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Forum

Leonardo da Vinci's contributions to neuroscience

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Abstract

Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) made far-reaching contributions to many areas of science, technology and art. Leonardo's pioneering research into the brain led him to discoveries in neuroanatomy (such as those of the frontal sinus and meningeal vessels) and neurophysiology (he was the first to pith a frog). His injection of hot wax into the brain of an ox provided a cast of the ventricles, and represents the first known use of a solidifying medium to define the shape and size of an internal body structure. Leonardo developed an original, mechanistic model of sensory physiology. He undertook his research with the broad goal of providing physical explanations of how the brain processes visual and other sensory input, and integrates that information via the soul.



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Keywords

history of neuroscience; Renaissance; medieval science; cerebral ventricles

Keywords

Neuroscience; Techniques & Methods; Anatomy

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