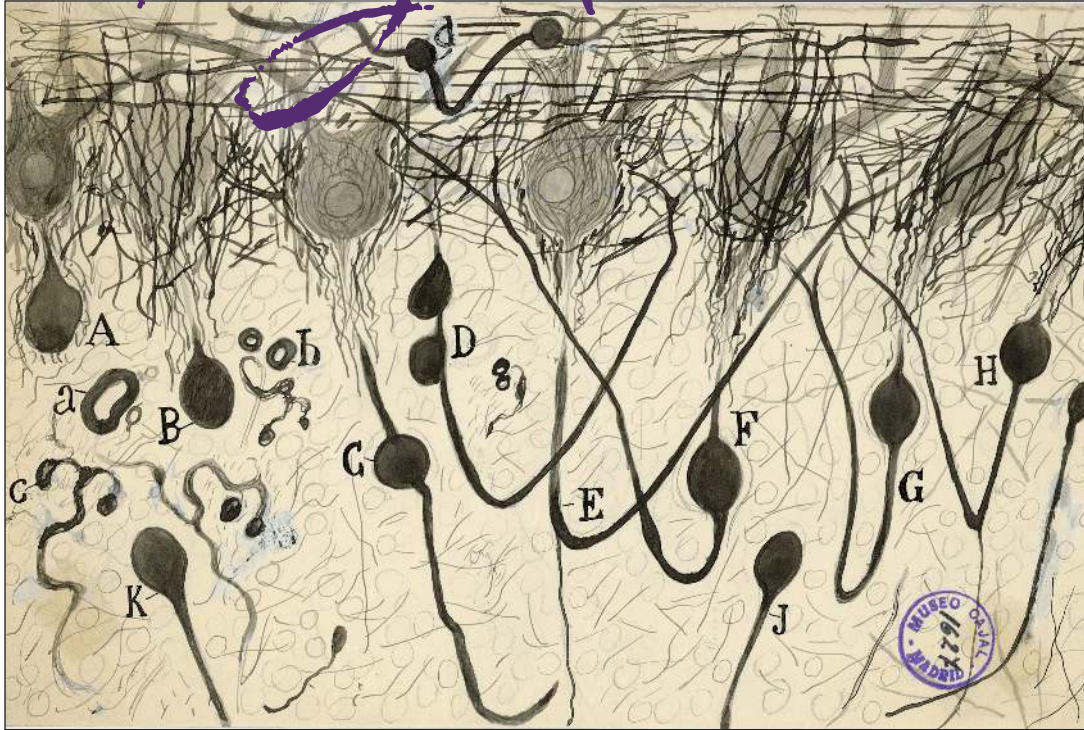


Salvaged*



Axon of Purkinje neurons in the cerebellum of a drowned man, an ink and pencil drawing by Santiago Ramon y Cajal, 1911. Courtesy of the Cajal Institute, Cajal Legacy, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Madrid, Spain.

His mouth agape, grey skin puckered,
eyes cold, staring but unseeing,
the drowned man's body pulled from the water:
A grotesque, until his brain, removed gently
from the skull, handled like a lover's gift
from a gilded box, reveals sliced layers
of wonderment. Fibers from neurons,
tangled and stretched, grope for answers
in pen and ink. The drowned man's brain
drawn by the Spanish doctor's hand:
That hand guided by its own living brain
floating in a warm bath of spinal fluid,
sketches connections so alive on paper
even the sea, in all its selfish fury,
cannot wash away.

Bonnie Salomon, MD