

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910136400703321
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Titolo	Building the gateway to consciousness - about the development of the thalamus // topic editors: Tomomi Shimogori and Steffen Scholpp
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Frontiers Media SA, 2015 [Lausanne, Switzerland] : , : Frontiers Media SA, , [2015] ©2015
ISBN	9782889194704
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (107 pages) : illustrations (colour); digital file(s)
Collana	Frontiers Research Topics
Soggetti	Thalamus Thalamus - Growth Neurosciences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	Since years, patterning and function of some brain parts such as the cortex in the forebrain and the optical tectum or cerebellum in the midbrain/hindbrain region are under strong investigation. Interestingly the diencephalon located in the caudal forebrain has been ignored for decades. Consequently, the existing knowledge from the development of this region to function in the mature brain is very fragmented. The central part of the diencephalon is the thalamus. This central relay station plays a crucial role in distributing incoming sensory information to appropriate regions of the cortex. The thalamus develops in the posterior part of the embryonic forebrain, where early cell fate decisions are controlled by local signaling centers. In this Research Topic we discuss recent achievements elucidating thalamic neurogenesis - from neural progenitor cells to highly specialized neurons with cortical target cells in great distance. In parallel, we highlight developmental aspects leading from the early thalamic anlage to the late the organization of the complex relay station of the brain.

2. Record Nr. UNINA9910303547403321

Titolo Sozialer Fortschritt

Pubbl/distr/stampa Berlin

ISSN 1865-5386

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource

Soggetti Social sciences  
Mensuels  
Sciences sociales  
Social policy  
Sociale politiek  
Sociale zekerheid  
Periodicals.  
Germany Social policy Periodicals  
Allemagne  
Germany

Lingua di pubblicazione Tedesco

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Periodico

Note generali Refereed/Peer-reviewed