Topics in PsycINFO of Relevance to Neuroscience

PsycINFO is a research database published by the American Psychological Association. Those interested in the science of the brain can use it to learn more about neuropsychology, behavioral neuroscience, neurology, neurolinguistics, and more.

Sample Searches in Neuroscience

Scenario: An economist would like to know more about the neurological underpinnings of decision making and risk taking.
Search: Neuroeconomics AND Decision Making
Results: Articles on choice and decision making that look at risk attitudes, evaluation of incentives and rewards, and more – in both human and animal populations.

Scenario: A counselor would like to see what’s new in the drug addiction literature, and is particularly interested in the genetic aspects of addiction and treatment.
Search: Drug Addiction AND Genetics
Results: Articles on the genetic basis of addiction, risk factors, and associations between genes and neural receptors that influence responsiveness to treatment.

Scenario: A medical resident interested in neurorehabilitation is looking for research on brain plasticity, and the role it plays in recovery from traumatic brain injuries.
Search: Neural Plasticity AND Traumatic Brain Injury
Results: Human and animal studies exploring changes in the brain after various types of trauma. This includes imaging studies as well as articles reporting on rehabilitation techniques.
Selected Search Terms

The search terms provided here are just a few excerpts from the many relevant terms in PsycINFO’s thesaurus. If you aren’t sure how to use these terms (called Subject Terms, Subject Headings, or Index Terms depending on your interface), check with your librarian or consult the PsycINFO Quick Reference Guide you may also have received at the same time as this handout.

Assessment & Diagnosis
- Echoencephalography
- Diffusion Tensor Imaging
- Luria Nebraska Neuropsychological Battery
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Mini Mental State Examination
- Neuroimaging
- Neuropsychological Assessment
- Wechsler Memory Scale

Electrophysiology
- Action Potentials
- Basal Skin Resistance
- Deep Brain Stimulation
- Gamma Rhythm
- Long-term Potentiation
- Skin Electrical Properties

Neuroanatomy
- Acoustic Nerve
- Blood Brain Barrier
- Cell Adhesion Molecules
- Dendrites
- Gray Matter
- Hippocampus
- Nerve Tissues
- Spinal Cord

Nervous System Disorders
- Alcoholic Psychosis
- Alzheimer’s Disease
- Dyspraxia
- Locked-In Syndrome
- Migraine Headache
- Neurodegenerative Diseases
- Seizures

Study & Treatment
- Brain Stimulation
- Brain Training
- Chemical Brain Stimulation
- Computational Neuroscience
- Neuroendocrinology
- Neuroimmunology
- Neuropsychopharmacology
- Neurosurgery
- Neurotherapy

Neurotransmitters
- Dopamine
- Endorphins
- Epinephrine
- Oxytocin
- Serotonin Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors