

**Circulating Regulatory
Factors &
Neuroendocrine Function**

CIRCULATING REGULATORY FACTORS AND NEUROENDOCRINE FUNCTION

Edited by

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Preface

During the past several decades, much research effort has gone into the elucidation of the role of neuroendocrine systems as secretory and metabolic regulators of cells of a variety of organs and structures, including the testes, ovaries, adrenals, thyroid, pituitary gland, and mammary glands. However, the role of cells comprising such organs and structures in the modulation of neuroendocrine processes has received considerably less attention and is generally less well appreciated.

Nonetheless, it is important that we understand the actions on neuroendocrine systems of substances that reach the brain by way of the vasculature, including hormones, cytokines, toxins, amino acids, drugs, and similar agents. In order to analyze the present state of knowledge on this topic, experimental scientists and clinicians, whose shared interests include actions of circulating agents on the brain, met at a satellite symposium of the XXXI International Congress of Physiological Sciences. This symposium, entitled *Circulating Regulatory Factors and Neuroendocrine Function*, was held in Smolenice Castle, Czechoslovakia, June 26-July 1, 1989, and reviews delivered at this symposium as invited presentations are published in this volume. Presentations given as free communications have been published separately and are available in *Endocrinologia Experimentalis* 24: 1-273, 1990.

The success of the meeting was attributable in large part to two factors: first, the participation of scientists working in various fields in disparate countries who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to establish personal collaborations, and second, the excellent organization of every aspect of the program that took place in the charming atmosphere of the 14th century castle, Smolenice. The Castle is situated in a beautiful pastoral setting amidst the Carpathian mountains, not far from the historic cities of Bratislava and Vienna. After World War II, and after a long and colorful history, Smolenice Castle became the property of the Slovak Academy of Sciences who graciously provided the setting for this forum.

We wish to use this opportunity to thank the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Experimental Endocrinology, especially the Institute's Director, Professor L. Macho, for providing such excellent circumstances in which to conduct the meeting and for their generous financial support. The importance of the topics discussed at the symposium was also acknowledged by the National Science Foundation, U.S.A., and by the Czechoslovak Medical Society. Their assistance helped bring together several renown scientists. We are indebted to these organizations.

The Chairmen of the symposium (Professor J.C. Porter, Dallas, and Professor M. Vigaš, Bratislava) and the Secretary General (Dr. D. Ježová, Bratislava) appreciate the collaboration of the Executive Secretaries: Professor C. Oliver, Marseille; Professor F.J.H. Tilders, Amsterdam; and Professor C. Rivier, San Diego, whose combined efforts greatly contributed to the high scientific value of the symposium. We also recognize the assistance of the members of the International Organizing Committee, particularly Drs. J.M. Saavedra and J. Farah. The successful evolution of the symposium was due to the excellent work of the Local Organizing Committee, consisting of the non-professional yet enthusiastic staff of the Institute of Experimental Endocrinology. To each contributor we extend a warm thank you.

We also wish to acknowledge the generous contributions of the following organizations: Bachem Company (U.S.A.), Boehringer Mannheim (GmbH, Austria), Duphar, B.V. (The Netherlands), Flamingo Fisch (FRG), Koospol (Czechoslovakia), Nippon Zoki (Japan), Searle (U.S.A.), and Servier (France).

The symposium was made memorable by the congeniality and camaraderie of the participants. Their enthusiasm has stimulated the organizers to consider holding a similar meeting in 1993.

In conclusion, the Editors wish to applaud the extraordinary contributions of Kay Stanley during the planning phases of the symposium and in the preparation of the manuscripts for publication. Her dedication and commitment to these tasks have not deviated. Her contributions from beginning to end were beyond value. To Kay, the Editors express sincere gratitude.

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Contents

Chapter 1

The Tuberoinfundibular Dopaminergic Neurons of the Brain: Hormonal Regulation 1

J.C. Porter, W. Kedzierski, N. Aguila-Mansilla,
B.A. Jorquera, and H.A. González

Introduction	1
Neurotropic Agents	2
Prolactin and Fertility	2
Prolactin and TIDA Neurons	4
Young Adult Female Rats	4
Aged Female Rats	5
Young Adult Male Rats	8
Ovarian Hormones and TIDA Neurons	11
Young Adult Female Rats	11
Aged Female Rats	14
Young Adult Male Rats	17
Discussion	19
Summary	21
Acknowledgements	21
References	21

Chapter 2

The Physiology of the Blood-Brain Barrier

B.B. Johansson

Introduction	25
History	25
Morphology of Brain Endothelial Cells	25
The Role of the Astrocytes	26
Lipid Solubility	26
The BBB: A Modified Tight Epithelium	27
Transport Mechanisms	27
Cell Polarity	29
Enzymatic Barriers	29
Neurogenic Influences	30
Dynamics and Fluctuations of BBB Functions	31
Immunological Aspects	31
Brain Regions Lacking BBB have a CSF Barrier	31

Facilitating Passage of Substances from Blood to Brain	32
Increasing Lipid Solubility	32
Cationization	33
Liposome Entrapment	33
Coupling to Substances Entering by Receptor-Mediated Transport	34
Experimentally Increasing the EBB Permeability	34
Is it Wise to Alter the BBB?	34
Summary	35
References	35

Chapter 3

Blood-Brain Barrier and Neuroendocrine Regulations	41
---	-----------

D. Ježová, Z. Opršalová, F. Héry, M. Héry, A. Kiss,
J. Jurčovičová, J. Chauveau, C. Oliver, B.B. Johansson,
and M. Vigaš

Catecholamines and ACTH Secretion	49
Serotonin and ACTH Secretion	51
Acknowledgements	56
References	56

Chapter 4

Exchange of Peptides Between the Circulation and the Nervous System: Role of the Blood-Brain Barrier	59
---	-----------

W.A. Banks and A.J. Kastin

Early Work on Peptides and the BBB	59
Nonsaturable Passage of Peptides	61
Saturable Transport	63
Modification of Transport	63
Lighting	64
Amino Acids	64
Monoamines	64
Stress	64
Aging	65
Analgesia	66
Aluminum	66
Ethanol	66
References	67

Chapter 5

Vasopressin, The Blood-Brain Barrier, and Brain Performance	71
--	-----------

A. Ermisch and R. Landgraf

Introduction	71
--------------------	----

The Peripheral and Central Release of Vasopressin	72
Vasopressin and Information Processing within the Brain	75
The BBB as a Target for Vasopressin	76
AVP and Brain Performance	83
References	85

Chapter 6

Neuroendocrine Responses to Emotional Stress: Possible Interactions Between Circulating Factors and Anterior Pituitary Hormone Release	91
---	-----------

J.L. Meyerhoff, M.A. Oleshansky, K.T. Kalogeras, E.H. Mougey
G.P. Chrousos, and L.B. Granger

Introduction	91
Methods	92
Results	95
Discussion	97
Summary	104
Acknowledgements	104
References	105

Chapter 7

Regulation of the Sympathetic Nervous System by Circulating Vasopressin	113
--	------------

R. Kvetňanský, D. Ježová, Z. Opršalová, O. Földes,
N. Michajlovskij, M. Dobráková, B. Lichardus, and G.B. Makara

Conclusions	129
References	130

Chapter 8

Antibodies to Neuropeptides: Biological Effects and Mechanisms of Action	135
---	------------

F.J.H. Tilders, J.W.A.M. van Oers, A. White, F. Menzaghi,
and A. Burlet

Introduction	135
The Humoral Antibody-Peptide Interaction Concept	135
Epitopes and Biological Activity	137
Affinity and Biological Activity	139
Binding Kinetics and Biological Activity	139
Antibody-Cell Interaction Concept	141
Neuronal Uptake of Antibodies to Enzymes	141
Antibody-Induced Neuronal Lesions	142
Antibody to Neuropeptides, Uptake and Biological Effects	142
Conclusions	144
References	144

Chapter 9	
Circulating Corticotropin-Releasing Factor in Pregnancy	147
E.A. Linton, C.D.A. Wolfe, D.P. Behan, and P.J. Lowry	
References	160
Chapter 10	
Therapeutic Effects of Neuroactive Drugs on Hypothalamo-Pituitary in Man	165
P.J. Trainer and A. Grossman	
Prolactin	165
Growth Hormone	168
ACTH	172
Conclusions	173
References	173
Chapter 11	
Cardiac Hormones and Neuroendocrine Function	177
W.K. Samson	
Cardiac Hormones: Isolation and Physiological Effects in the Periphery	177
Cardiac Hormones: Presence and Actions in the Central Nervous System	178
Cardiac Hormones: Are the Pharmacologic Effects Physiologically Significant?	185
Acknowledgements	185
References	186
Chapter 12	
Interactions Between the Circulating Hormones Angiotensin and Atrial Natriuretic Peptide and Their Receptors in Brain	191
J.M. Saavedra	
Introduction	191
Materials and Methods	192
Animals	192
<i>In Vitro</i> Labeling of Peptide Receptors	194
Receptor Autoradiography	195
Results	195
Distribution of Peptide Receptors in Brain	195
Peptide Receptors in Hypertension	197
Peptide Receptors in Alterations of Water Balance	199
Peptide Receptors During Stress	200
Brain Peptide Receptors After Endocrine Manipulations	200

Discussion	201
Conclusions	207
References	207

Chapter 13

The Anterior Third Ventricle Region is a Receptor Site for the Composition Rather than Volume of Body Fluids 211

B. Lichardus, J. Ponec, M.J. McKinley, J. Okoličány,
I. Gabauer, J. Styk, P. Bakoš, C. Oliver, and N. Michajlovskij

Cerebral Origin of a Natriuretic Hormone	211
Sodium Concentration of Cerebrospinal Fluid and Renal Regulation of the Extracellular Fluid Volume	213
Anterior Wall of the Third Cerebral Ventricle and Renal Sodium Excretion	214
Atrial Appendectomy Impairs Natriuresis Induced by Isotonic and Hypertonic Saline Loads	218
The Pituitary—Another Site of a Cerebral Natriuretic System	222
Conclusions	225
References	225

Chapter 14

Peripheral Neurohumoral Factors and Central Control of Homeostasis During Altered Sodium Intake 227

G. Aguilera

Multifactorial Control of Aldosterone Secretion: Role of AII	227
Regulation of the Adrenal Sensitivity to AII	229
Role of Dopamine in the Adrenal Sensitivity to AII	230
Mechanism of Dopaminergic Regulation of Aldosterone Secretion	231
Source of Dopamine During Changes in Sodium Intake	234
Conclusions	239
References	240

Chapter 15

Central Action of Adrenal Steroids During Stress and Adaptation 243

J.M.H.M. Reul, W. Sutanto, J.A.M. van Eekelen, J. Rothuizen,
and E.R. de Kloet

Introduction	243
Differentiation of Corticosteroid Receptor Types: <i>In Vivo</i> and <i>In Vitro</i> Binding Sites	243
Distribution of Corticosteroid Receptor Sites: Radioligand Binding Studies	244
Distribution of Corticosteroid Receptor Sites: Immunocytochemistry and Gene Expression	245

Corticosterone- and Aldosterone-Selective Mineralocorticoid Receptors	246
Species-Specificity of Mineralocorticoid Receptors and Glucocorticoid Receptors in Rat and Hamster Brain	246
Plasticity of the Corticosteroid Receptor System: Binding Studies	248
Plasticity: Corticosteroid Receptor Gene Expression	249
Corticosteroid Receptors and Senescence	250
Mineralocorticoid Receptor and Glucocorticoid Receptor Occupancy Studies	250
Receptor Plasticity Vs. Receptor Occupancy	251
Functional Considerations	251
Summary	252
References	253

Chapter 16

Effects of Thyroid Hormones on the Hypothalamic Dopaminergic Neurons	257
---	------------

M.J. Reymond and T. Lemarchand-Béraud

Effects of Thyroid Hormones on the Hypothalamic DA Neurons During Fetal Life or Neonatal Period	257
Effects of Thyroid Hormones on the Hypothalamic DA Neurons During Adult Life	258
Activity of the TIDA Neurons in Adult Streptozotocin-Diabetic Rats: Regulation by Thyroid Hormones?	264
Effects of Thyroid Hormones on the Neuroendocrine Hypothalamic TRH-Secreting Neurons: Analogies with the TIDA Neurons	265
Acknowledgements	266
References	266

Chapter 17

Inhibin and Related Proteins: Localization, Regulation, and Effects	271
--	------------

F.H. de Jong, A.J. Grootenhuys, I.A. Klaij, and
W.M.O. Van Beurden

Introduction	271
Detection of Inhibin and Related Peptides	271
Structure of Inhibin and Related Peptides	273
Localization of Inhibin and Related Substances	278
Regulation of Inhibin Production	278
Studies in Male Animals	278
<i>In Vitro</i> in Male Animals	278
<i>In Vivo</i> Studies	279
Studies in Female Animals	281
Inhibin Production by Granulosa Cells <i>In Vitro</i>	281
<i>In Vivo</i> Studies	281
Extrapituitary Effects of Inhibin and Activin	282
Effects on Secretion of GnRH and Oxytocin	282
Intragonadal Effects	283

Effects on Placenta and Conception	283
Effects on Hematopoietic Cell Lines	284
Effects Related to Carbohydrate Metabolism	284
Summary and Conclusions	284
References	285

Chapter 18

Role of Endotoxin and Interleukin-1 in Modulating ACTH, LH, and Sex Steroid Secretion	295
--	------------

C. Rivier

Introduction	295
Materials and Methods	295
Experiments	295
Drugs	296
Results and Discussion	297
Effect of LPS on the HPA and HPG Axis	297
Mechanisms Mediating the Effects of LPS or IL-1 on the HPA Axis	299
Mechanisms Mediating the Effect of LPS or IL-1 on the HPG Axis	300
Summary	300
Acknowledgements	300
References	301

Chapter 19

Neuroendocrinology of Interleukin-1	303
--	------------

F. Berkenbosch, R. de Rijk, A. Del Rey, and H. Besedovsky

Introduction	303
Pituitary-Adrenal Activity During Immune Challenges	304
Involvement of Monokines?	304
Site of Action	306
Mechanism of Action	307
Other Neuroendocrine Effects of IL-1	309
Functional Significance	310
Acknowledgements	310
References	311

Chapter 20

Role of Monokines in Control of Anterior Pituitary Hormone Release	315
---	------------

S.M. McCann, V. Rettori, L. Milenkovic, J. Jurčovičová, and M.C. González

Introduction	315
Interleukin-1	316
Tumor Necrosis Factor (Cachectin)	319
Gamma Interferon	325

Summary	327
References	327

Chapter 21

Interleukins, Signal Transduction, and the Immune System-Mediated Stress Response 331

R.L. Eskay, M. Grino, and H.T. Chen

Introduction	331
Early Studies Linking Immune System and Stress Axis Activation	332
CNS-Mediated Cytokine Stimulation of the HPA Axis	332
Pituitary-Mediated Cytokine Stimulation of the HPA Axis	334
Adrenal-Mediated Cytokine Stimulation of the Stress Axis	338
Summary and Conclusions	339
References	340

Chapter 22

Immunoneurology: A Serum Protein Afferent Limb to the CNS 345

G.P. Kozlowski, G. Nilaver, and B.V. Zloković

Introduction	345
The Blood-Brain Barrier (BBB) and Blood-Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Barrier	345
BBB Studies in the Rat	348
BBB Studies in the Rabbit	350
Introduction	350
Materials and Methods	350
Results and Discussion	351
BBB Studies in the Guinea Pig	353
Introduction	353
Materials and Methods	354
Vascular Brain Perfusion Technique	354
Experimental Allergic Encephalitis (EAE) in the Guinea Pig	355
Scintillation Counting	355
Isotopically Labelled IgG	355
Measurement of IgG and Plasma Albumin Levels in CSF	356
Immunocytochemical (ICC) Studies	356
Calculation of the Unidirectional Blood-to-Brain Transfer Constant	356
Results	357
Autoimmune Diseases	358
Introduction	358
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	359
Paraneoplastic Cerebellar Degeneration (PCD)	360
Alzheimer's Disease (AD)	362
Discussion and Conclusions	362
Acknowledgements	363
References	363

Chapter 23**Neuroendocrine Mechanisms in the Thermogenic Responses to Diet, Infection, and Trauma 371**

N.J. Rothwell

Thermogenesis—Basic Concepts and Biological Value	371
Effector Mechanisms of Thermogenesis	371
Central Control of Thermogenesis	371
Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis	372
Dietary Related Signals for Thermogenesis	374
Fever	375
Thermogenic Responses to Injury	377
Conclusions	377
References	377

Chapter 24**The Blood-Brain Barrier in Diabetes Mellitus 381**

M. Lorenzi

Introduction	381
Central Nervous System (CNS) Abnormalities in Diabetes	381
Cognitive Function	382
EEG Changes	382
Nociception and Neuroendocrine Abnormalities	382
Abnormalities of the Cerebral Microvasculature in Diabetes	383
Permeability	384
Transport	386
Histologic Abnormalities	387
References	388

Chapter 25**Circulating Blood Glucose and Hypothalamic-Pituitary Secretion 391**

M. Grino, V. Guillaume, A. Caraty, B. Conte-Devolx,
 P. Joanny, F. Boudouresque, G. Pesce, J. Steinberg,
 G. Peyre, A. Dutour, P. Giraud, and C. Oliver

Introduction	391
Effect of Acute Hyperglycemia on Hypothalamic-Pituitary Secretion	391
Effect of Diabetes Mellitus on Hypothalamus-Pituitary Secretion	392
Effect of Hypoglycemia on Hypothalamic-Pituitary Secretion	399
Conclusions	403
References	403

Chapter 26**Nutritional and Hemodynamic Factors Influencing Adenopituitary Function in Man 407**

M. Vigaš, P. Tartár, D. Ježová, J. Jurčovičová,
R. Kvetňanský, J. Malatinsky, and R. Tigranyan

General Conditions of the Investigation	408
Effect of Hyperlipidemia on Growth Hormone Secretion	409
Tryptophan-Induced Release of GH and PRL: Effect of Glucose Administration	412
Effect of Glucose on Exercise-Induced Release of GH, ACTH, and PRL	413
Hypoglycemia-Induced GH and PRL Release: Mediation by Different Glucoreceptor Areas	416
Plasma GH, PRL, and Cortisol after Transient Cerebral Ischemia	416
Effects of Open Heart Surgery on Growth Hormone, Cortisol, and Insulin Concentrations	421
Conclusions	423
References	424

Chapter 27**Differences in the Effects of Acute and Chronic Administration of Dexfenfluramine on
Cortisol and Prolactin Secretion 427**

C. Oliver, D. Ježová, M. Grino, V. Guillaume,
F. Boudouresque, B. Conte-Devolx, G. Pesce,
A. Dutour, and D. Becquet

Introduction	427
Effect of Dexfenfluramine on the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis in Rat	428
Materials and Methods	428
Animals	428
Collection of HPB	428
Cannulation of the Tail Artery	428
Acute d-F Treatment	428
Chronic d-F Treatment	429
Hormone Measurements	430
Statistical Analysis	430
Results	430
Acute d-F Treatment	430
Chronic d-F Treatment	431
Discussion	431
Effects of Dexfenfluramine on the Secretion of Pituitary Hormones in Human	434
Effect in Human	434
Materials and Methods	435
Subjects	435
Protocols	435
Determination of Hormones	435
Statistical Analysis	436
Results	436