#### Brain Sensory Maps



James Olson, Ph.D. Wright State University Society for Neuroscience

james.olson@wright.edu

#### Brain Initiative Announced April 3, 2013

#### The Human Connectome Project

Finding how 100 billion neurons make 100 trillion connections.







#### http://www.whitehouse.gov/share/brain-initiative

## Wilder Penfield



Neurosurgeon

Brain stimulation











What is being mapped here?

Surface area?

SENSORY RECEPTOR DENSITY

#### Two-point discrimination tool



Also - 0.75 cm and 0.38 cm on a separate card.

### Two-point discrimination test



Head



Torso



Arm



Hand



Leg



Foot

#### Your Personal Homunculus



### **Constructing your Homunculus**

The two-point discrimination threshold for each body part is reciprocally related to the size of each corresponding homunculus region.



# **Constructing your Homunculus**

Body parts with more sensory receptors, such as the fingers, map to larger areas of the brain, and should be represented by a larger picture in your personal homunculus.

*Body part pictures of various sizes, taped together:* 26 cm, 13 cm, 6.7 cm, 1.7 cm



# Do it Yourself!

- Download the workshop handout, which contains major lecture points and a detailed description of the homunculus activity.
- Download the homunculus body part cutouts and replicate the activity in your classroom.

Visit *BrainFacts.org* to download supplementary workshop materials.



#### Your Personal Homunculus



http://www.maxplanckflorida.org/fitzpatricklab/homunculus/