

How do you feel--now? The anterior insula and human awareness.

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Abstract:

The anterior insular cortex (AIC) is implicated in a wide range of conditions and behaviours, from bowel distension, cigarette craving and maternal love, to decision making and sudden insight. Its function in the re-representation of sensory information offers one possible basis for its involvement in all subjective feelings. New findings suggest a fundamental role for von Economo neurons (found in the AIC) in awareness, and thus it needs to be considered as a potential neural correlate of awareness.

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