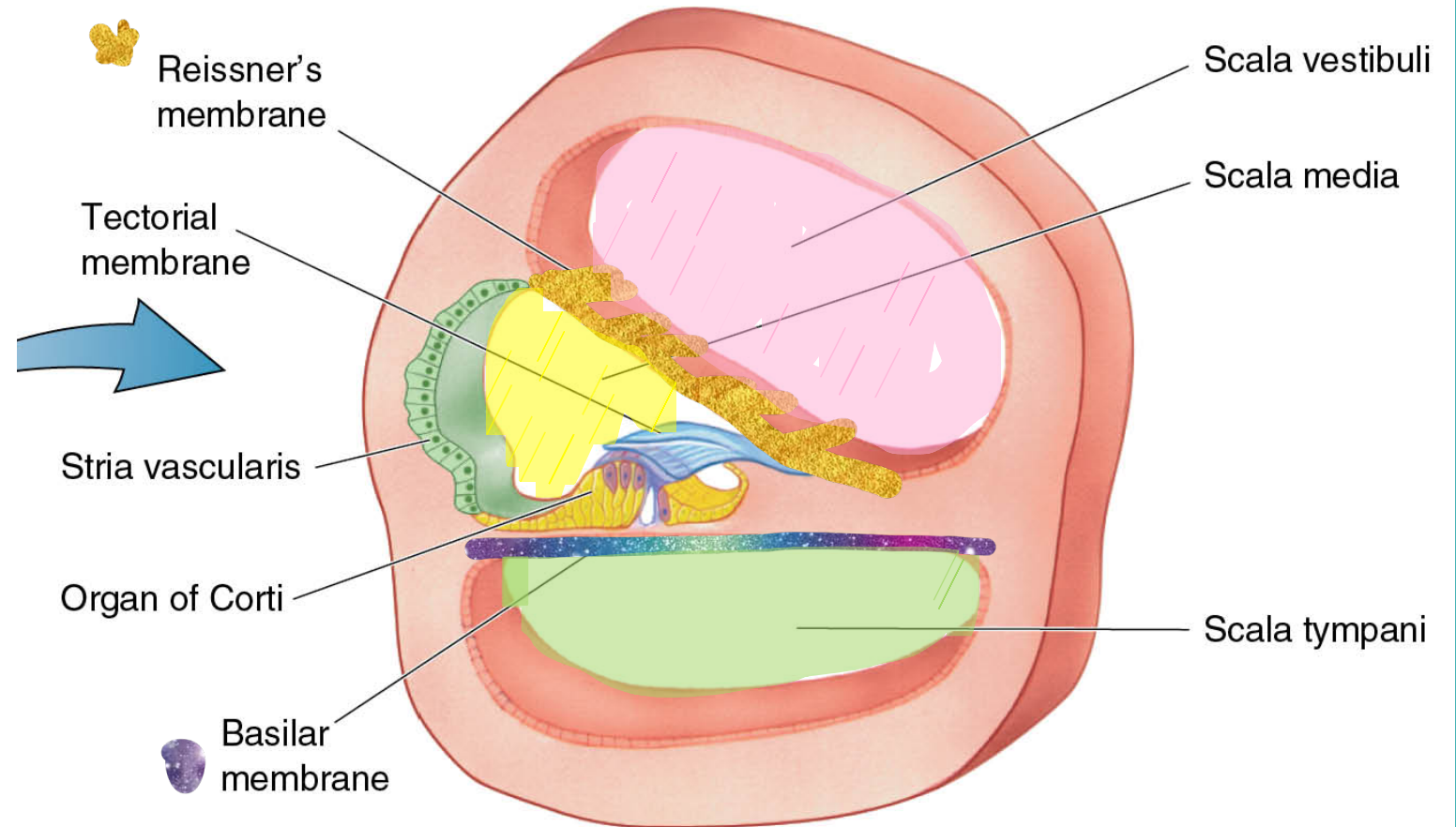
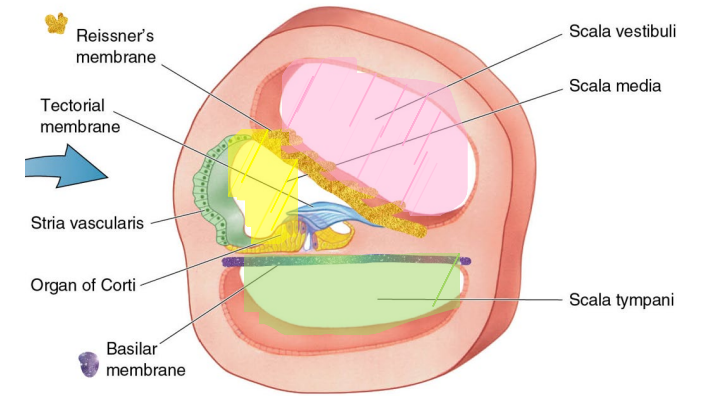
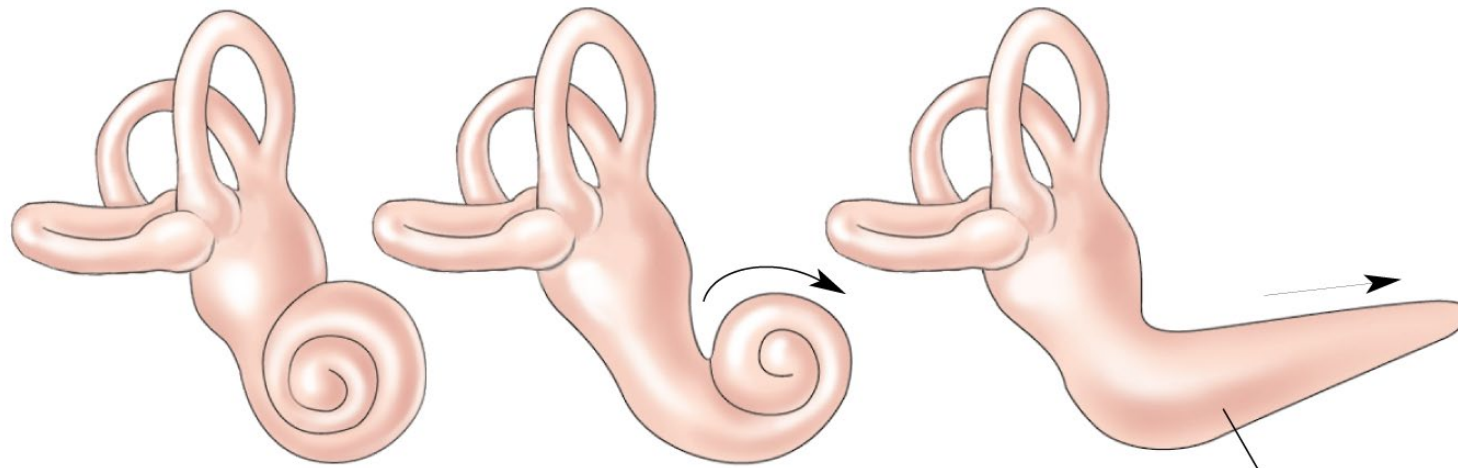


# THE INNER EAR → SOUND TO NEURAL SIGNALS

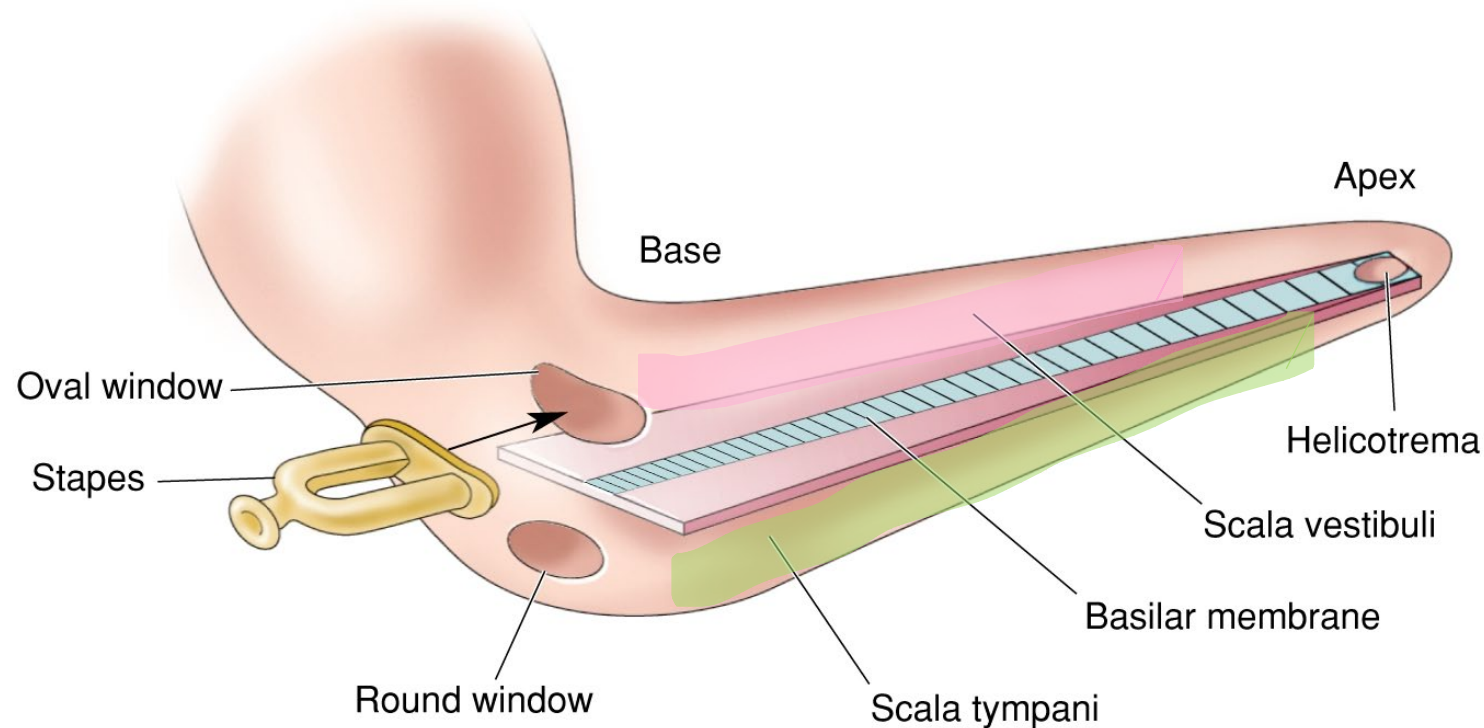
- Anatomy of the cochlea
- Perilymph: fluid in scala vestibuli and scala tympani
- Endolymph: fluid in scala media
- Endocochlear potential: endolymph electrical potential 80 mV more positive than perilymph



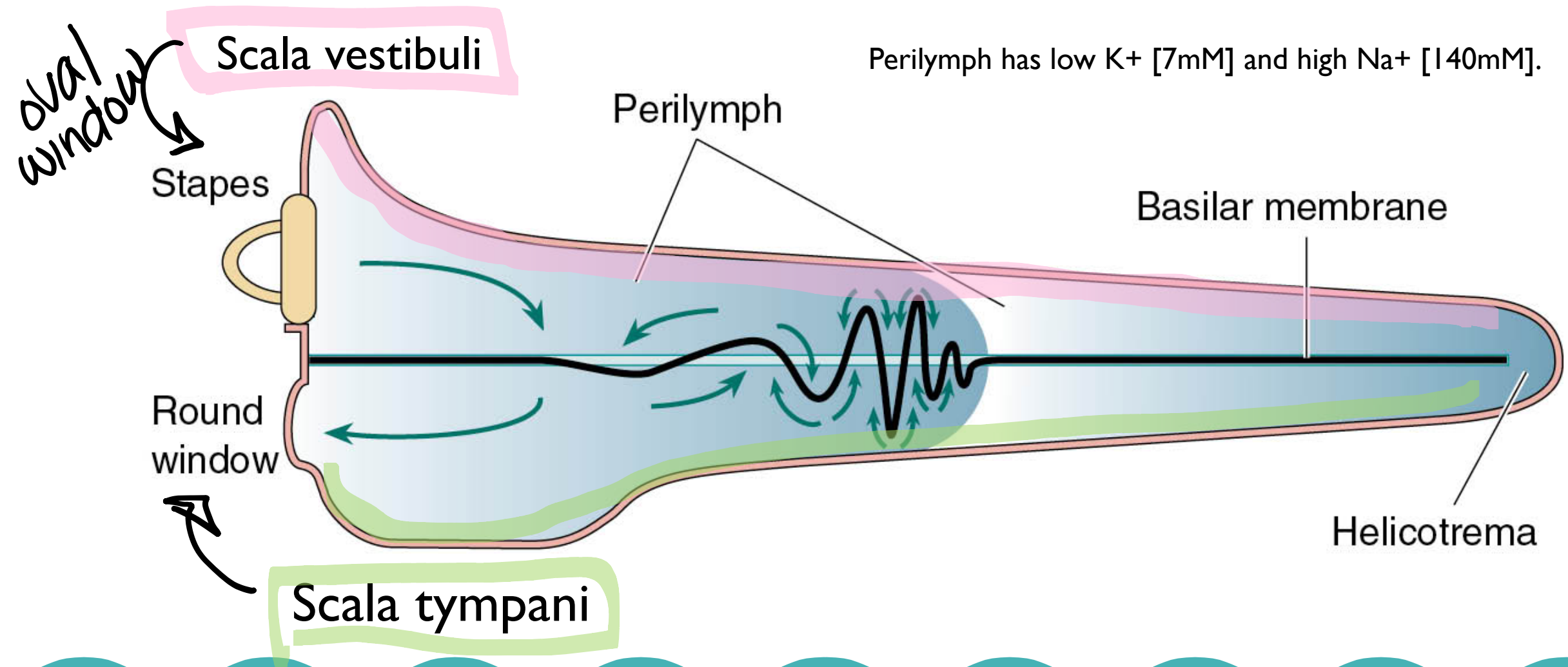


The cochlea narrows from base to apex

Uncoiled cochlea

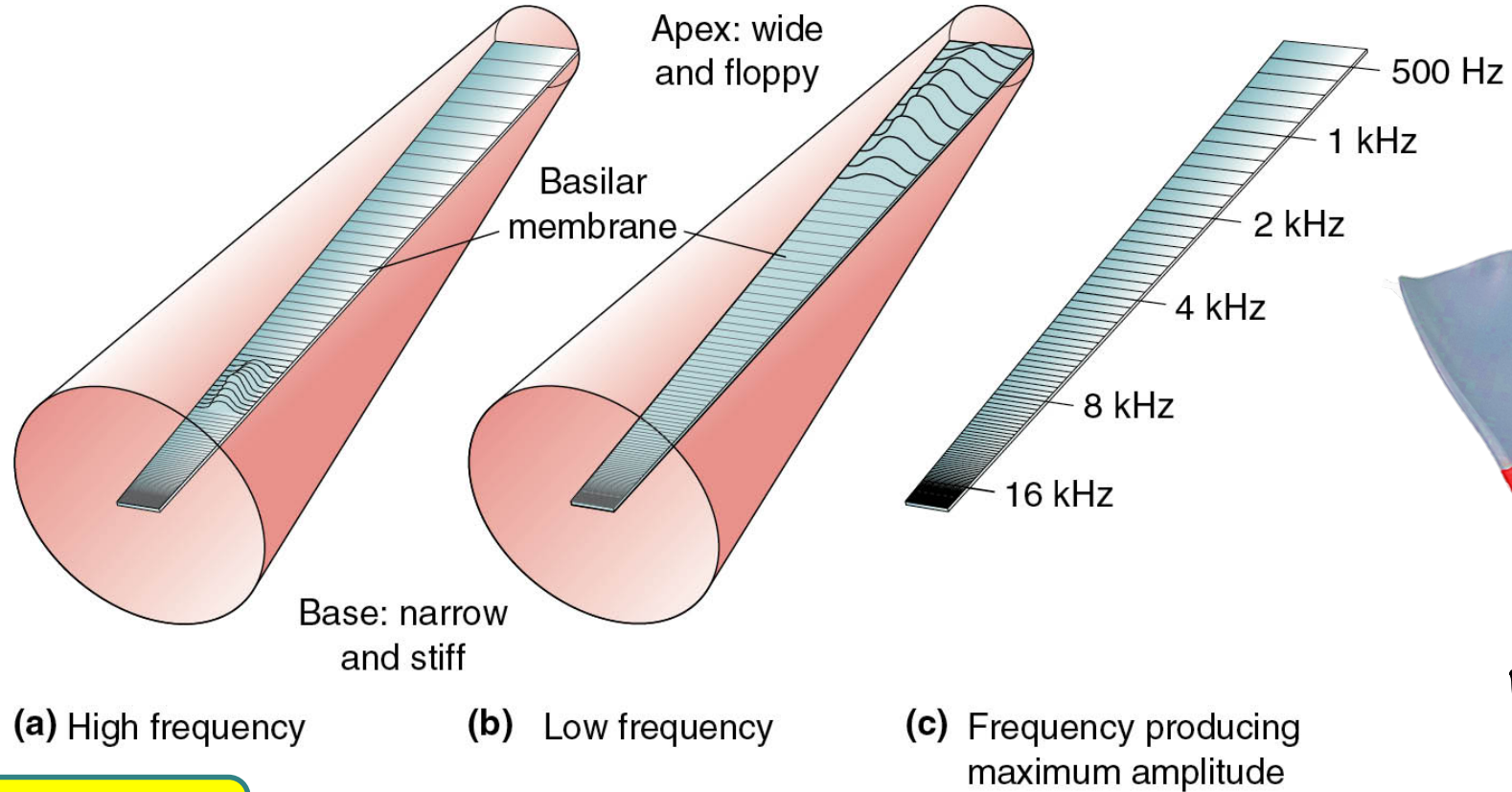


The basilar membrane **WIDENS** towards the apex.



# TRAVELING WAVE IN THE BASILAR MEMBRANE

Recall:  
Basilar membrane is flexible and bends in response to sound.



wide & floppy

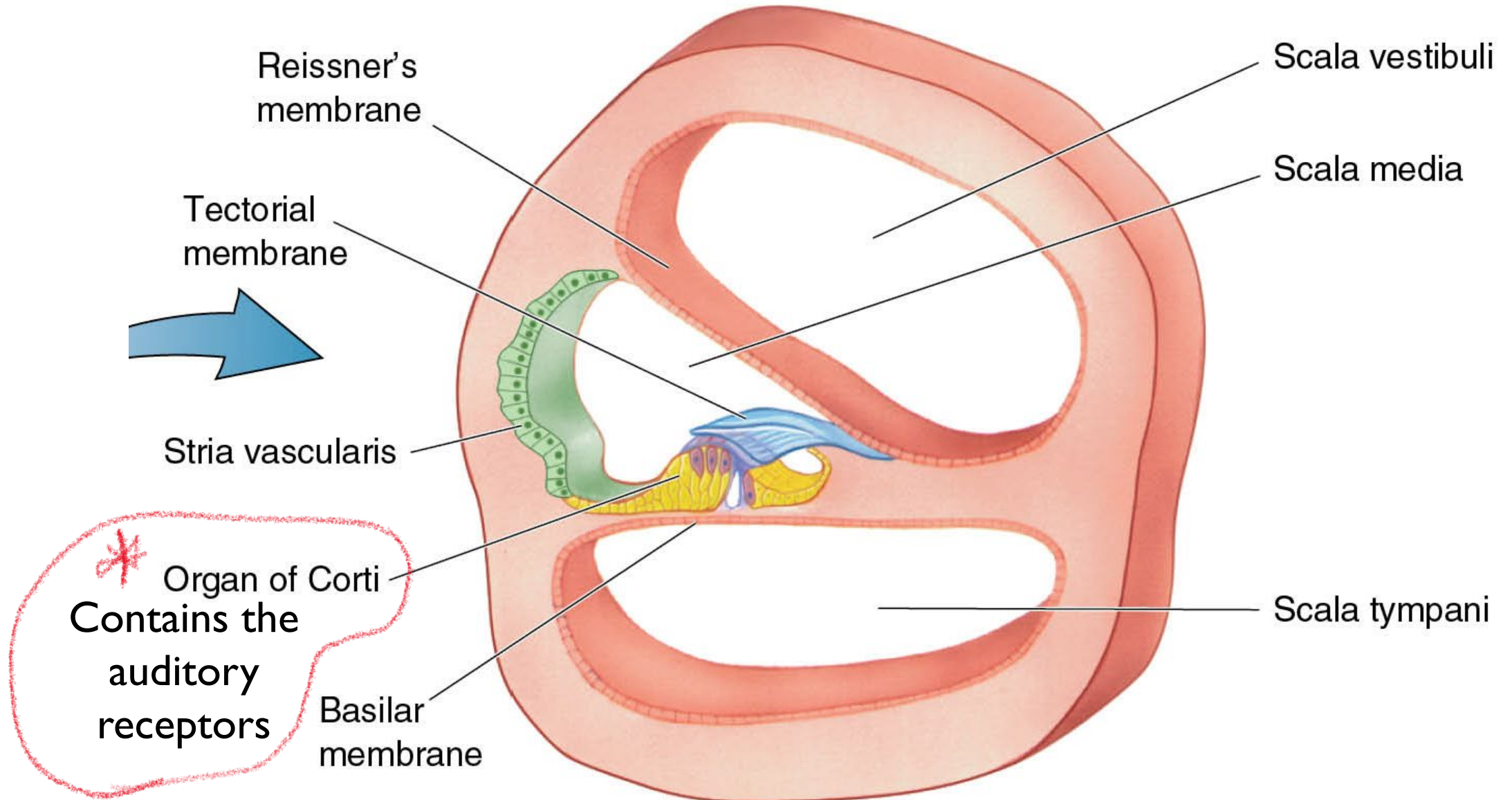


narrow & stiff

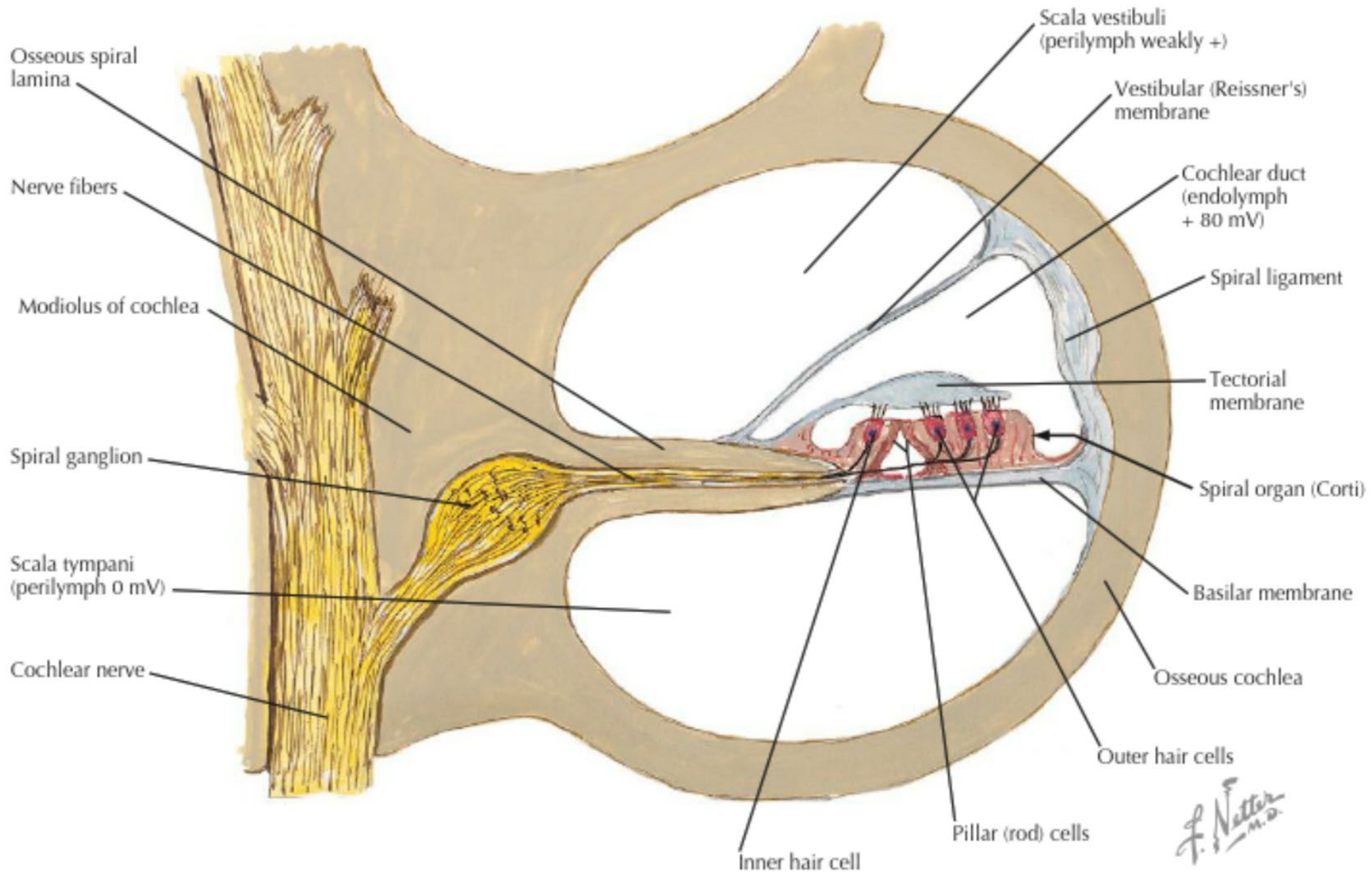
PLACE CODING

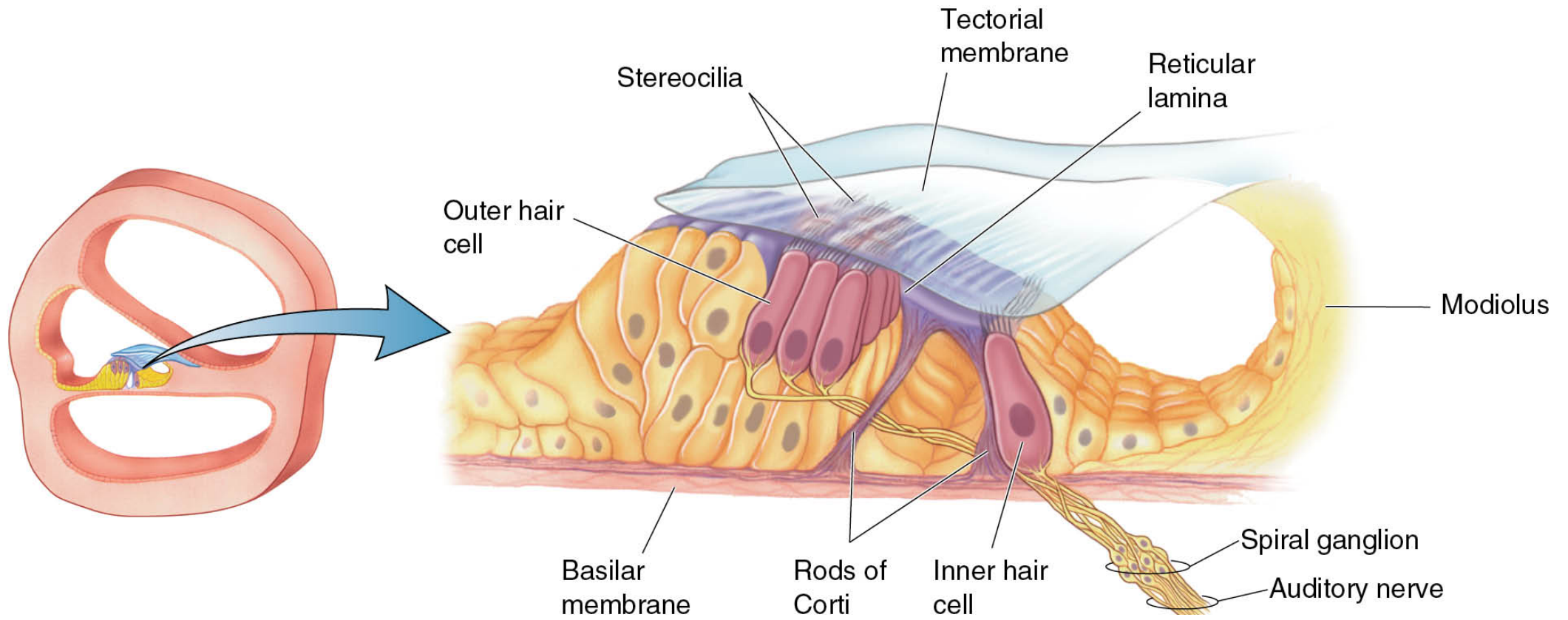
## RESPONSE OF BASILAR MEMBRANE TO SOUND

# The organ of Corti – auditory receptors



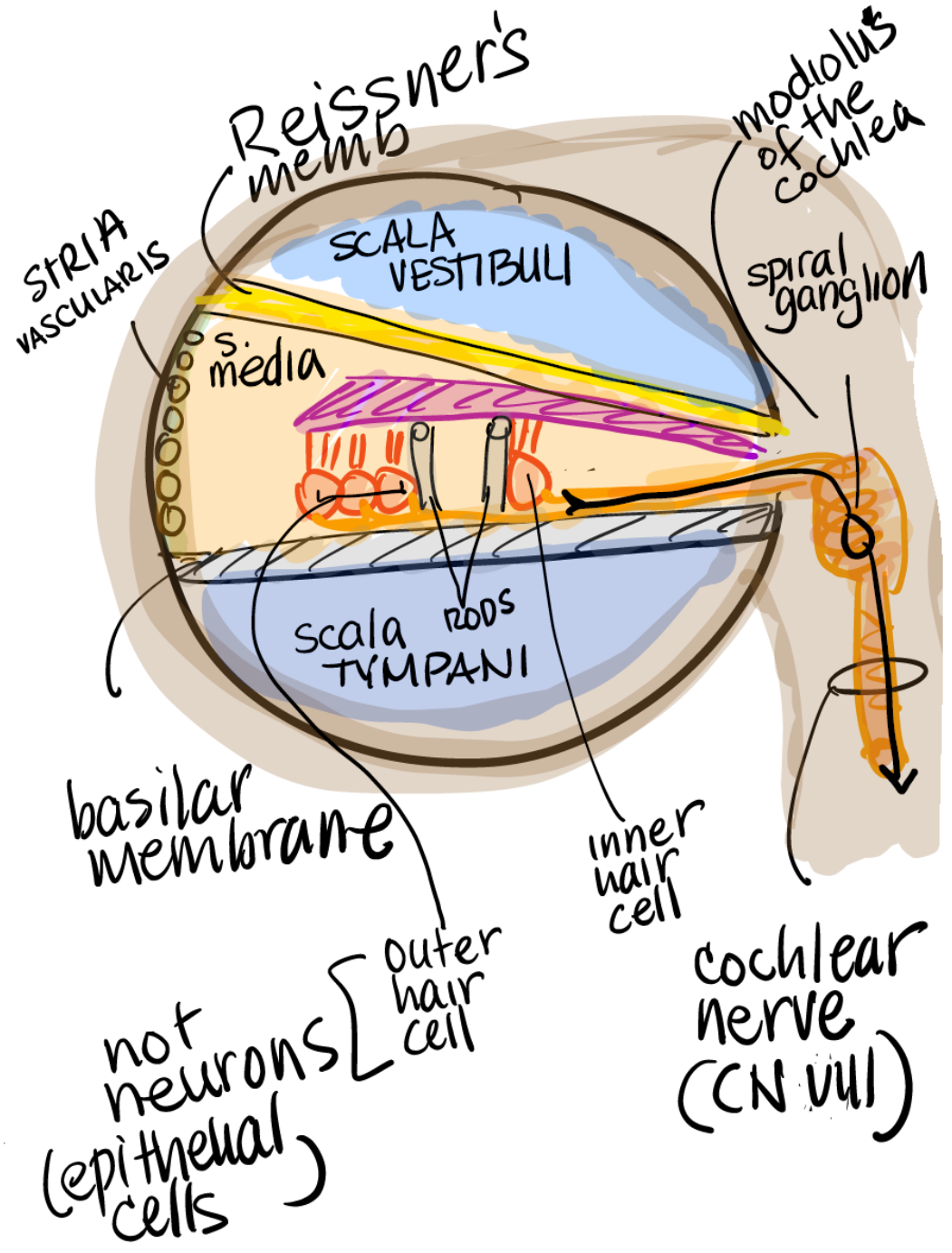
# Section through turn of cochlea





## THE ORGAN OF CORTI AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES





Reissner's memb

modiolus of the cochlea

STRIA VASCULARIS

SCALA VESTIBULI

spiral ganglion

s. media

scala TYMPANI

basilar membrane

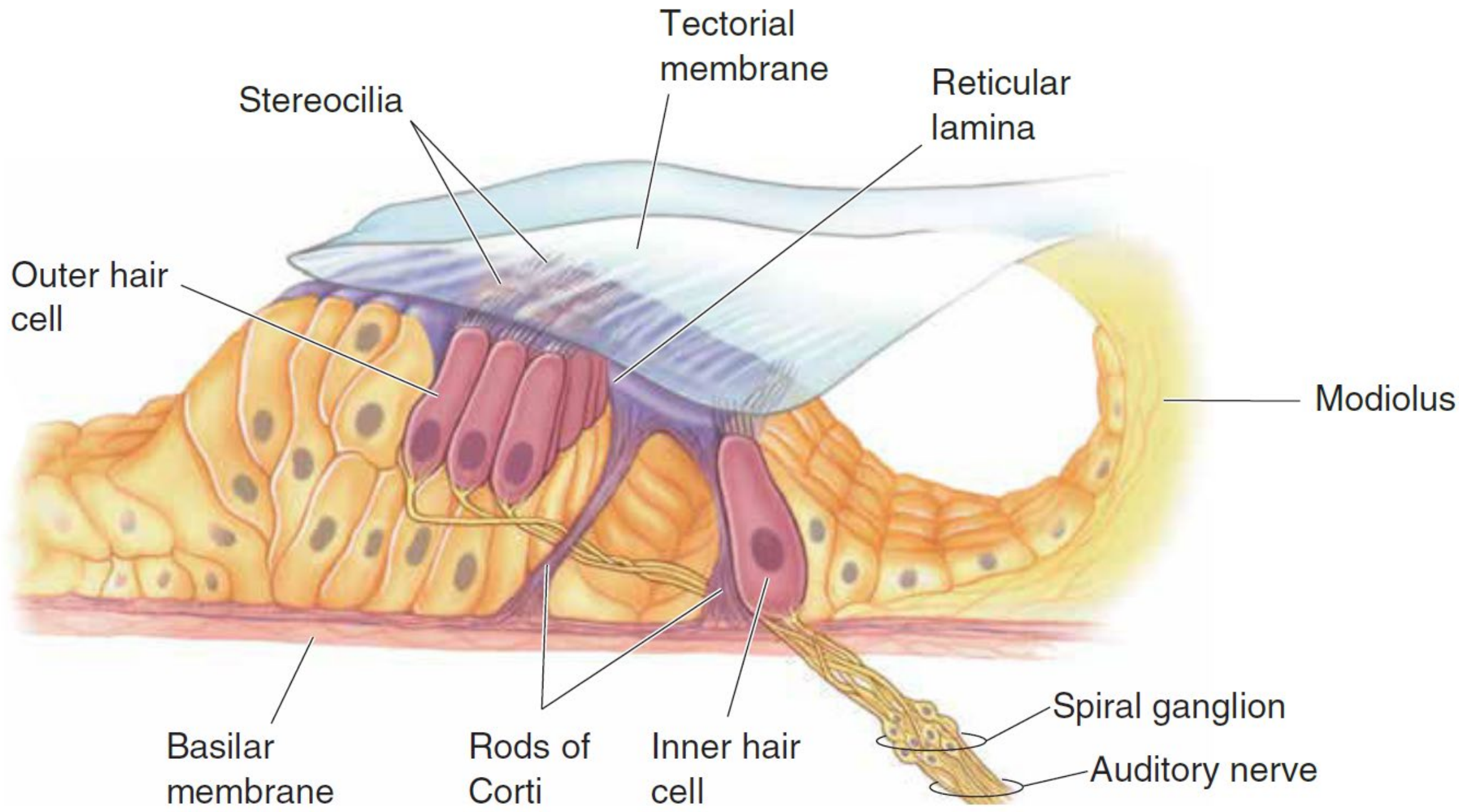
inner hair cell

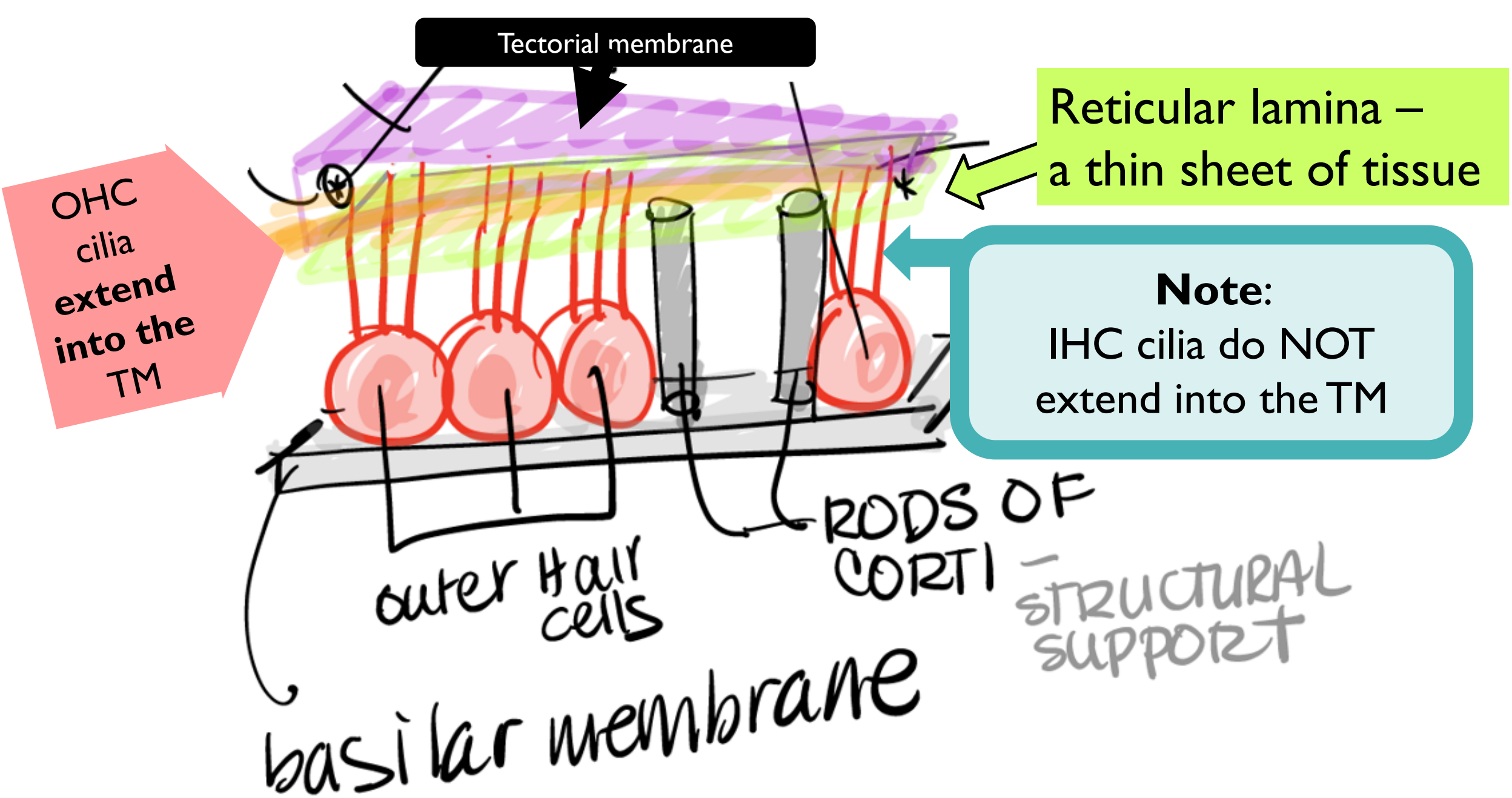
not neurons (epithelial cells) } outer hair cell

cochlear nerve (CN VIII)

outer hair cell

rods





Tectorial membrane

Reticular lamina –  
a thin sheet of tissue

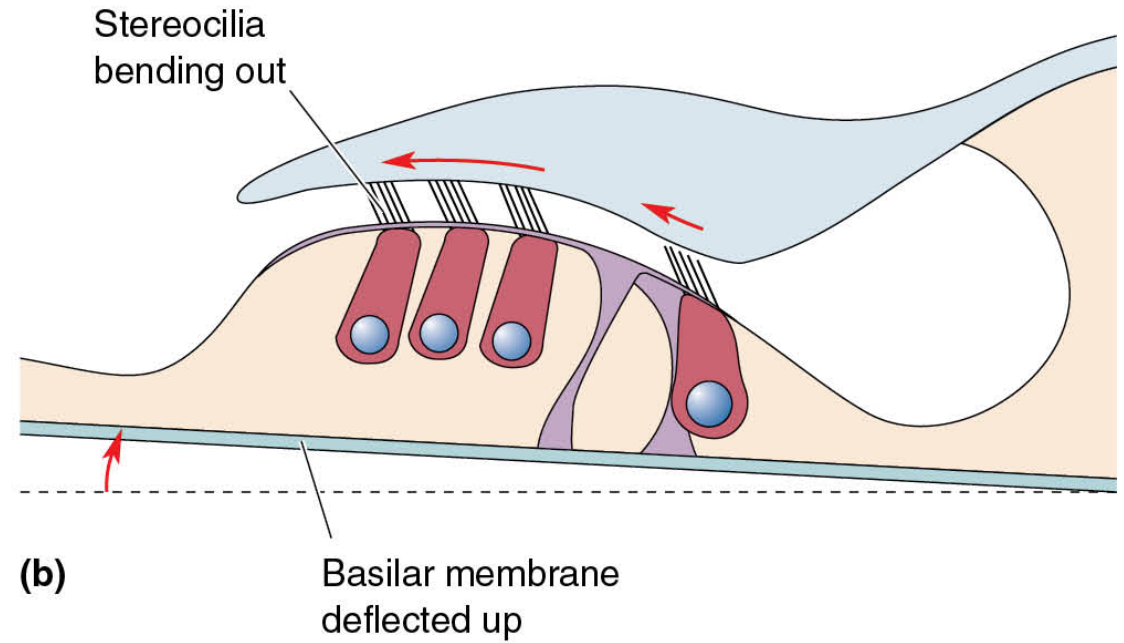
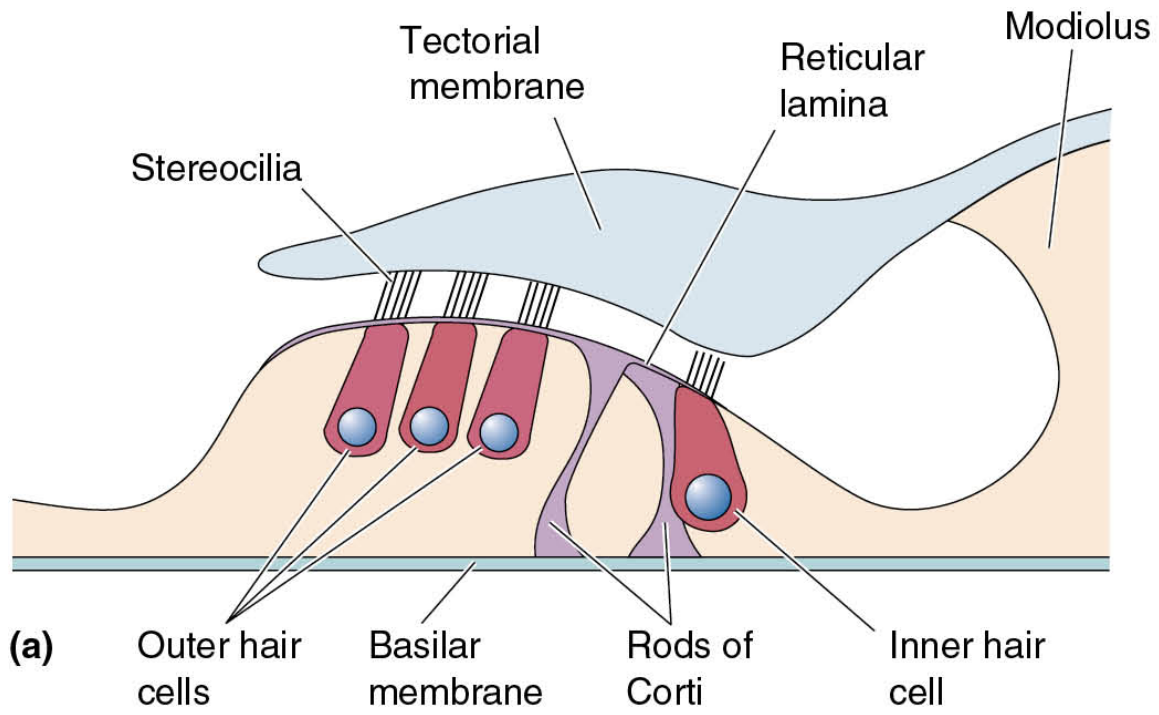
OHC  
cilia  
extend  
into the  
TM

**Note:**  
IHC cilia do NOT  
extend into the TM

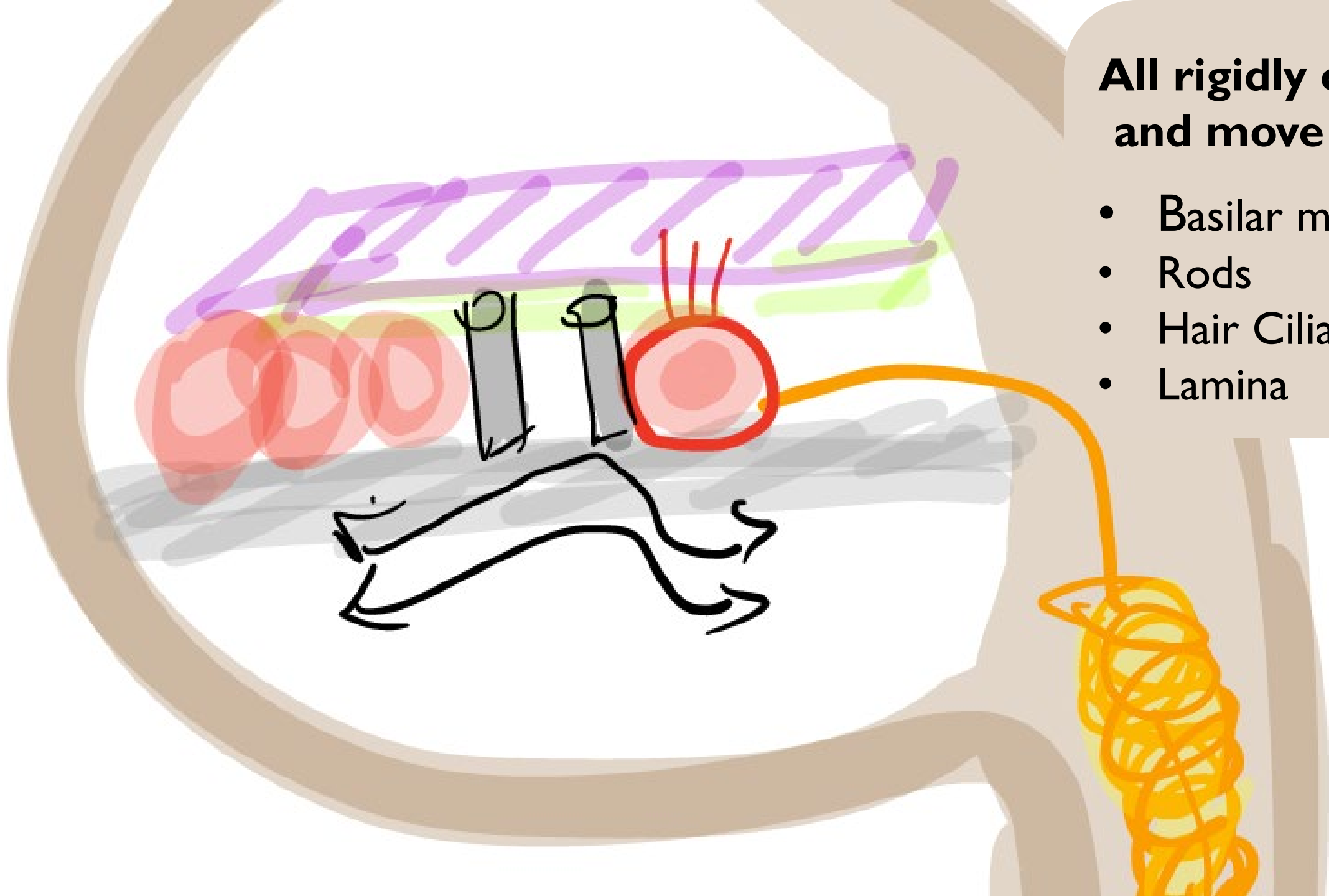
outer Hair  
cells

RODS OF  
CORTI  
–  
STRUCTURAL  
SUPPORT

basilar membrane



## THE BENDING OF STEREOCILIA

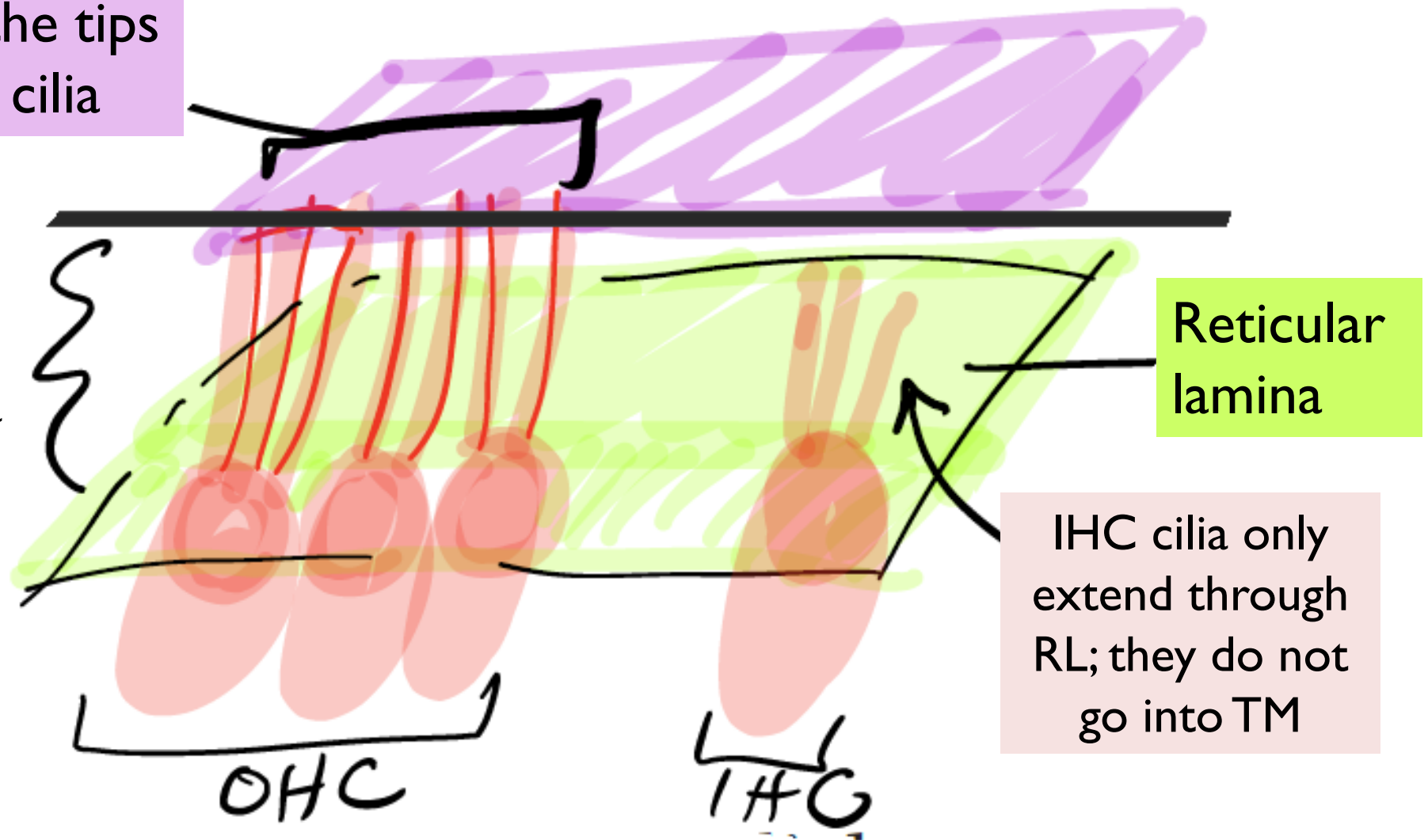


**All rigidly connected  
and move as a unit:**

- Basilar membrane
- Rods
- Hair Cilia
- Lamina

TM holds the tips  
of OHC cilia

OHC cilia extend  
through the lamina  
into the TM



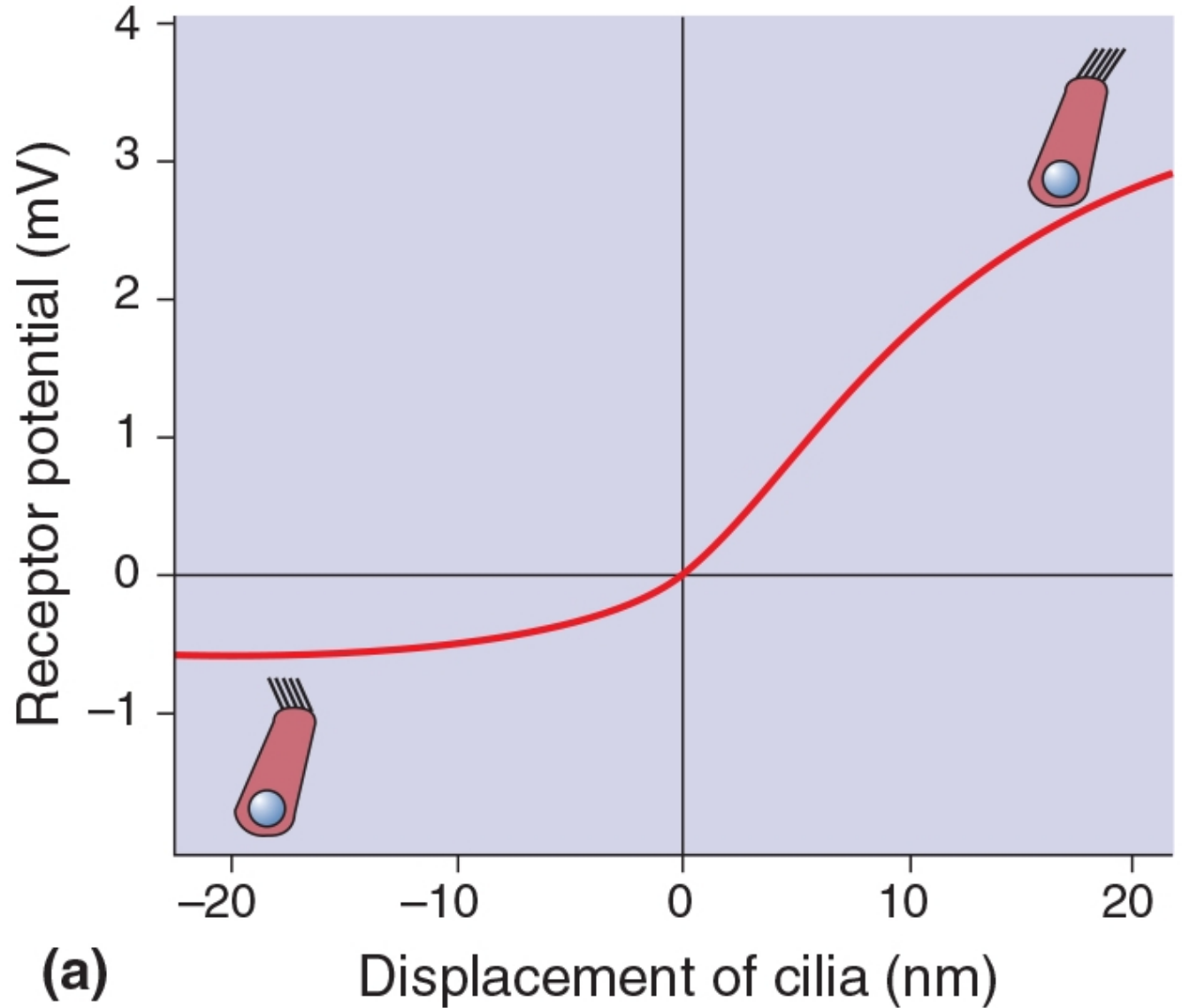
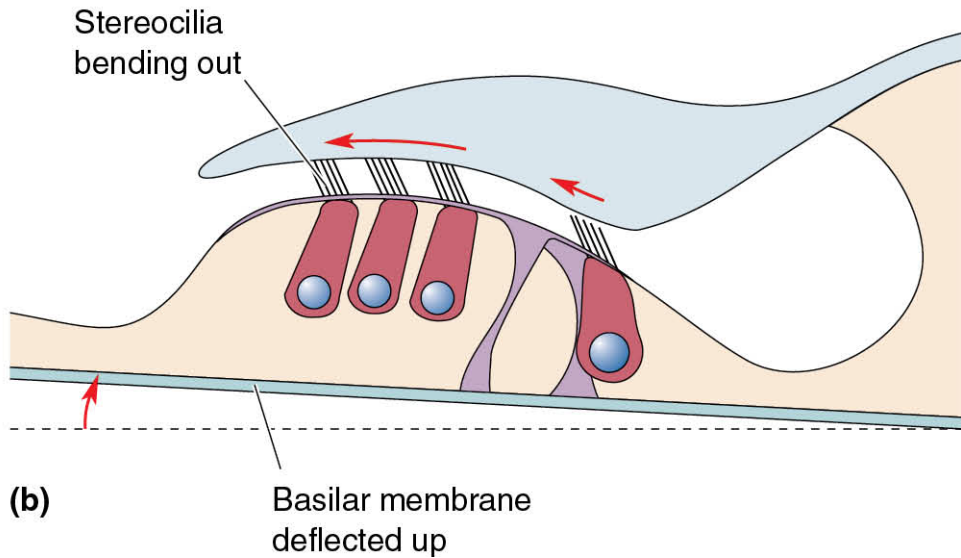
Reticular  
lamina

IHC cilia only  
extend through  
RL; they do not  
go into TM

OHC

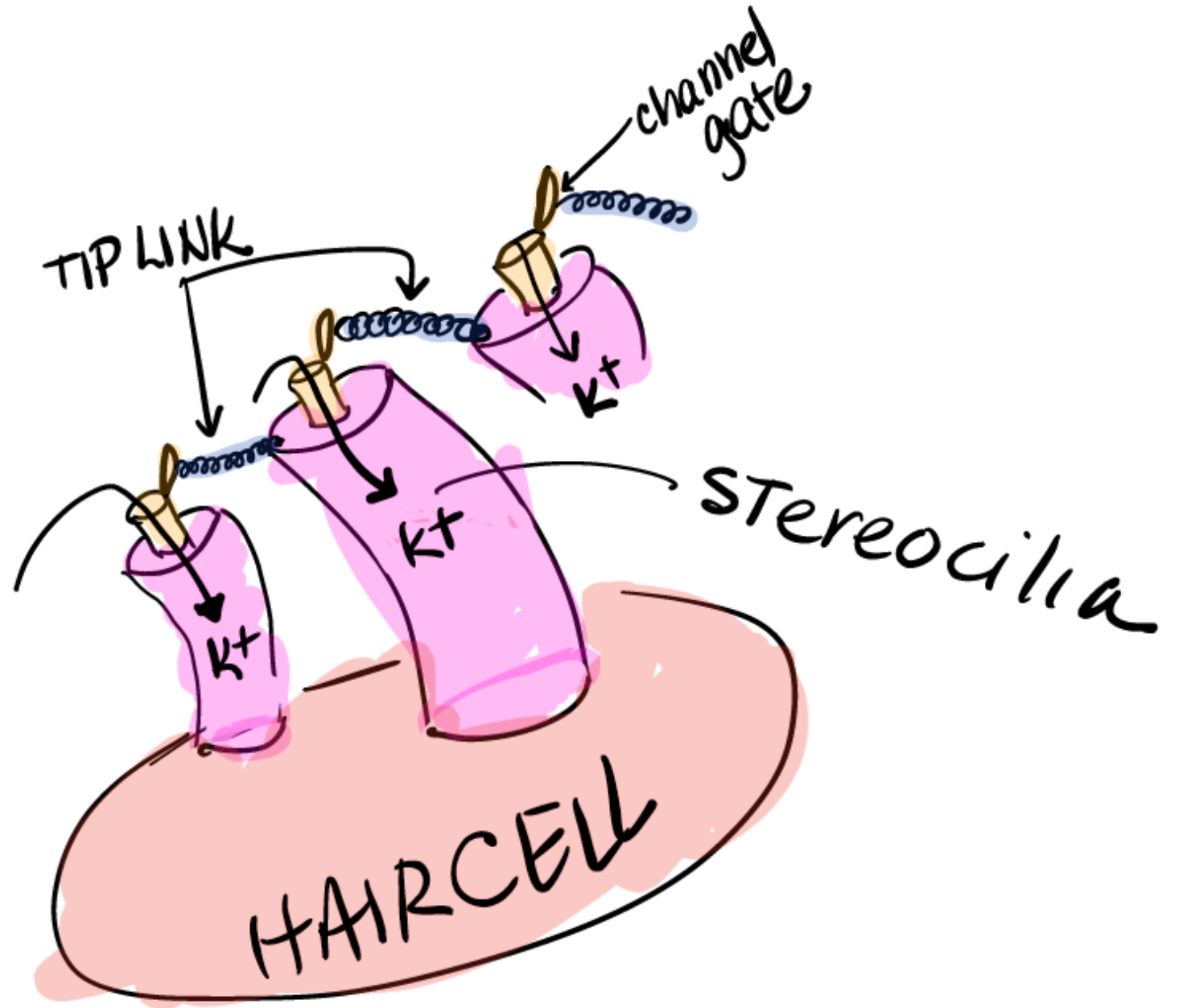
IHC

The hair cell depolarizes or hyperpolarizes depending on the direction in which the stereocilia bend.



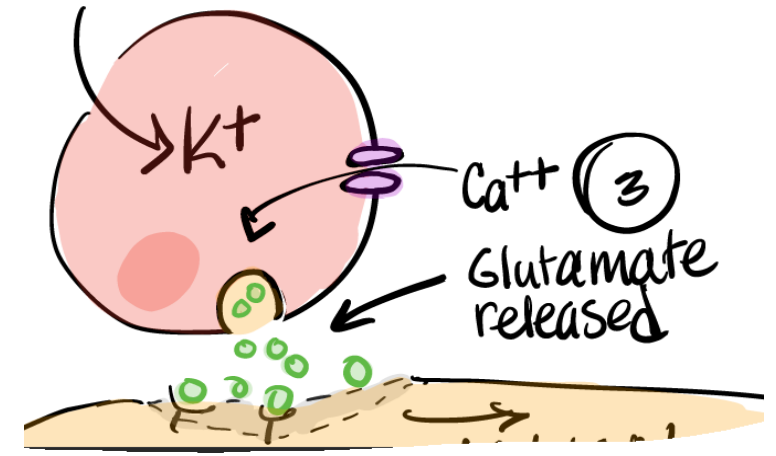
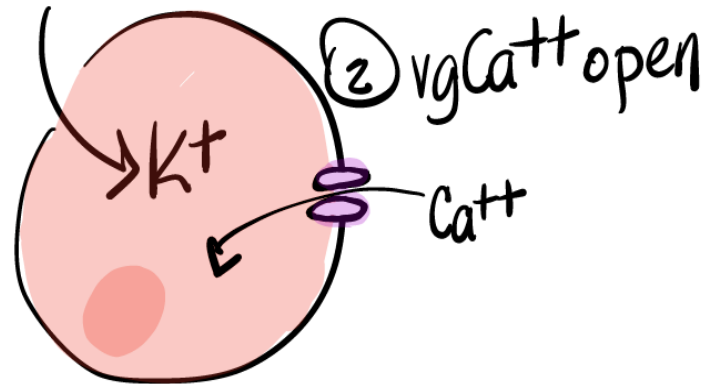
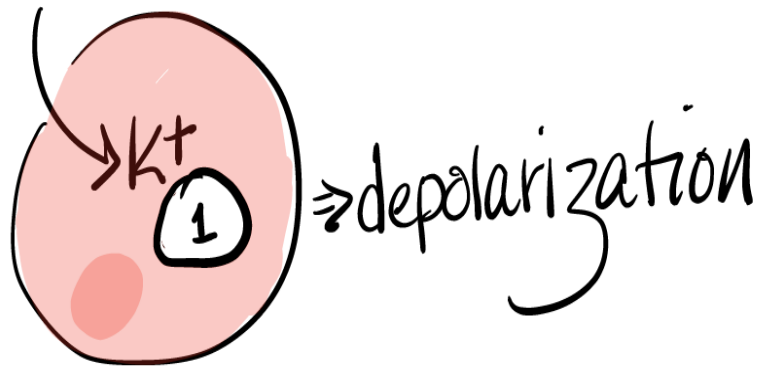
# Mechanosensitive transduction

Tip links mechanically open ion channel on the tip of the cilia.

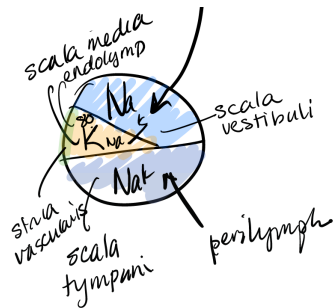




# Hair Cell Receptor Potential

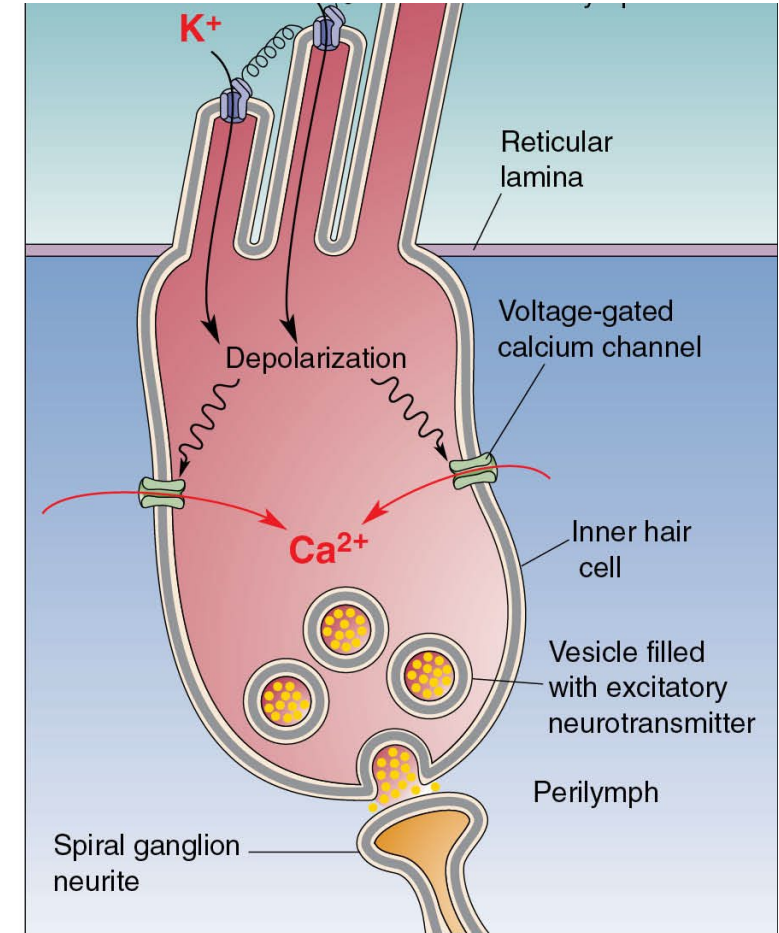
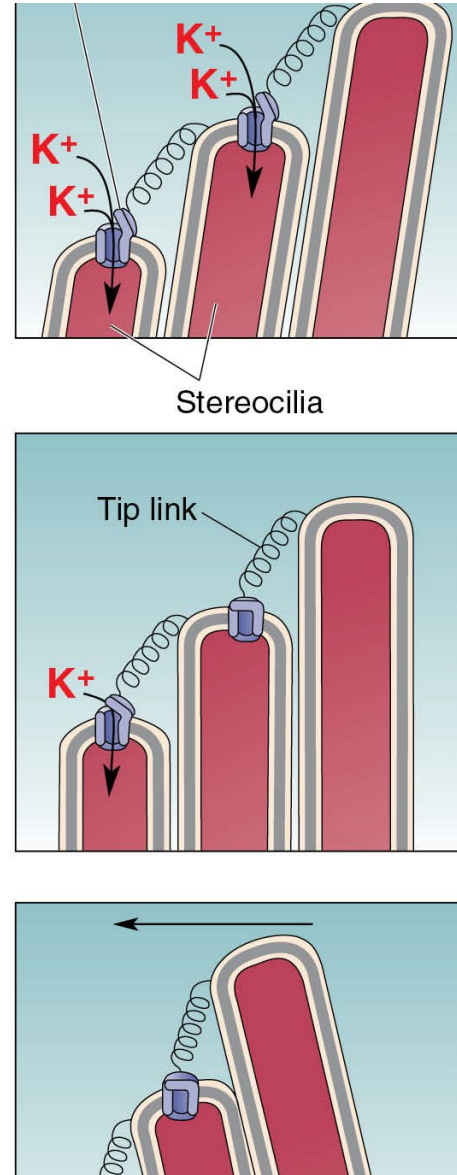


Recall: Endolymph has very high  $K^+$



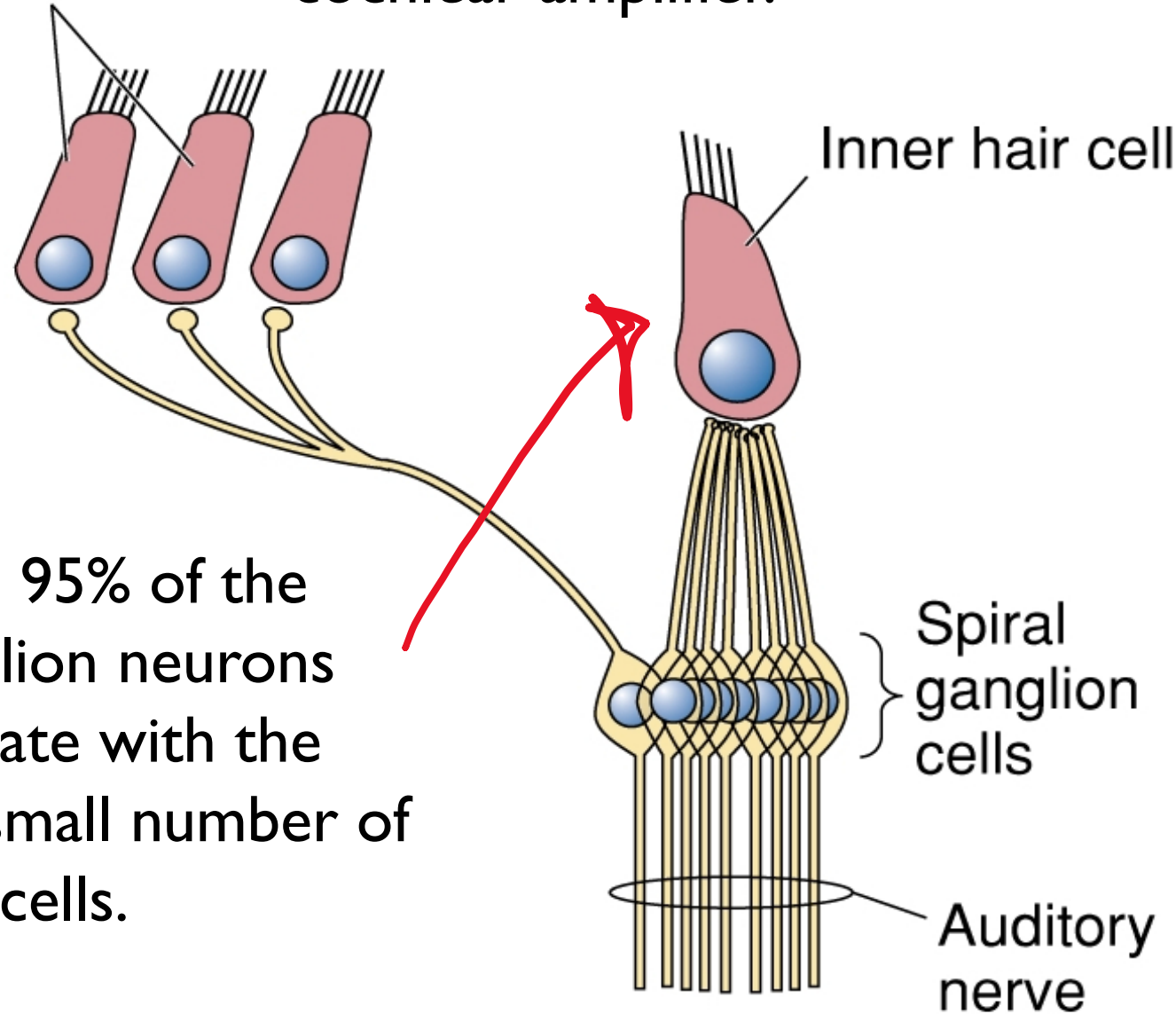
# TRANSDUCTION BY HAIR CELLS

- When the tip-links are stretched the hair cell is depolarized – by  $K^+$  entering the cell.
- Once depolarized by  $K^+$ ,  $VGCa^{++}$  opens and glutamate is released into the synaptic cleft.
- $E_k = 0mV$
- Receptors on the spiral ganglion neurites receive the signal.



(b)

Outer hair cells The OHC act as a cochlear amplifier.



The majority of the auditory information to the CNS is from the inner hair cells.

More than 95% of the spiral ganglion neurons communicate with the relatively small number of inner hair cells.

≡ prestin

↑ - muscle protein

-very fast

“presto”

-driven by

receptor

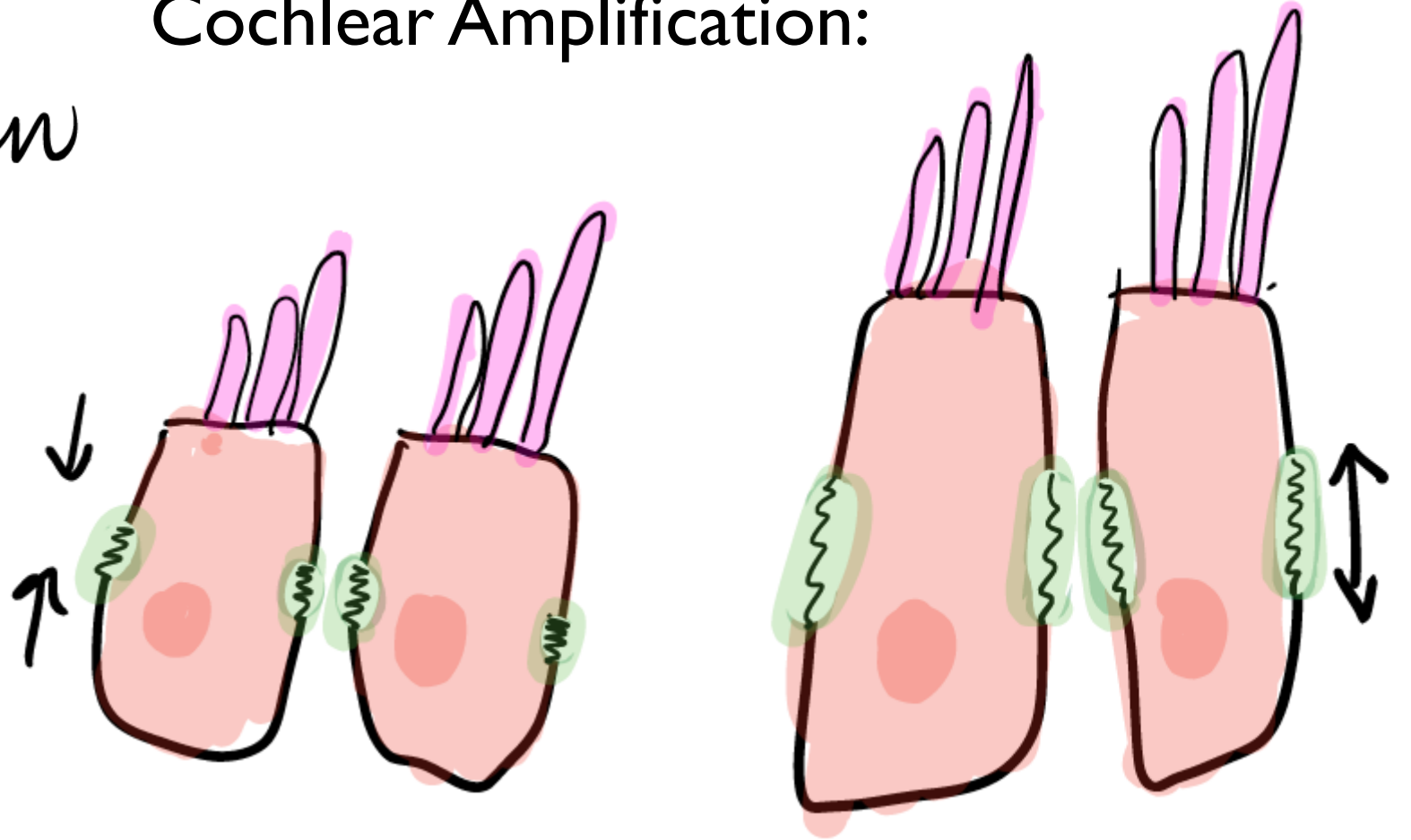
potential

-moves in

response to

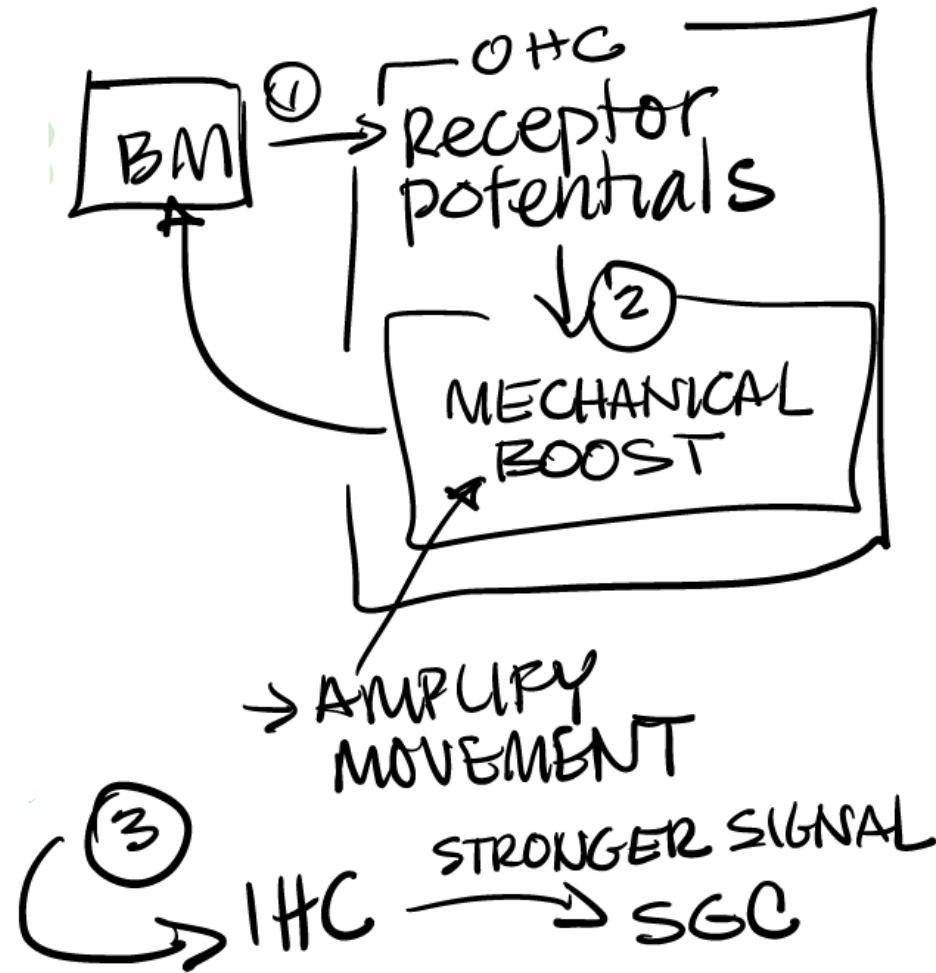
sound (feedback)

## Cochlear Amplification:

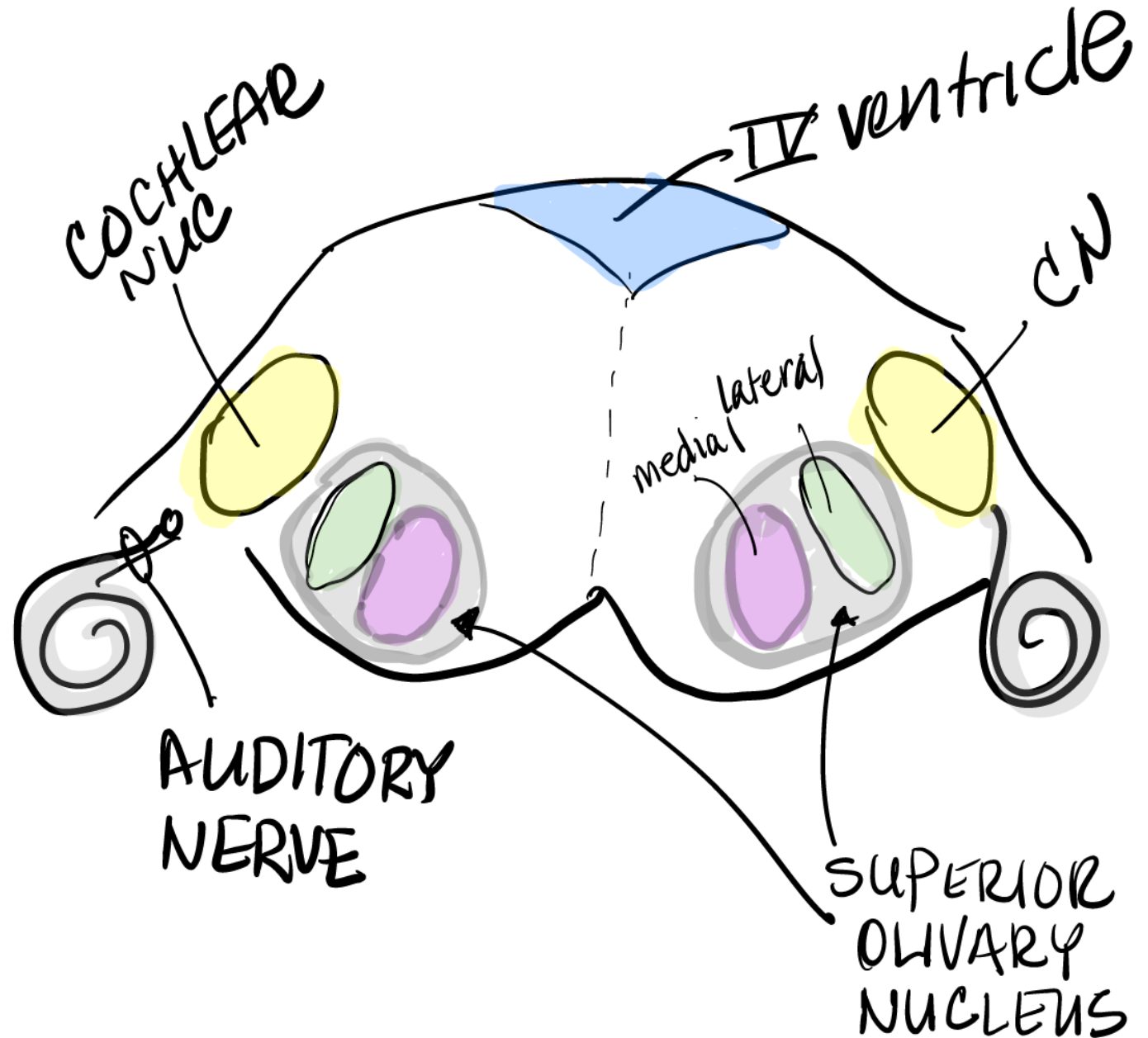


Changes the length of the OHC

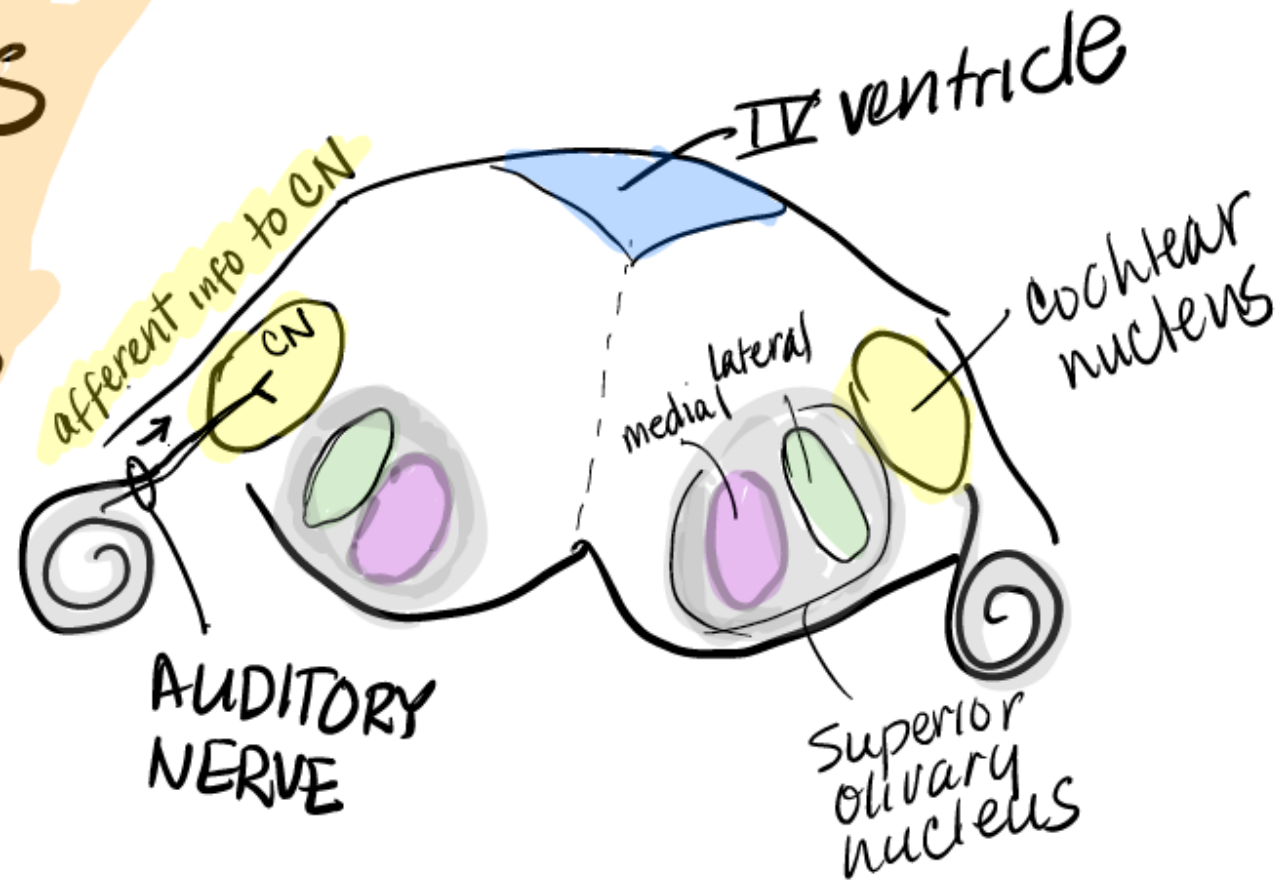
# POSITIVE FEEDBACK



# BRAINSTEM

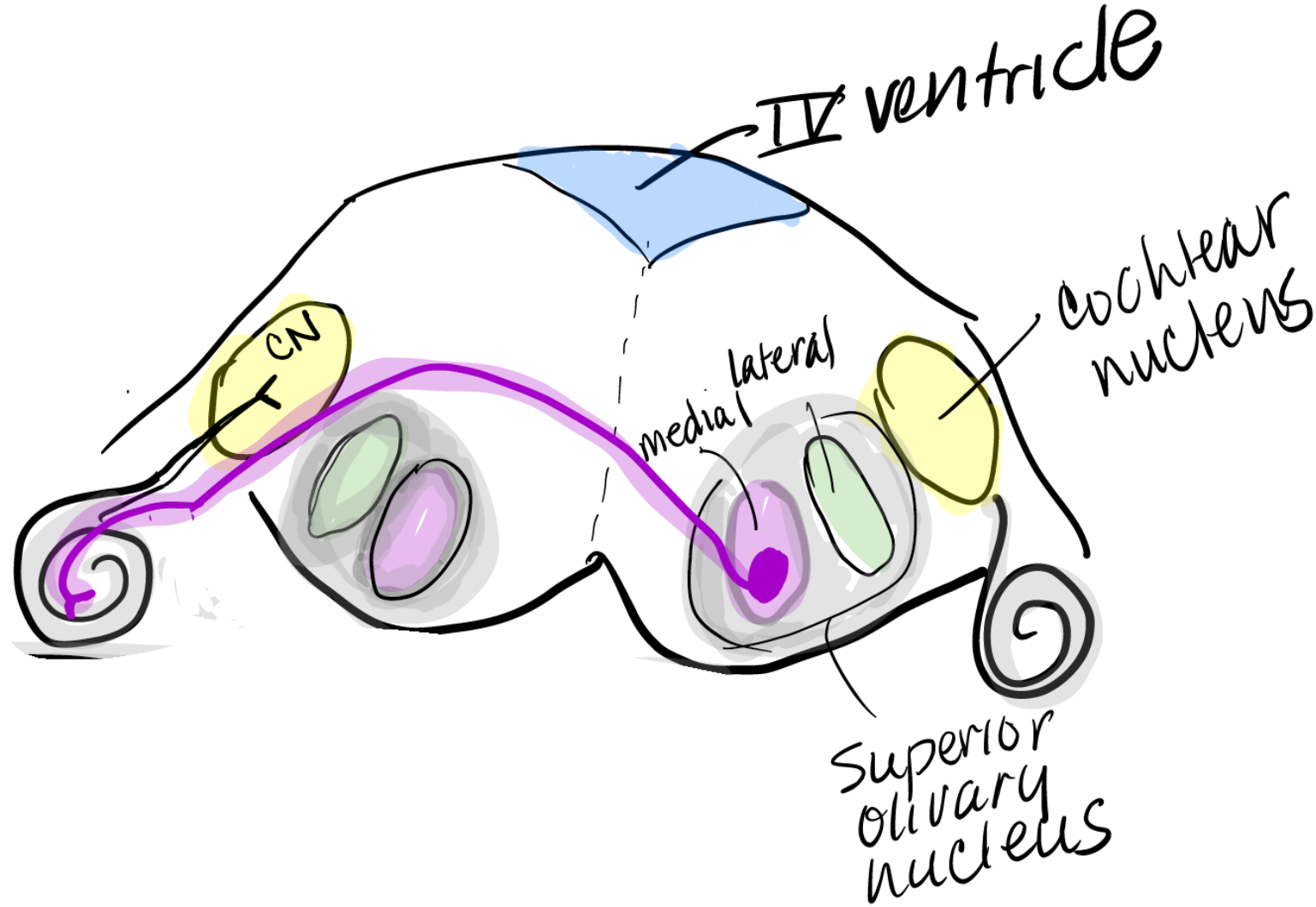


Auditory system has both ascending & descending pathways

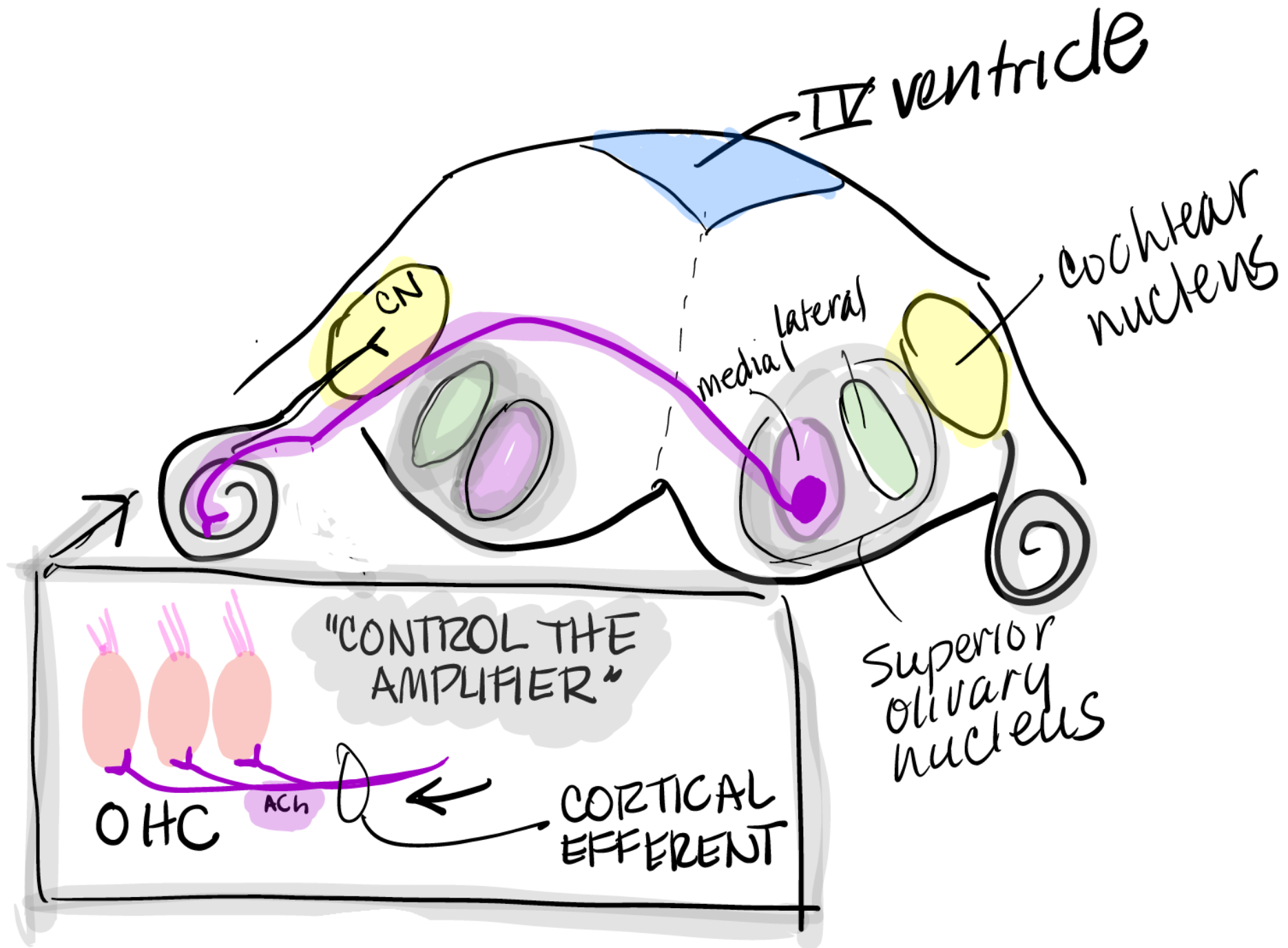


# CORTICAL INPUT TO COCHLEA

→ MODULATE  
INPUT!  
WOW!

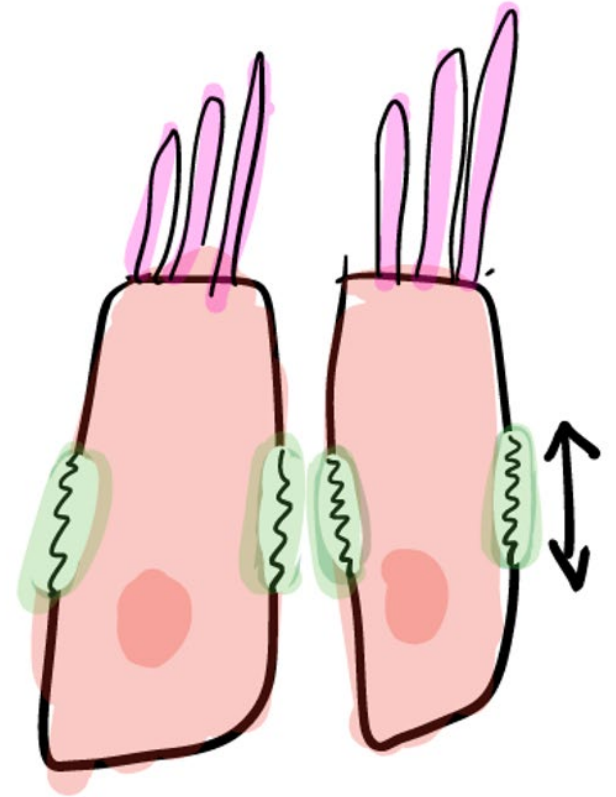
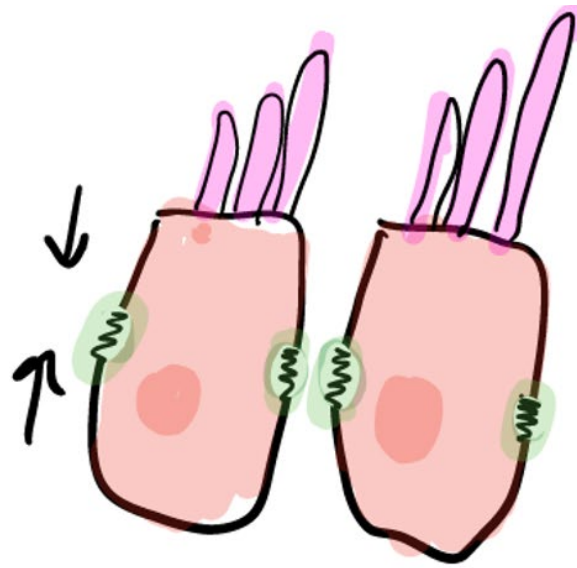
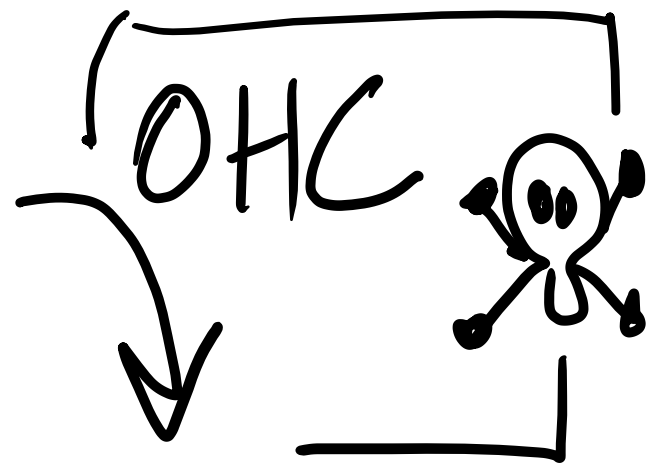






KANAMYCIN +  
FUROSEMIDE  
(loop diuretic)

OTOTOXIC



# THE INNER EAR— SUMMARY



## The innervation of hair cells

One spiral ganglion fiber synapses with one inner hair cell, numerous outer hair cells



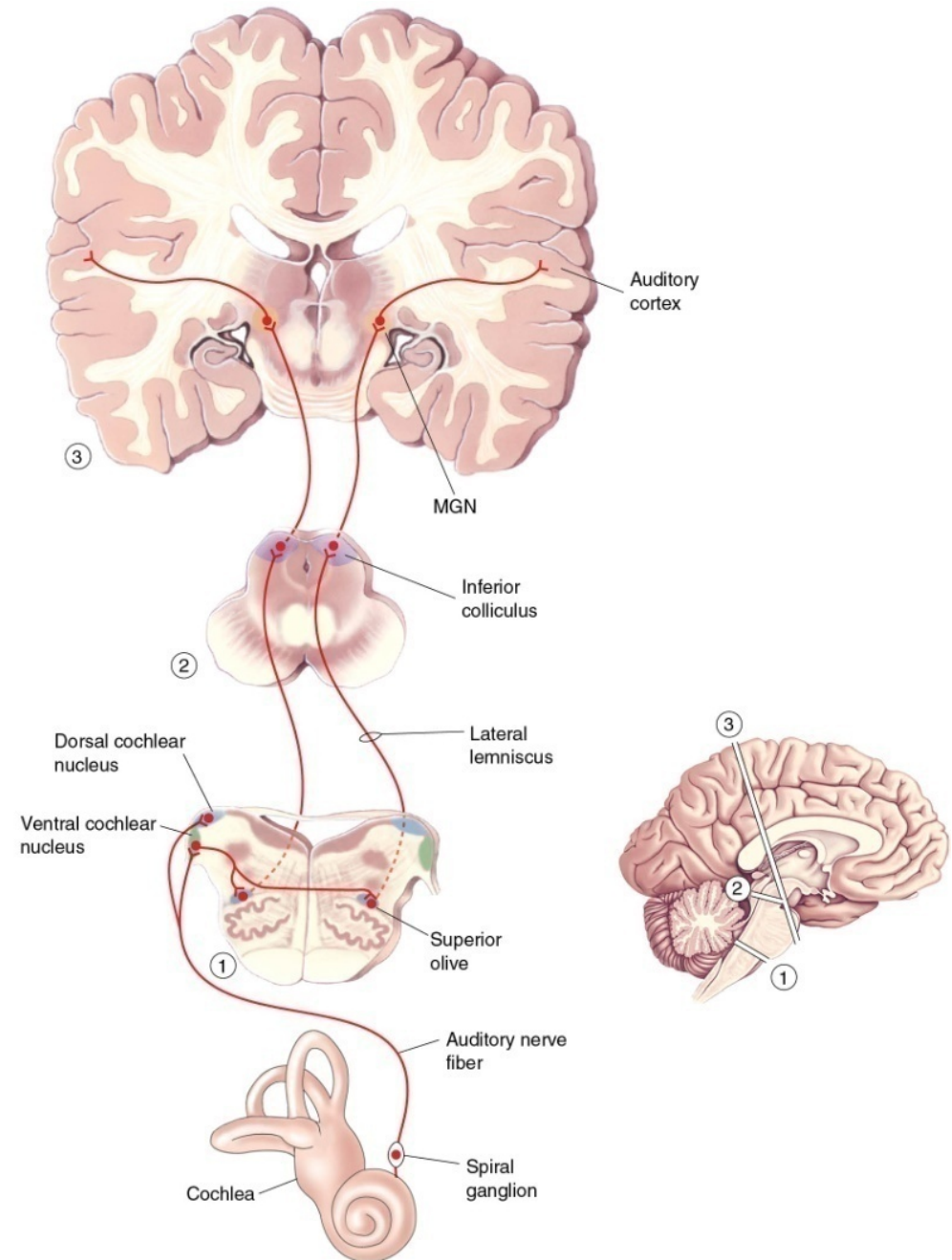
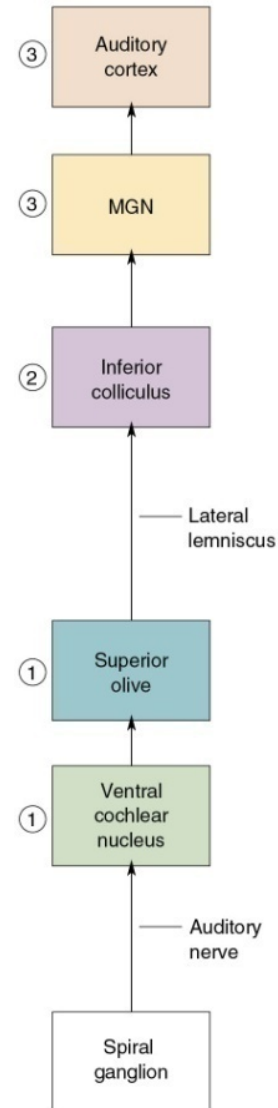
## Amplification by outer hair cells—cochlear amplifier

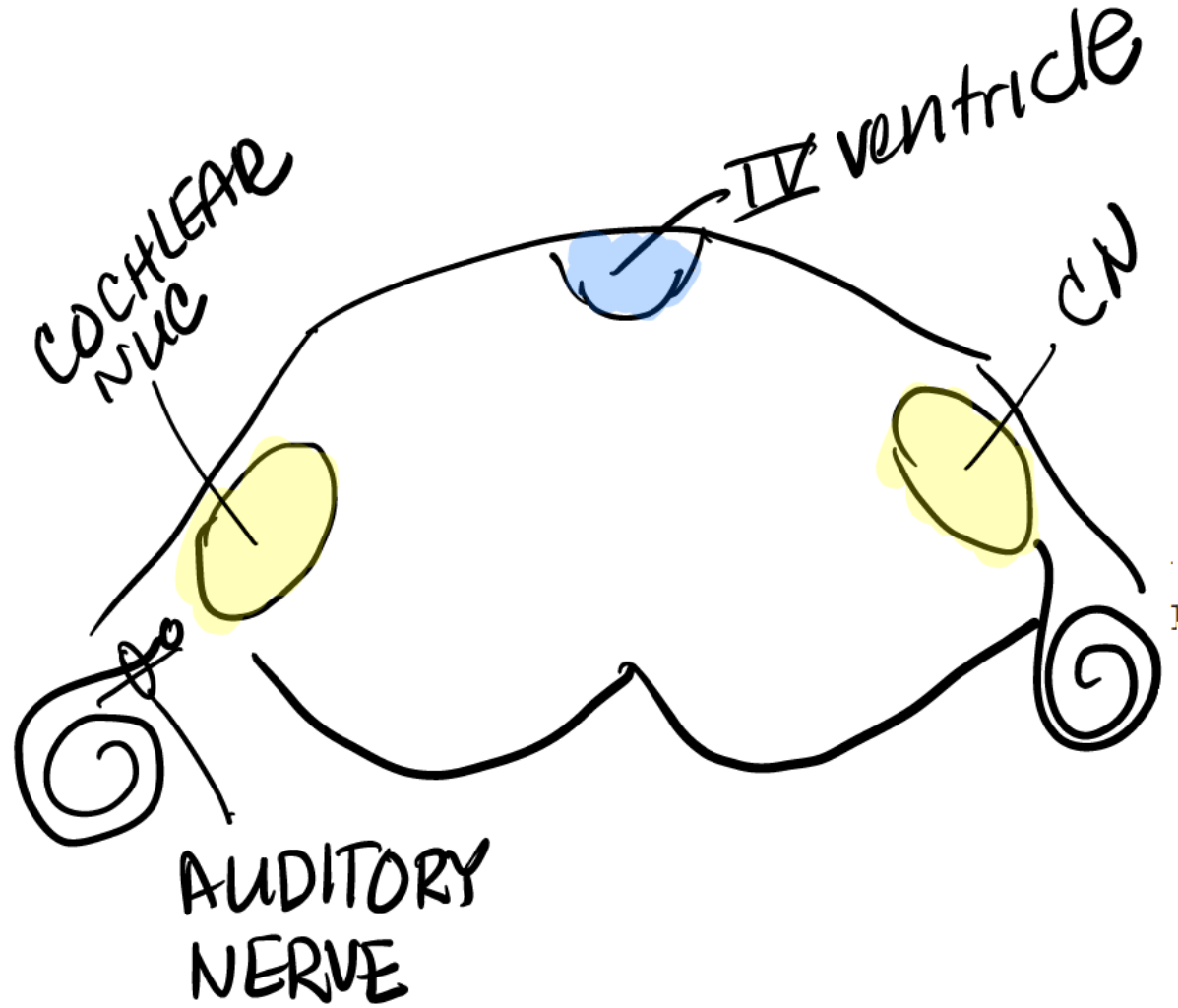
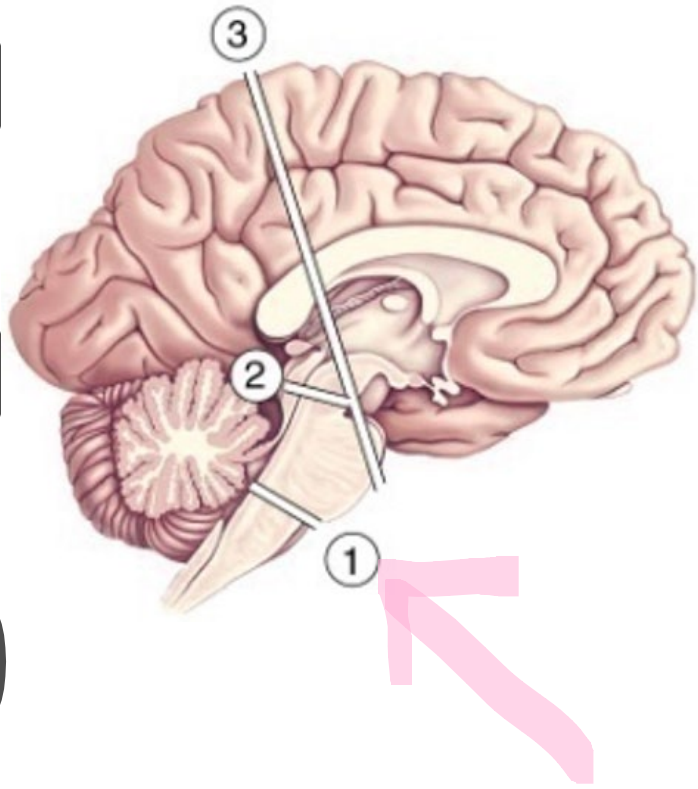
Function: sound transduction

Motor proteins: change length of outer hair cells

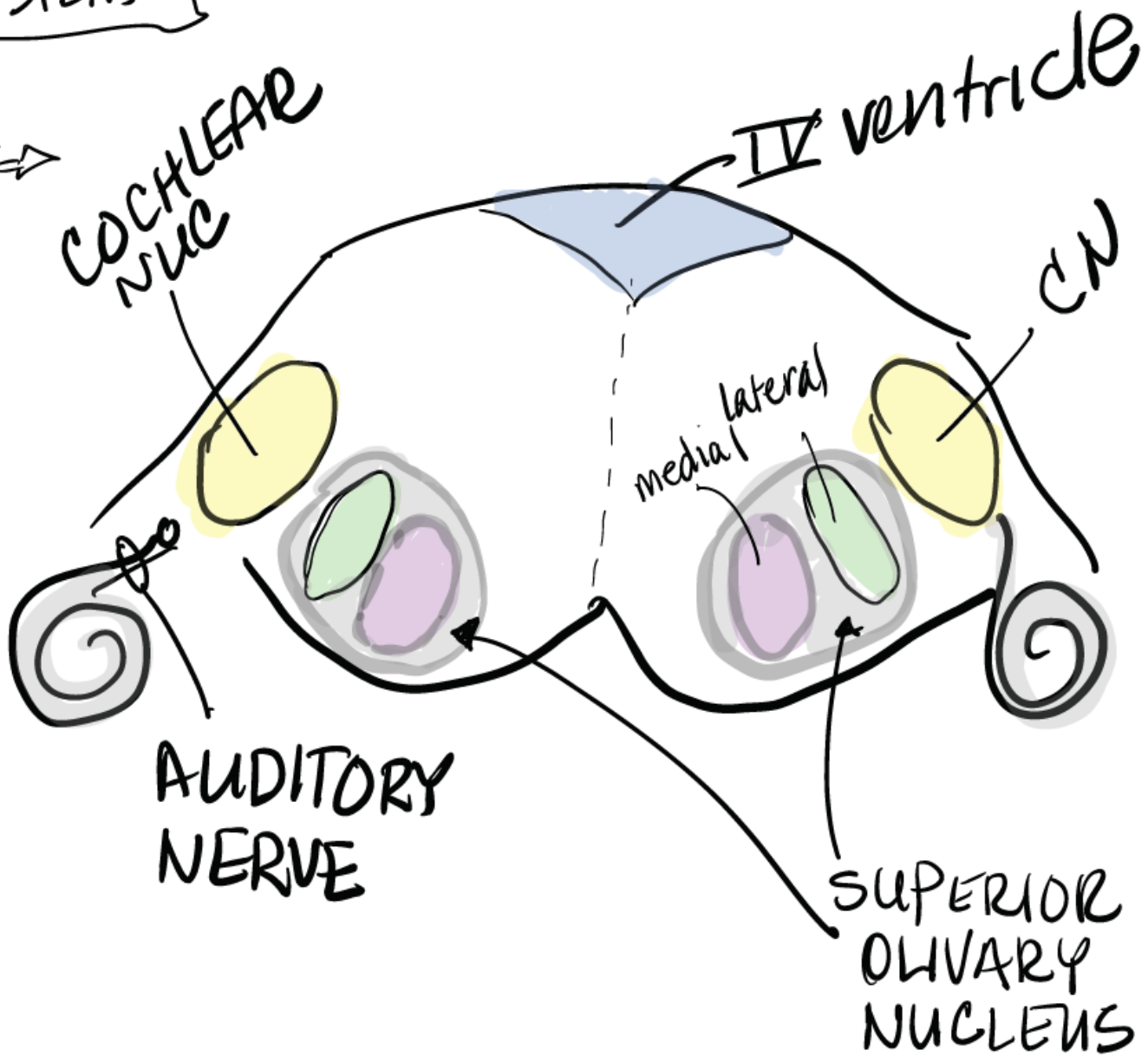
Prestin: protein required for outer hair cell movements

# AUDITORY PATHWAYS





BRAINSTEM



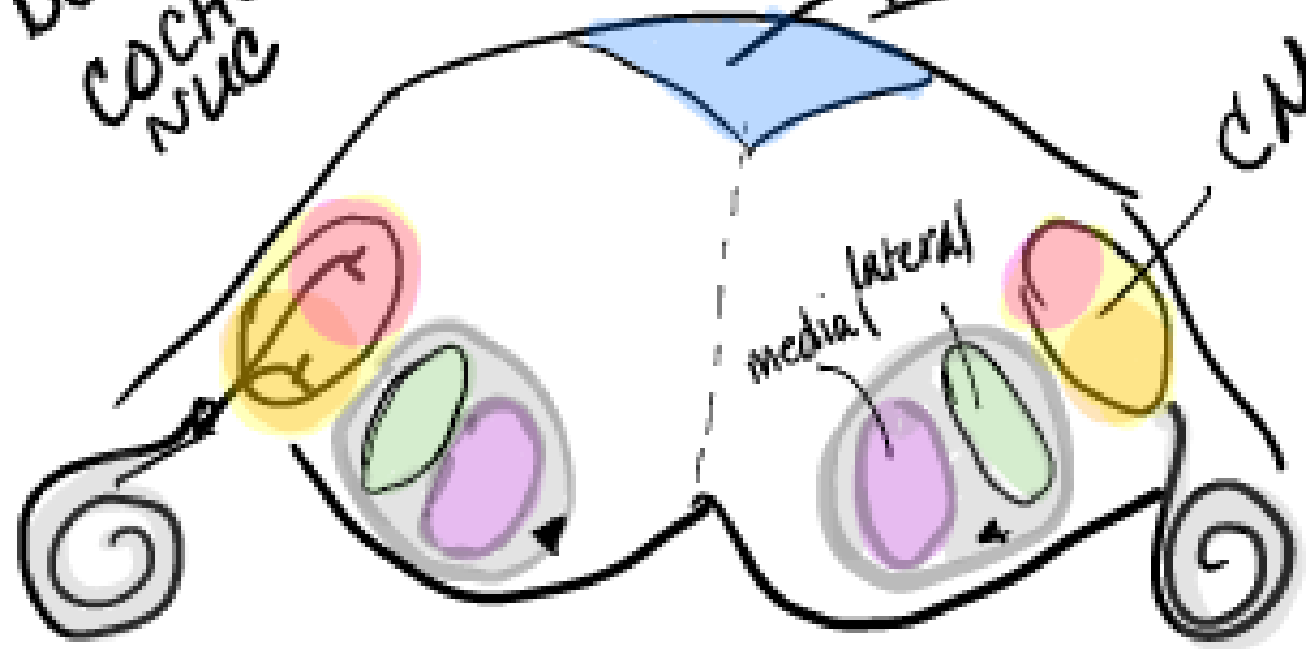
DORSAL & VENTRAL  
COCHLEAR  
NUC

IV ventricle

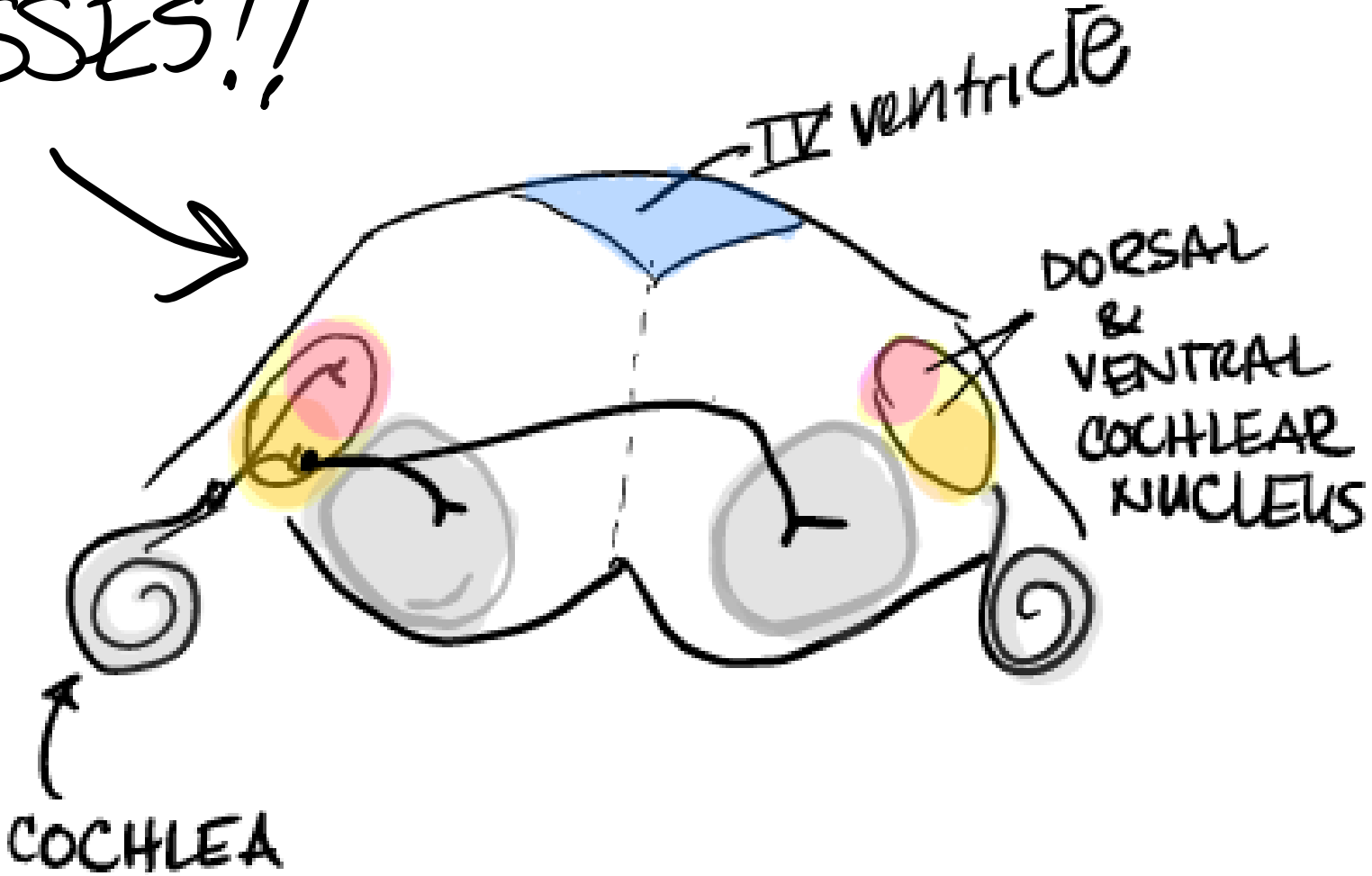
CN

media lateral

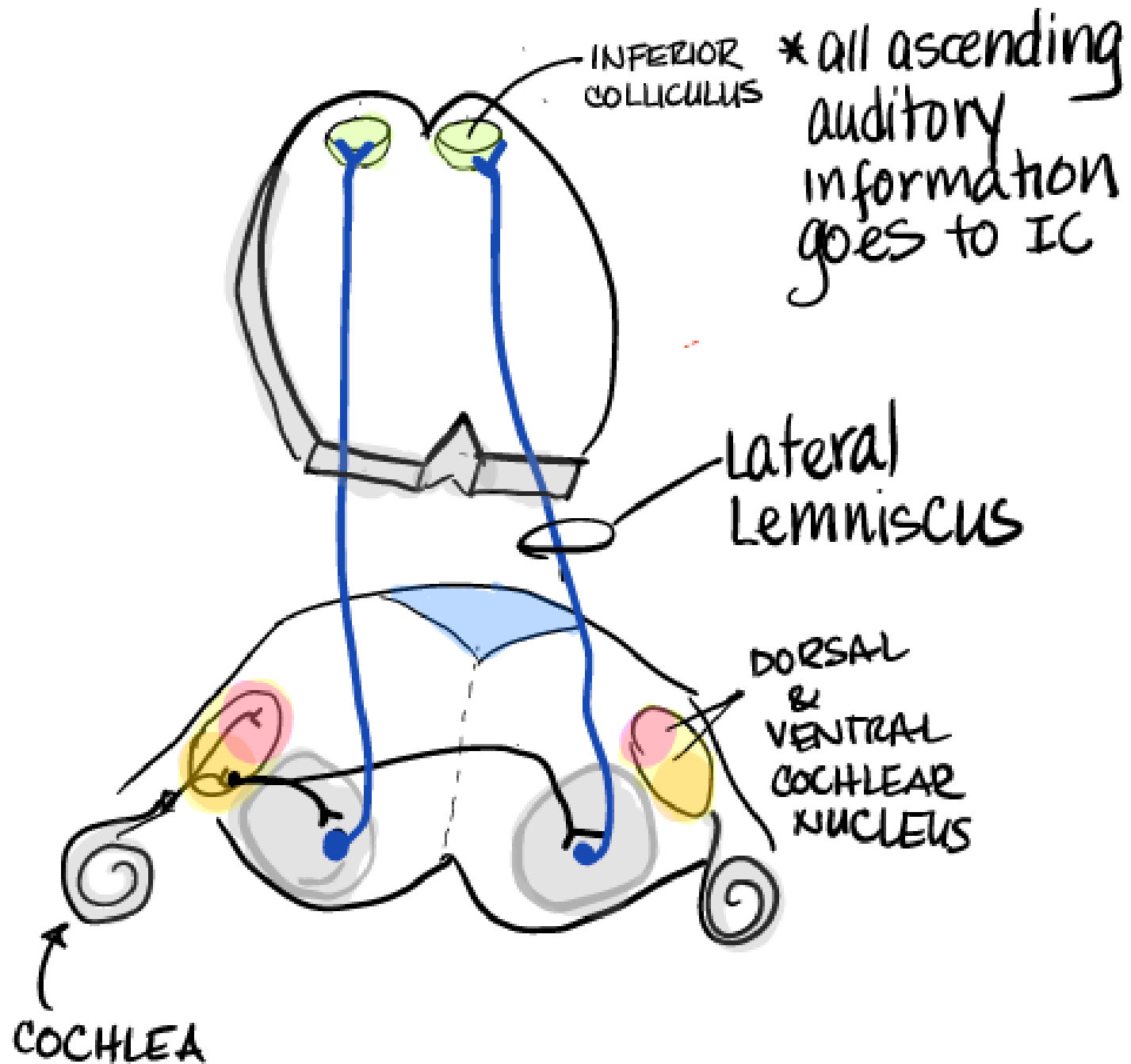
IPSI LATERAL



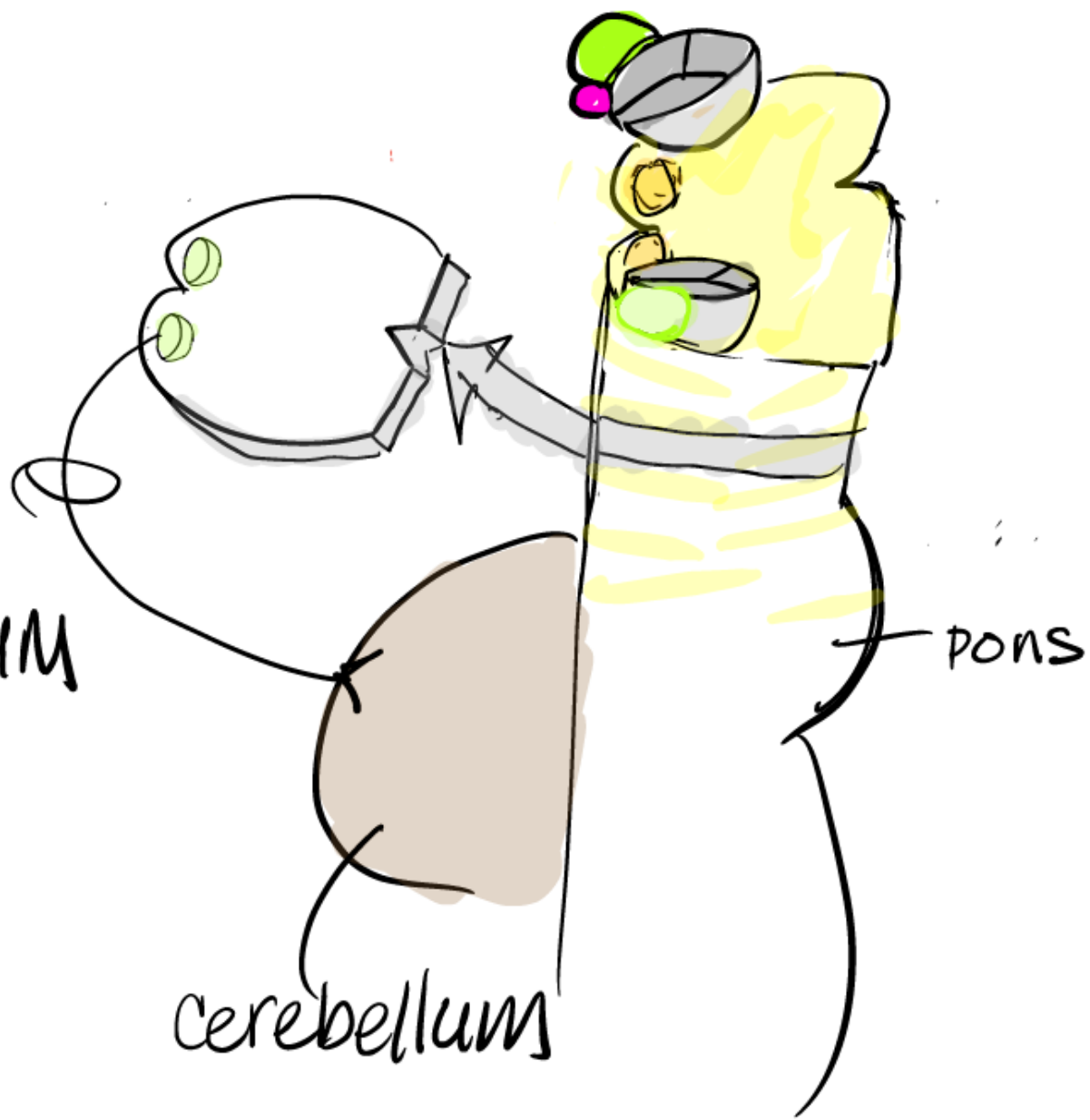
IT CROSSSES!!





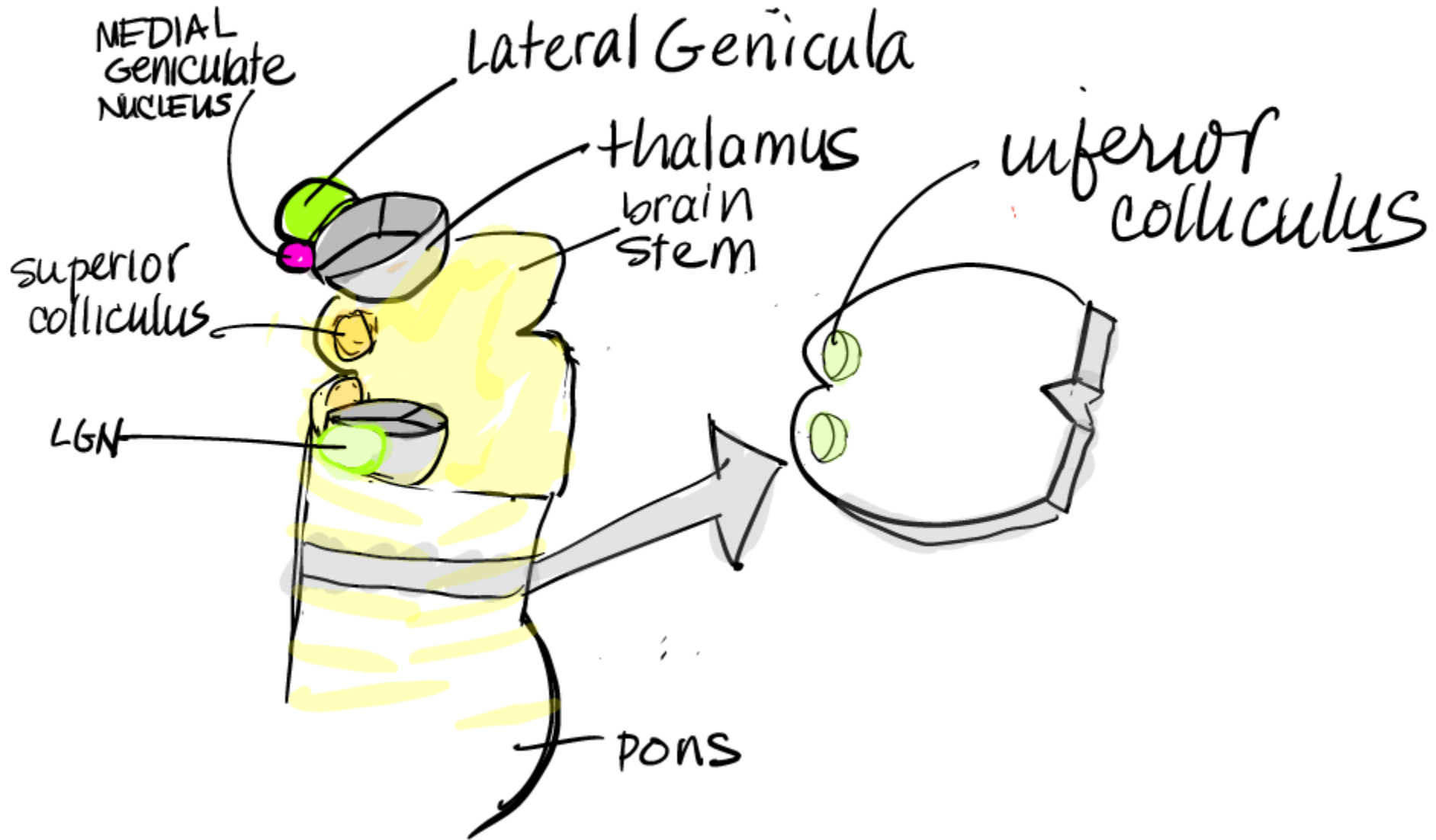


INFERIOR  
COLLICULUS  
TO CEREBELLUM

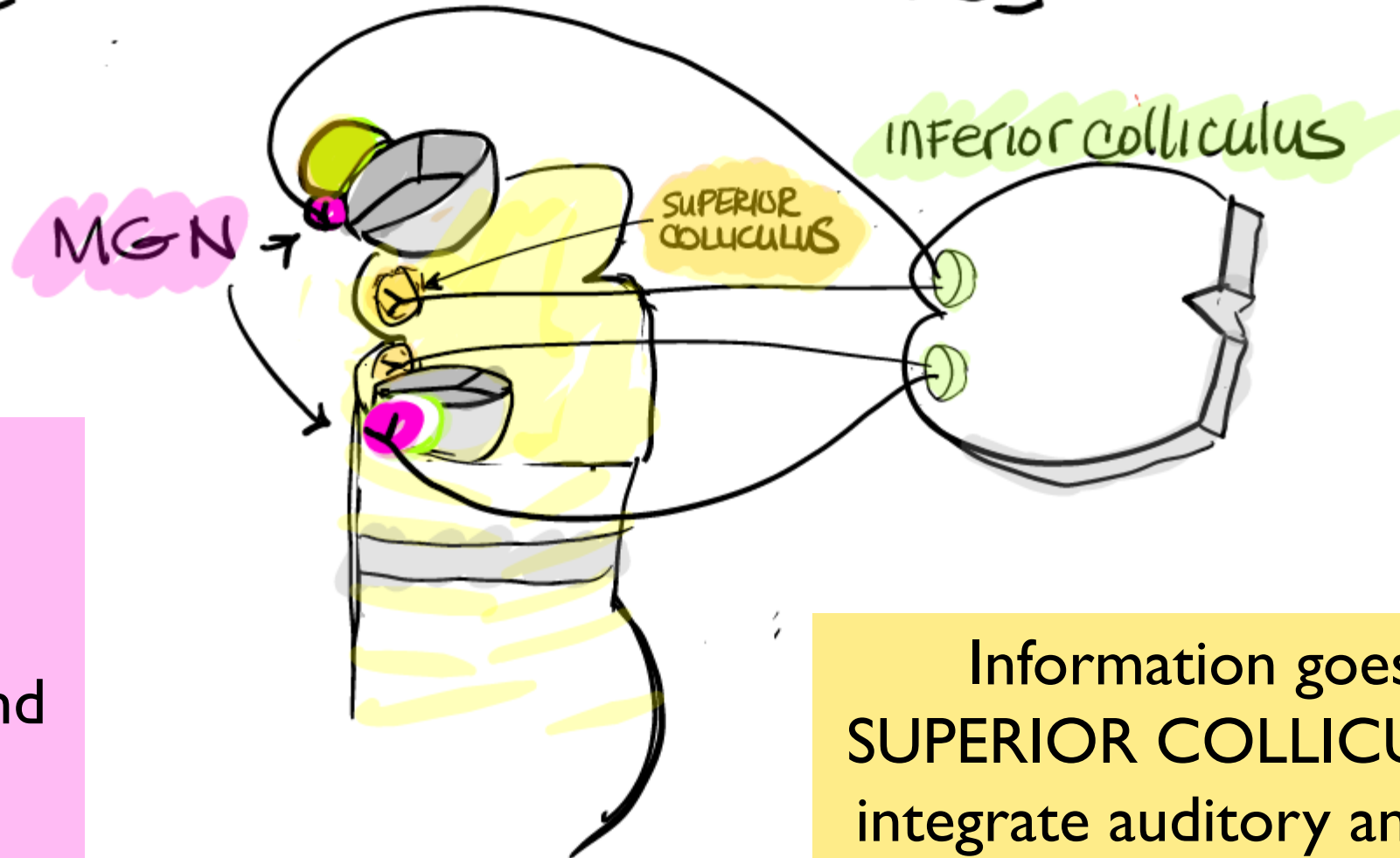


cerebellum

pons



[ THALAMUS  
MEDIAL GENICULATE NUCLEUS ]

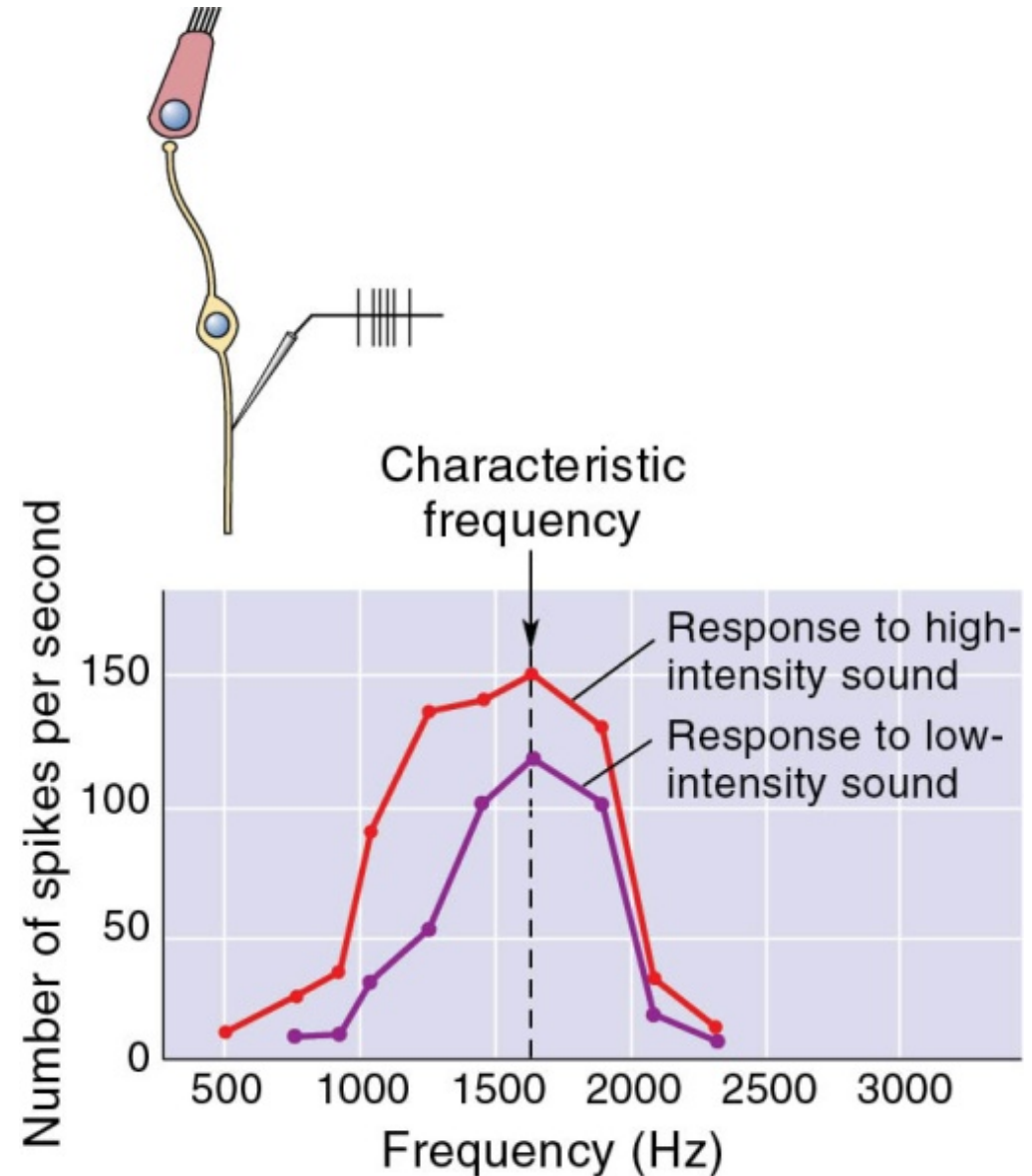


MGN cells  
respond to  
specific  
frequencies and  
to complex  
sounds

Information goes to  
SUPERIOR COLLICULUS to  
integrate auditory and visual  
information.

## RESPONSE PROPERTIES OF NEURONS IN AUDITORY PATHWAY

- Characteristic frequency: frequency at which a neuron is most responsive—from cochlea to cortex
- Response properties more complex and diverse beyond the brain stem
- Binaural neurons are present in the superior olive.





Encoding  
information about  
stimulus intensity

Firing rates of  
neurons  
Number of  
active neurons

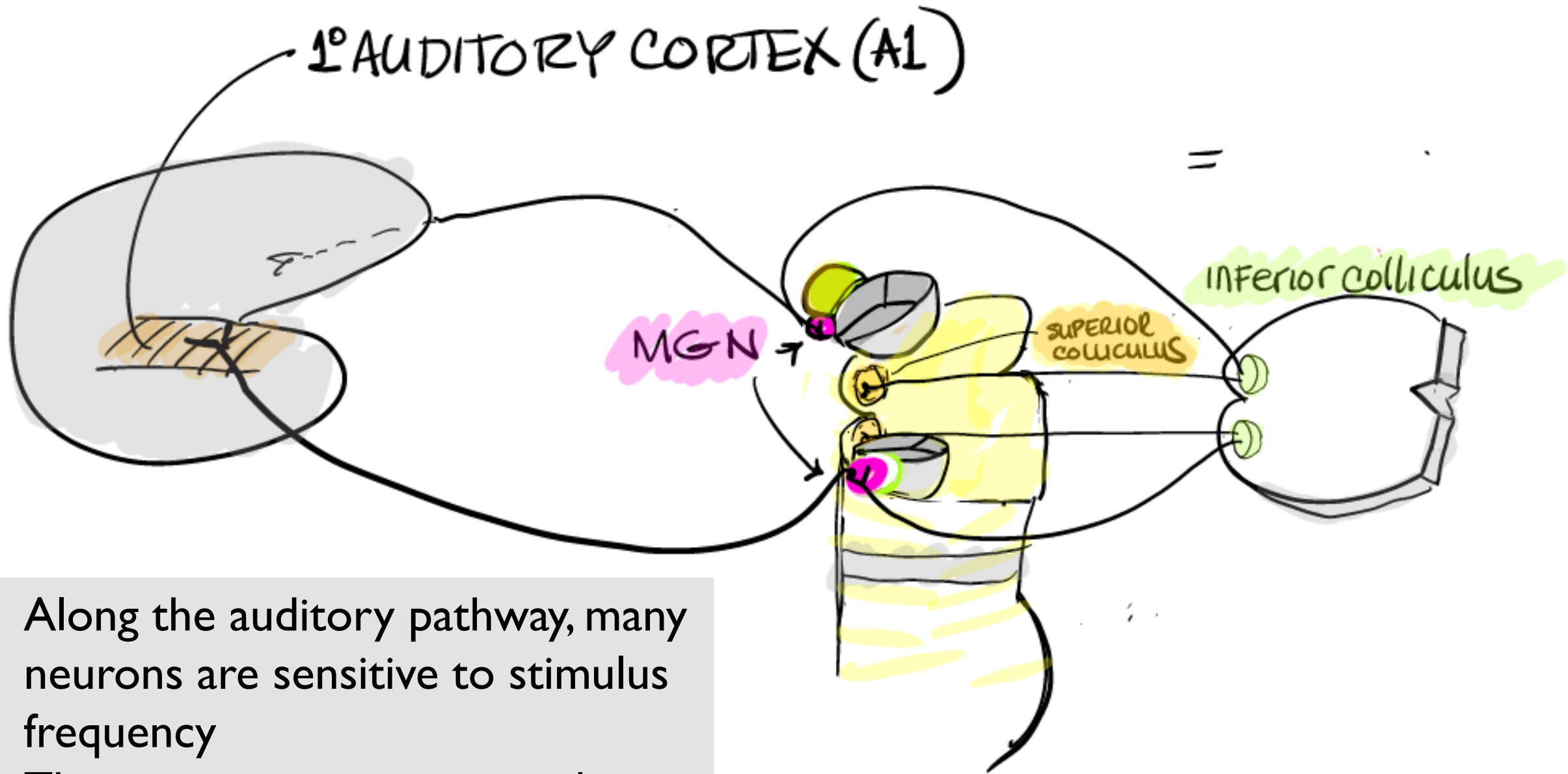


Membrane potential of  
activated hair cells more  
depolarized or hyperpolarized



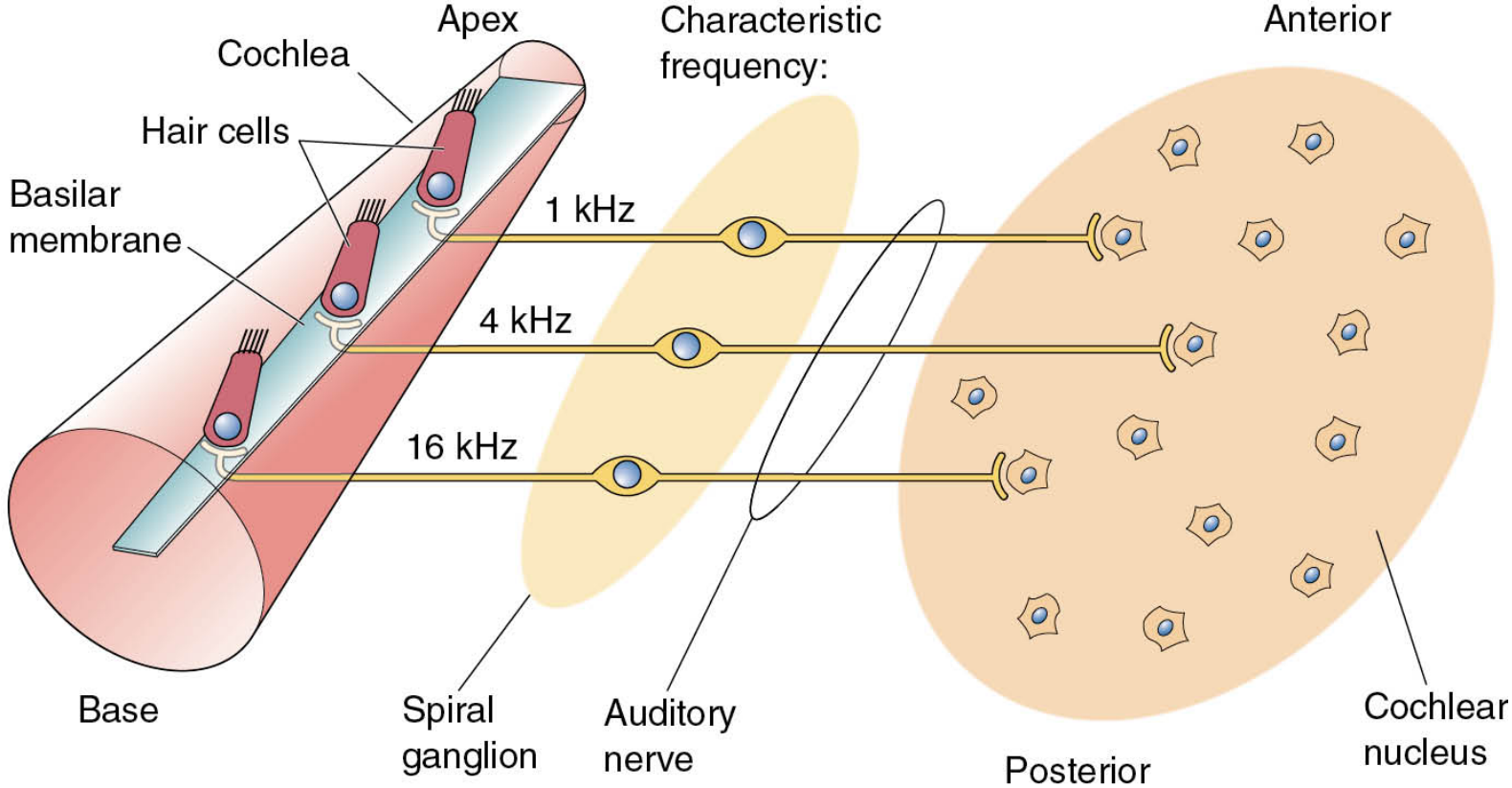
Loudness perceived is  
correlated with number of  
active neurons.

# ENCODING SOUND INTENSITY



- Along the auditory pathway, many neurons are sensitive to stimulus frequency
- They are most sensitive to their characteristic frequency.

Frequency sensitivity is a result of the basilar membrane mechanics.



Corresponding representation in the auditory nerve and on to the Cochlear nucleus.

# ENCODING SOUND FREQUENCY

TONOTOPIC MAPS ON THE BASILAR MEMBRANE AND COCHLEAR NUCLEUS

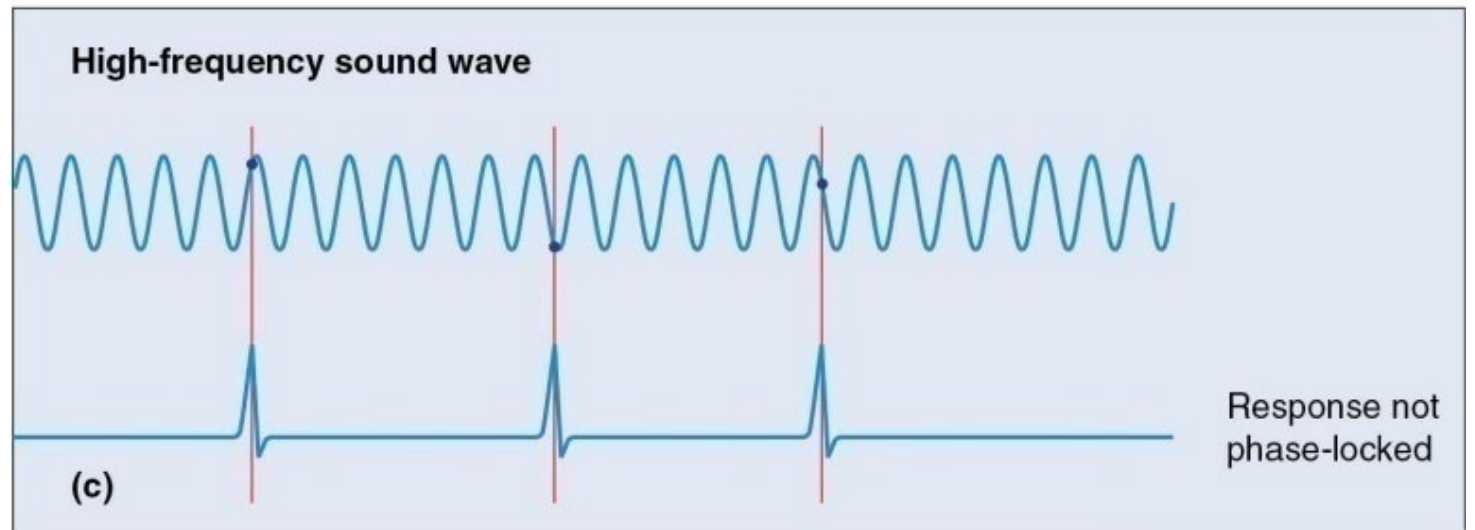
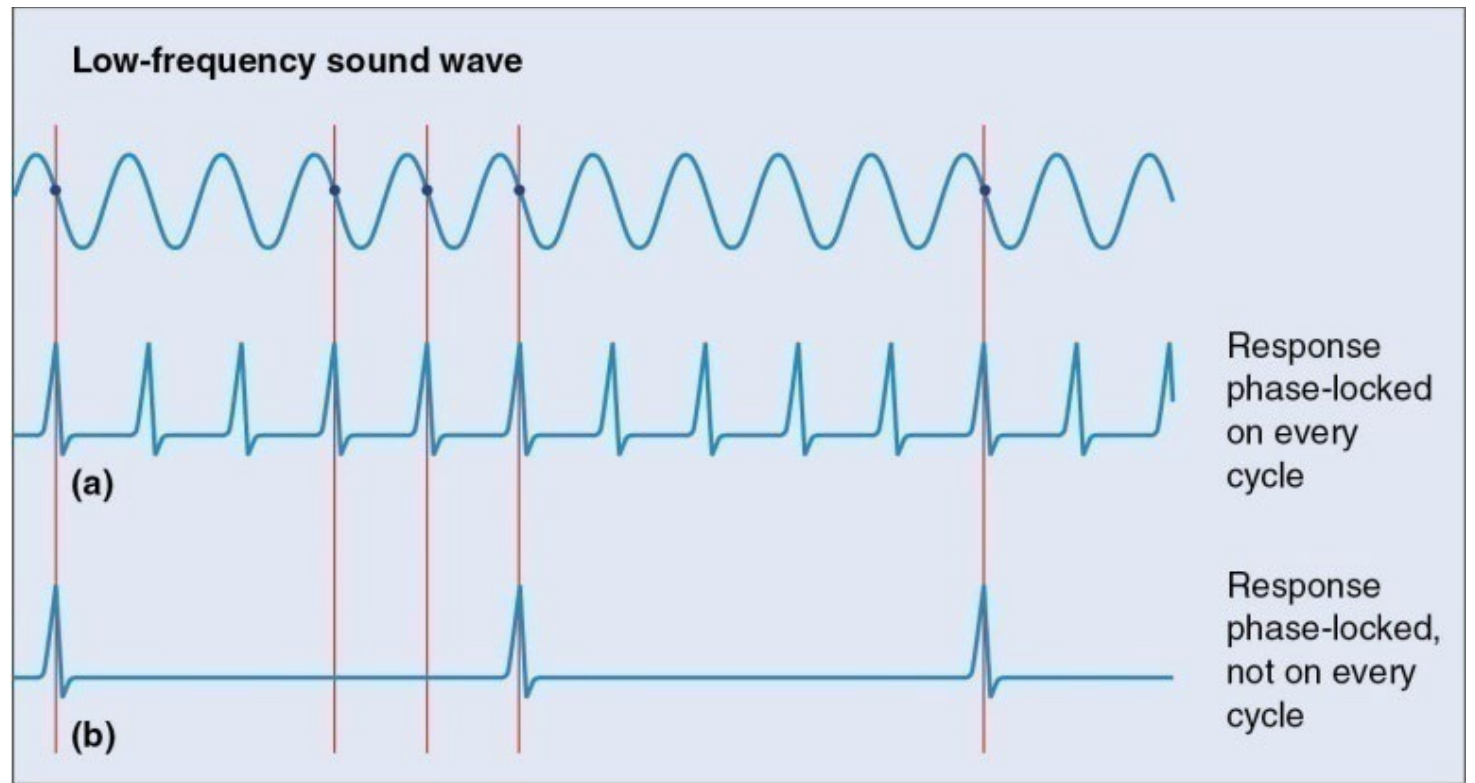


# TONOTOPY

- Tonotopic maps on the basilar membrane, spiral ganglion, and cochlear nucleus
  - From the base to apex, basilar membrane resonates with increasingly lower frequencies.
  - Tonotopy is preserved in the auditory nerve and cochlear nucleus.
    - In cochlear nucleus, bands of cells with similar characteristic frequencies increase from anterior to posterior.

# PHASE LOCKING

- Low frequencies: phase locking on every cycle or some fraction of cycles (up to 5kHz)
- High frequencies: not fixed – because frequency is too fast for a single neuron to fire action potentials.



# SOUND FREQUENCY REPRESENTATION

low  
frequencies  
→ phase  
locking

intermediate  
frequencies  
→  
both phase  
locking and  
tonotopy

high  
frequencies  
→ tonotopy