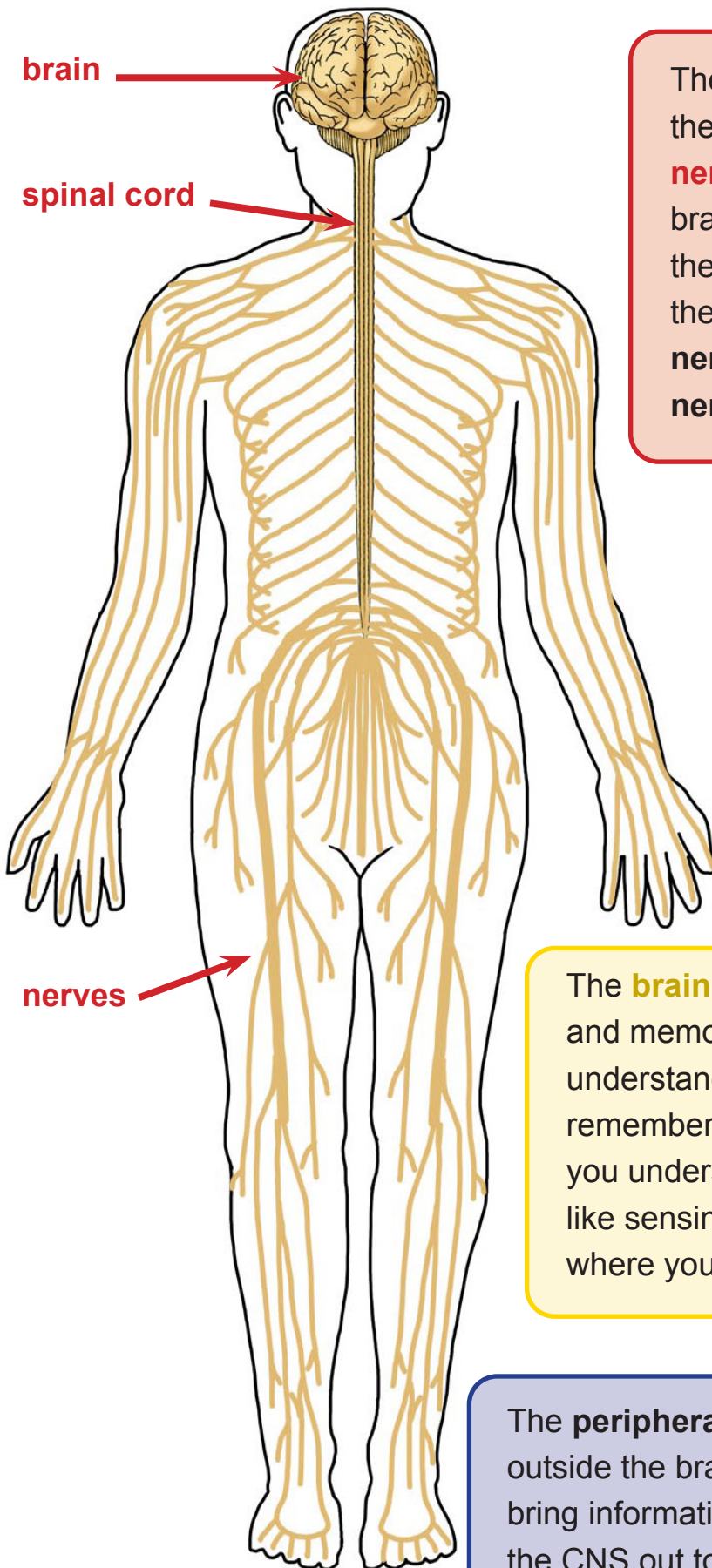


The Nervous System - Structure and Function



The nervous system is made up of the **brain**, the **spinal cord** and all the **nerves** that come run between your brain and spinal cord. Even though they all together, anatomists break them down into two parts – the **central nervous system** and **peripheral nervous system**.

The **central nervous system** is the **brain** and **spinal cord** – which runs down your back inside the bony vertebral column. The CNS receives information, decides what to do with it.

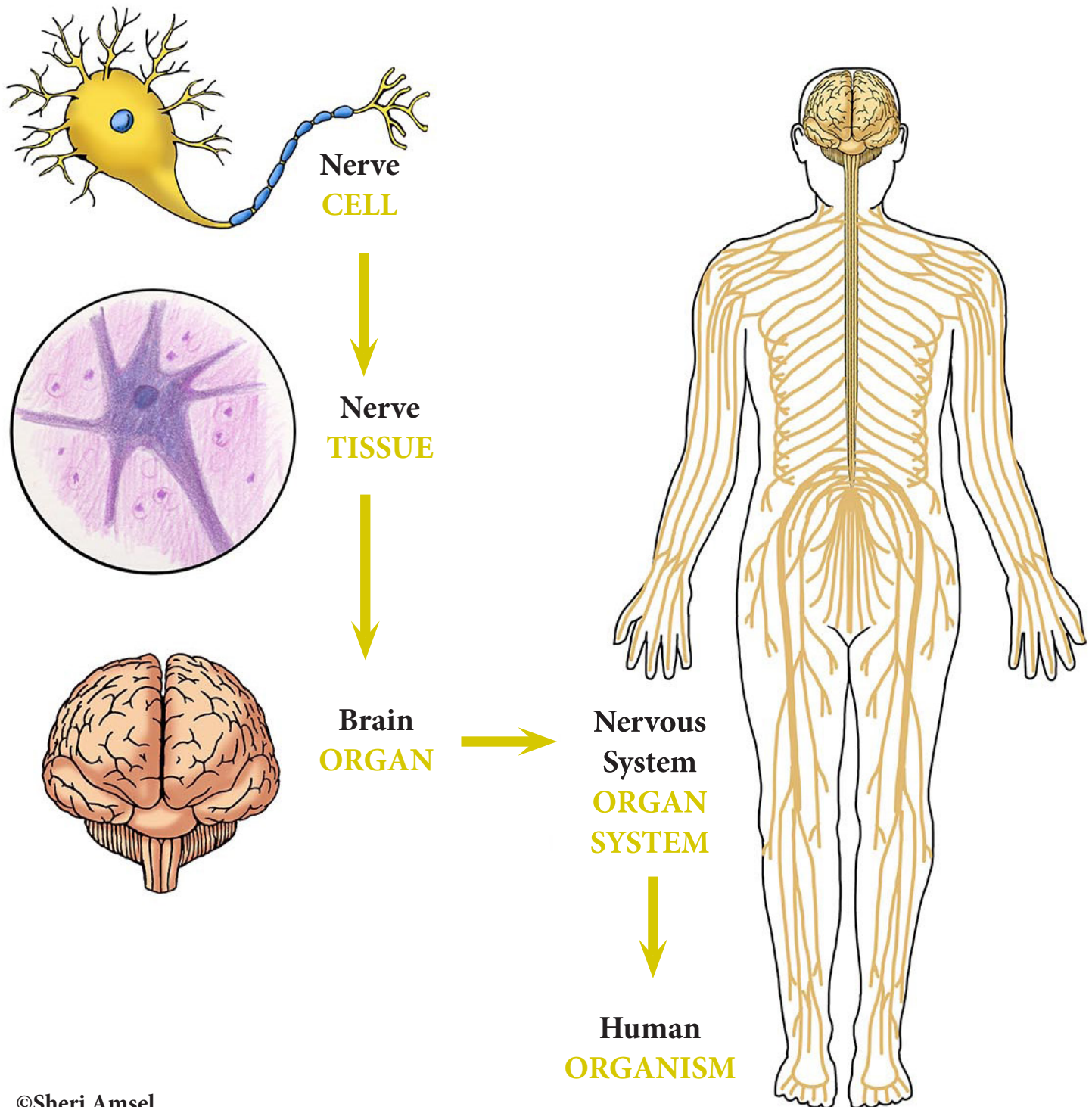
The **brain** contains your entire personality and memories. It allows you talk, listen and understand what people are saying. It lets you remember this morning or last year. It is where you understand things that are around you like sensing heat, cold, smells, and sights, and where you decide what to do about them.

The **peripheral nervous system** is all the **nerves** outside the brain and spinal cord. Their job is to bring information into the CNS and the orders from the CNS out to the muscles and other organs.

Organization of the Body - The Nervous System

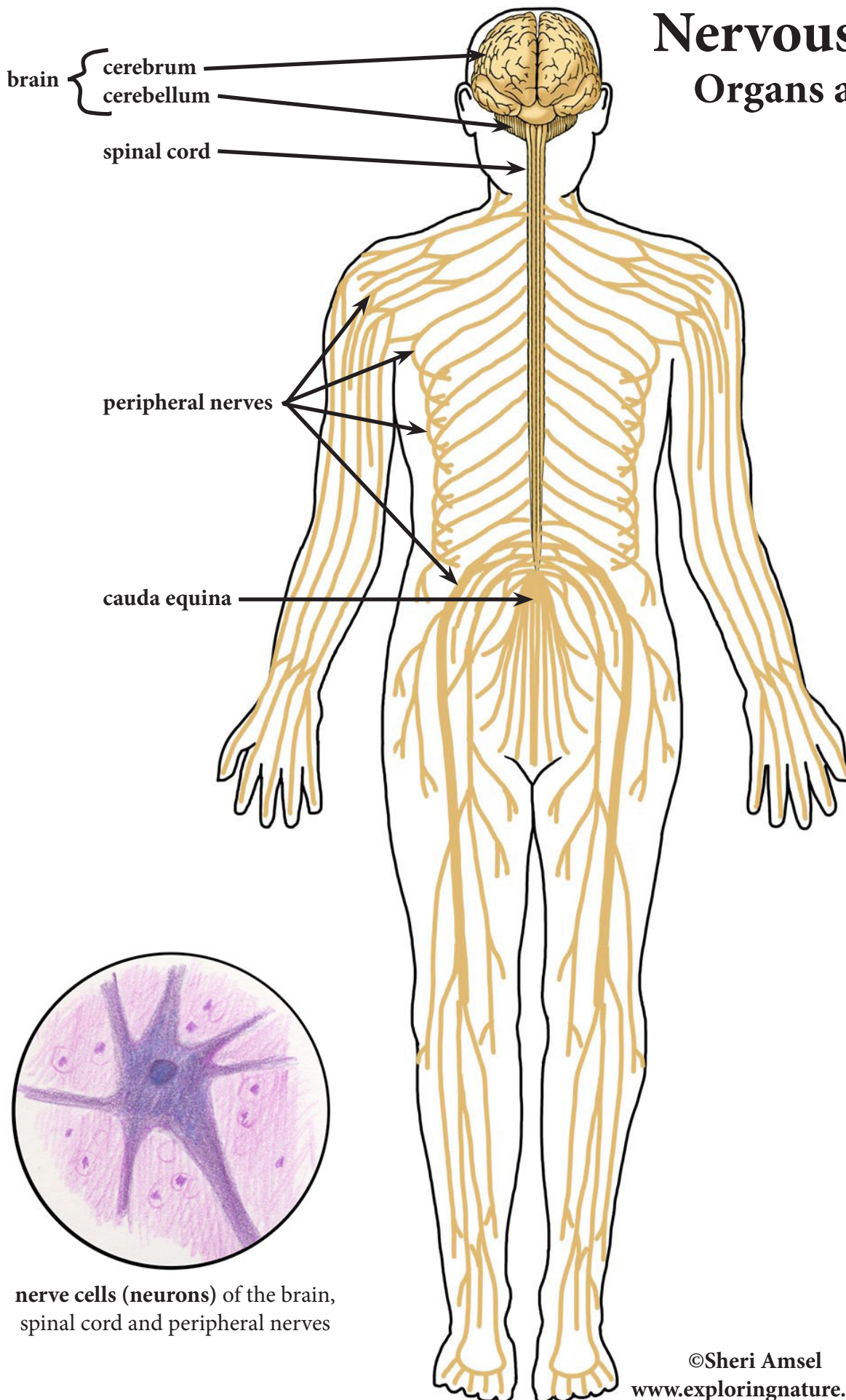
The nervous system has several roles:

1. It receives information (or **stimulus**) from the outside world and brings it into the body.
2. It decides what to do with all that sensory input - **integration**.
3. It triggers an action – **motor response** or **motor output**.
4. Through this series of actions, it keeps everything in balance or in **homeostasis**.



Nervous System

Organs and Cells



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