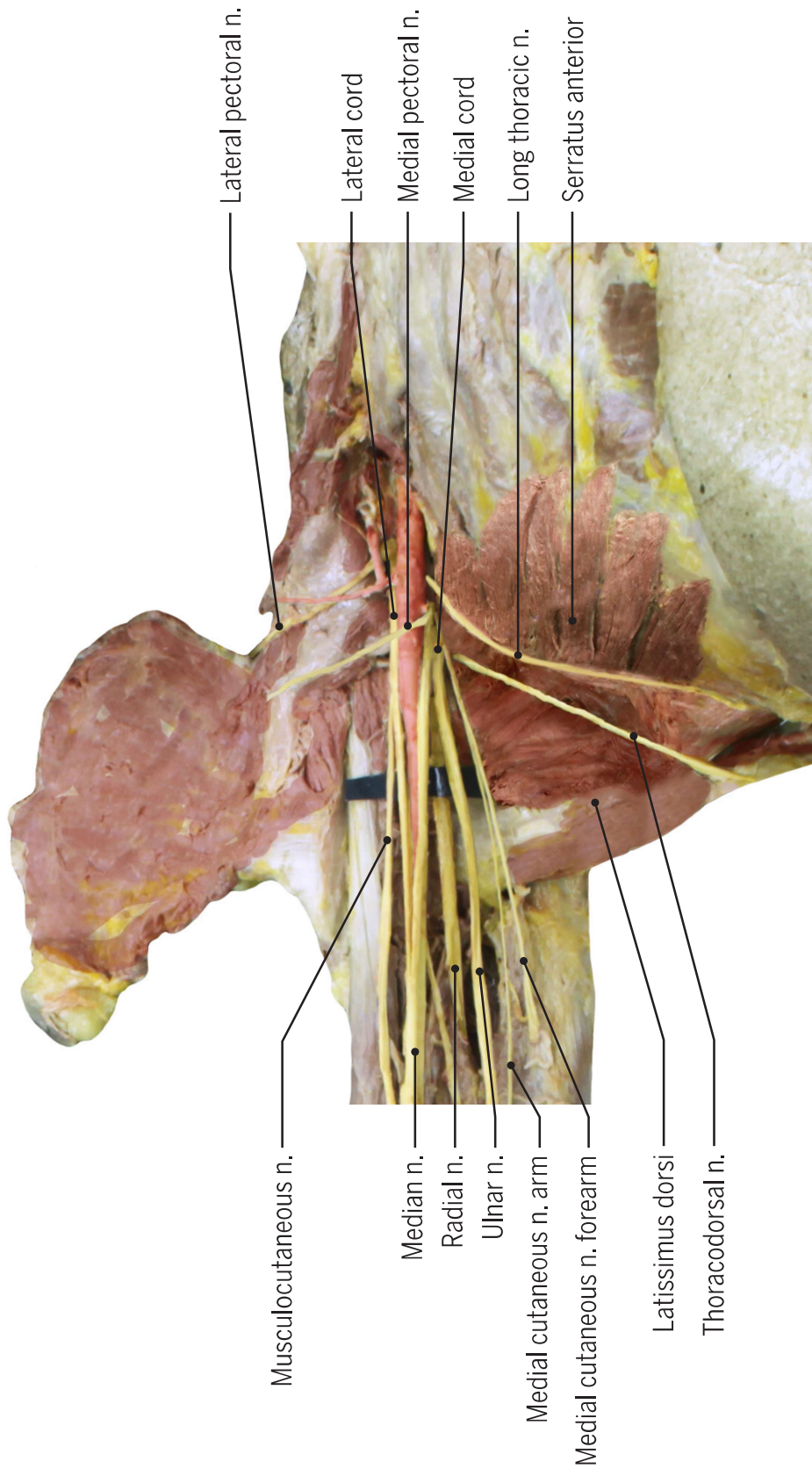


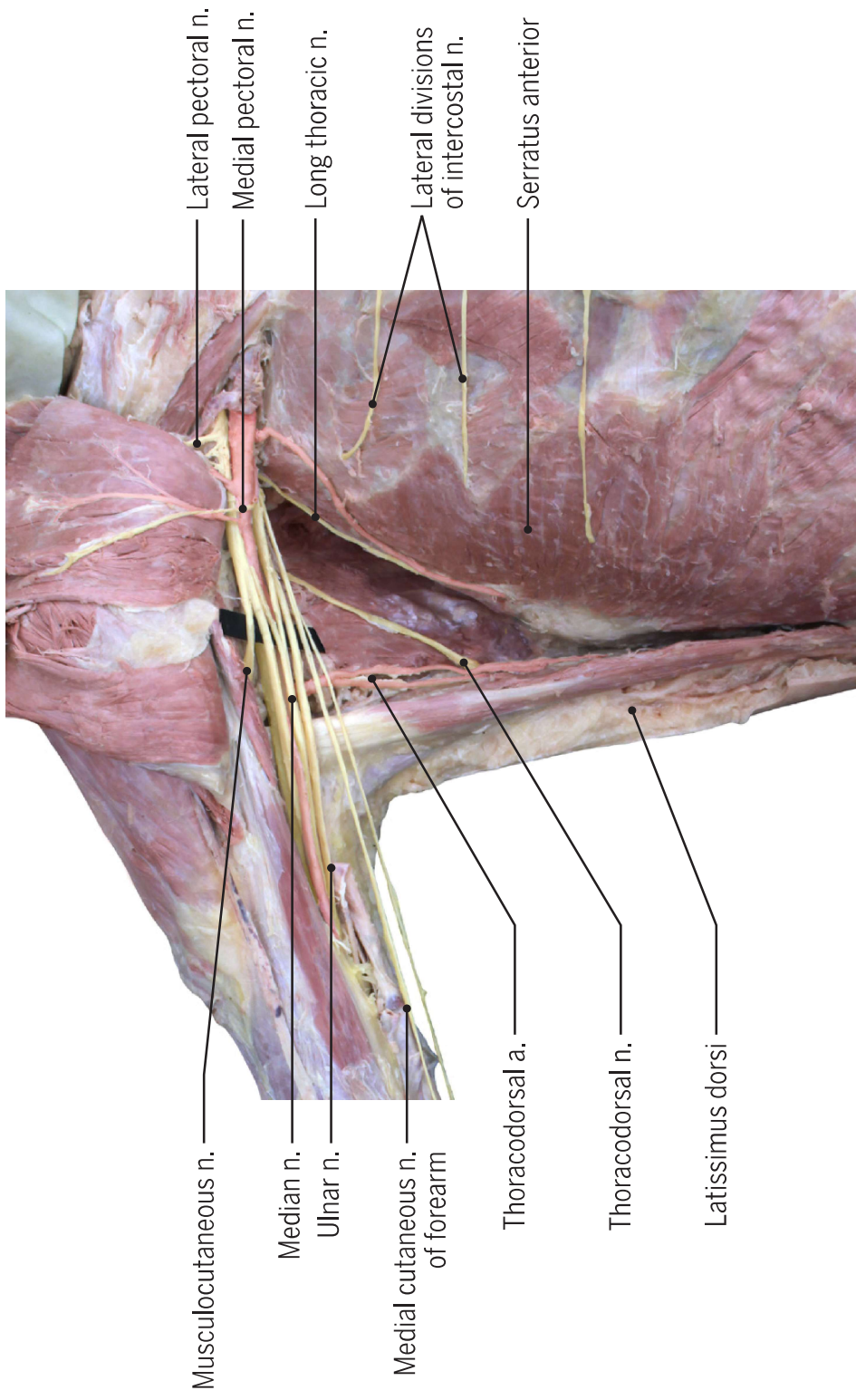
CHAPTER 2

**Essential
Nervous System**

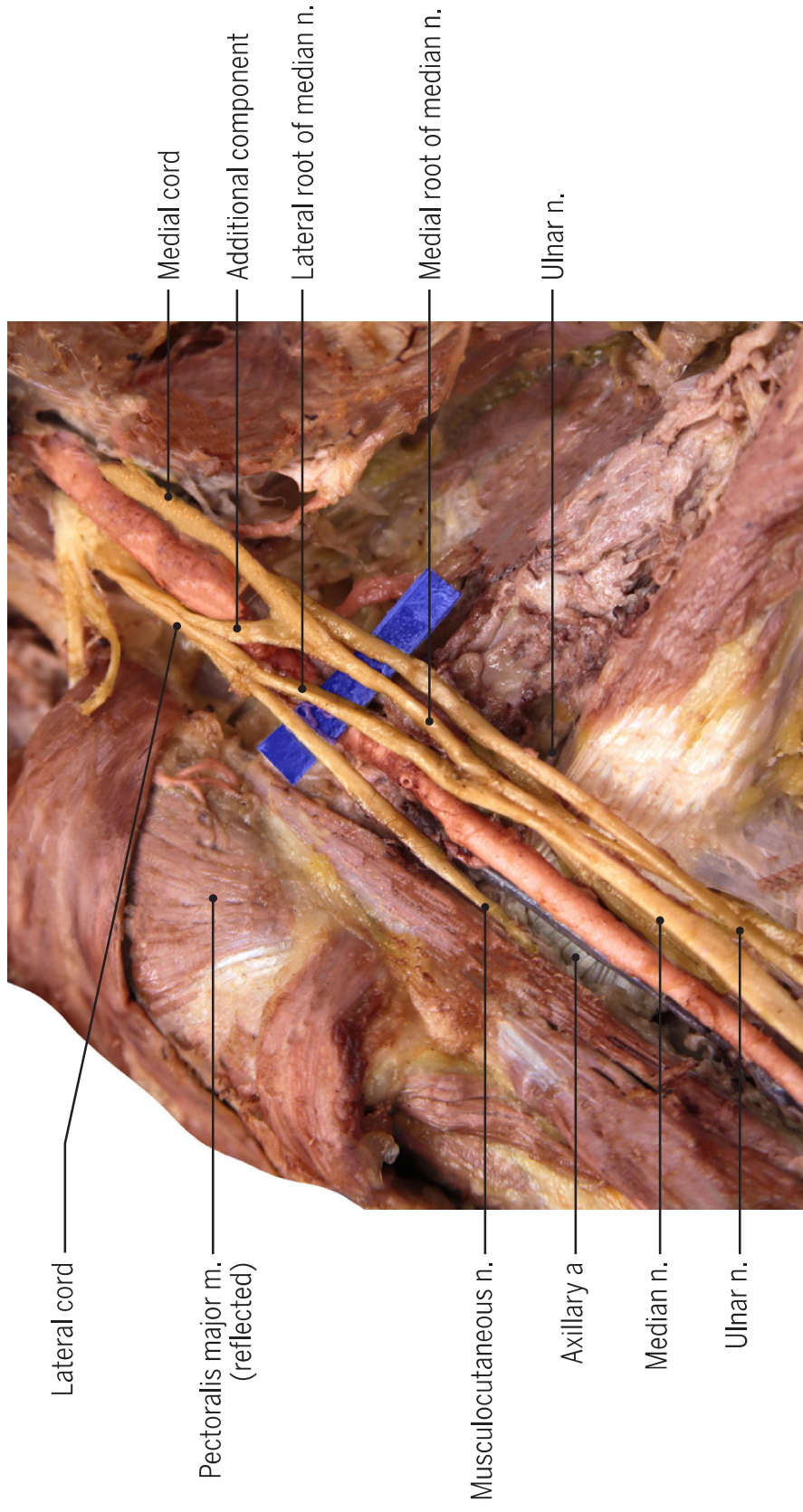
**Additional Cadaver Figures,
with Anatomist's Notes**



Dissection of Brachial Plexus The goals of dissecting the axilla is to expose the brachial plexus and the brachial artery. Within the axilla proper one can find cords and terminal nerves of the plexus. The cords are named relative to their position to the brachial artery. Initially, the lateral and medial cords of the plexus become readily visible, but the posterior cord requires extensive and vigorous dissection to displace the brachial artery anterior to it.



Deep Dissection of Brachial Plexus Another dissection of the axilla and the brachial plexus is presented. Note that the plexus almost covers the axillary artery. Both the pectoralis major and minor must be reflected carefully prior to examining the plexus, and the significant amount of fat that is generally present in the axilla must be removed.



Variation in the Brachial Plexus Typically, the lateral and medial cords of the brachial plexus send roots—the medial and lateral roots, respectively—which come together to give rise to the median nerve. The lateral root also gives rise to the musculocutaneous nerve, whereas the medial root gives rise to the ulnar nerve. Combined, the terminal nerves and the medial and lateral roots of the median nerve resemble an M—the M of the brachial plexus as it is known. However, note here that there is an additional medial branch from lateral root to the medial cord. This is a rather common variation.