Brain scans find the penis at last

(http://www.newscientist.com/channel/being-human/brain/mg18625054.700-brain-scans-find-the-penis-at-last.html)

25 June 2005

From New Scientist Print Edition. Subscribe and get 4 free issues.

AT LAST we know where the penis is represented in the male brain.

The genitalia's location on the "homunculus", the brain's map of body parts, has been in dispute since the 1920s. Now Christian Kell at the University of Frankfurt in Germany has put eight men into an MRI scanner to help settle the question. Using a soft brush, Kell stroked parts of each volunteer's body while recording brain activity.

Each man's penis was represented in the same place - flanked by the areas for the toes and abdomen - Kell told the Organisation of Human Brain Mapping annual meeting in Toronto. "The only depressing thing," he says, "is that the representation is very small."

From issue 2505 of New Scientist magazine, 25 June 2005, page 22