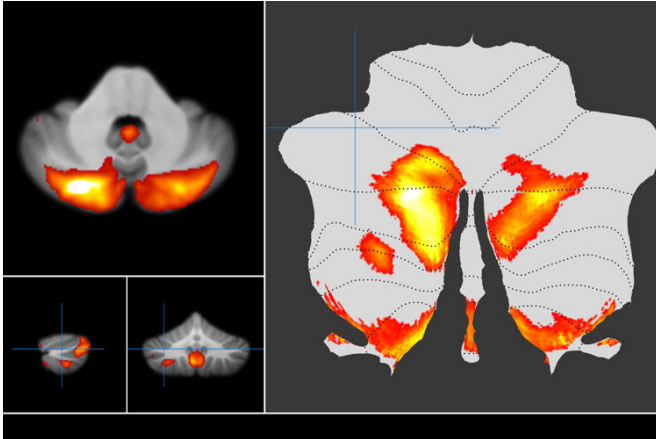


Scientists map our underappreciated 'little brain'

23 July 2019, by Yasmin Anwar



Western University computational neuroscience professor Jörn Diedrichsen used [functional magnetic resonance](#) imaging (fMRI) to monitor [brain activity](#) as [study participants](#) performed numerous tasks.

They used the data to create a detailed map of the cerebellum that can be used as a [research tool](#) to better understand its function and to advance research into certain disorders.

More information: The map can be viewed at [this link](#).

Researchers hope that the new images of the cerebellum can advance the study of certain brain disorders. Credit: Western University

Provided by University of California - Berkeley

Scientists at UC Berkeley and Western University in Canada have used brain imaging to map the cerebellum, a formerly underappreciated neural region that contains the vast majority of the brain's neurons, hence its Latin moniker "little brain."

The results of their study appear this month in the *Nature Neuroscience* journal.

"This is the first time the human cerebellum has been mapped using task-based data on the same set of subjects at this detail," said study lead author Maedbh King, a Ph.D. student in neuroscience at Berkeley.

Tucked into the base of the skull, the cerebellum plays a key role in higher-order cognition, such as language, working memory and problem-solving. It has also been linked to such mental disorders as schizophrenia and autism and to learning differences like dyslexia.

King, Berkeley neuroscientist Richard Ivry and

APA citation: Scientists map our underappreciated 'little brain' (2019, July 23) retrieved 17 September 2019 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-07-scientists-underappreciated-brain.html>

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