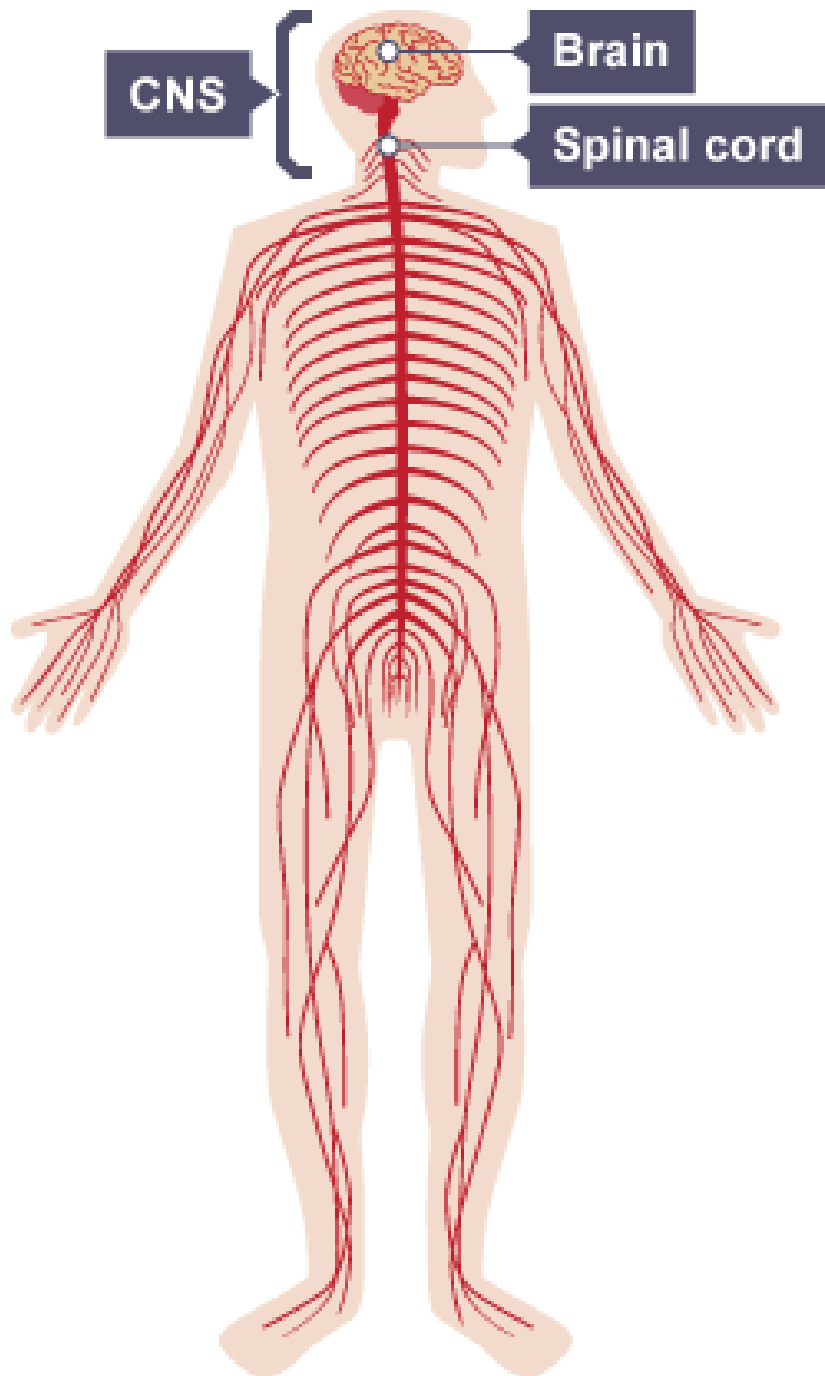


# The Nervous System

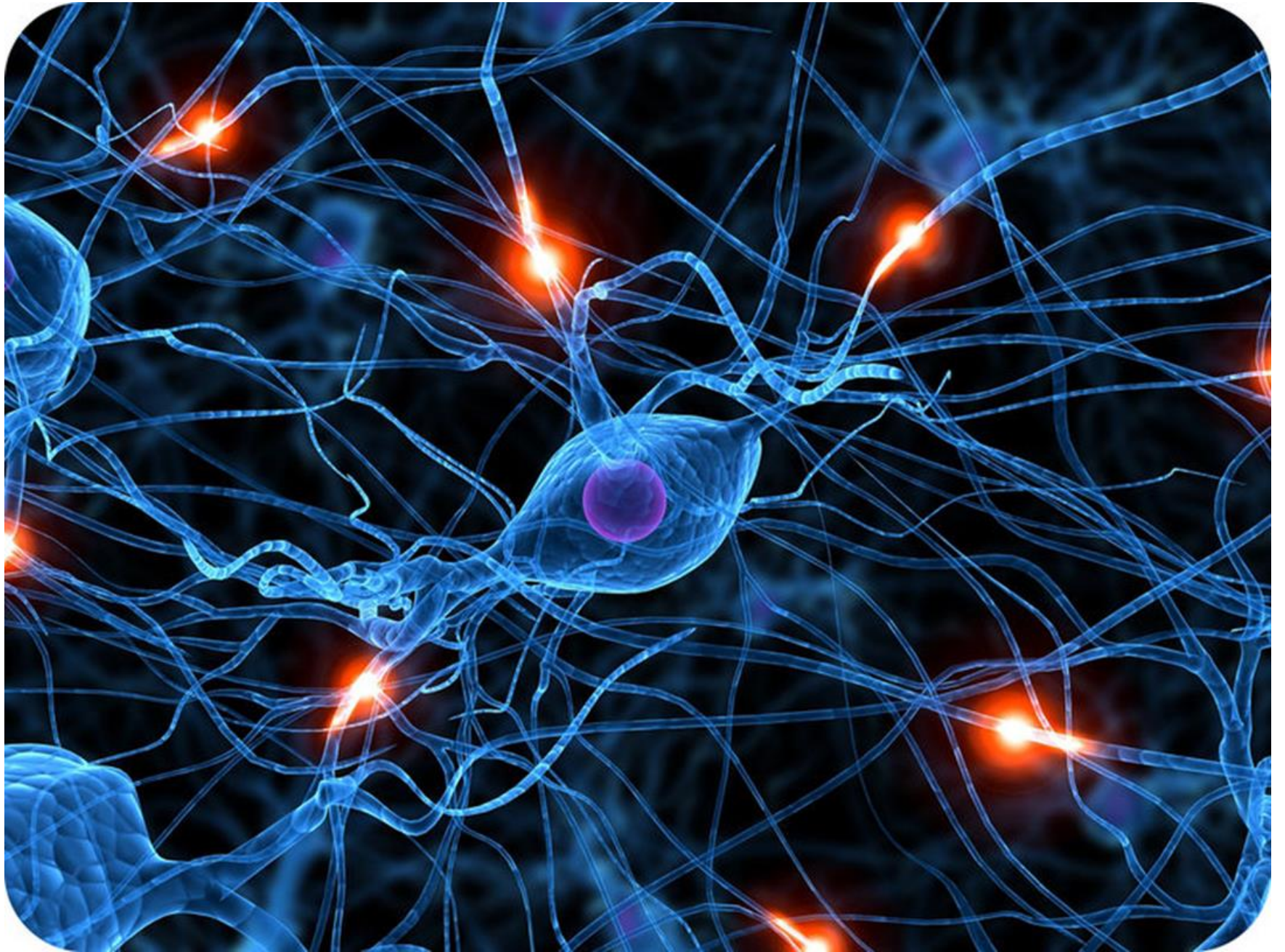


The brain and spinal cord are known as the central nervous system – its where most messages start or finish

Nerve cells – also called neurones – carry messages to and from the brain / spinal cord

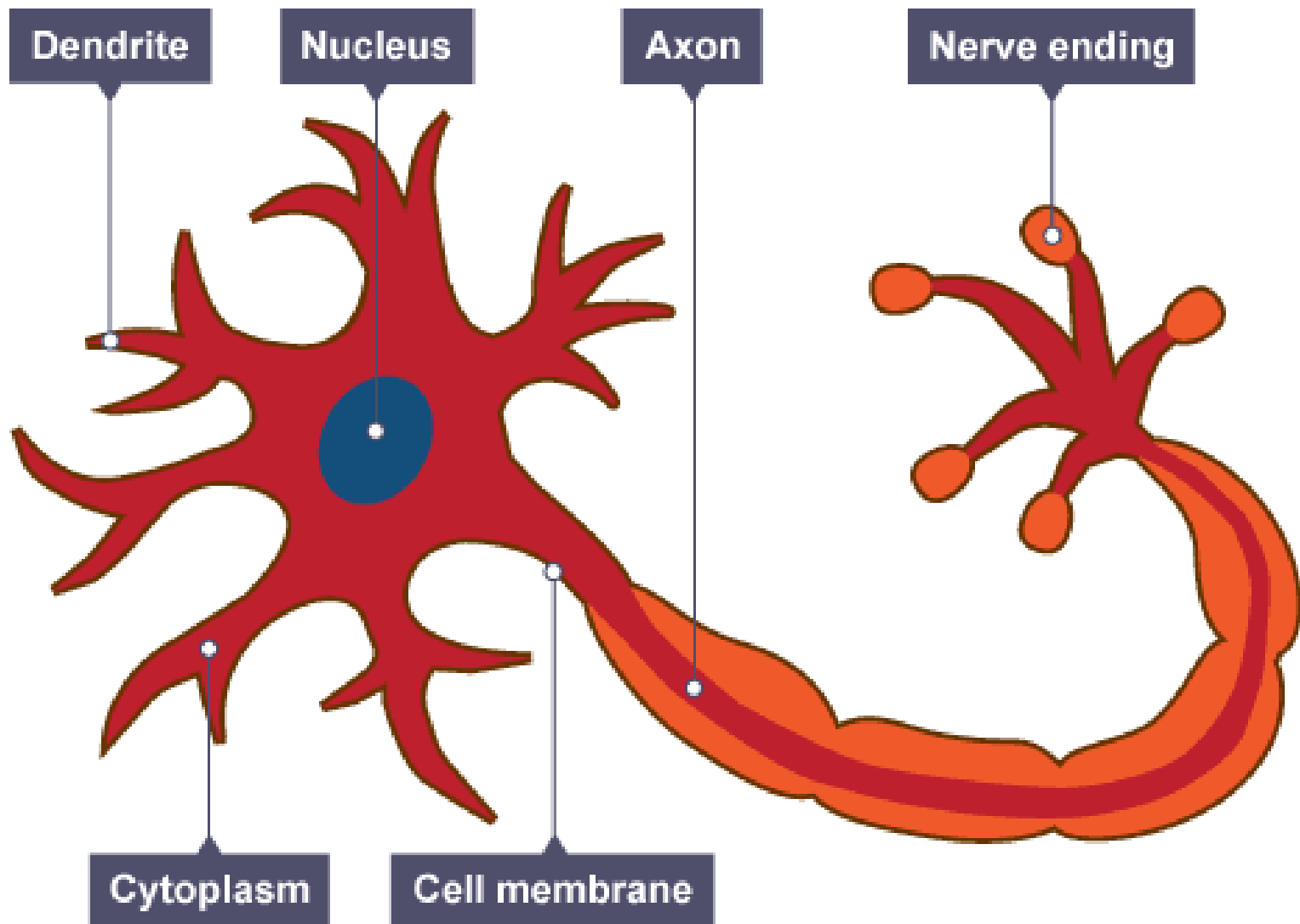
Nerve cells are also called neurones. They carry electrical impulses (messages) from one place to another





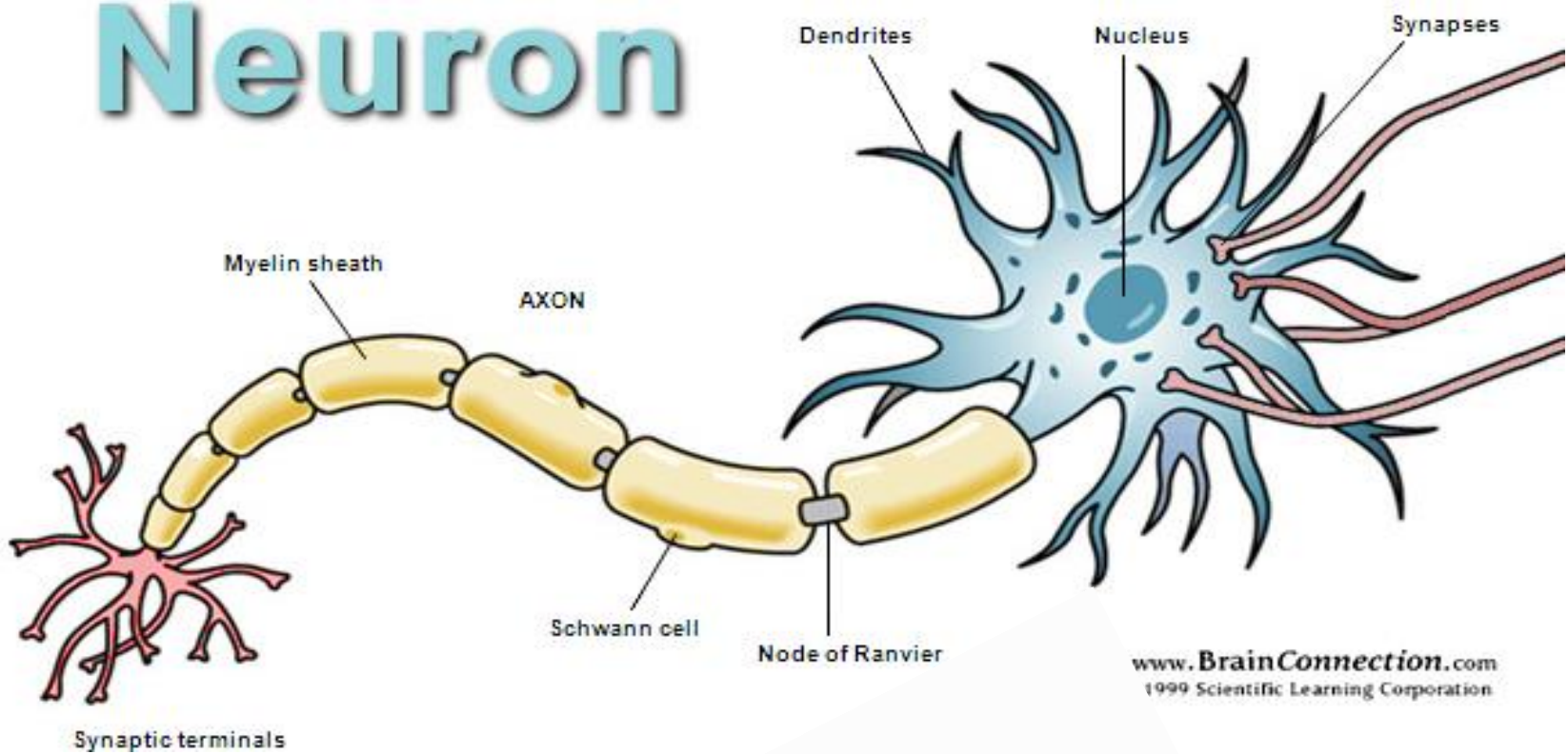
# Brief intro - need to read 1.5m

- Simple but some good images to stop and discuss 6m
- Good just for visuals 2m



Nerve cells (neurones) have: a long fibre (axon) which is insulated by a fatty myelin sheath.

# Neuron

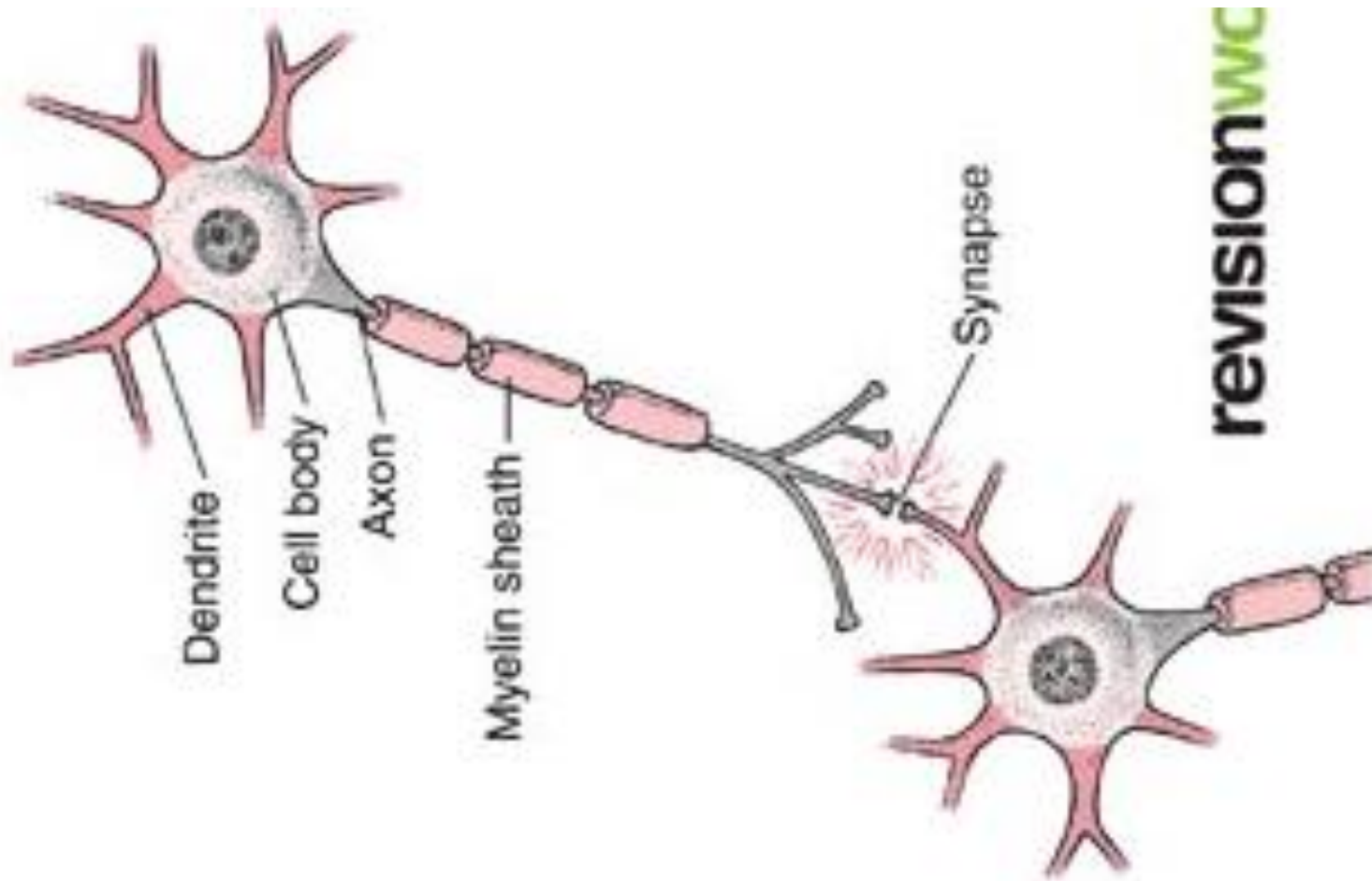


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The **myelin sheath** works just like the plastic on a metal wire

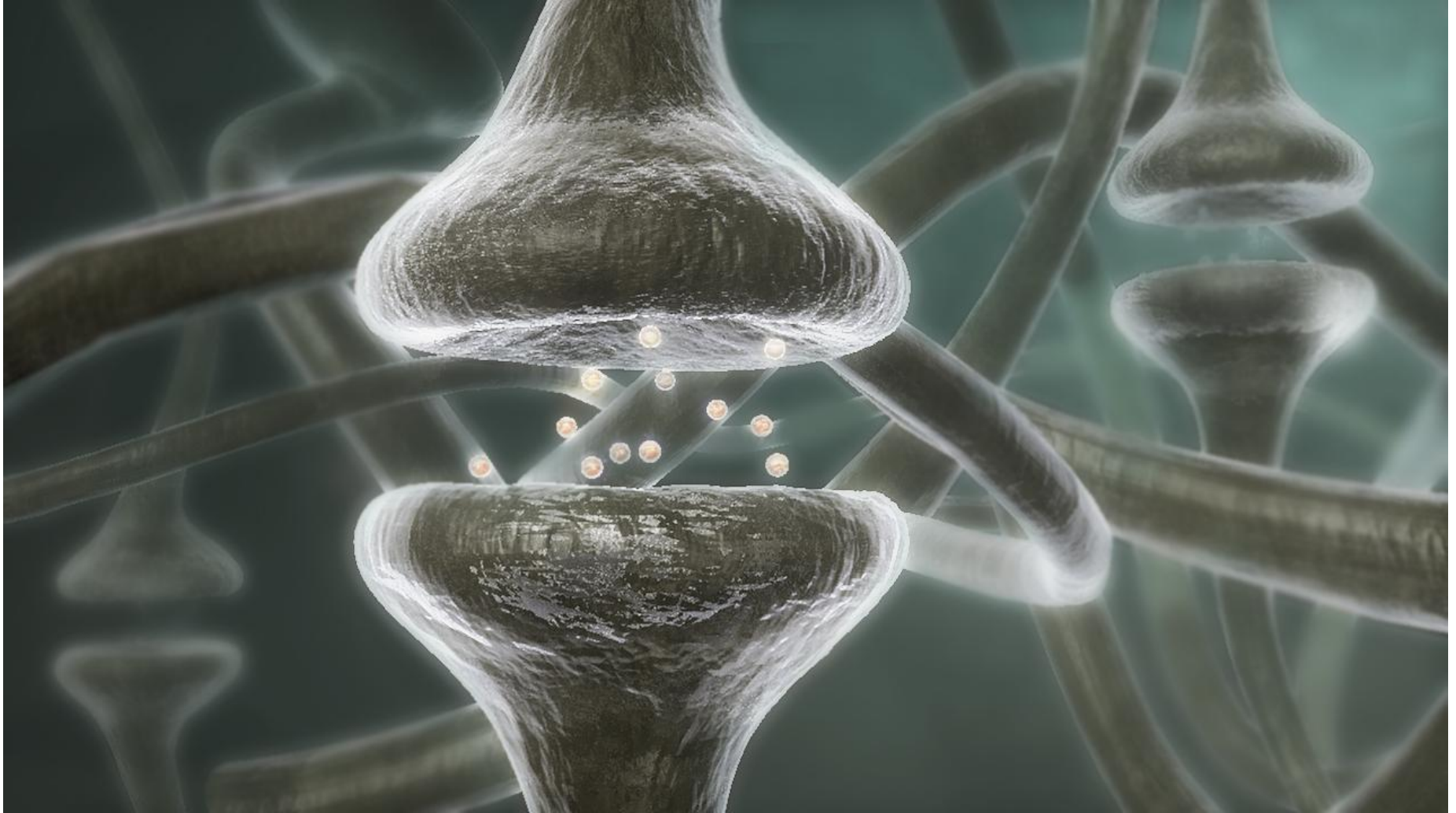


There is a very small gap between nerves that the message has to jump across – this is called a synapse.





The message gets carried across the gap (synapse) by a chemical called a neurotransmitter



[Bitesize link - synapse and neurotransmitter 0.5m](#)