Descartes’ (1664) concept of the pain pathway. He writes: “If for example fire (A) comes near the foot (B), the minute particles of this fire, which as you know move with great velocity, have the power to set in motion the spot of the skin of the foot which they touch, and by this means pulling upon the delicate thread (cc) which is attached to the spot of the skin, they open up at the same instant the pore (d.e.) against which the delicate thread ends, just as by pulling at one end of a rope makes to strike at the same instant a bell which hangs at the other end.”

Adapted from: Woolf CJ, Mannion RJ. Lancet. 1999(June 5);353(9168):1959-1964

Normal Nerve injury

Superficial dorsal horn

A-fibre Terminals

terminals (orange)
Functional Imaging of Pain

- **Anterior Cingulate Cortex**
- **Areas 24, 32**

Courtesy of Ali Rezai, M.D.