

Neuron Classification By Shape And Size

1. Multipolar Neurons

Have several dendrites and one axon--there are two subtypes:

Long axon (Golgi Type I) multipolar neurons

Motor neurons are one example

Found in spinal cord and brain stem

Projection, commissural, association, etc. neurons

Short axon (Golgi Type II) multipolar neurons

Interneurons are of this form

In microcircuits, w/small soma, maybe no axon

2. Bipolar Neurons

One dendrite and one axon

Sensory neurons are sometimes of this form

Visual, auditory, vestibular, and olfactory systems

Cell body (soma) is close to sensory receptors

3. Monopolar/Unipolar Neurons

Single process that is structurally and functionally an axon

Sensory neurons are sometimes of this form

Somatosensory system is where they are found

Cell body (soma) is relatively far from receptor area:
In spinal cord dorsal root ganglia or in cranial ganglia