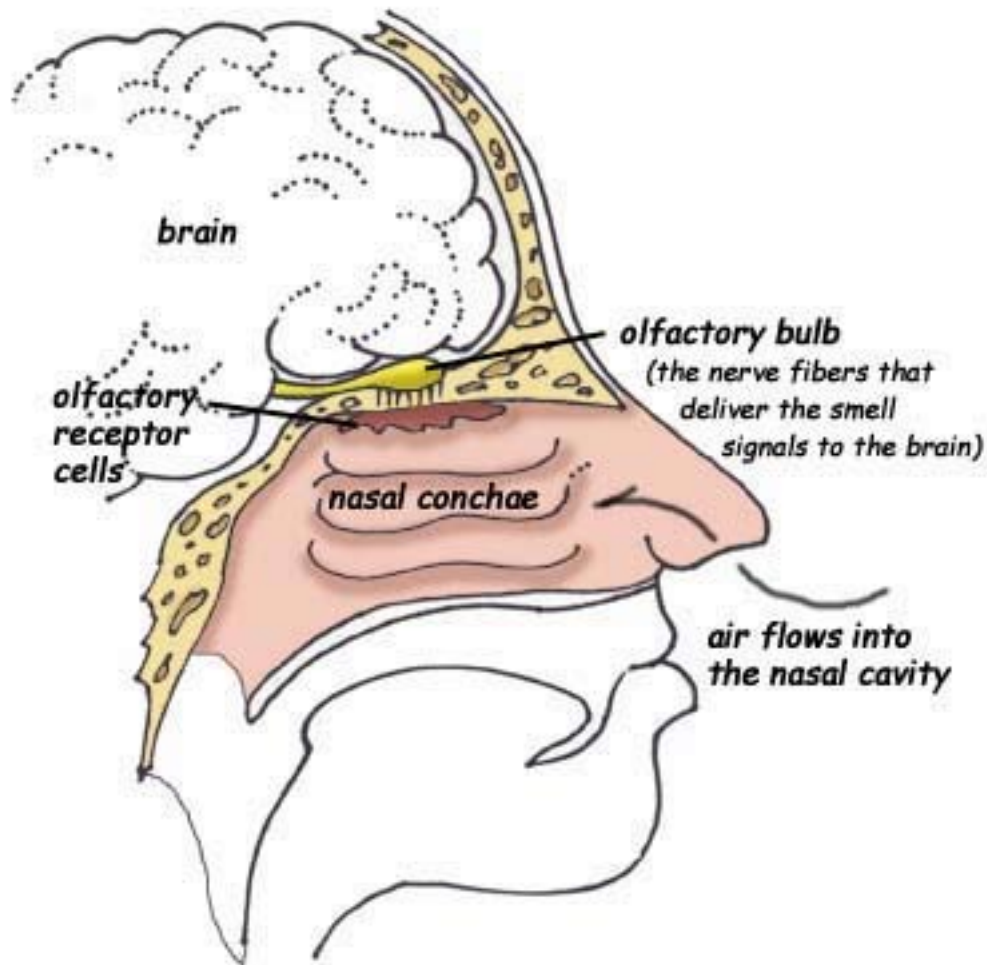


Smell

Special Senses



Organs

Nose, nasal conchae, nasal cavity.

Function

Inside your nose is a big area called the “nasal cavity.” On the roof of the nasal cavity are special sensory smell cells called “olfactory receptor cells.” There are also grooves in the nasal cavity called “nasal conchae” that make the air you breathe in through your nose swirl around. Smells are in the form of a gas you can breathe in with the air you inhale. The scent molecules in the gas pass by the smell cells (olfactory receptor cells) on the roof of the nasal cavity. The smell cells send the smell signal up a nerve fiber to the brain. This is a very direct route from the nose to the brain so we can react quickly to smells. Think of how quickly we react to the smell of smoke or a gas leak or a skunk. Think of how your mouth waters when you smell baking cookies.

CITING RESEARCH REFERENCES

Amsel, Sheri. “Special Senses.” Smell. Exploring Nature Educational Resource. © 2005 - 2009. November 20, 2009. <<http://exploringnature.org/db/detail.php?dbID=25&detID=49>>