Papez circuit

The Papez circuit (or medial limbic circuit) (pronounced /peɪpz), is a neural circuit for the control of emotional expression.

In 1937, James Papez proposed that the circuit connecting the hypothalamus to the limbic lobe was the basis for emotional experiences. Paul D. MacLean reconceptualized Papez's proposal and coined the term limbic system. MacLean redefined the circuit as the "visceral brain" which consisted of the limbic lobe and its major connections in the forebrain – hypothalamus, amygdala, and septum. Over time, the concept of a forebrain circuit for the control of emotional expression has been modified to include the prefrontal cortex.

Recent studies show that it has a more significant role in memory functions than in emotions. Some of the structures that Papez originally described such as the hippocampus now appear to have little to do with emotional behavior.