enlargements can be seen. The superior enlargement, the **cervical enlargement**, extends from the fourth cervical to the first thoracic vertebra. Nerves that supply the upper extremities arise from the cervical enlargement. The inferior enlargement, called the **lumbar enlargement**, extends from the ninth to the twelfth thoracic vertebra. Nerves that supply the lower extremities arise from the lumbar enlargement.

Below the lumbar enlargement, the spinal cord tapers to a conical portion known as the **conus medullaris** (KÖ-nus med-yoo-LAR-is). The conus medullaris ends at the level of the intervertebral disc between the first and second lumbar vertebra. Arising from the conus medullaris is the **filum terminale** (FI-lum ter-mi-NAL-é), a nonnervous fibrous tissue of the spinal cord that extends inferiorly to attach to the coccyx. The filum terminale consists mostly of pia mater, the innermost of three meninges that cover and protect the spinal cord and brain. Some nerves that arise from the lower portion of the cord do not leave the vertebral column immediately. They angle inferiorly in the vertebral canal like wisps of coarse hair flowing from the