

INTRODUCTION

- Sensory systems
 - Sense of hearing: audition
 - Detect sound
 - Perceive and interpret nuances
 - Sense of balance: vestibular system
 - Head and body location
 - Head and body movements

OUTSIDE OF AWARENESS

CONSCIOUS EXPERIENCE

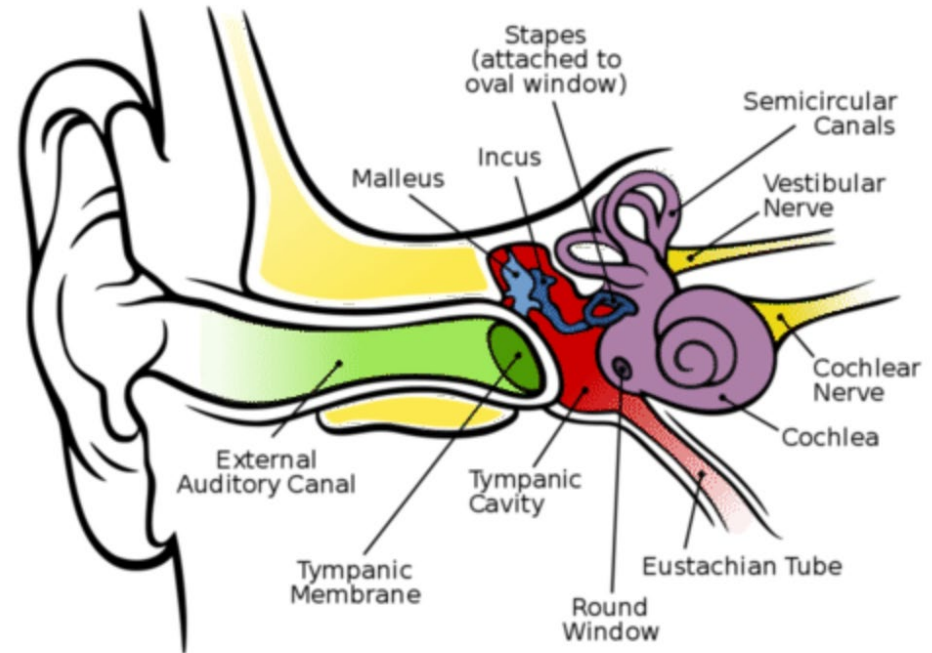
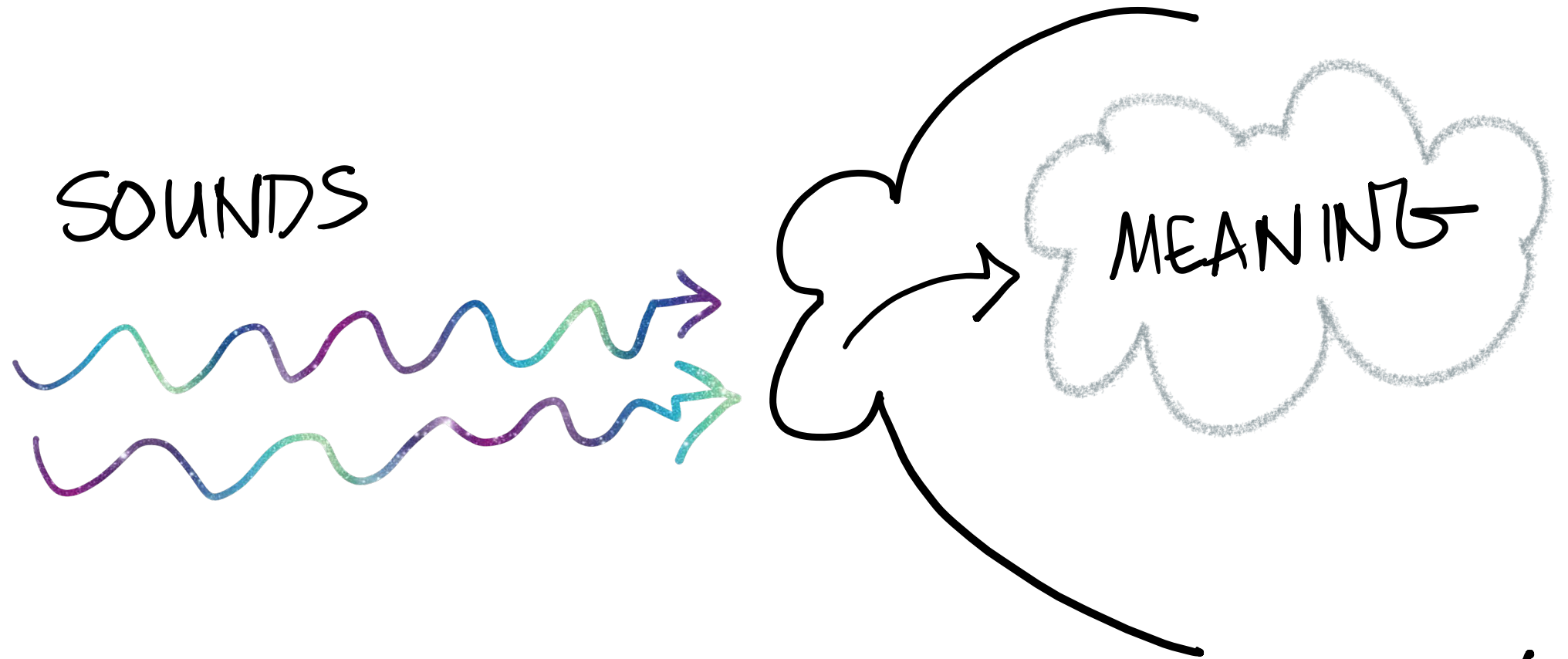


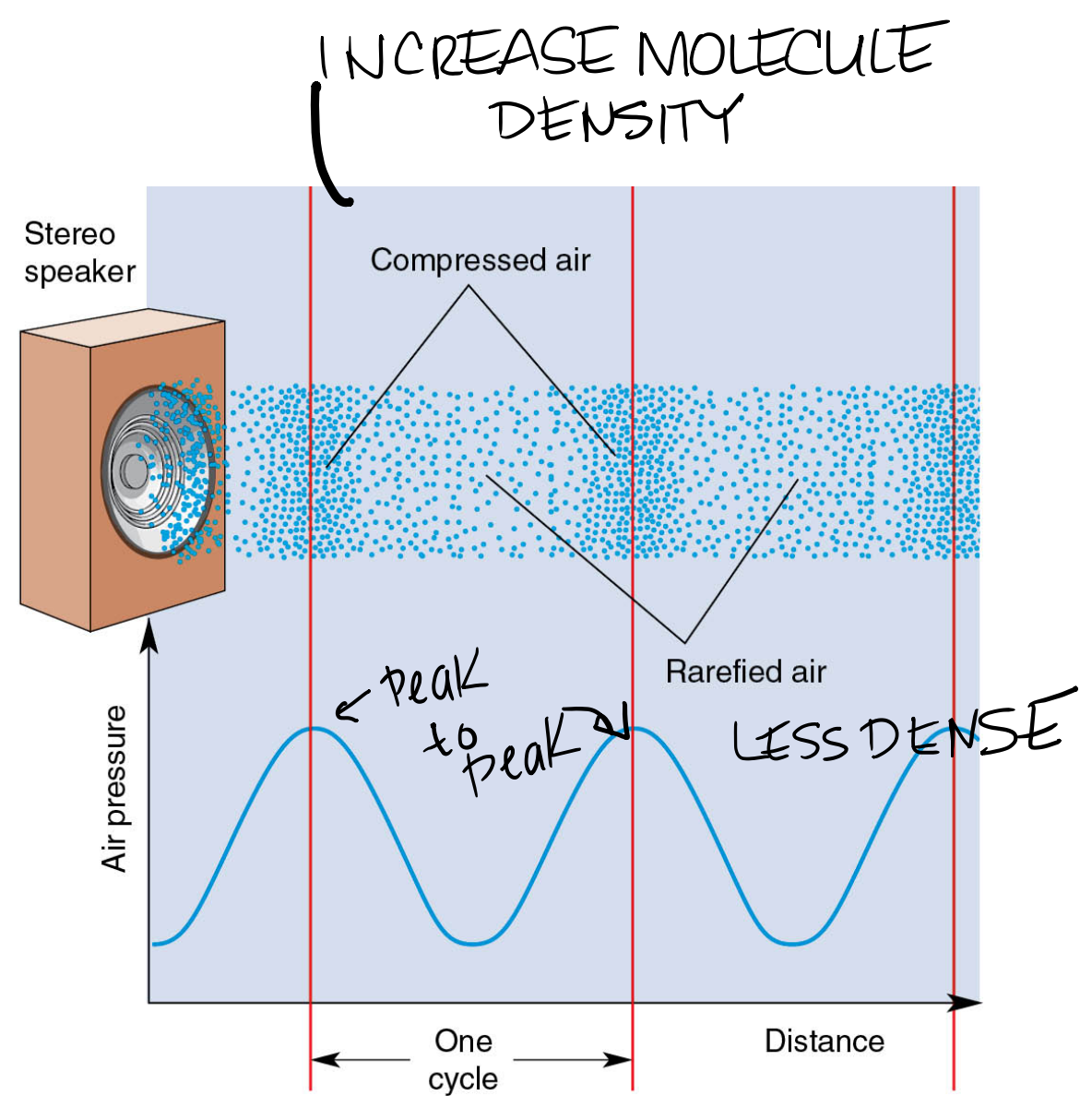
Figure: Chittka L, Brockmann
Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anatomy_of_the_Human_Ear.svg



SPEECH & HEARING \Rightarrow VITAL FOR COMMUNICATION

THE NATURE OF SOUND

- Audible variations in air pressure
- Cycle: distance between successive compressed patches of air
- Sound frequency: number of cycles per second expressed in hertz (Hz)

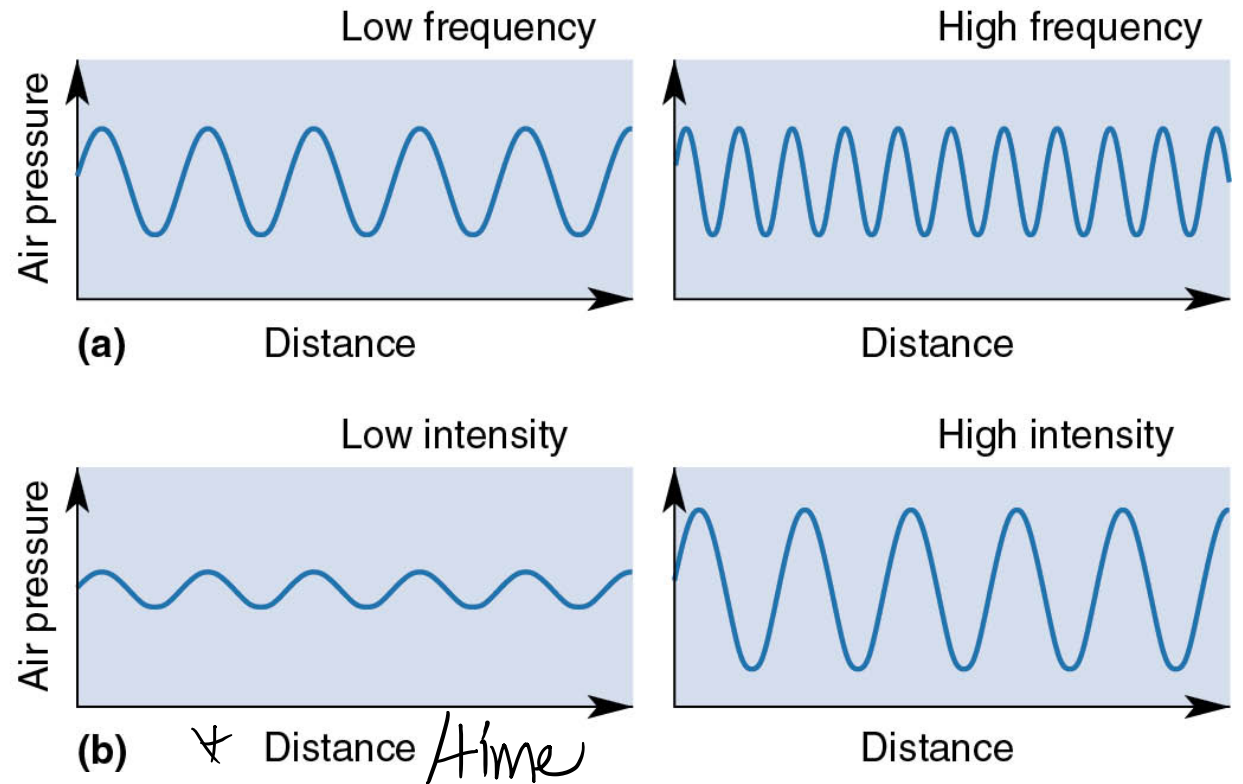


AUDIBLE SOUND

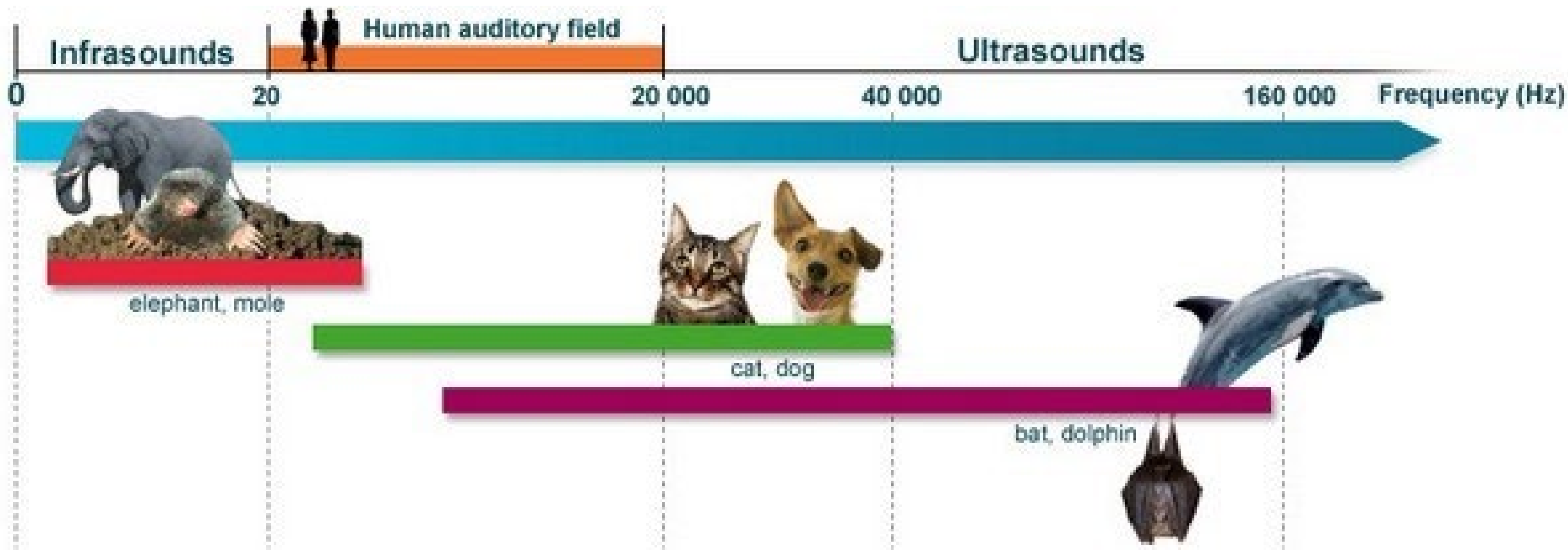
UNITS:

Hertz (Hz) \rightarrow #cycles per second

- Range: 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz
- Pitch: high pitch = high frequency, low pitch = low frequency
- Intensity (amplitude): high intensity louder than low intensity

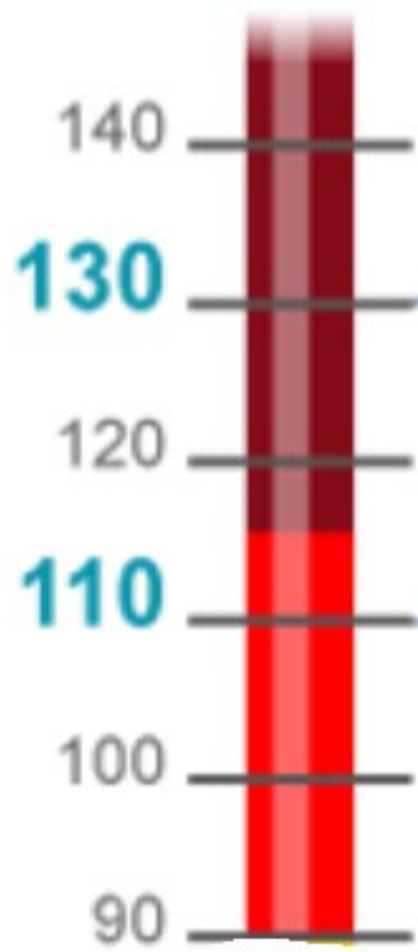


*velocity of sound is constant (767mph)



Noise intensity in dB

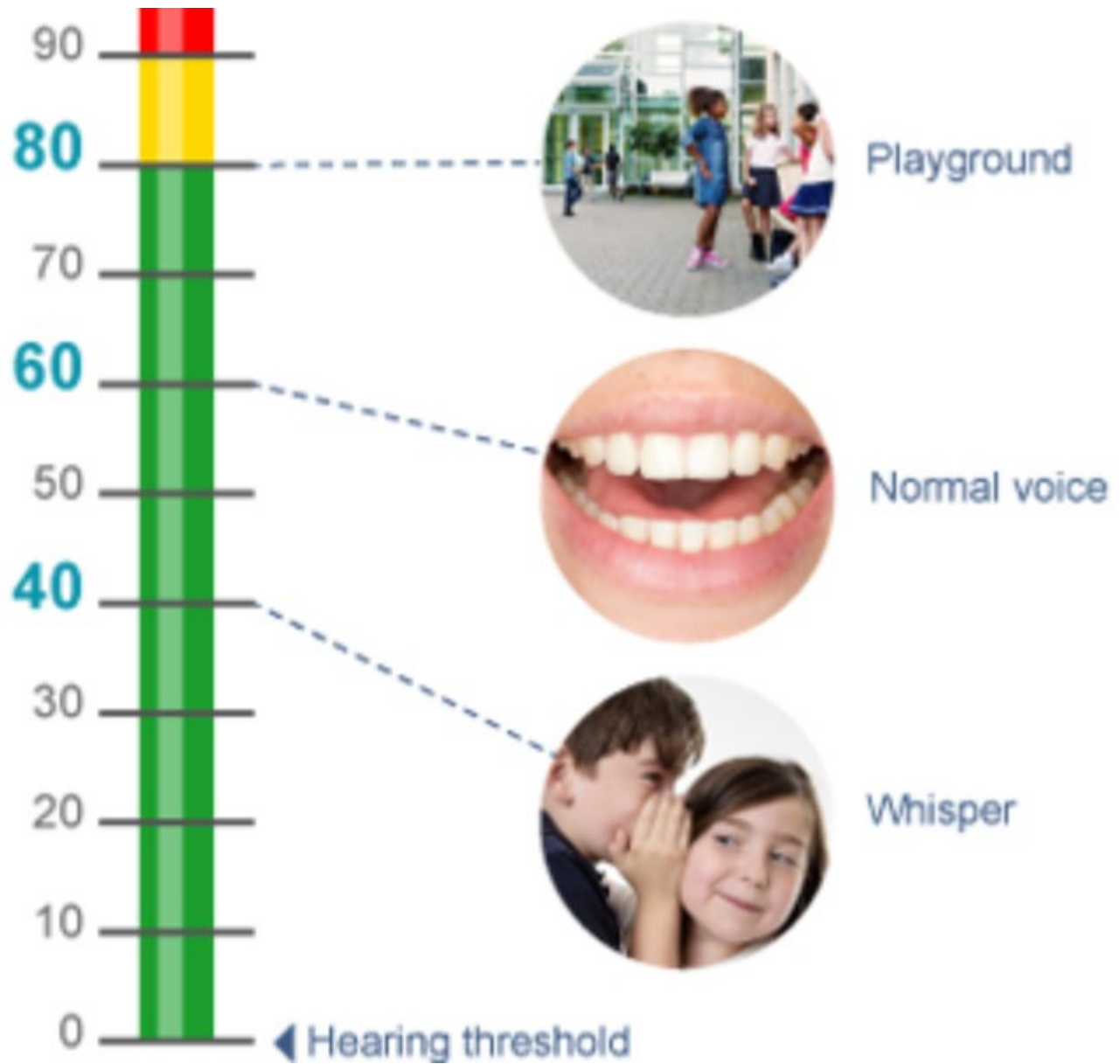
- Irreversible damage
- Danger: harmful sounds
- Harmfulness threshold
- No risk



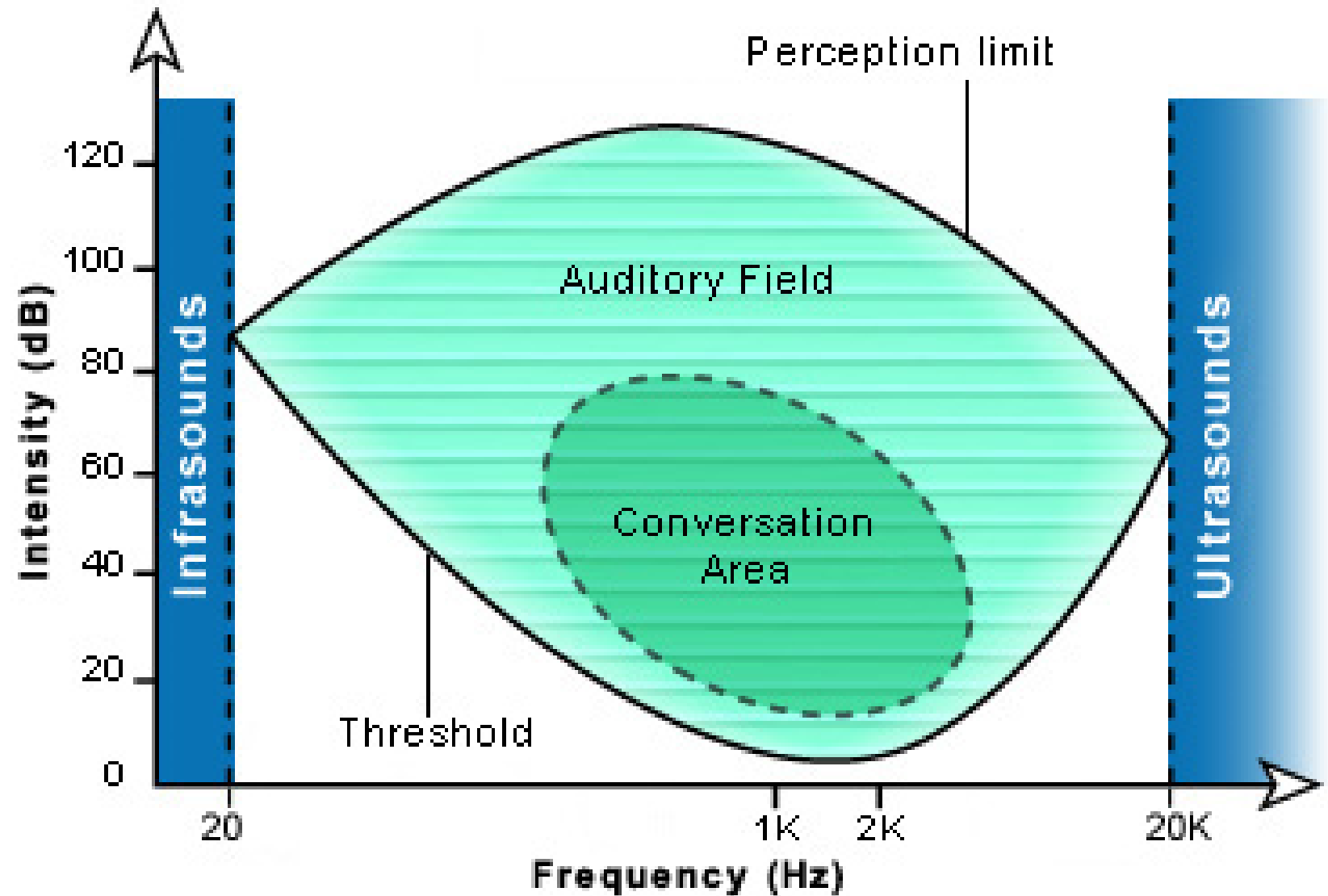
Plane take off

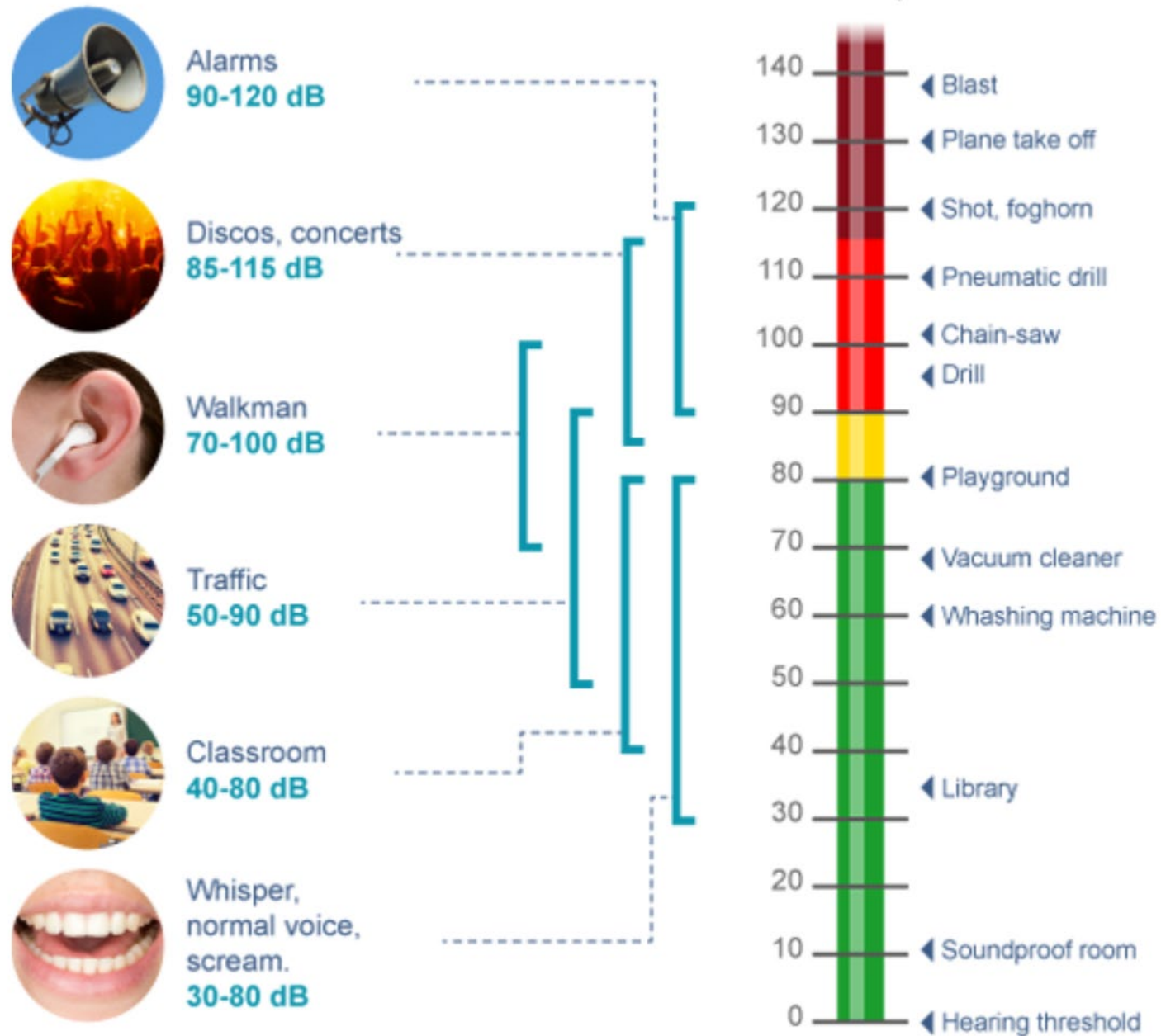


Pneumatic drill



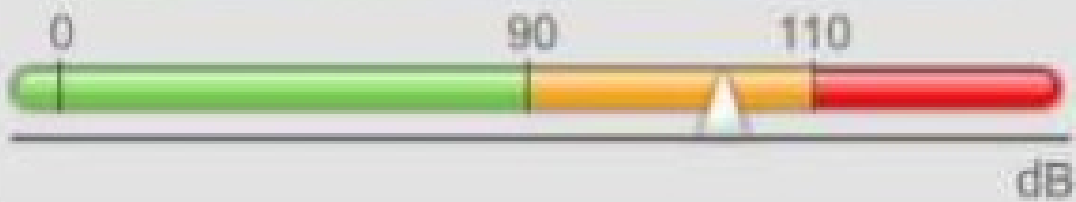
“At each frequency, between 20 Hz and 20 kHz, the threshold of our sensitivity is different.”



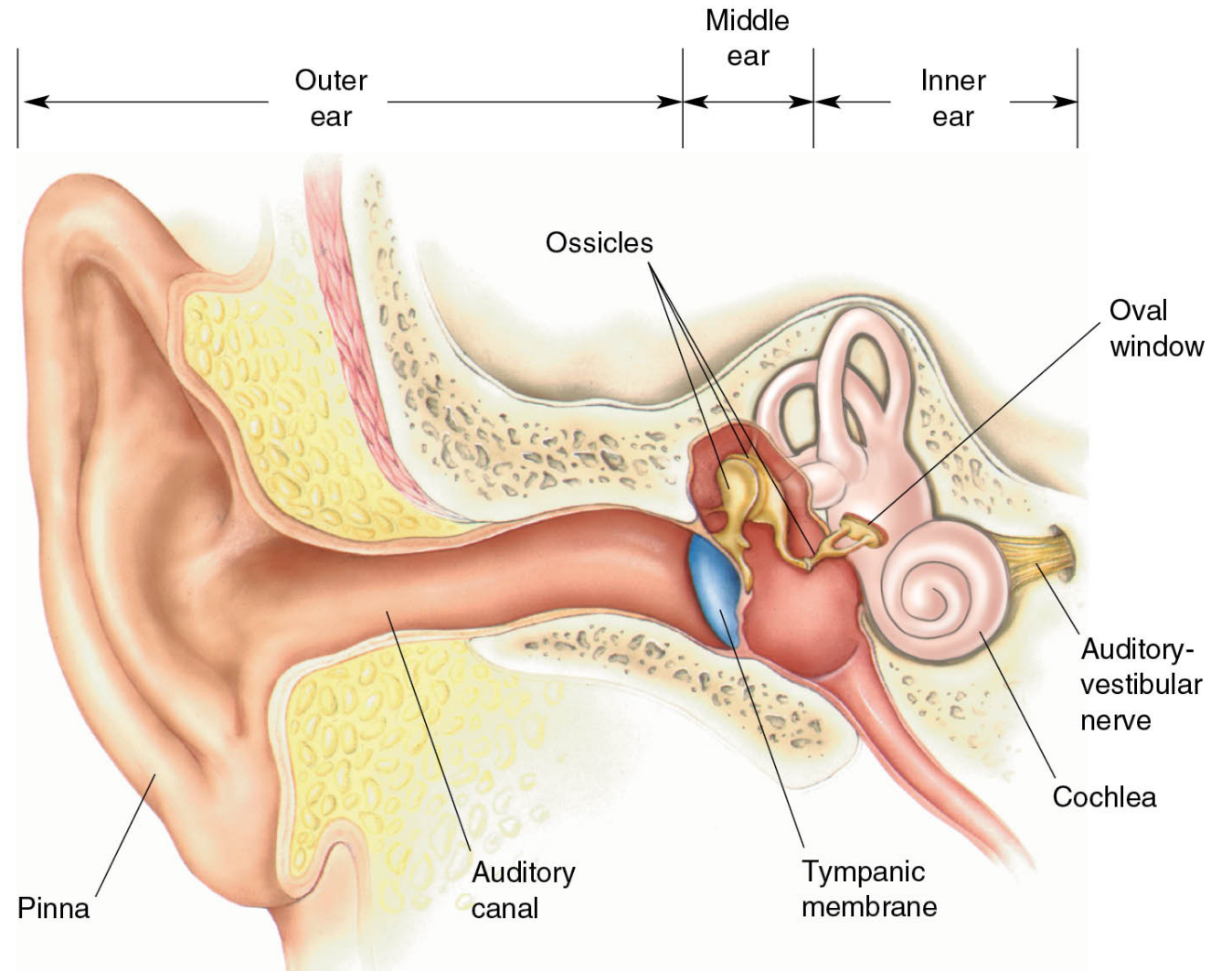


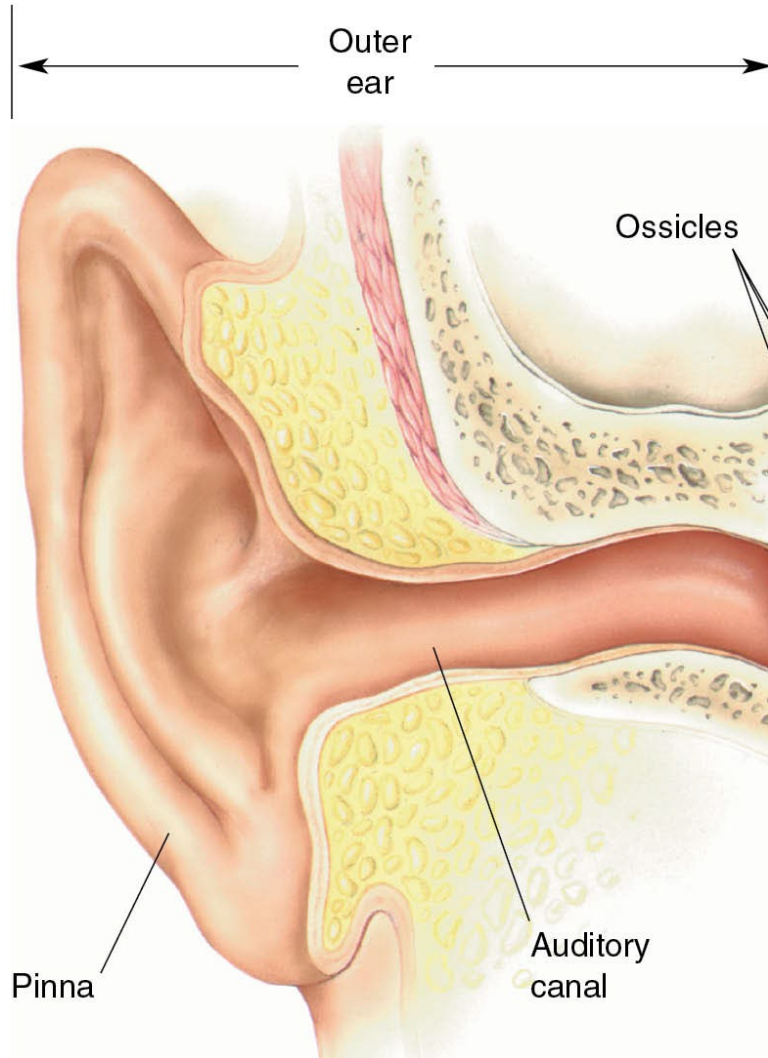
graph S. Blatrix Rémy Pujol
<http://www.cochlea.org/en/ear/human-auditory-range>

■ Irreversible damage ■ Danger; harmful sounds ■ Harmfulness threshold ■ No risk



STRUCTURE OF THE AUDITORY SYSTEM

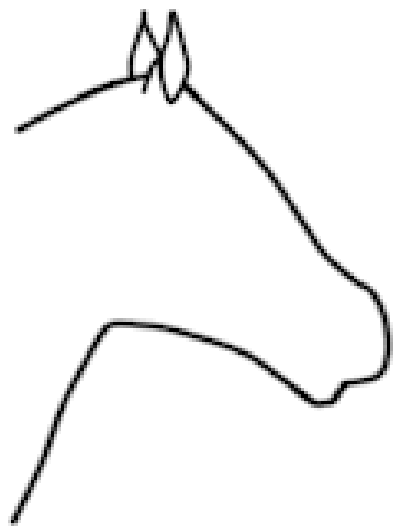




OUTER EAR

- Collect sounds
- Orientation
- Localization

- Auditory canal is 2.5cm



Alertness interest
& curiosity



Intense interest
& curiosity



Submission,
slight concern



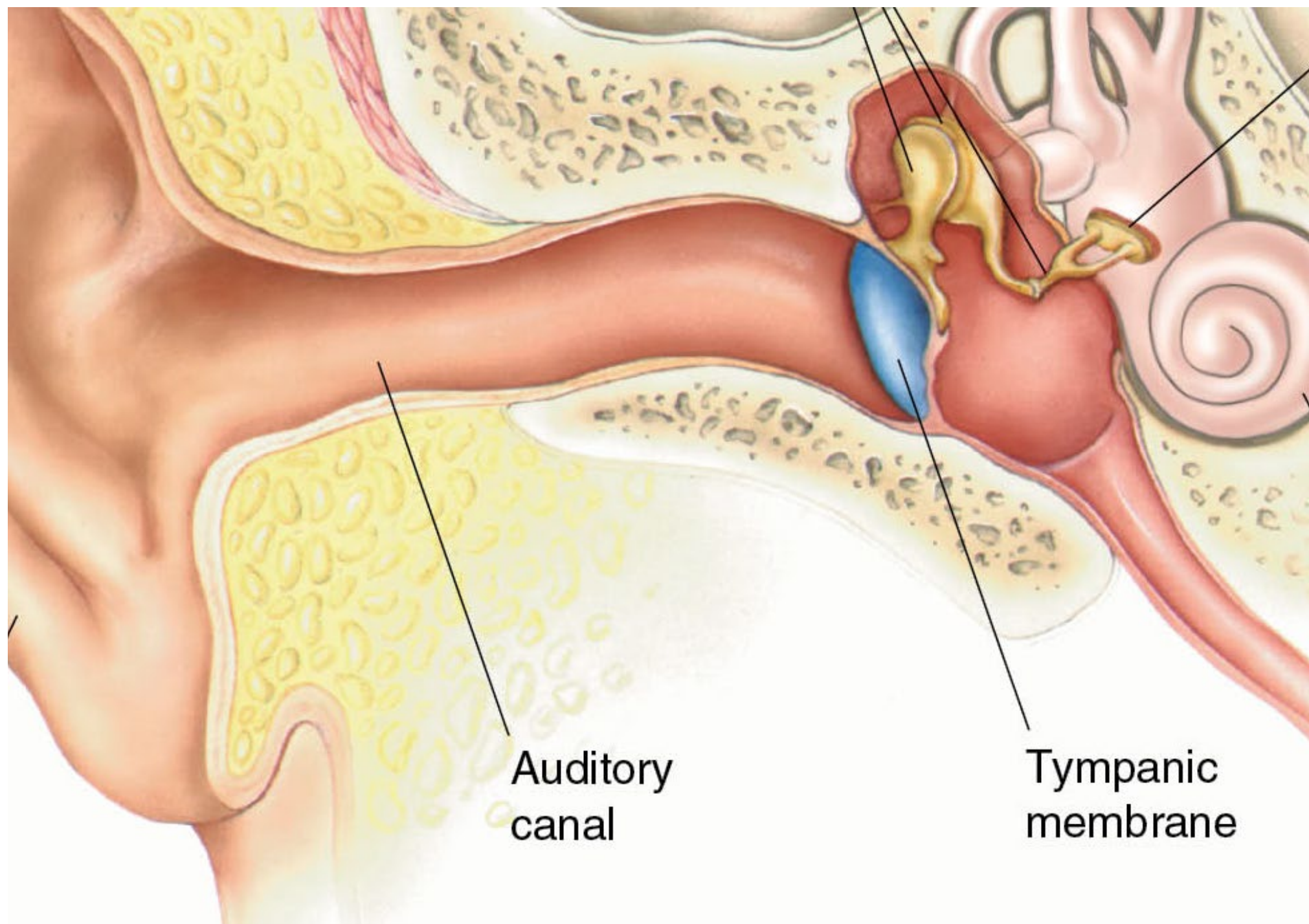
Anger, aggression,
irritation, warning



Terror



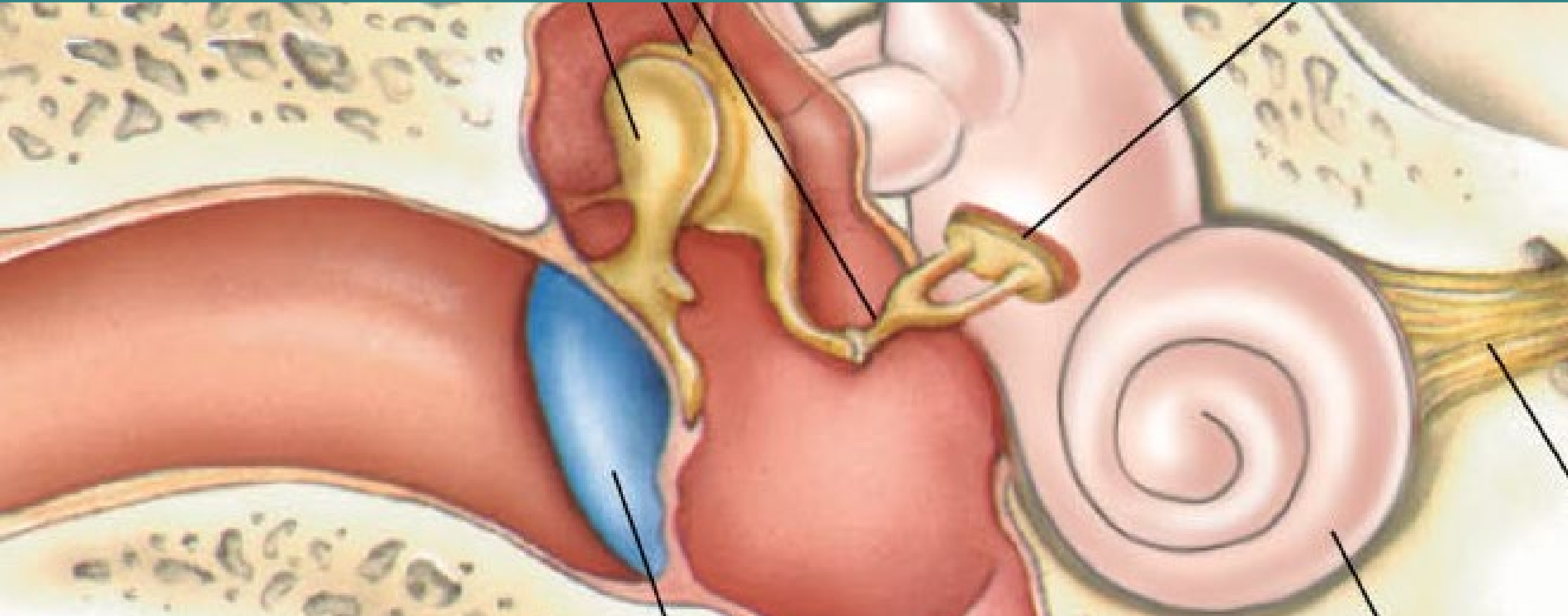
Divided attention



Auditory canal

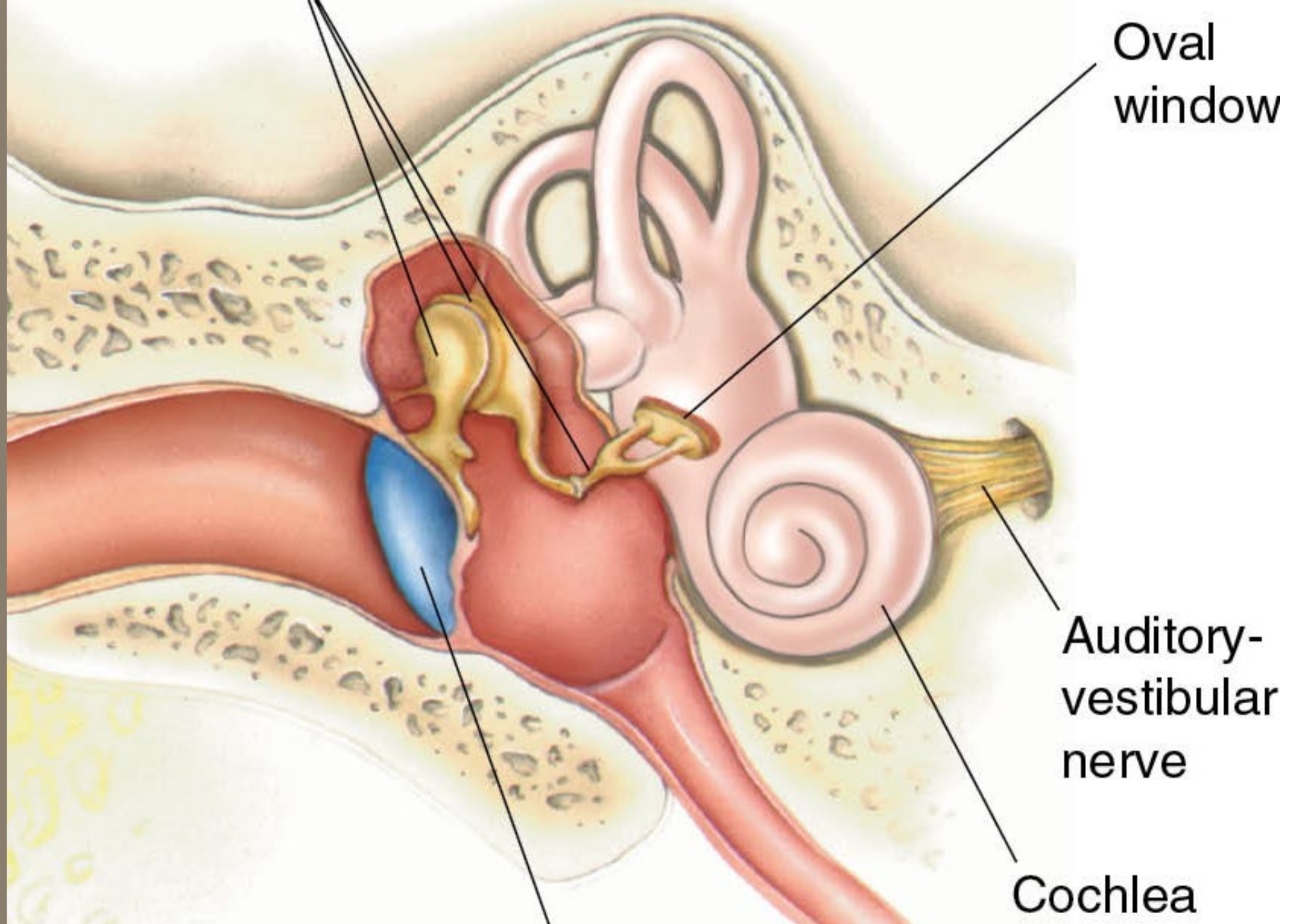
Tympanic membrane

Ossicles – transfer movement of the tympanic membrane to the oval window



Middle Ear: Tympanic membrane and ossicles

Everything medial to the oval window is considered the inner ear



1ST STAGES AUDITORY PATHWAY:

1
Sound to
tympanic
membrane

2
Tympanic
membrane
moves
ossicles

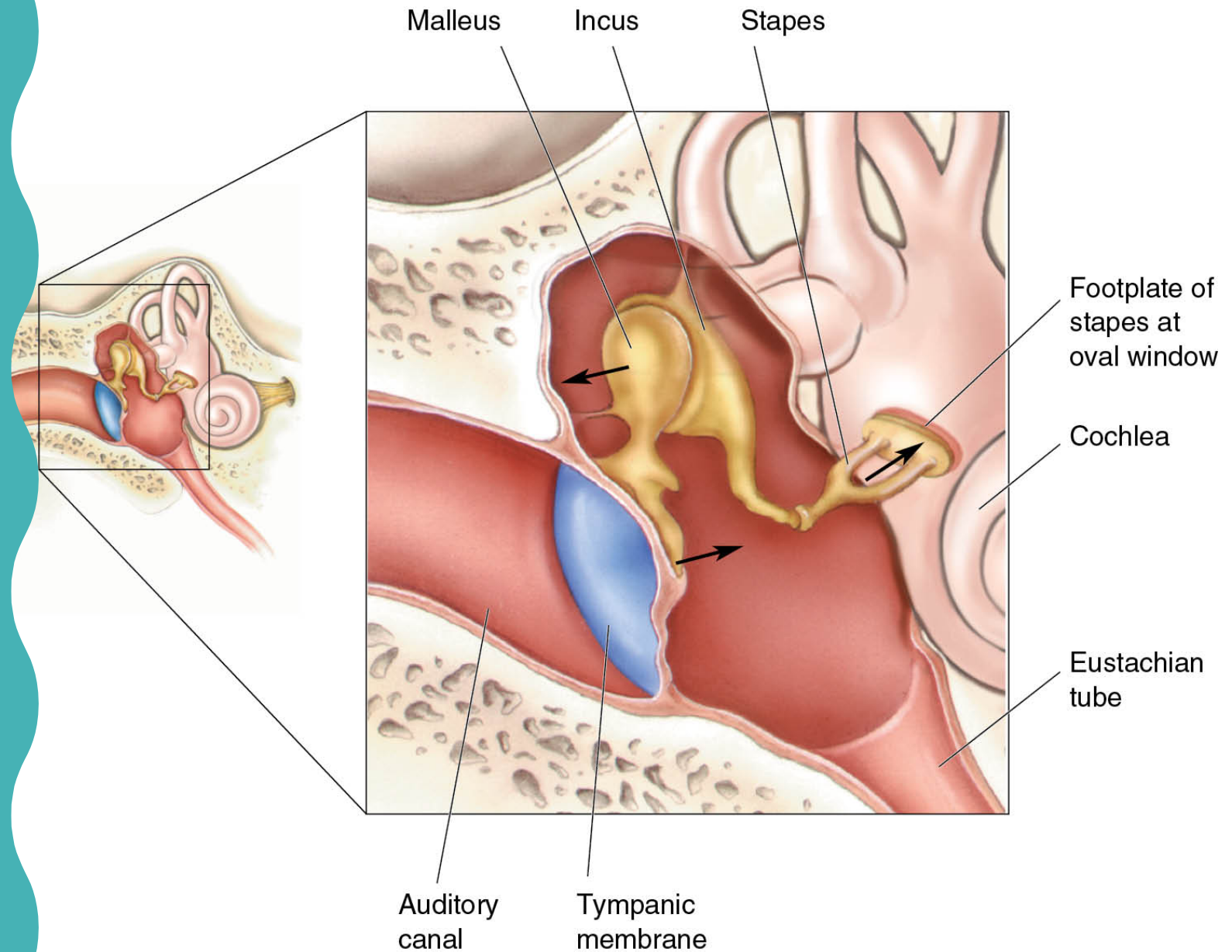
3
Ossicles move
oval window
membrane

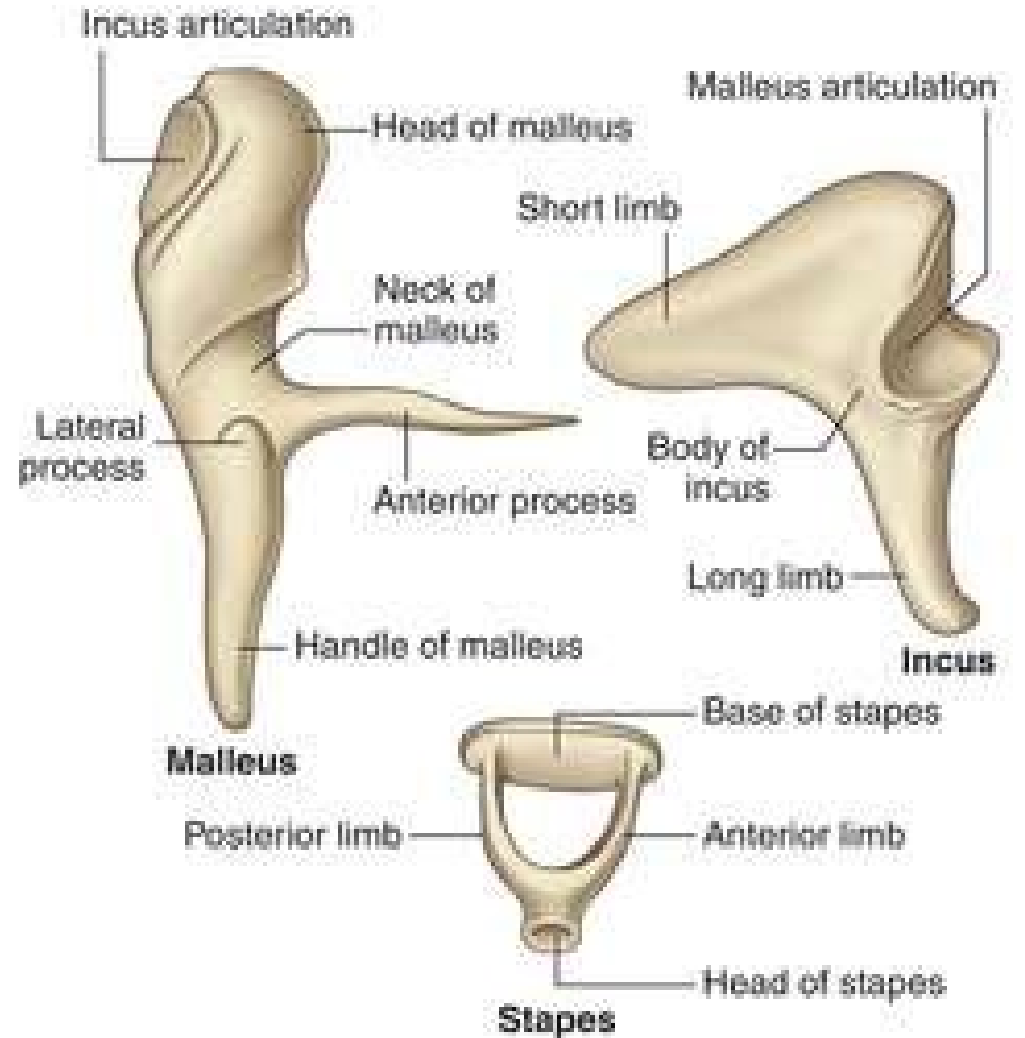
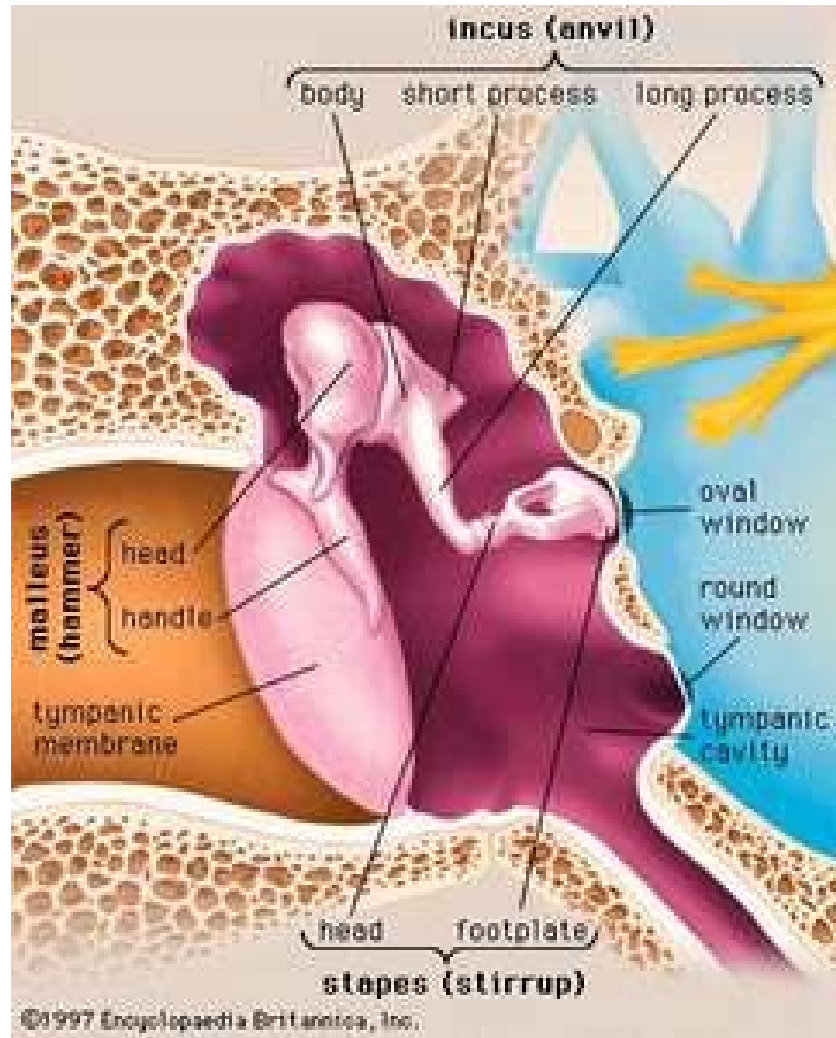
4
Oval window
motion
moves fluid in
cochlea

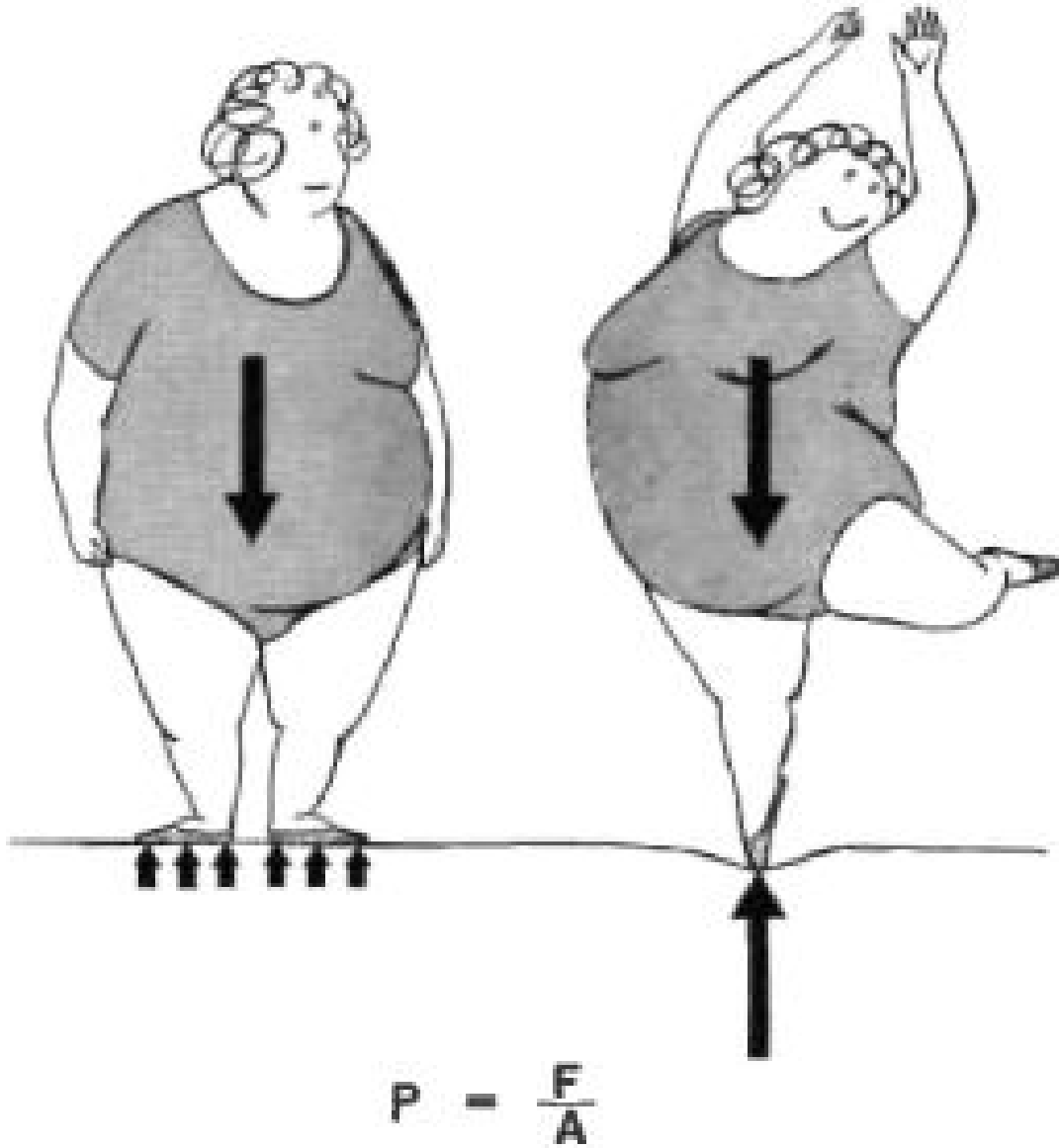
5
Sensory
neurons
respond to
fluid
movement

COMPONENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAR

Tympanic membrane, the ossicles and the two muscles that are attached to the ossicles.





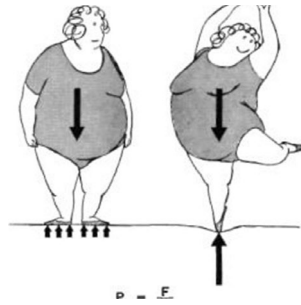


Recall:
"Pressure" is force supported per unit area.

A broad area of support results in lower values of average pressure.



THE MIDDLE EAR



1. OSSICLES ACT AS LEVERS
2. OVAL WINDOW IS SMALLER THAN T.M.

Sound force amplification by the ossicles

Pressure: force per surface area

Greater pressure at oval window than tympanic membrane, moves fluids.

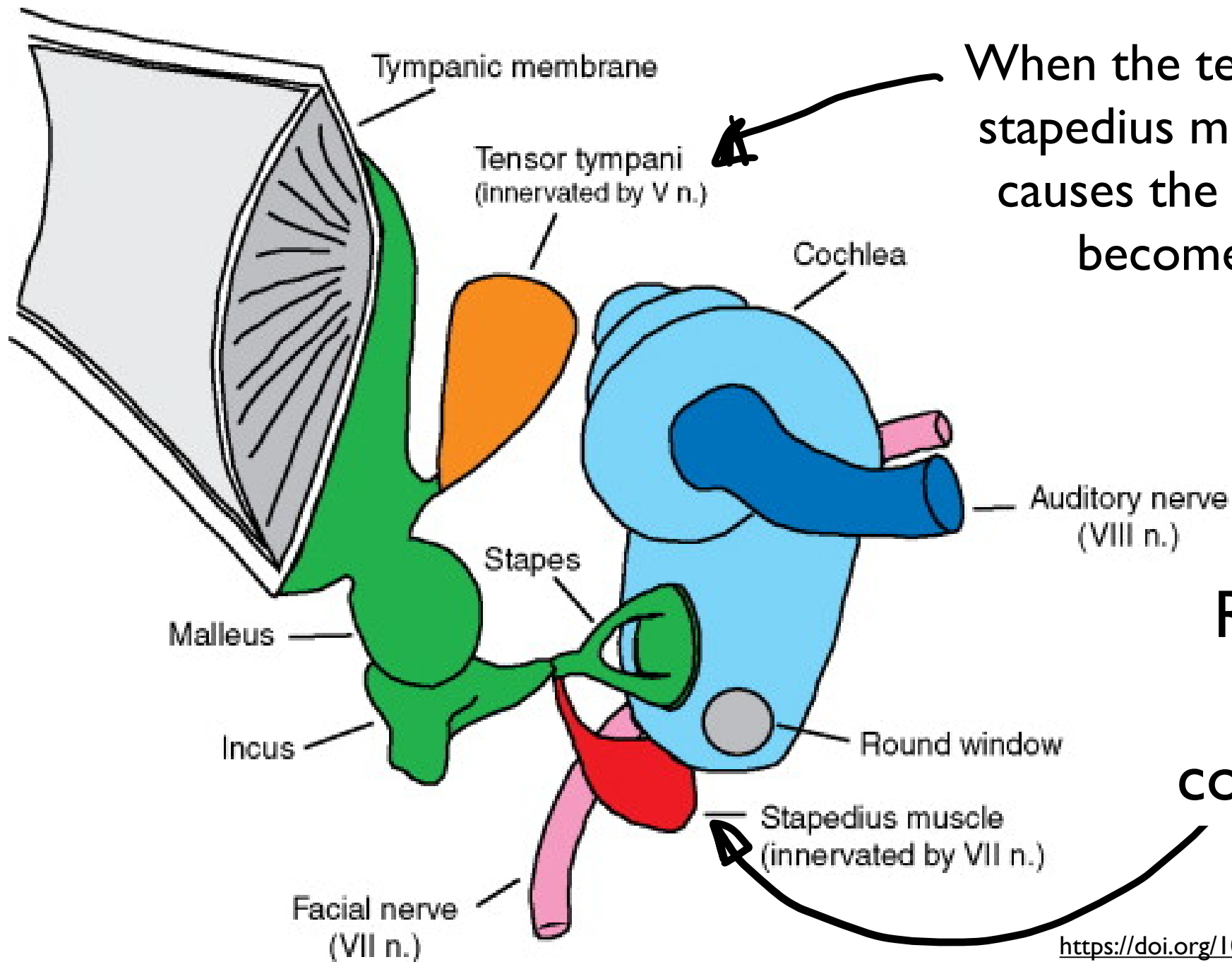
THE MIDDLE EAR



The attenuation reflex

Response when onset of loud sound causes tensor tympani and stapedius muscle contraction

Function: adapts ear to loud sounds, protects inner ear, enables us to understand speech better

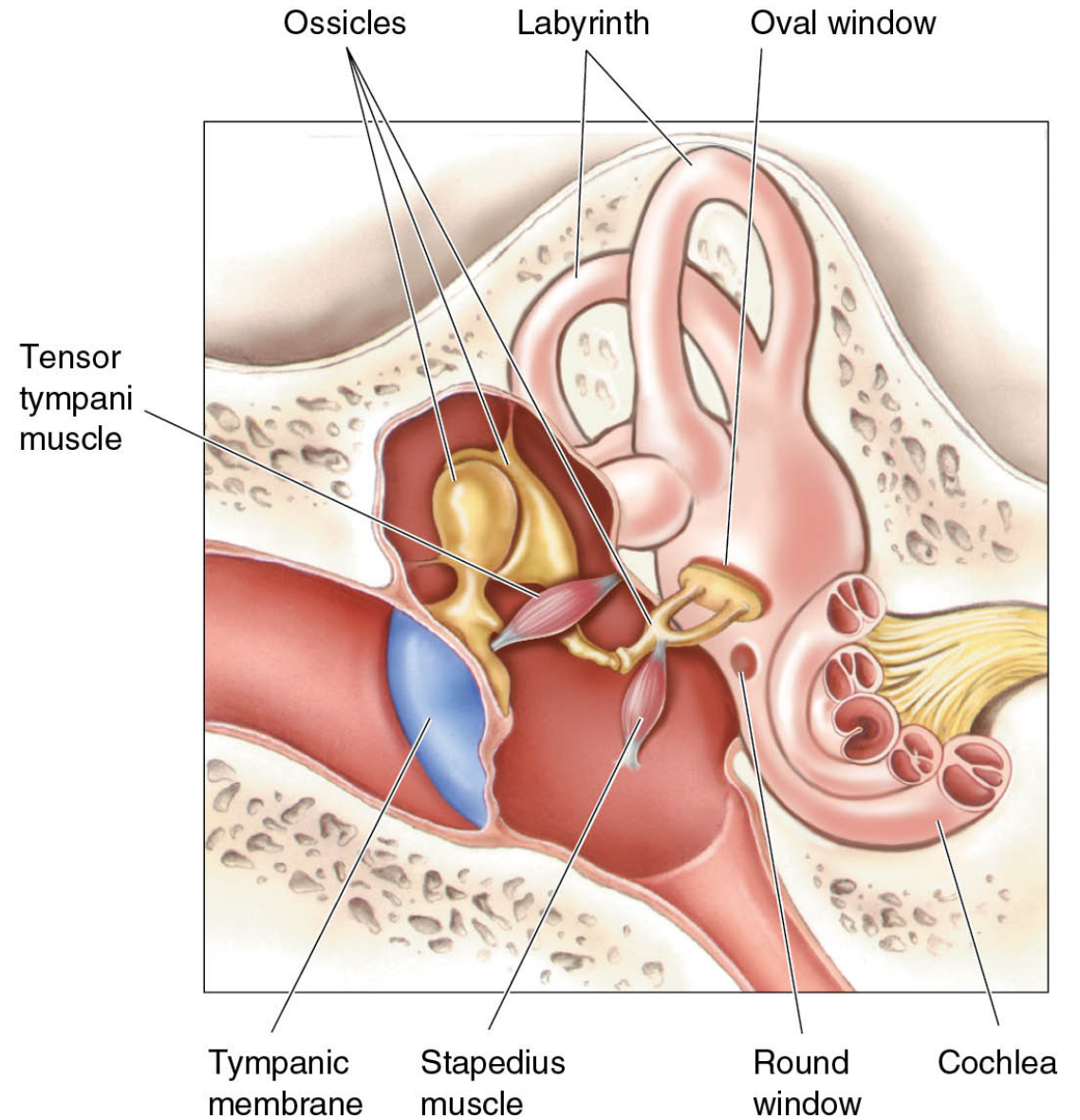


When the tensor tympani and stapedius muscles contract it causes the chain of ossicles become more rigid.

Reducing sound conduction.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-008045046-9.00248-5>

THE MIDDLE AND INNER EAR



THE INNER EAR



Physiology of the cochlea

Motion at oval window pushes perilymph into scala vestibuli, makes round window membrane bulge.



The response of basilar membrane to sound

Structural properties: wider at apex, stiffness decreases from base to apex

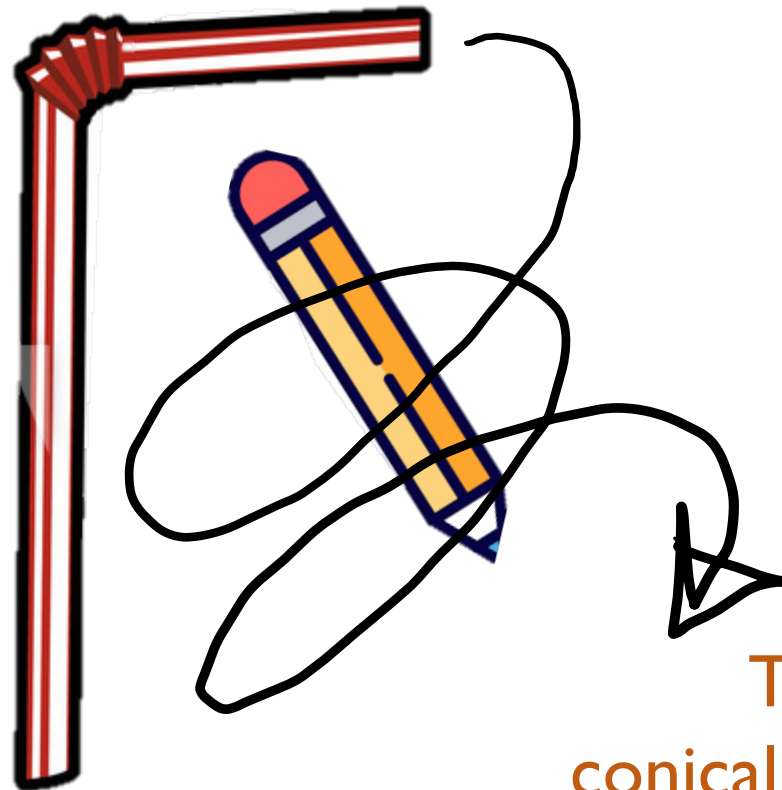


Research: Georg von Békésy

Endolymph movement bends basilar membrane near base, wave moves toward apex.

“The cochlea is similar to a drinking straw wrapped two and a half to three times around the sharpened tip of a pencil.”

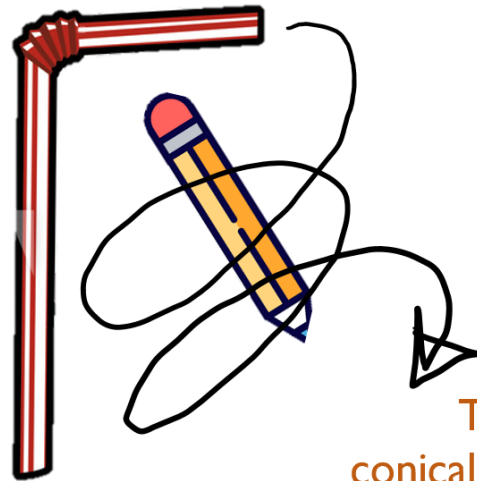
Straw is the hollow tube made out of bone



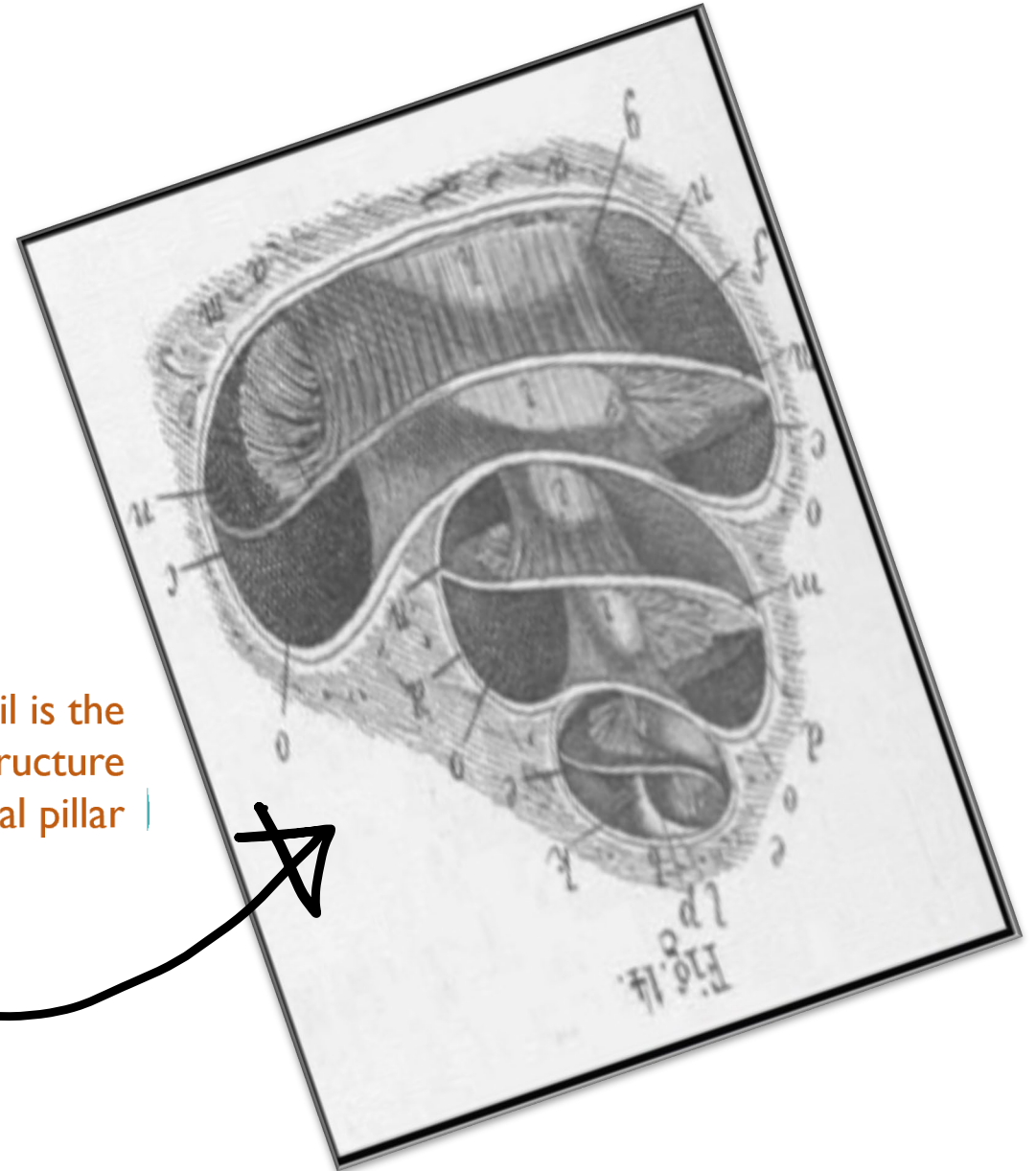
The pencil is the conical bony structure called the central pillar

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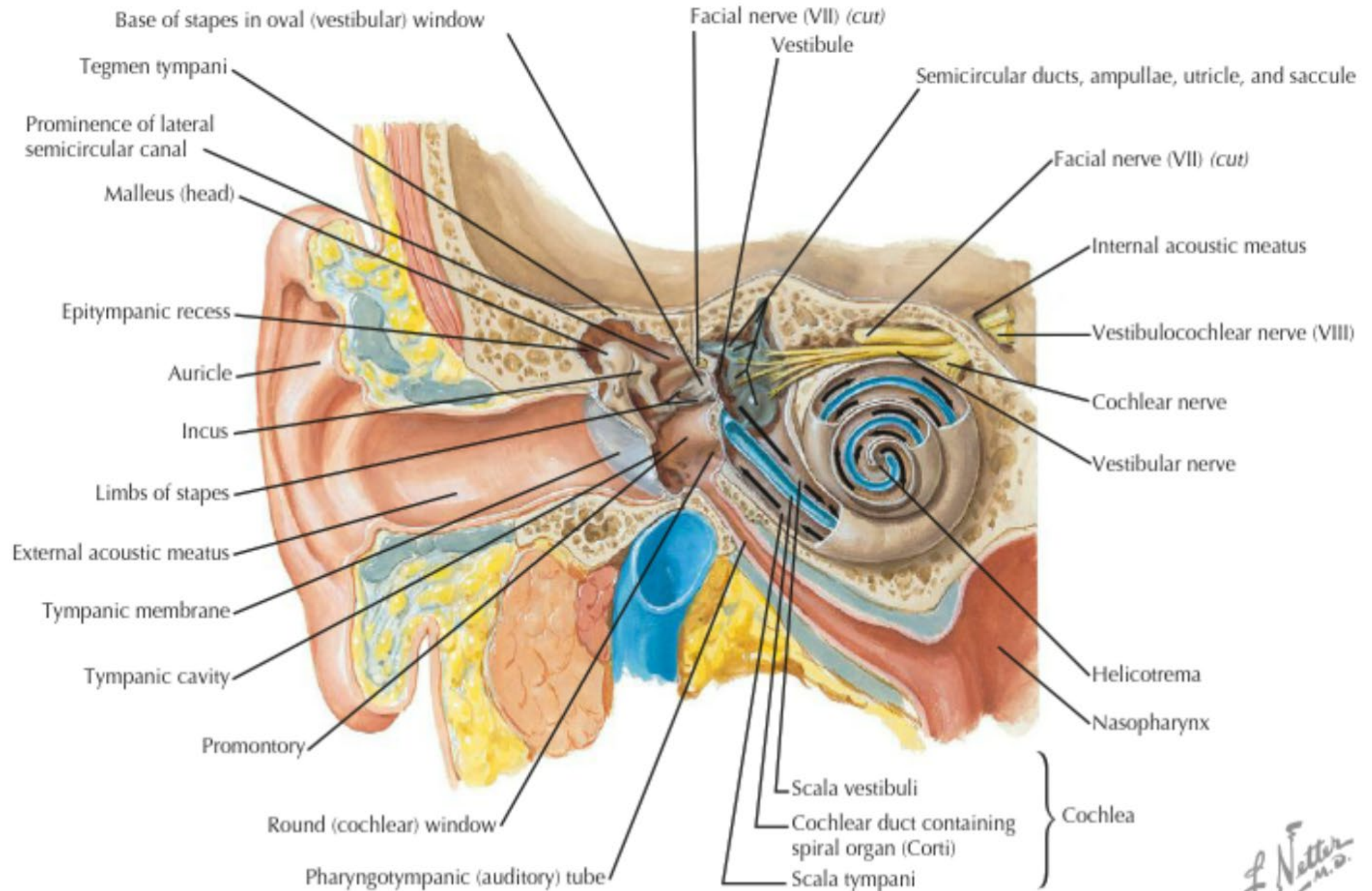
Straw is the hollow tube made out of bone

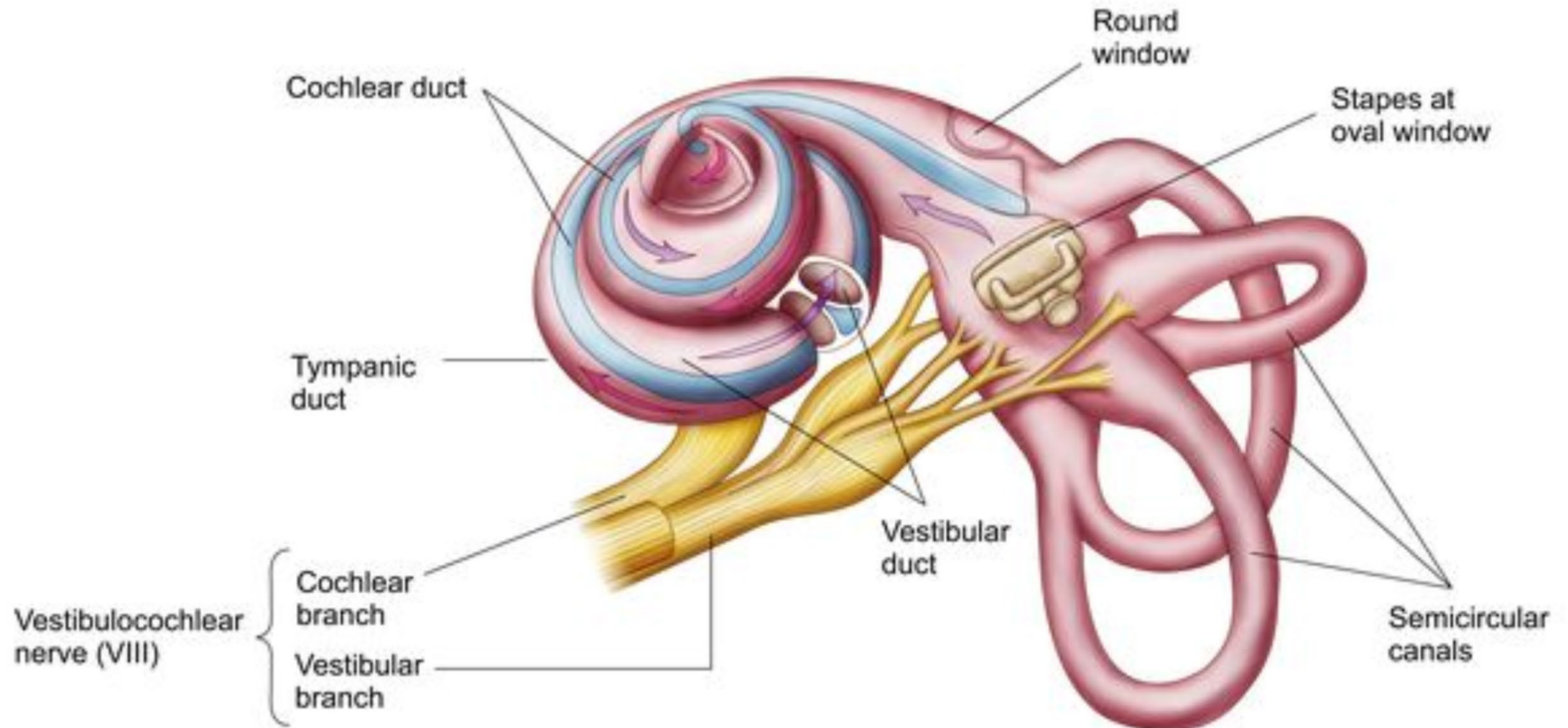


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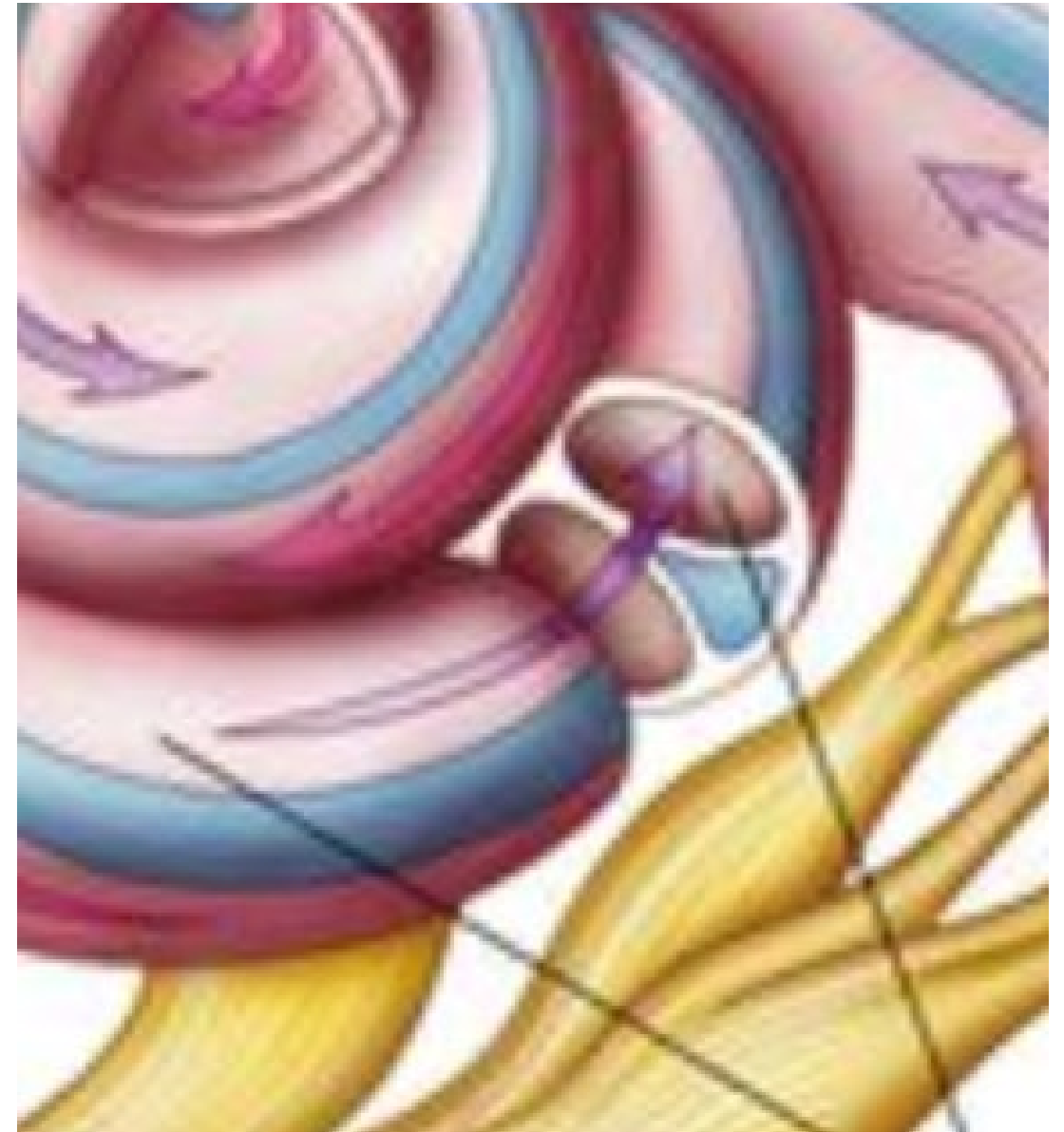


Frontal section

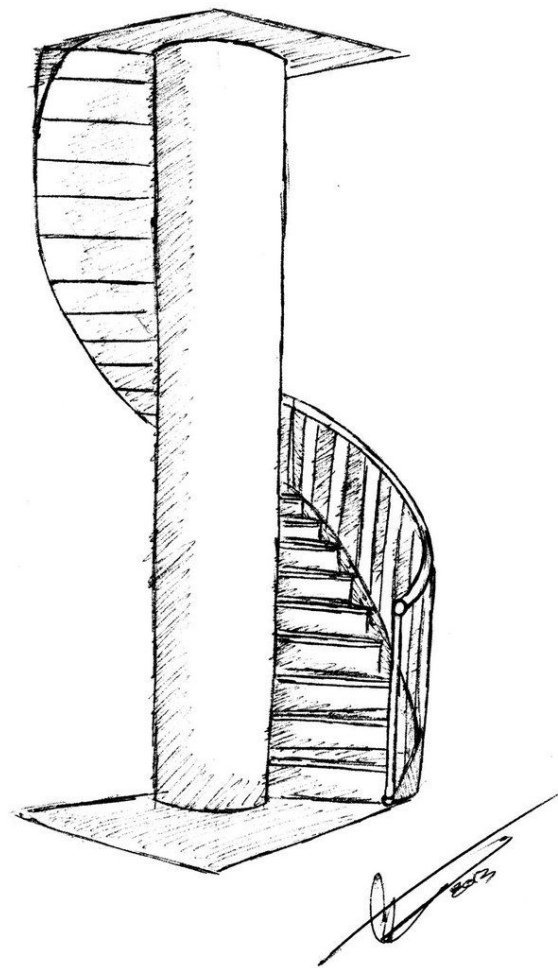


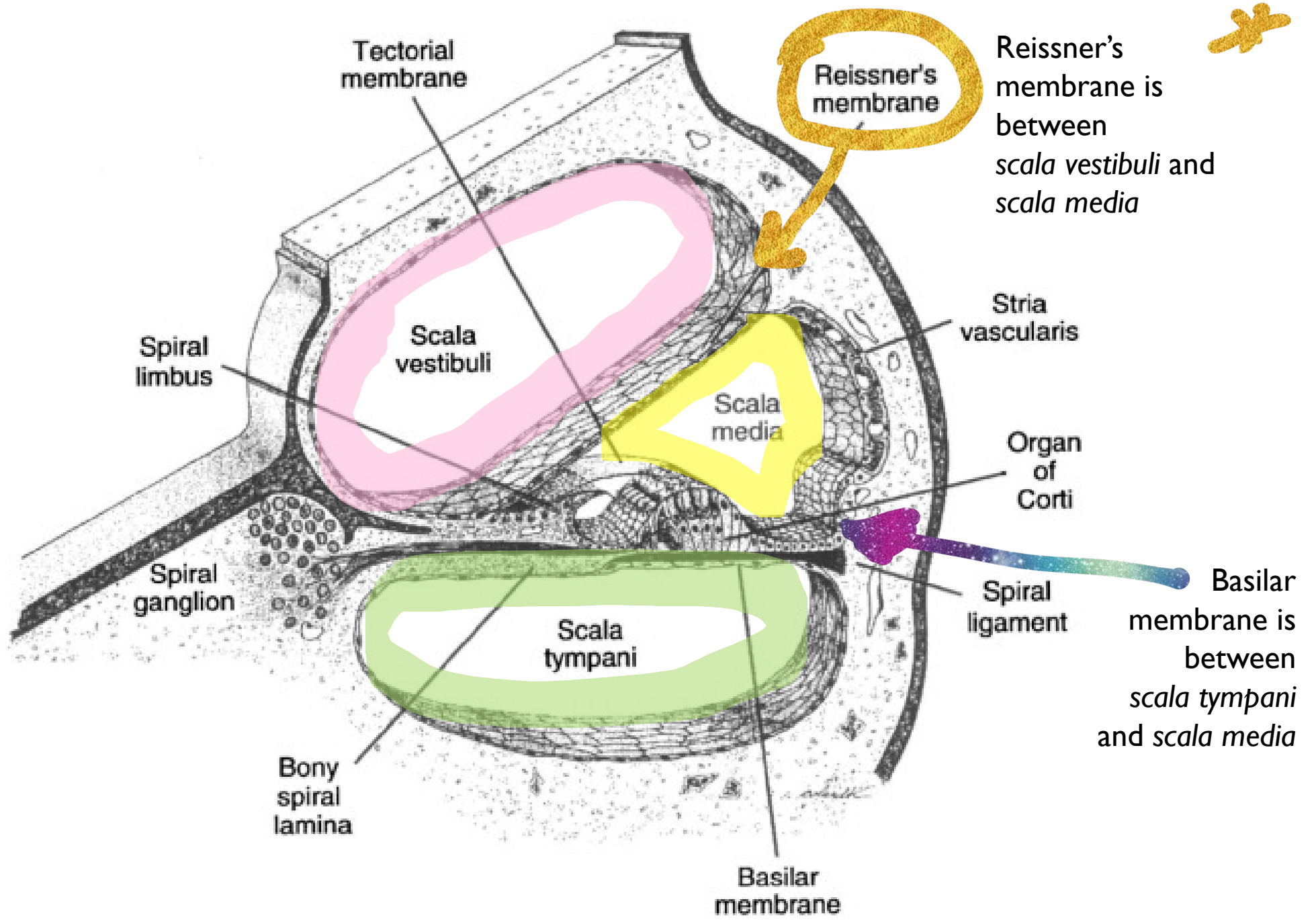


3 FLUID
FILLED
CHAMBERS



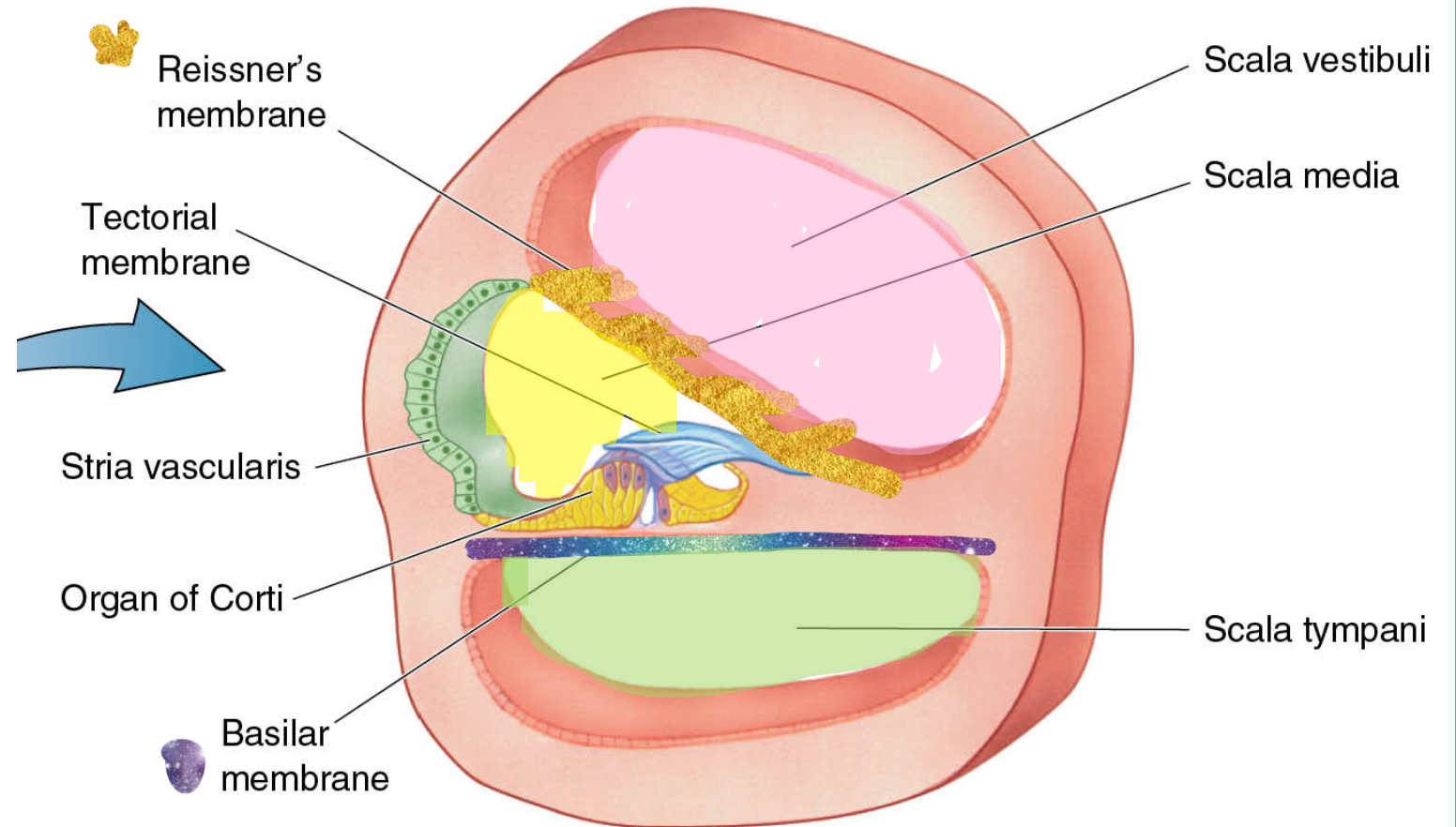
"scala"
staircase
in Latin

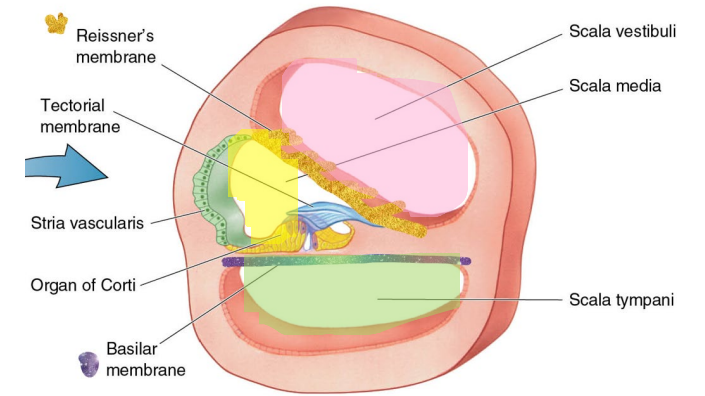
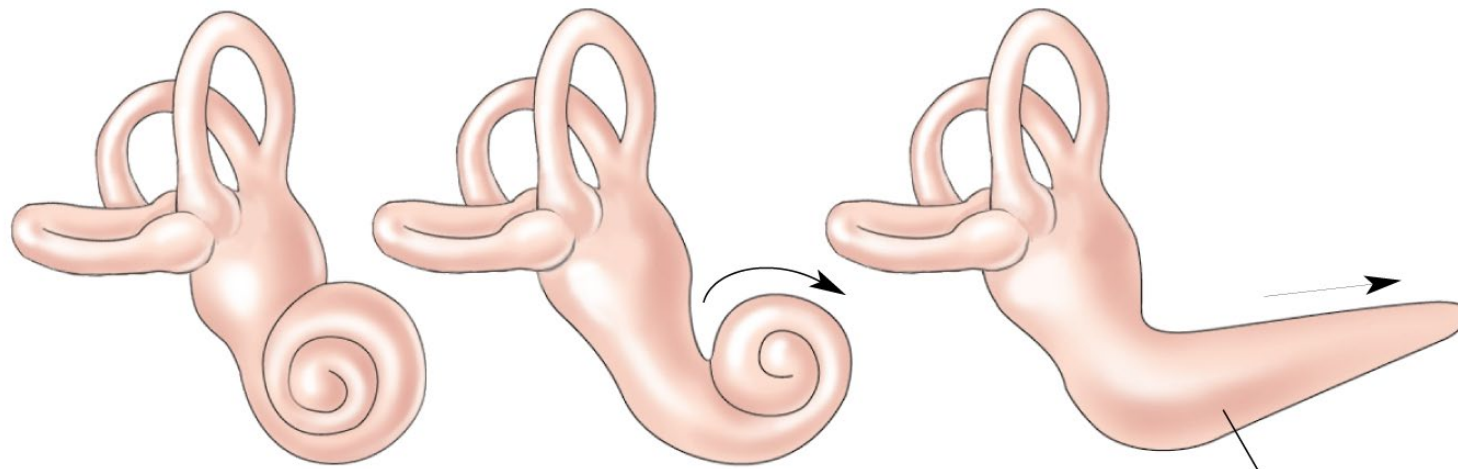




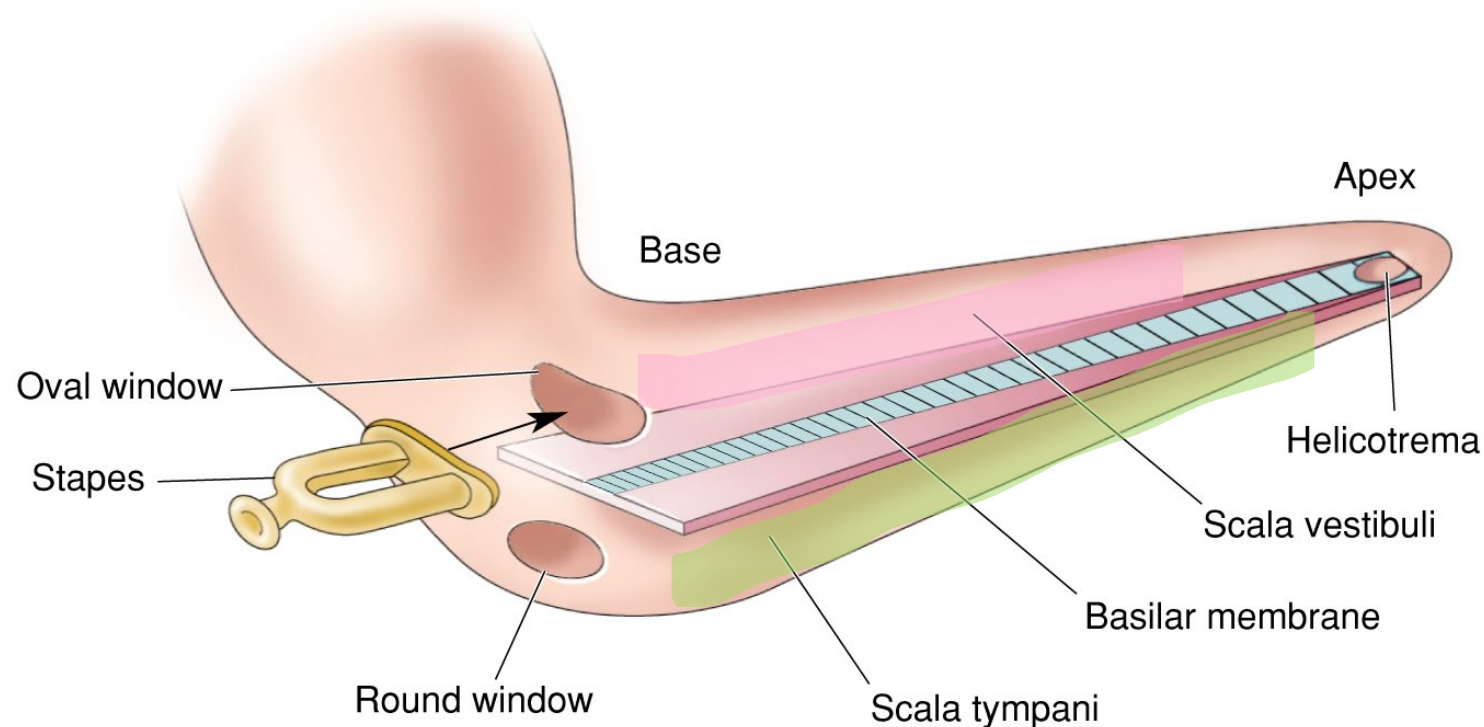
THE INNER EAR → SOUND TO NEURAL SIGNALS

- 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

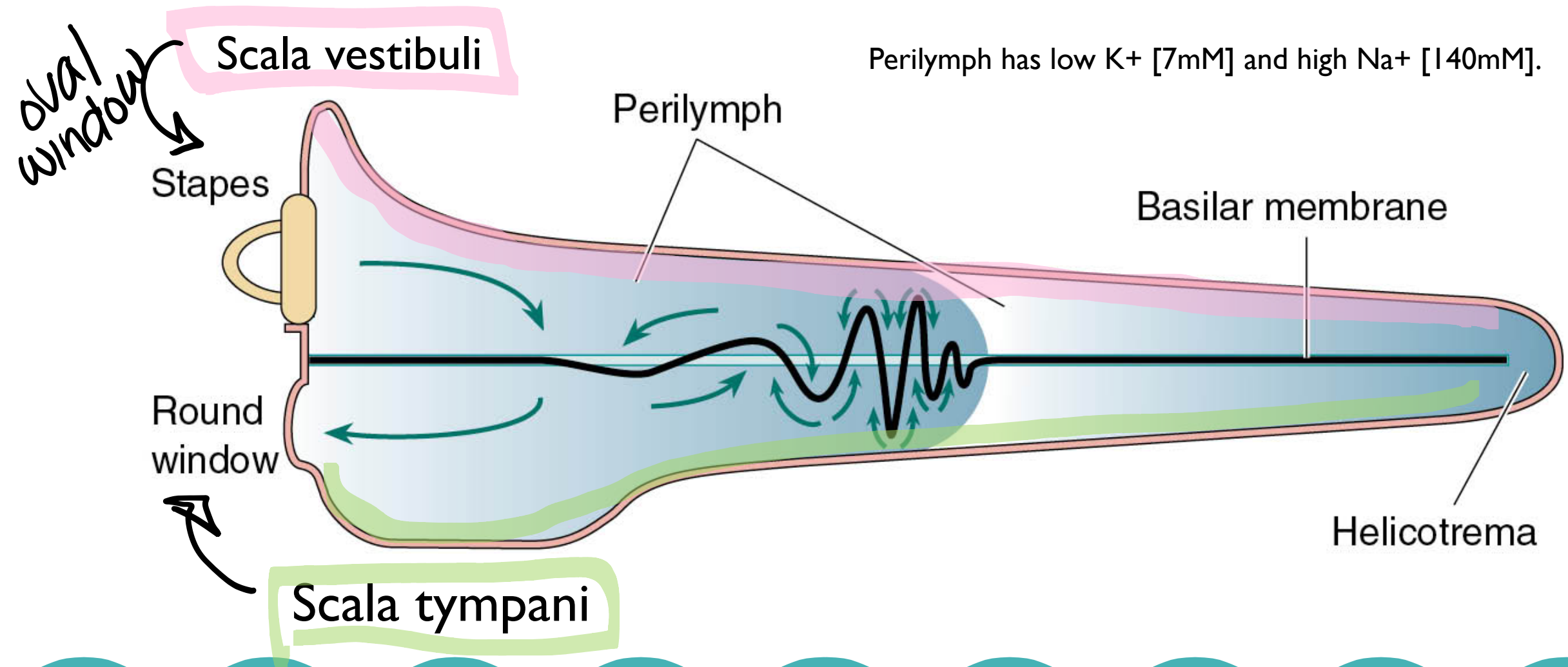




The cochlea narrows from base to apex
Uncoiled cochlea

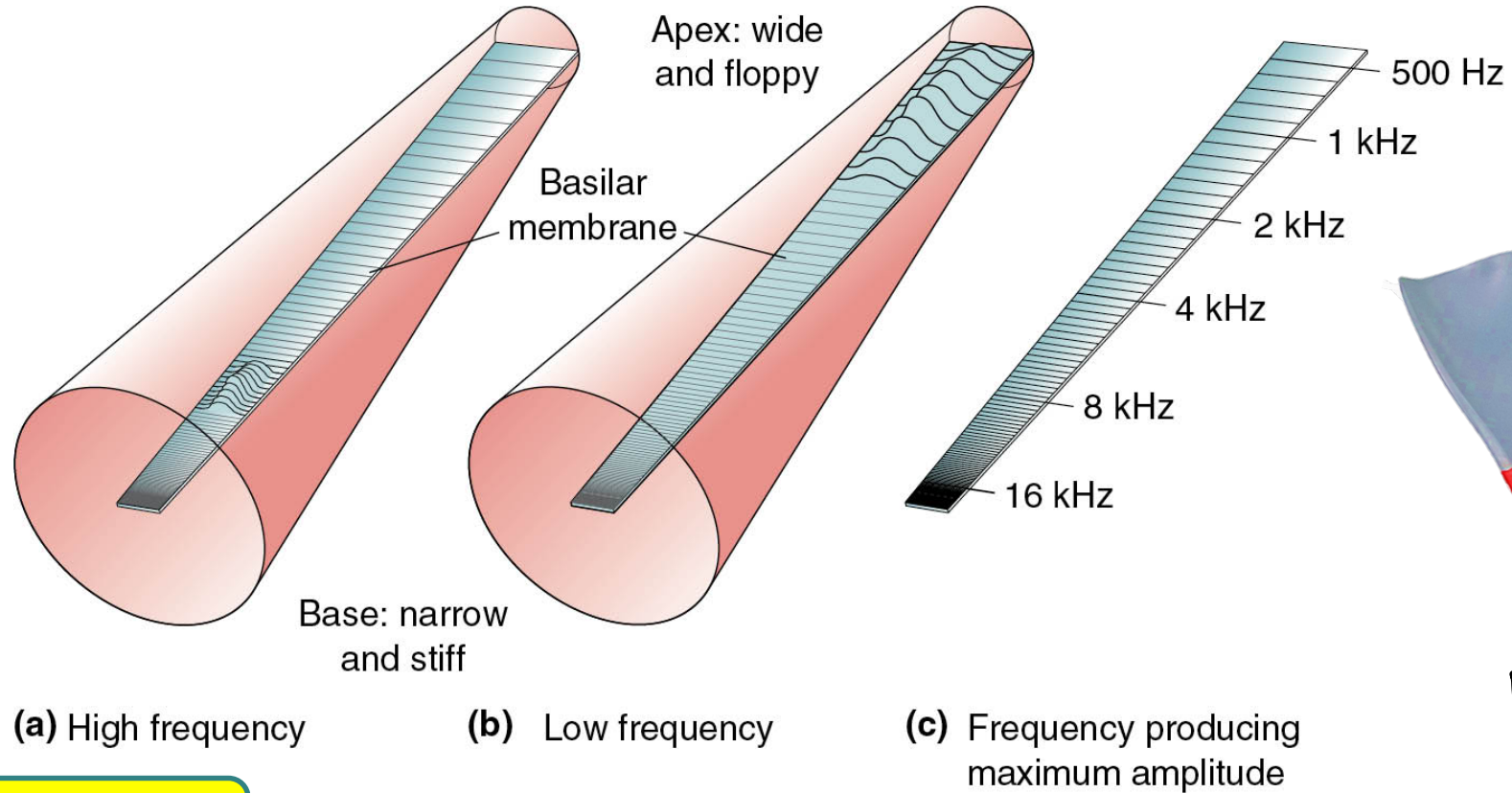


The basilar membrane **WIDENS** towards the apex.



TRAVELING WAVE IN THE BASILAR MEMBRANE

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



wide & floppy

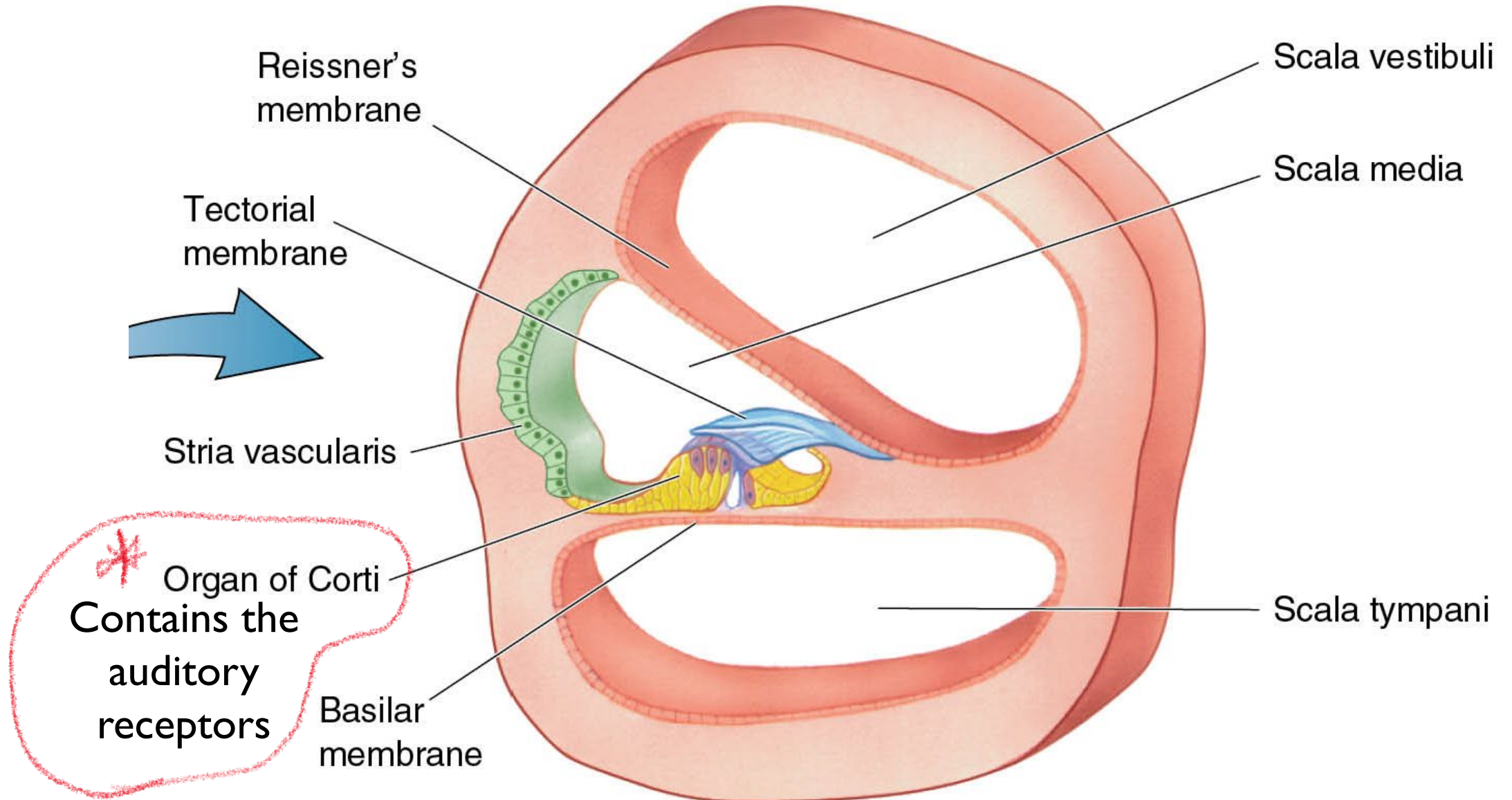


narrow & stiff

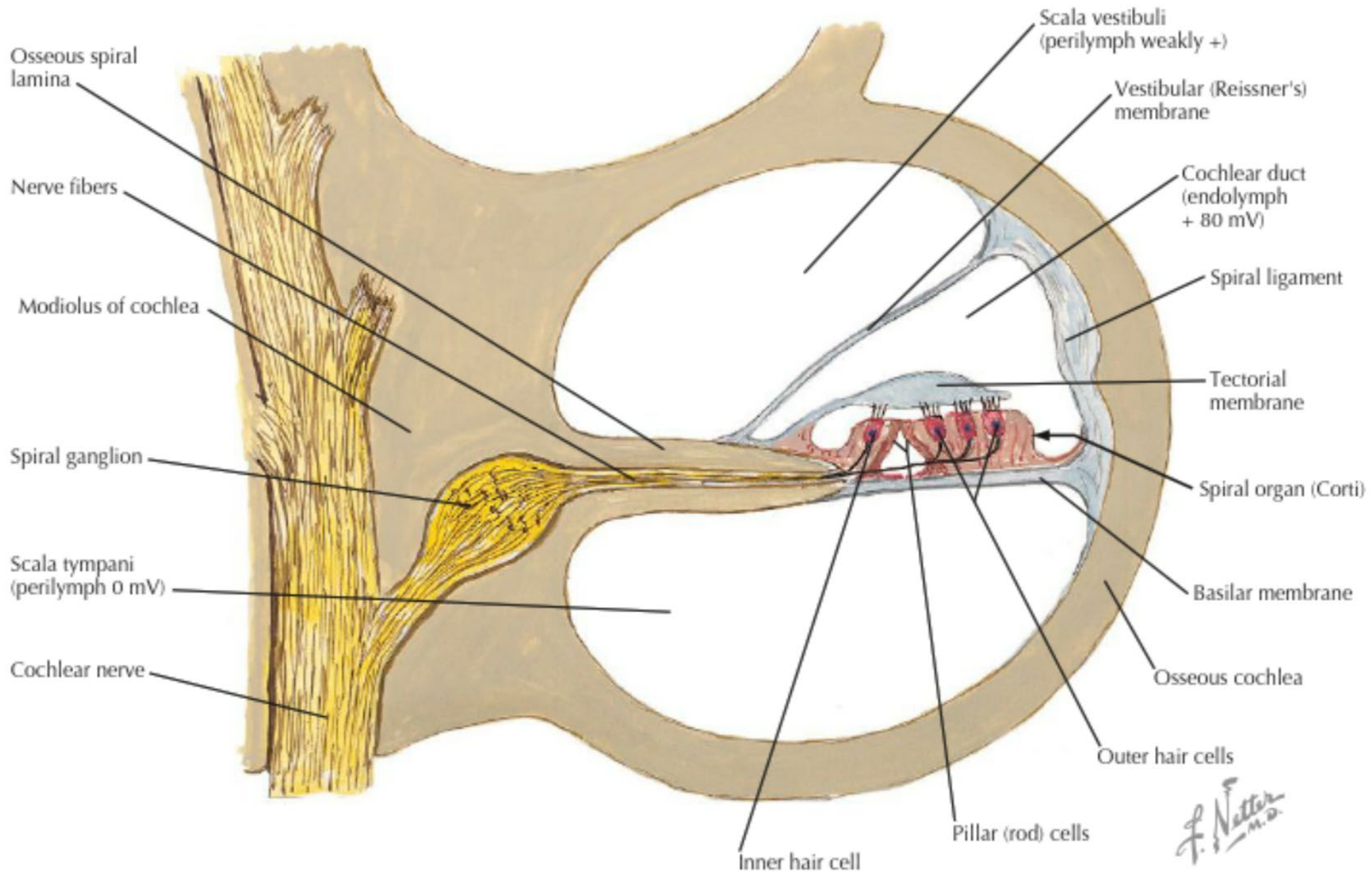
PLACE CODING

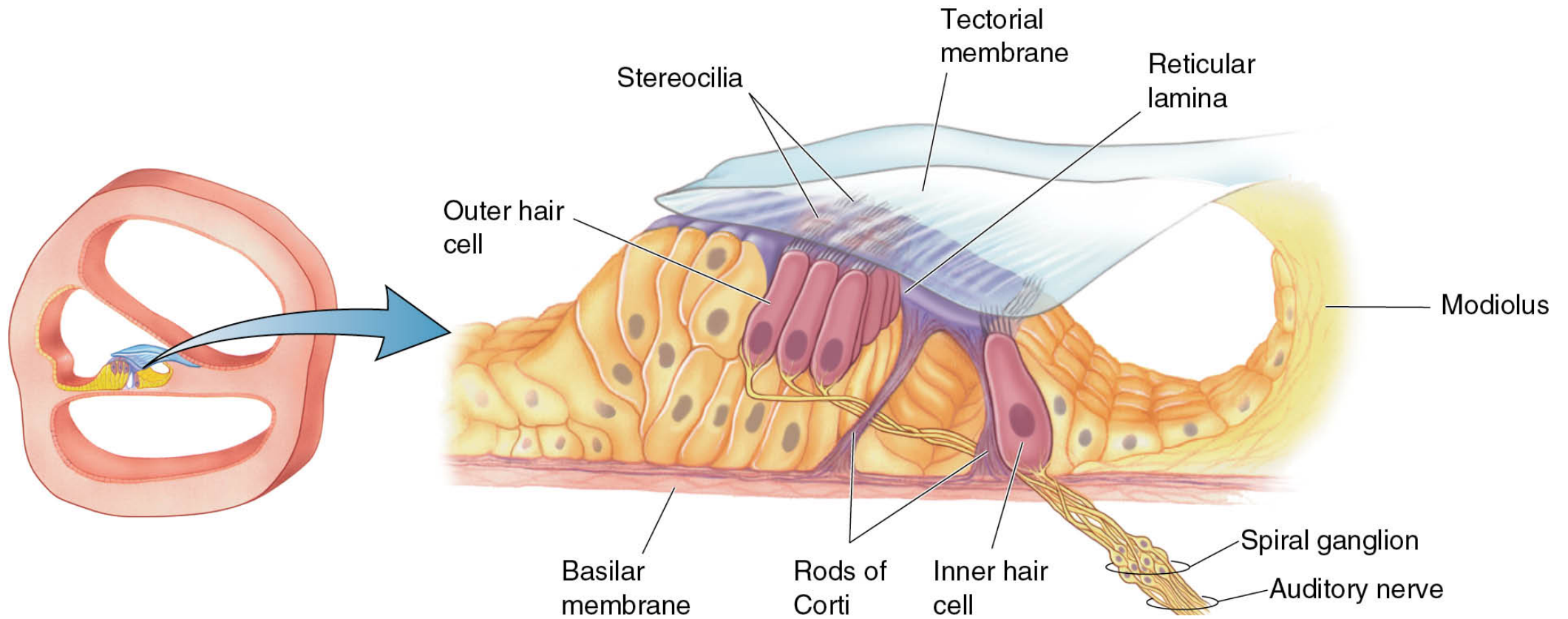
RESPONSE OF BASILAR MEMBRANE TO SOUND

The organ of Corti – auditory receptors

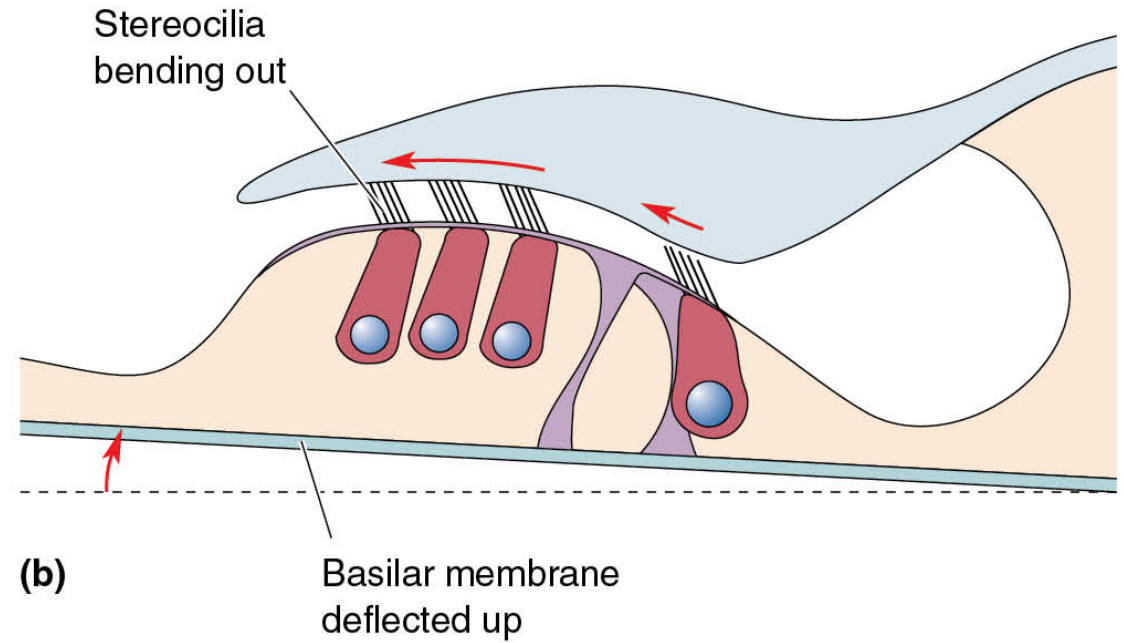
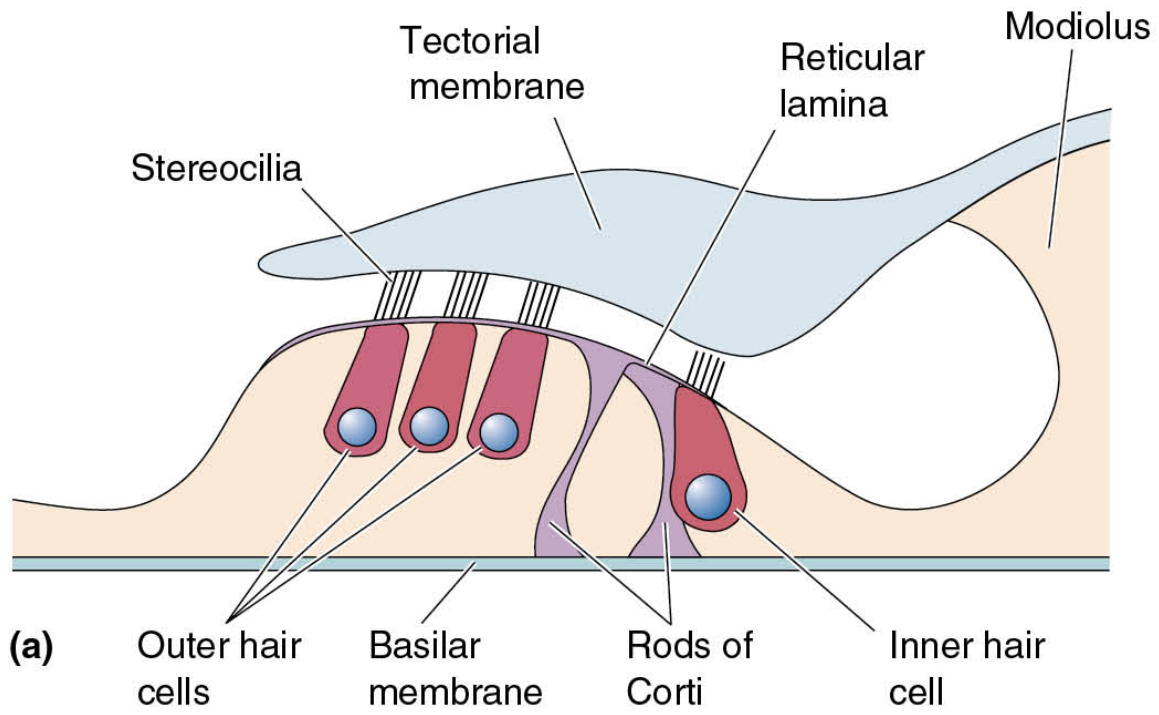


Section through turn of cochlea



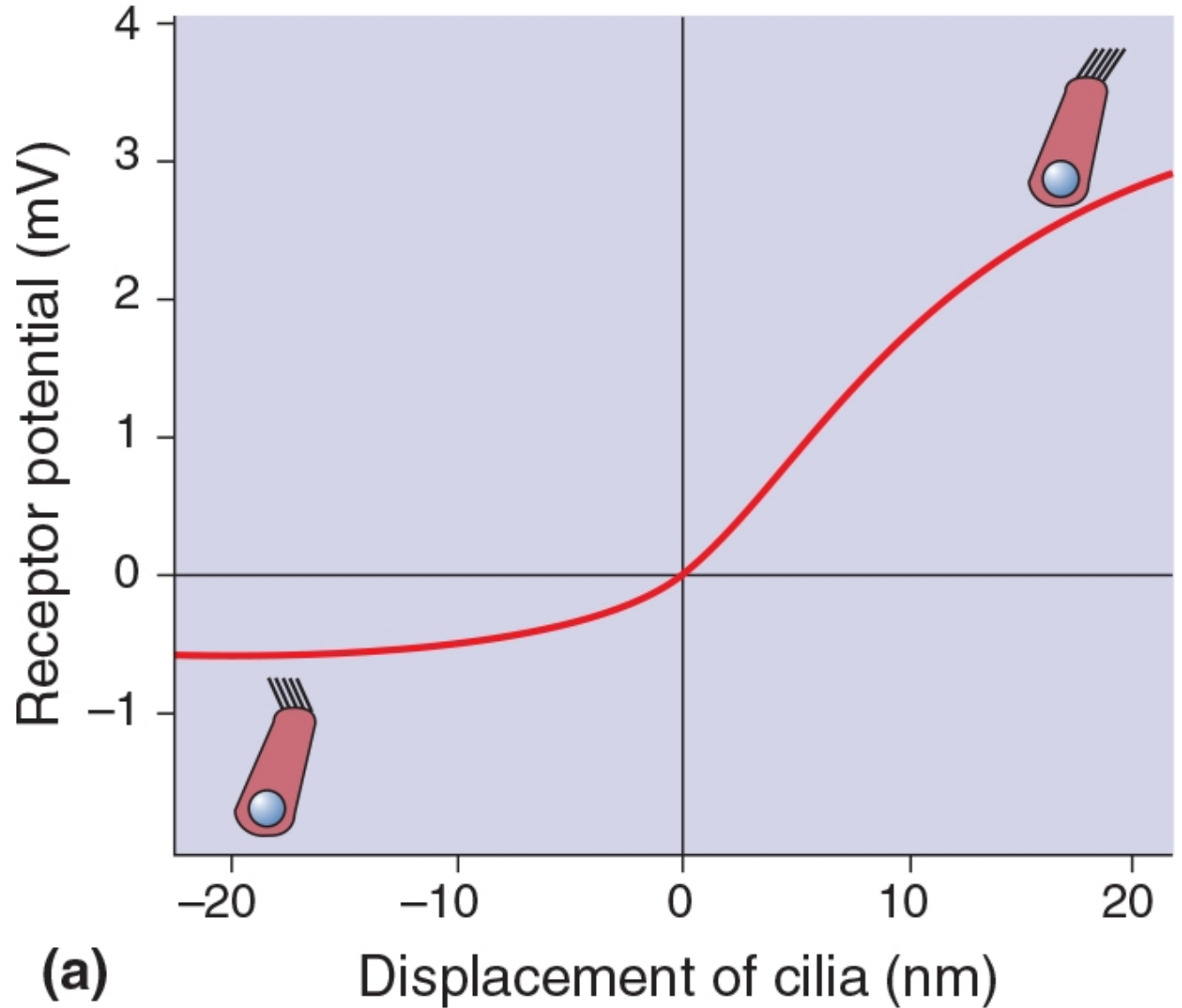
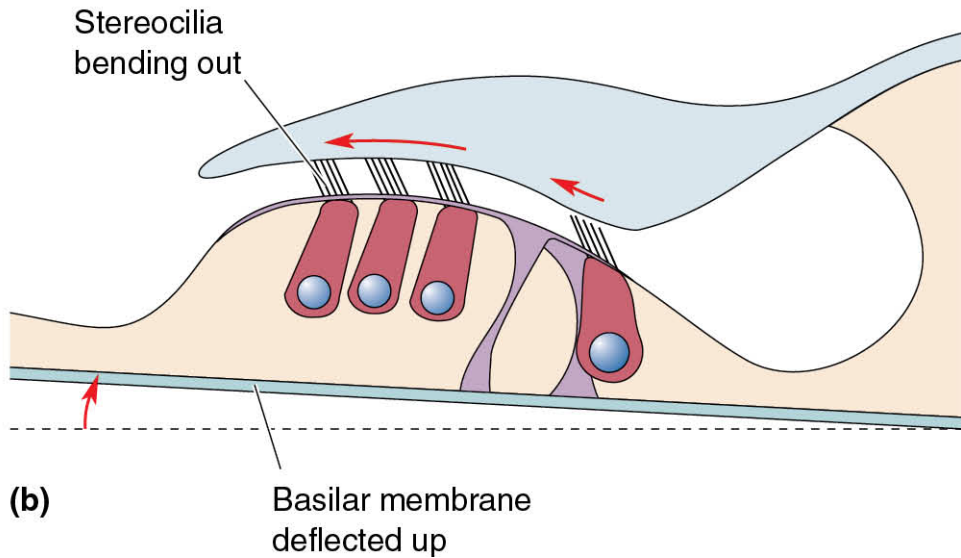


THE ORGAN OF CORTI AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES



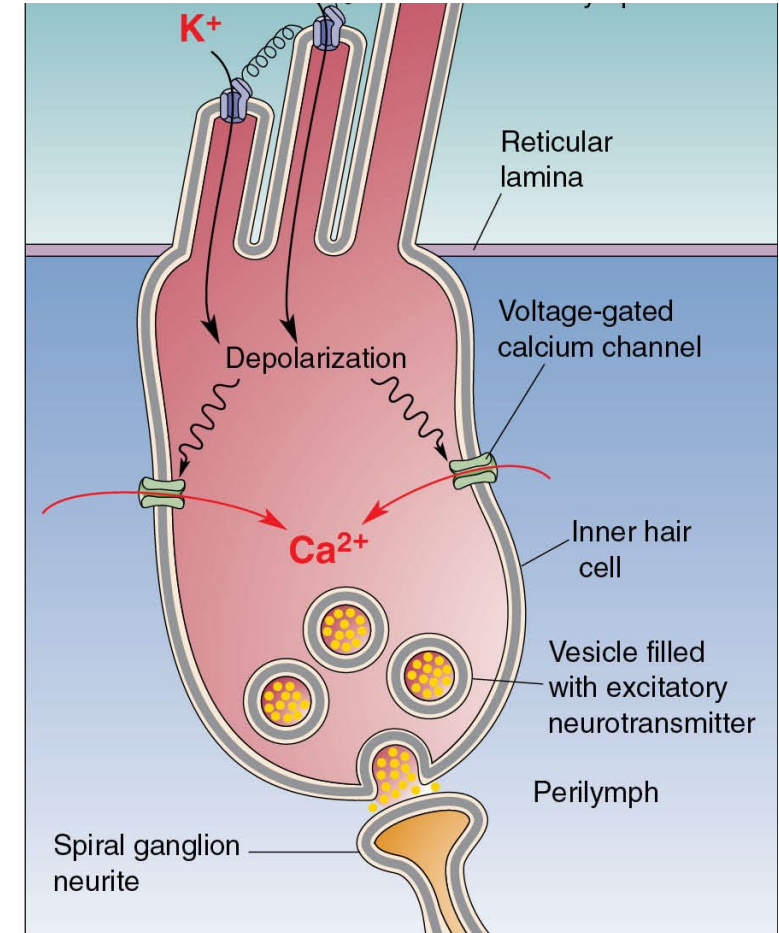
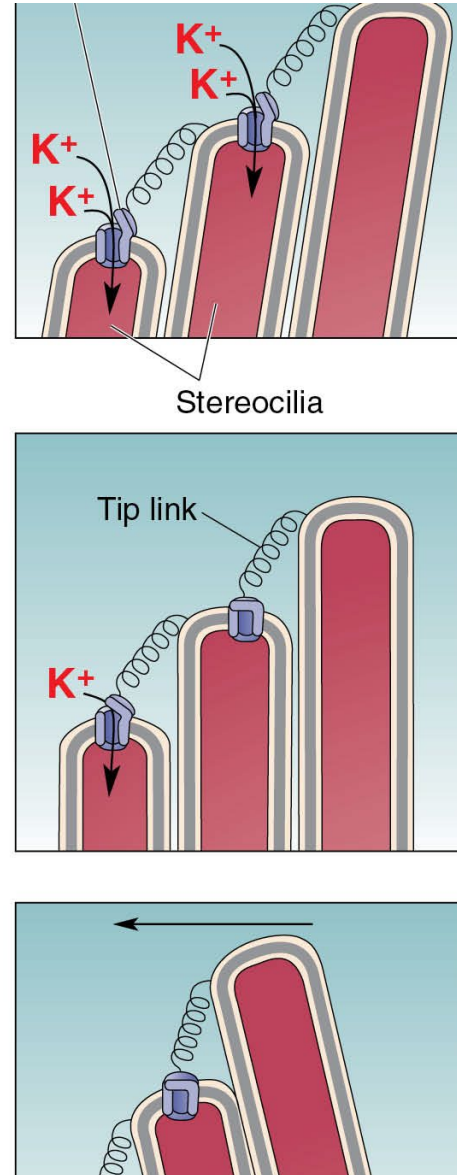
THE BENDING OF STEREOCILIA

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



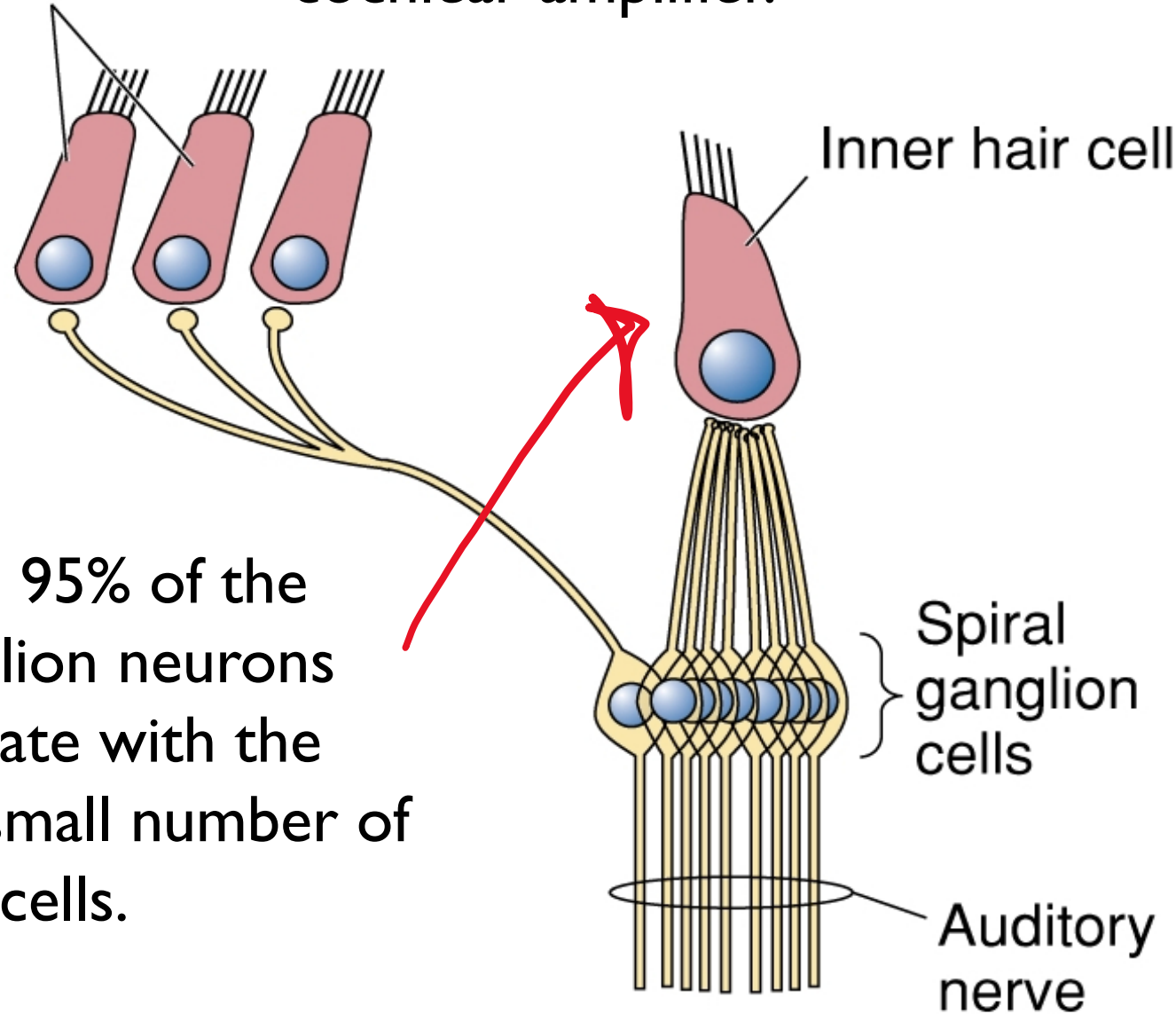
TRANSDUCTION BY HAIR CELLS

- 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.