ for the cell in the form of _____.

- a. energy; ATP
- b. energy; glucose
- c. cytoplasm; ATP
- d. cytoplasm; glucose

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

6. Neurons exchange information primarily via

- a. somas.
- b. dendrites.
- c. axons.
- d. axon collaterals.

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

7. Dendritic spines serve to

- a. increase the surface area of the dendrite.
- b. insulate the axons.
- c. insulate the dendrites.
- d. protect the dendrites from degrading enzymes in the extracellular fluid.

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

8. The function of the axon is to transmit the _____, generated at the _____, to the terminals.

- a. axoplasm; soma
- b. action potential; axon hillock
- c. action potential; dendrites
- d. synaptic vesicles; axon hillock

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

9. In a myelinated axon, action potentials are regenerated

- a. at the terminal buttons.
- b. all along the axon.
- c. at gaps in the myelin known as nodes of Ranvier.
- d. at the axon hillock.

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

10. Which statement about the myelin sheath is *false*?

- a. It is produced by glial cells.
- b. It increases the speed of signal conduction along the axon.
- c. It saves energy.
- d. It is found on all neurons.

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

11. _____ are long strands of DNA divided into smaller portions called _____, which code for specific proteins.

- a. Chromosomes; genes
- b. Genes; chromosomes
- c. Transcription factors; genes
- d. Genes; ribosomes

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

12. Which statement about the process of transcription is true?

- a. It is driven by ribosomes.
- b. It occurs in the cytoplasm.
- c. The nucleotide sequence of DNA is replicated by mRNA.
- d. It results in the production of proteins.

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

13. Proteins, such as receptors and enzymes, are synthesized in the cytoplasm of the soma in a process called

- a. translation.
- b. regulation.
- c. transcription.
- d. transport.

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

14. Which of the following most accurately describes the process involved in protein synthesis?

- a. Transcription factors activate promoter region → translation by ribosomes → transcription by mRNA
- b. Transcription factors activate promoter region → transcription by mRNA → translation by ribosomes
- c. Translation by ribosomes → transcription factors activate promoter region → transcription by mRNA
- d. Transcription by mRNA → transcription factors activate promoter region → translation by ribosomes

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

15. Epigenetic changes affect gene expression by _____ and by _____.

- a. blocking translation; DNA methylation
- b. breaking down chromatin; blocking transcription
- c. DNA methylation; chromatin remodeling
- d. remodeling transcription factors; blocking translation

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

16. Axonal transport of proteins occurs along a track formed by

- a. microtubules.
- b. neurofilaments.
- c. anterograde cytoskeleton.
- d. retrograde cytoskeleton.

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

17. Neuronal cell membranes are associated with all of the following proteins *except*

- a. transporters.
- b. ion channels.
- c. microtubules.
- d. enzymes.

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

18. Many ion channels are not normally open but must be gated or opened by some event. Which of the following is *not* a typical means of opening ion channels?

- a. Binding of neurotransmitter to external binding site
- b. Change in voltage across the membrane
- c. Phosphorylation by an intracellular second messenger
- d. Enzymatic reactions

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

19. With regard to glial cells, _____ form the myelin sheath in the CNS, while _____ help maintain the ionic and chemical environment.

- a. Schwann cells; astrocytes
- b. oligodendroglia; astrocytes
- c. oligodendroglia; microglia
- d. Schwann cells; microglia

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

20. The primary immune response in the CNS comes from the action of

- a. microglia.
- b. astrocytes.
- c. white blood cells.
- d. oligodendroglia.

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

21. Neural transmission is generally _____ within a single neuron and _____ between neurons.

- a. chemical; electrical
- b. electrical; electrical
- c. electrical; chemical
- d. chemical; chemical

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

22. The _____ is best described as a result of the selective permeability of the neuronal membrane and the uneven distribution of ions inside and outside the cell.

- a. action potential
- b. threshold
- c. local potentials
- d. resting membrane potential

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

23. The Na^+/K^+ pump helps to maintain the _____ by moving three Na^+ ions in and two K^+ ions out of the cell.

- a. action potential
- b. resting membrane potential
- c. threshold
- d. local potential

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

24. The term “hyperpolarization” refers to

- a. an excitatory postsynaptic potential.
- b. the opening of sodium channels.
- c. movement of the resting membrane potential closer to threshold.
- d. movement of the resting membrane potential farther from threshold.

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

25. Postsynaptic potentials are a type of _____ potential.

- a. action
- b. local
- c. resting
- d. equilibrium

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

26. At the equilibrium potential, the two forces acting on ions are in balance. These forces are the _____ and the _____.

- a. Na^+/K^+ pump; threshold

- b. Na^+/K^+ pump; electrostatic gradient
- c. concentration gradient; action potential
- d. concentration gradient; electrostatic gradient

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

27. Excitatory postsynaptic potentials are generally caused by _____ channels opening, while inhibitory postsynaptic potentials may be caused by _____ channels opening.

- a. Na^+ ; Cl^-
- b. K^+ ; Cl^-
- c. Ca^{2+} ; K^+
- d. Cl^- ; K^+

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

28. Which statement about local potentials is *false*?

- a. They are generated on the dendrites and cell body.
- b. They occur only if threshold is reached.
- c. They move passively along the membrane.
- d. They are integrated at the axon hillock.

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

29. Summation of local potentials can lead to a(n) _____ at the axon hillock if the _____ is reached.

- a. equilibrium potential; threshold
- b. local potential; equilibrium potential
- c. action potential; equilibrium potential
- d. action potential; threshold

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

30. Action potentials are first generated at the axon hillock because this is where _____ are located.

- a. non-gated K^+ channels
- b. voltage-gated Na^+ channels
- c. transporters
- d. Na^+/K^+ pumps

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

31. During the _____ period, no additional action potentials can be created.

- a. absolute refractory
- b. conduction
- c. integration
- d. relative refractory

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

32. The absolute refractory period occurs because _____ channels cannot be opened, and the relative refractory period occurs because _____.

- a. voltage-gated Na^+ ; voltage-gated K^+ channels cannot be opened
- b. voltage-gated K^+ ; voltage-gated Na^+ channels remain open
- c. voltage-gated Na^+ ; voltage-gated K^+ channels remain open
- d. voltage-gated Na^+ ; Na^+/K^+ pumps are activated

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

33. Which statement about action potentials is *false*?

- a. They are considered all-or-none.
- b. Extreme excitation will result in a very large action potential.
- c. They can move via saltatory conduction in myelinated axons.
- d. They are generated at the axon hillock.

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

34. Local anesthetics, such as lidocaine, have their effects by

- a. blocking the Na^+/K^+ pump.
- b. preventing the generation of EPSPs and IPSPs.
- c. blocking voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels.
- d. blocking voltage-gated Na^+ channels.

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

35. The _____ and _____ nervous system are components of the peripheral nervous system and relay information about the internal and external environment, respectively.

- a. cranial nerves; somatic
- b. autonomic nervous system; sympathetic
- c. sympathetic nervous system; parasympathetic
- d. autonomic nervous system; somatic

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

36. Which of the following is *not* part of the peripheral nervous system?

- a. Sympathetic nervous system
- b. Parasympathetic nervous system
- c. Spinal cord
- d. Cranial nerves

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

37. A _____ section of the brain is cut parallel to the face.

- a. sagittal
- b. coronal
- c. horizontal
- d. caudal

Answer: b

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

38. What kind of information is carried by the ventral roots of the spinal cord?

- a. Sensory information from muscles and skin
- b. Proprioceptive information from joints and muscles
- c. Motor information to muscles
- d. Motor and sensory information

Answer: c

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

39. The sympathetic nervous system is responsible for _____ functions and uses _____ as its neurotransmitter(s).

- a. energy conservation; acetylcholine
- b. energy conservation; acetylcholine and norepinephrine
- c. fight-or-flight; acetylcholine
- d. fight-or-flight; acetylcholine and norepinephrine

Answer: d

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

40. Clusters of cell bodies in the CNS are called _____, and their associated bundles of axons are called _____.

- a. nuclei; tracts
- b. ganglia; tracts
- c. nuclei; nerves
- d. ganglia; nerves

Answer: a

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

Matching

41. Match each numbered description with a lettered term below.

- _____ 1. Releases acetylcholine at ganglia and target
- _____ 2. Fluid-filled cavities in the brain
- _____ 3. Brain structure that regulates respiration and heart rate
- _____ 4. Part of diencephalon involved in regulating homeostasis
- _____ 5. Neural network that regulates motivation and emotion
- _____ 6. Brain structure that connects right and left hemispheres
- _____ 7. Originates in thoracic and lumbar spinal cord
- _____ 8. Part of brain that process and relays sensory information to cortex

- a. Limbic system
- b. Corpus callosum
- c. Hypothalamus
- d. Parasympathetic division
- e. Thalamus
- f. Sympathetic division
- g. Cerebral ventricles
- h. Medulla

Answer: 1. d; 2. g; 3. h; 4. c; 5. a; 6. b; 7. f; 8. e

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

Short Answer/Essay

42. Write a coherent and informative paragraph using the following terms: transcription factor, promoter region, transcription, translation.

Answer: Changes in synaptic activity increase or decrease the production of particular proteins by activating transcription factors in the nucleus. Transcription factors are nuclear proteins that direct protein production. Transcription factors such as CREB bind to the promoter region of the gene adjacent to the coding region, modifying its rate of transcription. Transcription occurs in the nucleus, where messenger RNA (mRNA) makes a complementary copy of the active gene. After moving from the nucleus to the cytoplasm, mRNA attaches to organelles called ribosomes, which decode the “recipe” and link the appropriate amino acids together to form the protein. This process is called translation.

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

43. Briefly describe the role of chromatin remodeling in the epigenetic modification of gene expression.

Answer: Chromatin is a complex of DNA, histone proteins, and nonhistone proteins. When histone tails are acetylated, charges open up the chromatin, creating an active state that allows transcription factors to bind to the promoter region of a gene to enhance transcription. The inactive state of chromatin is caused by methylation of histone tails, which pulls the chromatin tighter and prevents the binding of transcription factors, reducing transcription of the gene.

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

44. Name four types of glial cells and give at least one function of each type.

Answer: Schwann cells and oligodendroglia produce myelin sheath on peripheral and central nervous system neurons, respectively. Astrocytes regulate the extracellular environment of the neurons, regulate CNS blood flow, and provide physical support and nutritional assistance. Microglia act as phagocytes to remove cellular debris and provide immune function.

Textbook Reference: Cells of the Nervous System

45. How are local potentials and action potentials similar, and how are they different?

Answer: Similarities: Both involve Na^+ and K^+ channels. Differences: Local potentials are graded, decremental, produced by opening of ligand-gated ion channels, involve depolarization or hyperpolarization, and spatial and temporal summation. Action potentials are “all-or-none,” nondecremental, produced by opening of voltage-gated channels, involve depolarization only, and the intensity of stimulus is coded by rate of firing.

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

46. Give a detailed, step-by-step description of the stages of an action potential, including a description of and explanation for the refractory periods.

Answer: The summation of all EPSPs and IPSPs occurring at any single moment in time occurs at the axon hillock. If the threshold is reached (usually approximately a change from -70 mV to -50 mV), voltage-gated Na^+ channels open, allowing large amounts of Na^+ to enter the axon to produce the massive depolarization known as the action potential. At the peak of the action potential ($+40$ mV), voltage-gated Na^+ channels close and cannot be opened until they reset at the resting potential, so no action potential can occur during this time (this is called the absolute refractory period). As the cell becomes more positive inside, voltage-gated K^+ channels open and K^+ exits from the cell, bringing the membrane potential back toward resting levels. The overshoot by K^+ causes the cell to be more polarized than normal, so it is more difficult (although still possible) to reach the threshold to generate another action potential relative refractory period). The action potential moves down the length of the axon by sequential opening of voltage-gated Na^+ channels.

Textbook Reference: Electrical Transmission within a Neuron

47. Compare and contrast the sympathetic and parasympathetic divisions of the autonomic nervous system.

Answer: The sympathetic nervous system predominates when energy expenditure is necessary, such as during times of stress, excitement, and exertion. This system increases heart rate and blood pressure, stimulates secretion of adrenaline, and increases blood flow to skeletal muscles, among other effects. The parasympathetic division predominates at times when energy reserves can be conserved and stored for later use; this system increases salivation, digestion, and storage of glucose and other nutrients and also slows heart rate and decreases respiration.

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

48. Discuss the anatomical differences between the sympathetic and parasympathetic divisions of the autonomic nervous system, including their points of origin in the central nervous system.

Answer: The cell bodies of sympathetic neurons are in the ventral horn at the thoracic and lumbar regions. Their axons project for a relatively short distance before they synapse with a cluster of cell bodies called sympathetic ganglia. The preganglionic fibers release acetylcholine onto cell bodies in the ganglia. The postganglionic cells project their axons for a relatively long distance to the target tissues and release norepinephrine. The cell bodies of the parasympathetic neurons are located either in the brain (cranial nerves) or in the ventral horn of the spinal cord at the sacral region. Preganglionic neurons travel long

distances to synapse on cells in the parasympathetic ganglia are close to target organs and both preganglionic and postganglionic fibers release acetylcholine.

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

49. Describe the HPA axis and the neuroendocrine stress response, including the idea of negative feedback.

Answer: Stress causes the secretion of corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) by the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus into the blood vessels ending in the anterior pituitary. The binding of CRF in that gland causes the release of adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) into the general blood circulation. ACTH subsequently binds to the adrenal cortex to increase the secretion of cortisol and other glucocorticoids, all of which contribute to the mobilization of energy to cope with stress or exertion. Cortisol feeds back to the hypothalamus (and hippocampus) to shut down HPA activation and return cortisol levels to normal.

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System

50. Name and briefly describe the functions of the four lobes of the cerebral cortex.

Answer: The frontal lobe is responsible for movement and executive function. The other three lobes are sensory in function: parietal (somatosensory—touch, temperature, pain); occipital (vision); and temporal (audition).

Textbook Reference: Organization of the Nervous System