Brain is responsible for processing all neural impulses generated by the nervous system.

**Brain stem**
- Most primitive part of brain
- Contains hindbrain and midbrain
- Controls survival functions of body

**Medulla**
- Sometimes referred to as *medulla oblongata*
- Located at base of the brainstem
- Controls life supporting functions like heartbeat and breathing
- Damage to this area can lead to death

**Cerebellum**
- Processing center for reflexes involved in balance
- Also for reflexes used in gross motor coordination

**Reticular formation**
- Located in midbrain
- Sleep, arousal, sustained attention
- Damage to this area can cause a coma
- Not fully developed in children

**Thalamus**
- Located where brainstem and reticular formation end
- Serves as a communications relay for sensory input
- Also involved in sleep and arousal

**The limbic system**
- Structures closely linked with hypothalamus
- Includes Hypothalamus, hippocampus, amygdala
- Eating, drinking, sexual activity
- Linked with aggression

**Hypothalamus**
- Part of the limbic system
- Located below thalamus
- hunger, thirst, sexual activity, and emotionality