OBOT ETIMBUK O.

PHARMACOLOGY

18/MHS07/036

PHS 212

Physiology of balance

The [vestibular system](https://www.britannica.com/science/vestibular-system) is the sensory apparatus of the [inner ear](https://www.britannica.com/science/inner-ear) that helps the body maintain its postural [equilibrium](https://www.britannica.com/science/proprioception). The information furnished by the vestibular system is also essential for coordinating the position of the [head](https://www.britannica.com/science/head-anatomy) and the movement of the eyes. There are two sets of end organs in the inner ear, or labyrinth: the [semicircular canals](https://www.britannica.com/science/semicircular-canal), which respond to [rotational](https://www.britannica.com/science/rotation-physics) movements (angular acceleration); and the [utricle](https://www.britannica.com/science/utricle) and [saccule](https://www.britannica.com/science/saccule) within the [vestibule](https://www.britannica.com/science/vestibule-ear), which respond to changes in the position of the head with respect to gravity (linear acceleration). The information these organs deliver is proprioceptive in character, dealing with events within the body itself, rather than exteroceptive, dealing with events outside the body, as in the case of the responses of the cochlea to [sound](https://www.britannica.com/science/sound-physics). Functionally these organs are closely related to the cerebellum and to the reflex centres of the [spinal cord](https://www.britannica.com/science/spinal-cord) and [brainstem](https://www.britannica.com/science/brainstem) that govern the movements of the eyes, neck, and limbs.