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Affective Touch and the Neurophysiology of CT Afferents

- ▶ Summarizes the nascent field of research in CT afferents, a nontraditional field of study in contrast to the widely focused research on touch's more tractable discriminative and haptic properties
- ▶ Focuses on the role of CT afferents in relation to coding tactile sensation and affective neuroscience
- ▶ One-of-a-kind multidisciplinary overview on the current research of CT afferents, spanning from the micro level (genes) to the macro level (social interactions)

CT afferents are receptors in mammalian hairy skin that fire action potentials when the skin is touched lightly which makes them particularly important in affective touch.

Traditionally neuroscientific research has focused on more discriminative and haptic properties of touch that are mediated by large myelinated afferents and the coding properties and functional organization of unmyelinated CT afferents have been studied much less. The proposed volume will draw together existing knowledge in this nascent field. Separate sections will address (1) how we can measure affective touch, (2) CT structure and physiology, (3) CT processing, (4) the contribution of CTs to sexual behavior, (5) clinical relevance, (6) commercial relevance, and (7) future research considerations.



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