SECTION I SUMMARY

- In order to understand how the brain works, it is important to understand the many types of cells and structures that make up the brain.

- Neurons can send signals over long distances and can process information. Glia or glial cells provide many kinds of support for the nervous system, including preventing infection and assisting in the formation of neural networks.

- The central nervous system includes the brain and spinal cord and is the focus of most of this resource guide. It includes the cerebral hemispheres, with the cerebral cortex on the outside and subcortical structures within. The central nervous system also includes the brainstem, spinal cord, and cerebellum.

- The peripheral nervous system includes all the nerves or axons that extend out into the body, bringing information from the body to the brain and bringing commands from the brain out to the body.