

# Auguste Forel

The existence of the [zona incerta](#) was first described by Auguste Forel in [1877](#) as a “region of which nothing certain can be said”.

Forel realized from experiments that neurons were the basic elements of the nervous system. He found that the neuromuscular junction communicated by mere contact and did not require the anastomosis of fibres. This came to be called the Contact Theory of Forel. The word “neuron” was coined by Wilhelm von Waldeyer who published a review of the work of Forel and others in 1891. Waldeyer synthesized ideas without actually conducting any research himself and published it in *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift* a widely read journal that made him popular. Forel was very bitter about Waldeyer's achievement of fame that it is thought to have contributed to the decline in his interest in neuroanatomy and neurology.

Several modern concepts of the nervous system have developed since the last century: Their influence on modern neurology is traced by notes from biographies and the work of leading Swiss neurologists and neurobiologists. 1. Psychiatrists working in neuroanatomy: Auguste Forel, Constantin von Monakow, Bernhard Aloys von Gudden and Eduard Hitzig. 2. Anatomists who influenced the development of the “neurone-theory”: Rudolf Albert von Kölliker and Wilhelm His Senior. 3. A practising physician developing “interactionism” as a basis for neurorehabilitation: Heinrich Simon Frenkel. 4. Behavioural aspects considered within a general framework of neurobiology: Walter R. Hess. 5. Neurosurgery: Hugo Krayenbühl <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Kesselring J. [Developments in neurology from the 19th to the 20th century with special reference to various contributions from Switzerland]. *Schweiz Rundsch Med Prax.* 1994 Apr 19;83(16):491-6. German. PubMed PMID: 8191190.

From:

<https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/> - **Neurosurgery Wiki**

Permanent link:

[https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/doku.php?id=auguste\\_forel](https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/doku.php?id=auguste_forel)

Last update: **2024/06/07 02:57**

