

# ENDOCRINOLOGY

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# PHYSIOLOGY OF HYPOTHALAMO-PITUITARY AXIS AND REGULATORY MECHANISMS

## ○ Structure of pituitary gland

- Anterior pituitary cell types and hormones
- Posterior pituitary cell types and hormones

## ○ Hypothalamic control of pituitary gland

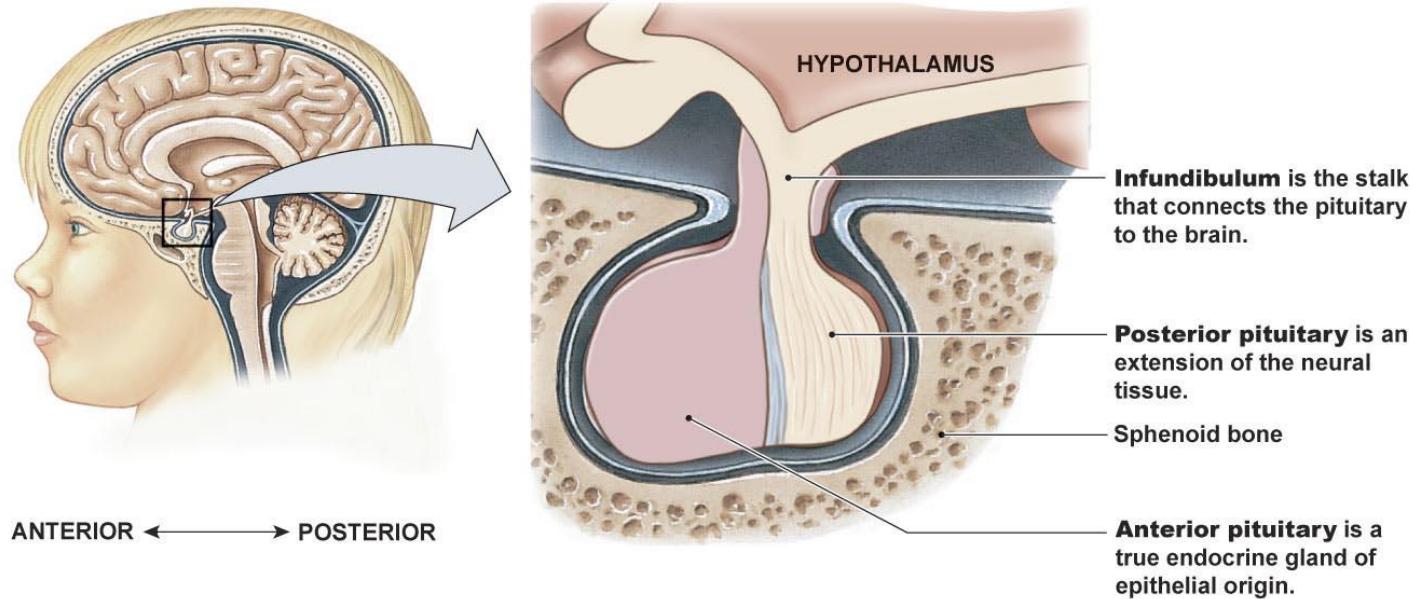
- Hypothalamo-hypophysial portal system
- Hypothalamo-hypophysial tract

## ○ Feedback mechanisms

- Positive feedback
- Negative feedback

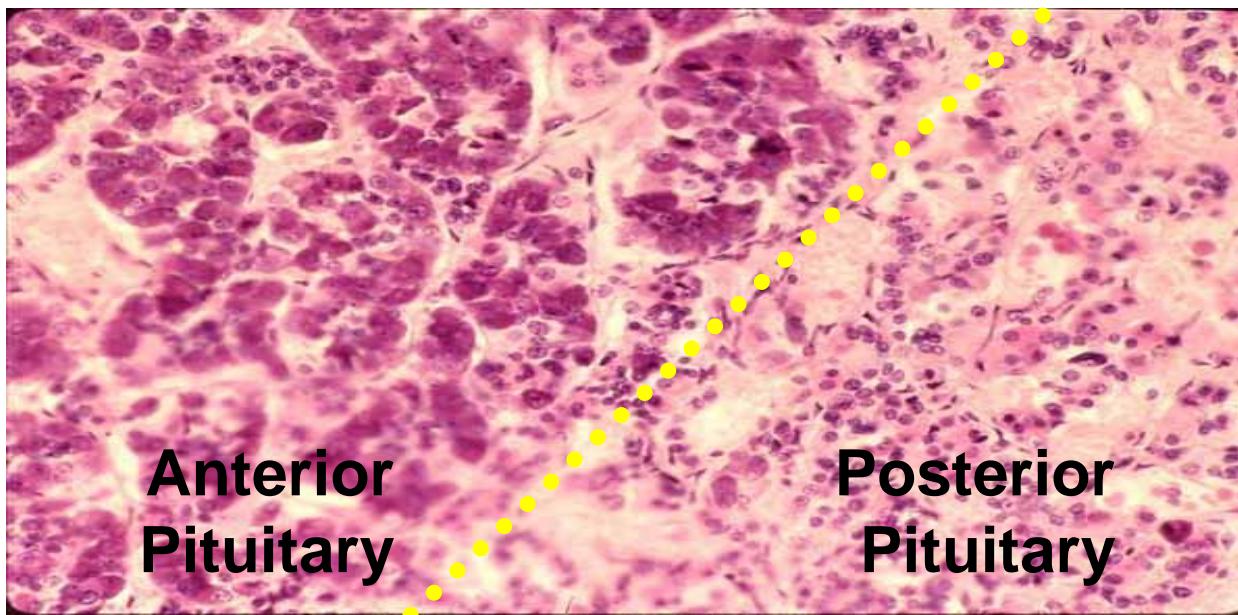
# STRUCTURE OF PITUITARY GLAND

- Pituitary gland consist of two lobes
  - Anterior (Adenohypophysis)
  - Posterior (Neurohypophysis)



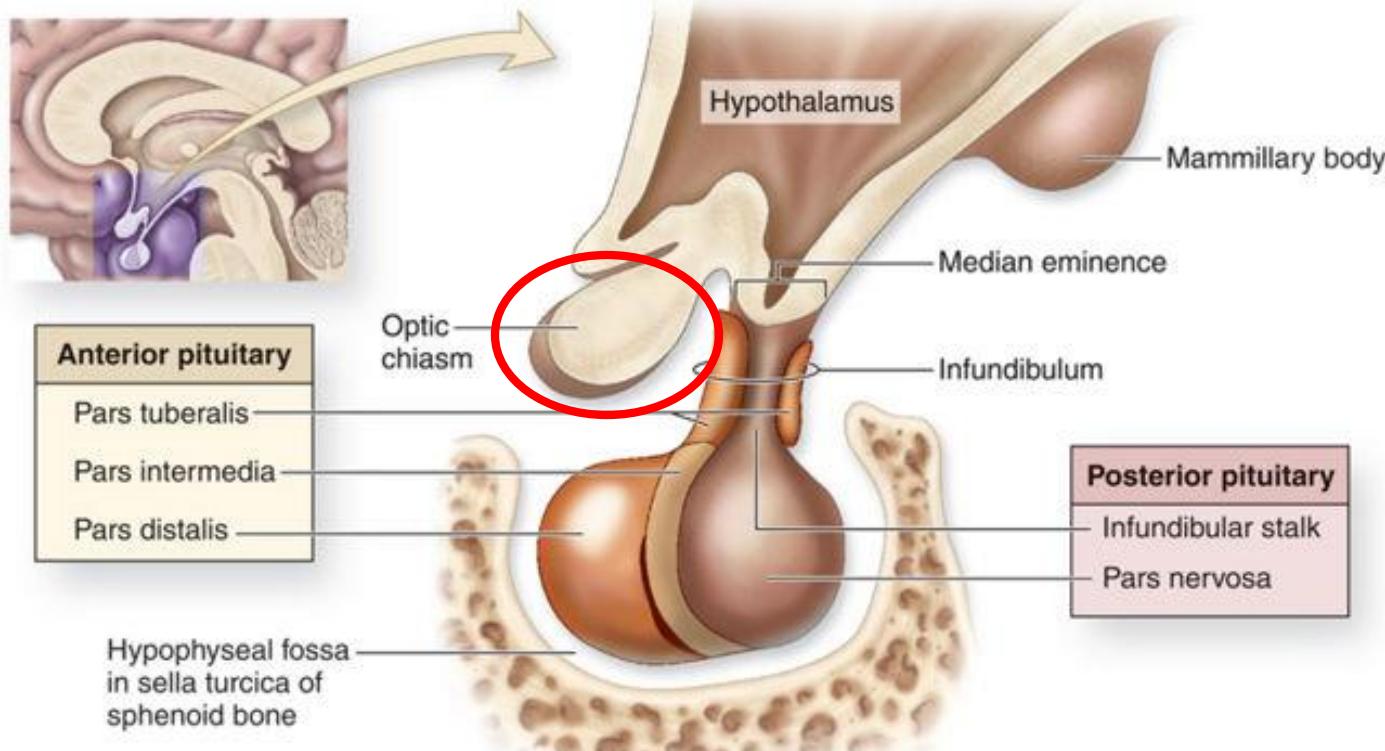
# HISTOLOGY OF PITUITARY GLAND

- Anterior pituitary originates from Rathke's pouch (pharyngeal epithelium)
- Posterior pituitary originates from hypothalamus (glial-type cells)



# STRUCTURE OF PITUITARY GLAND (RELATION TO OPTIC CHIASM)

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# HYPOTHALAMIC CONTROL OF PITUITARY SECRETIONS

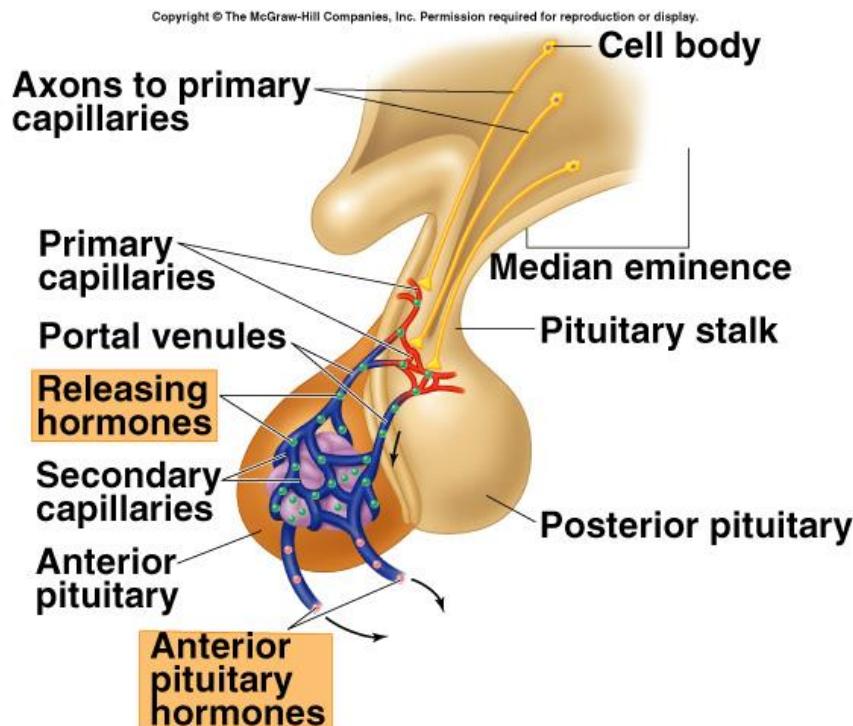
- Almost all secretions by the pituitary are controlled by either
  - Hormonal secretion of hypothalamus  
(The anterior pituitary)  
or
  - Nervous signals from hypothalamus  
(Posterior pituitary)

# CONTROL OF ANTERIOR PITUITARY BY HYPOTHALAMUS

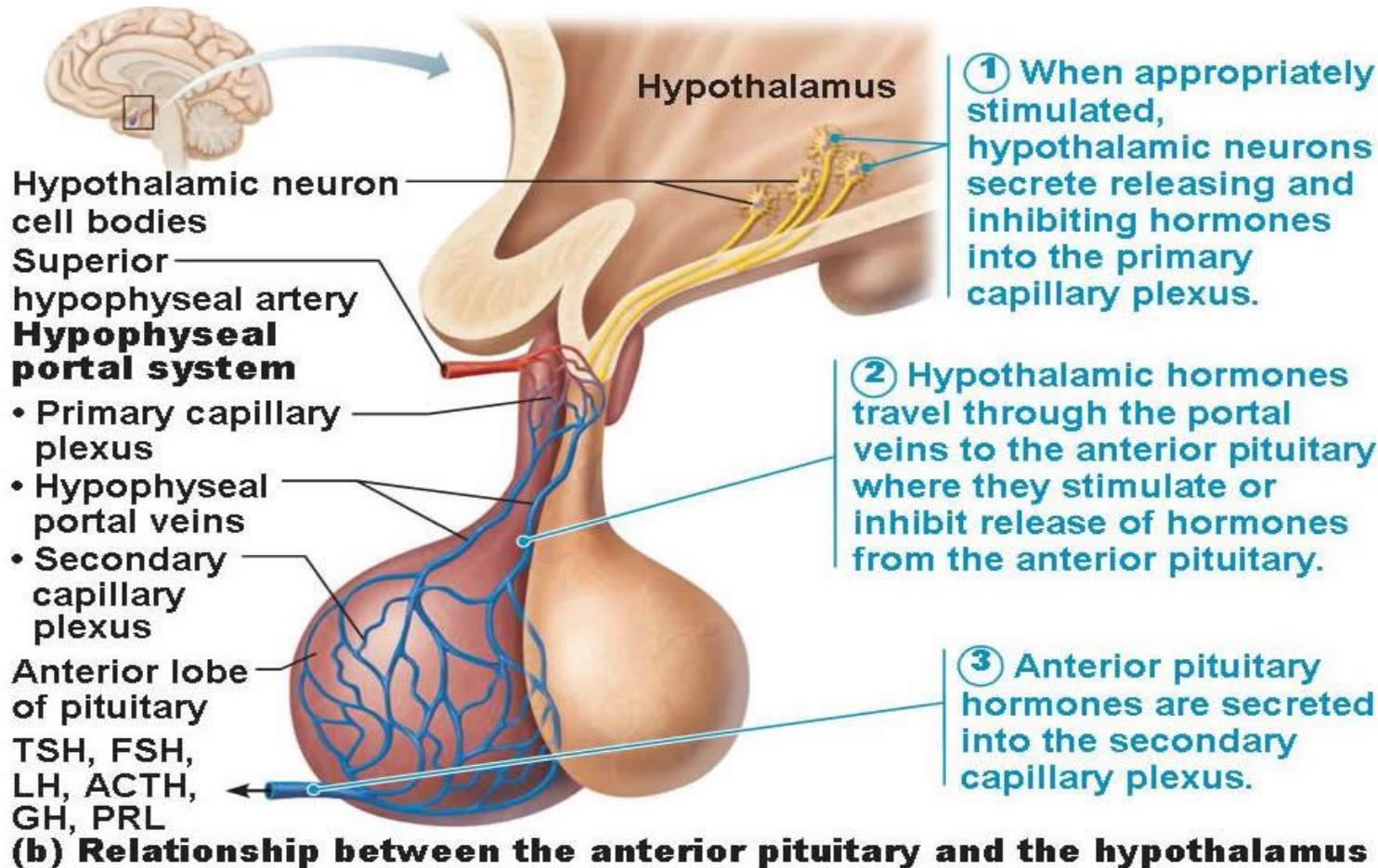
- Special neurons in the hypothalamus synthesize and secrete the hypothalamic releasing and inhibitory hormones that control secretion of anterior pituitary
- Neurons send their nerve fibers to the **median eminence** (extension of hypothalamic tissue into the pituitary stalk)
- Hormones are secreted to the tissue fluids, absorbed into the **hypothalamic-hypophysial portal system** and transported to the sinuses of the anterior pituitary

# HYPOTHALAMIC CONTROL OF ANTERIOR PITUITARY GLAND (ADENOHYPOPHYSIS)

- Anterior pituitary gland is connected to hypothalamus by portal system: “hypothalamic-hypophysial portal vessels”.

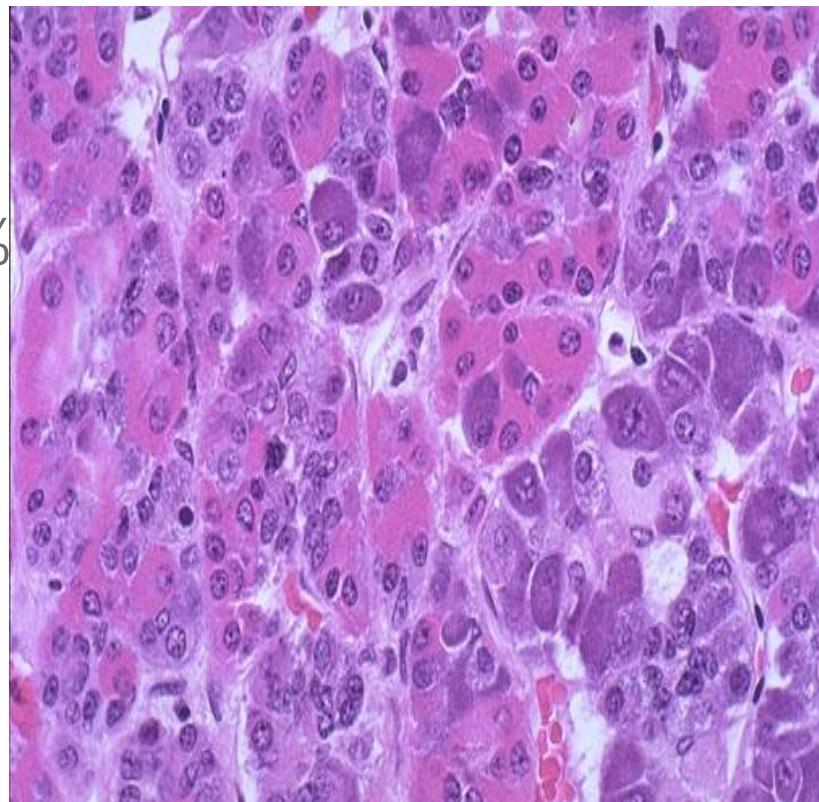


# CONTROL OF ANTERIOR PITUITARY BY HYPOTHALAMUS



# STRUCTURE OF PITUITARY GLAND

- Anterior pituitary contains 5 cell types:
  - Somatotrops: GH 40%
  - Corticotrops: ACTH 20%
  - Thyrotropes: TSH
  - Gonadotropes: LH & FSH
  - Lactotrops: PRL



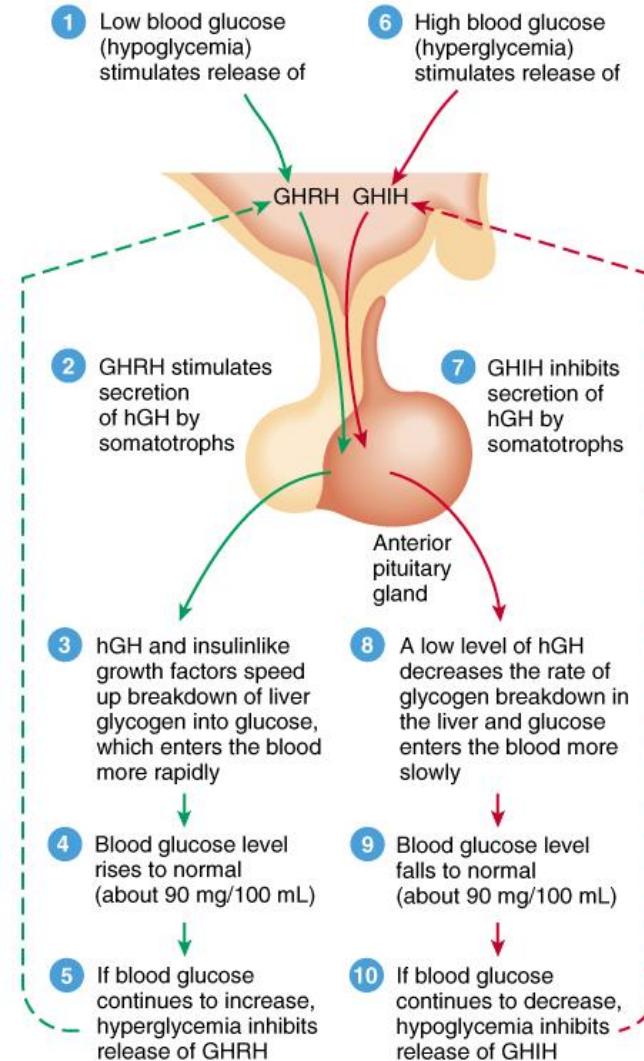
# HYPOTHALAMIC RELEASING AND INHIBITING HORMONES

## ○ Growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH)

- Stimulates release of growth hormone

## ○ Growth hormone inhibiting hormone (GHIH) also called Somatostatin

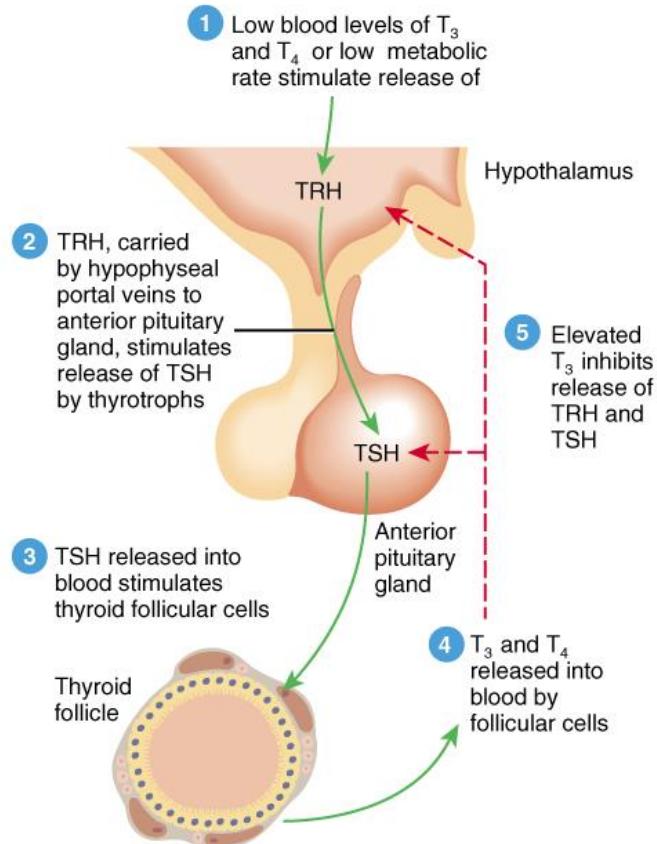
- Inhibits release of growth hormone



# HYPOTHALAMIC RELEASING AND INHIBITING HORMONES

## ○ Thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH)

- Stimulates release of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)



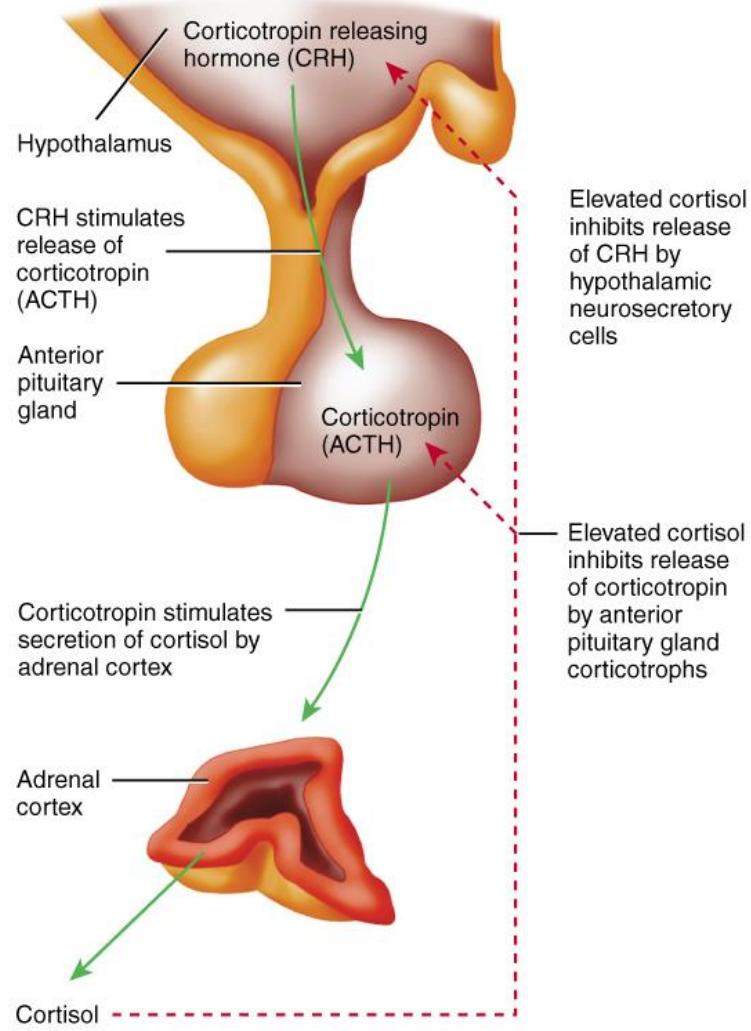
### Key:

TRH = Thyrotropin releasing hormone  
TSH = Thyroid-stimulating hormone  
 $T_3$  = Triiodothyronine  
 $T_4$  = Thyroxine (Tetraiodothyronine)

# HYPOTHALAMIC RELEASING AND INHIBITING HORMONES

## ◎ Corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH)

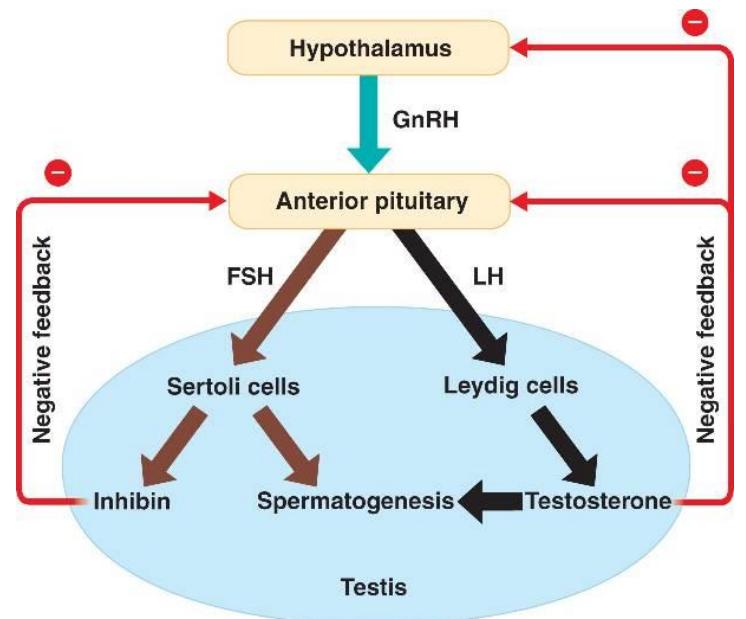
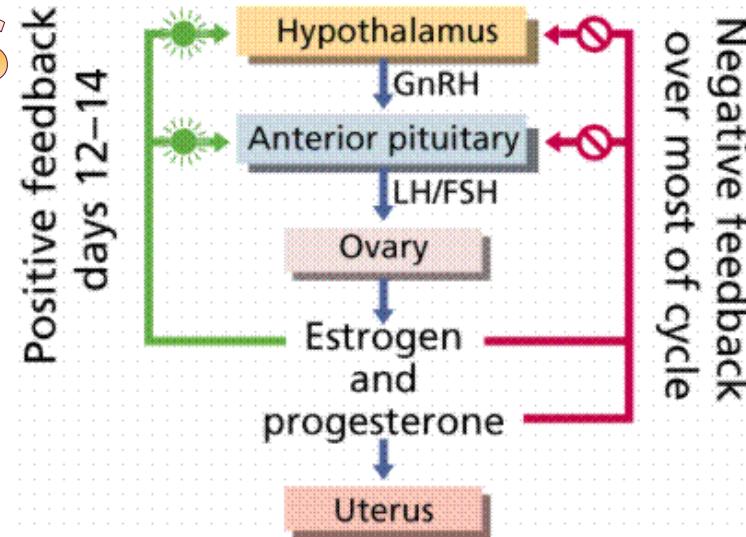
- Stimulates release of adrenocorticotropin hormone (ACTH)



# HYPOTHALAMIC RELEASING AND INHIBITING HORMONES

- ◎ Gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH) –

- ◎ causes release of the 2 gonadotropic hormones:
  - Luteinizing (**LH**)
  - Follicle-stimulating hormone **FSH**



# HYPOTHALAMIC RELEASING AND INHIBITING HORMONES

- **Prolactin inhibitory hormone (PIH)** also known as **Dopamine**
  - Inhibits prolactin secretion

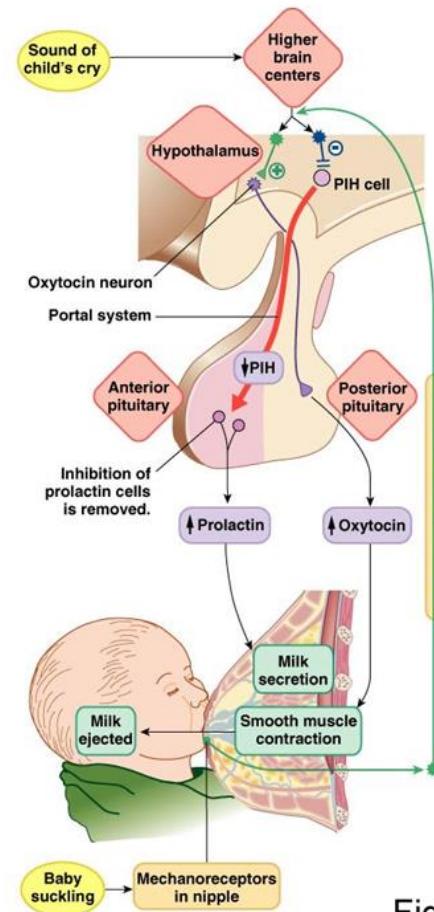


Fig. 26-23

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## CLINICAL APPLICATION

- What will happen if pituitary gland is removed from its normal position and transplanted to other part of the body?
  - Release of all hormones will stop.
  - Release of some hormones will decrease to very low levels
  - Release of some hormones will increase.

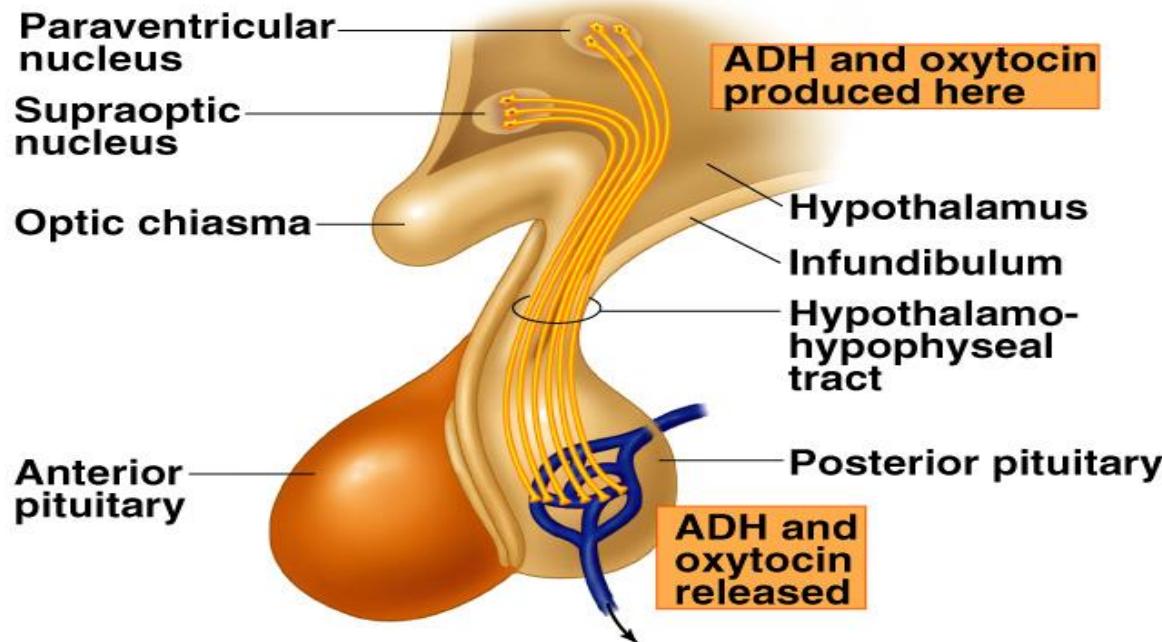
# **POSTERIOR PITUITARY GLAND**

(Neurohypophysis)

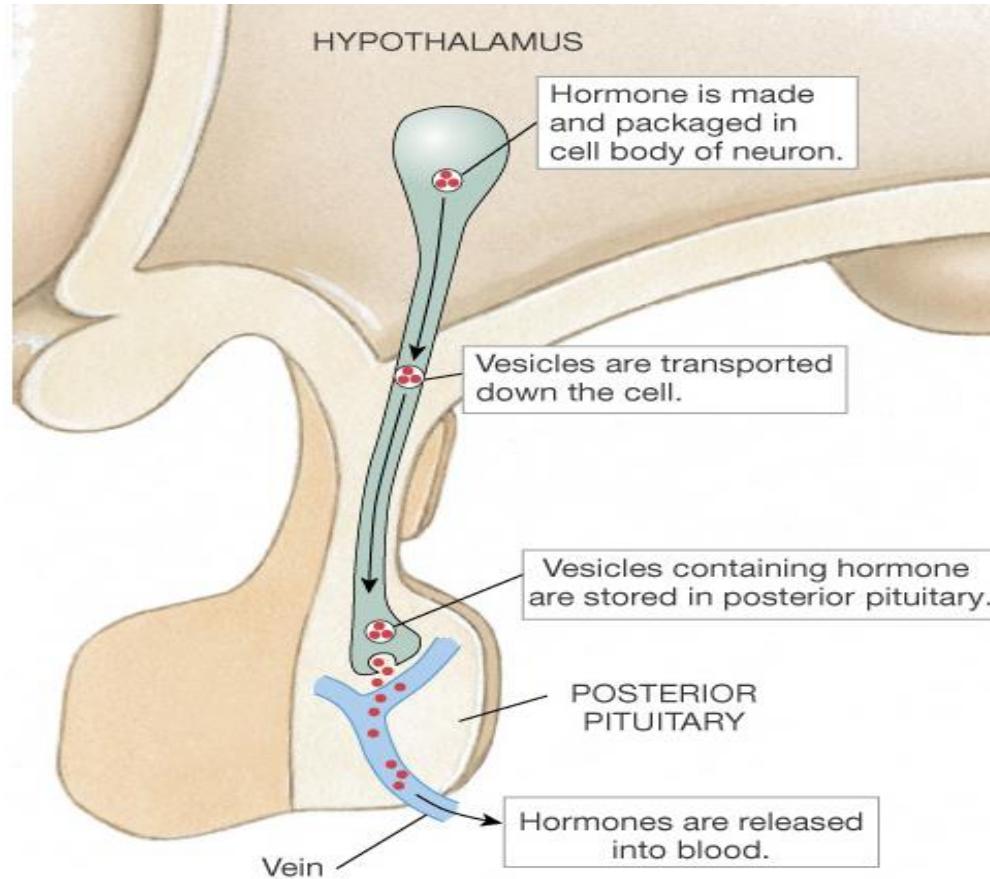
# HYPOTHALAMIC CONTROL OF POSTERIOR PITUITARY GLAND (NEUROHYPOPHYSIS)

- Hormones synthesized in the **supraoptic** and **paraventricular** nuclei of the hypothalamus and released in posterior pituitary

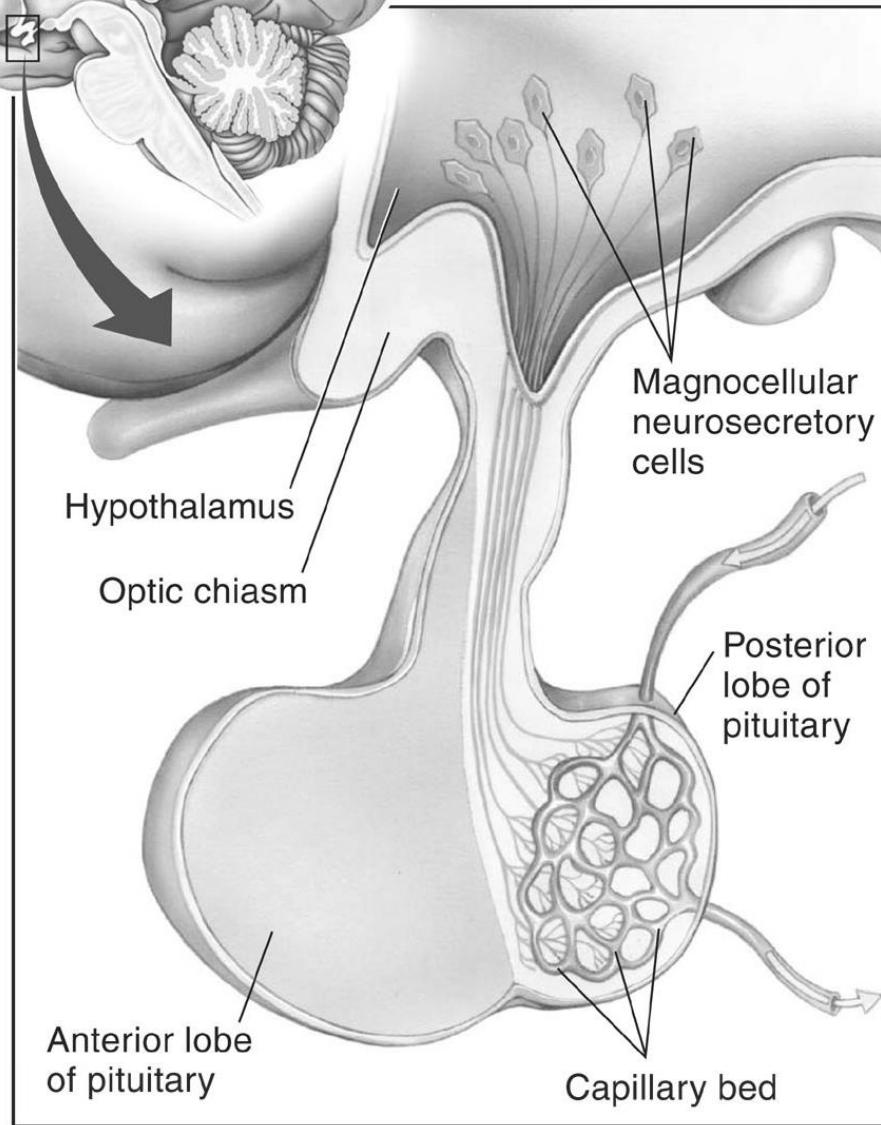
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# SECRETION OF POSTERIOR PITUITARY HORMONES

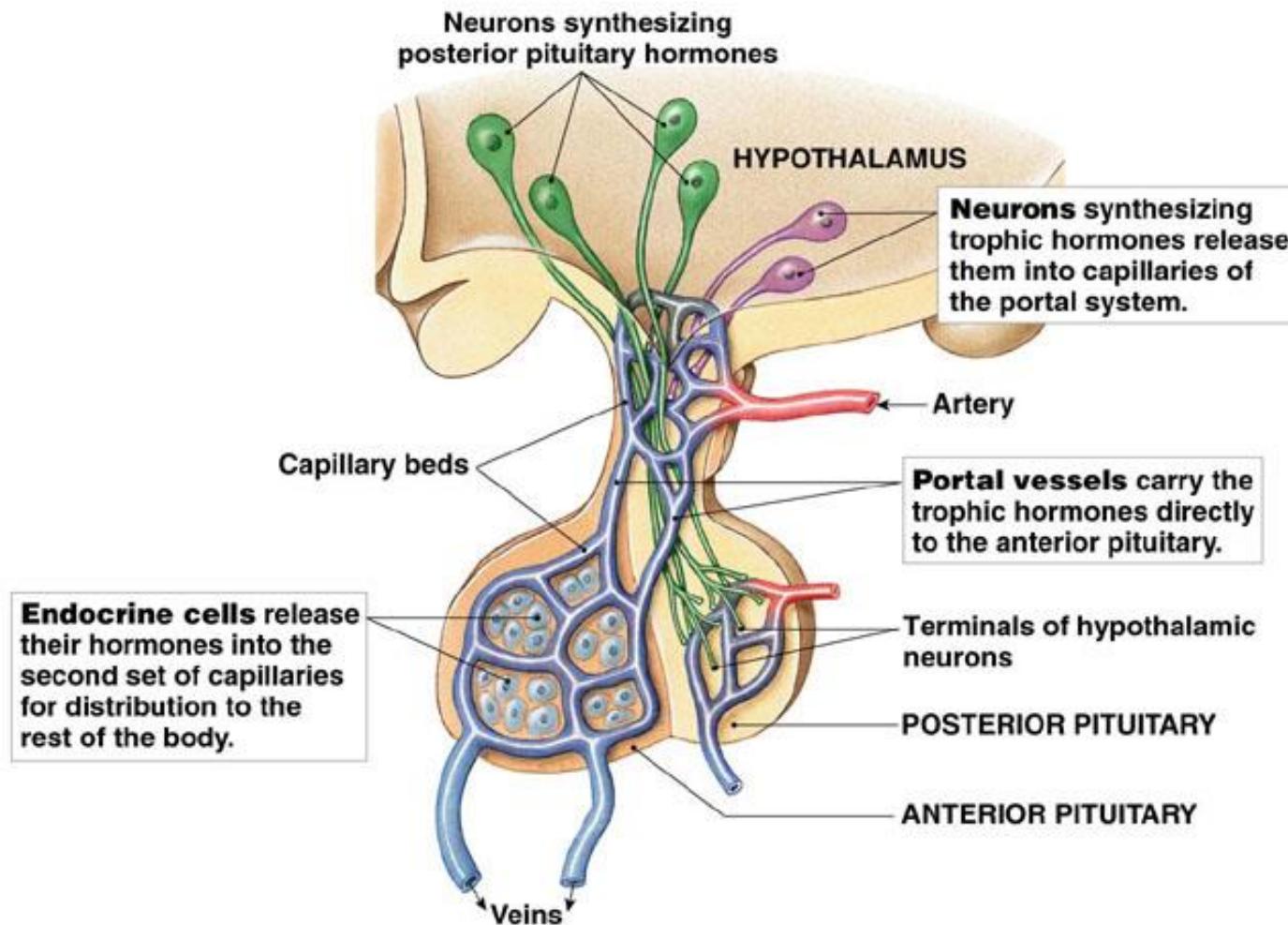


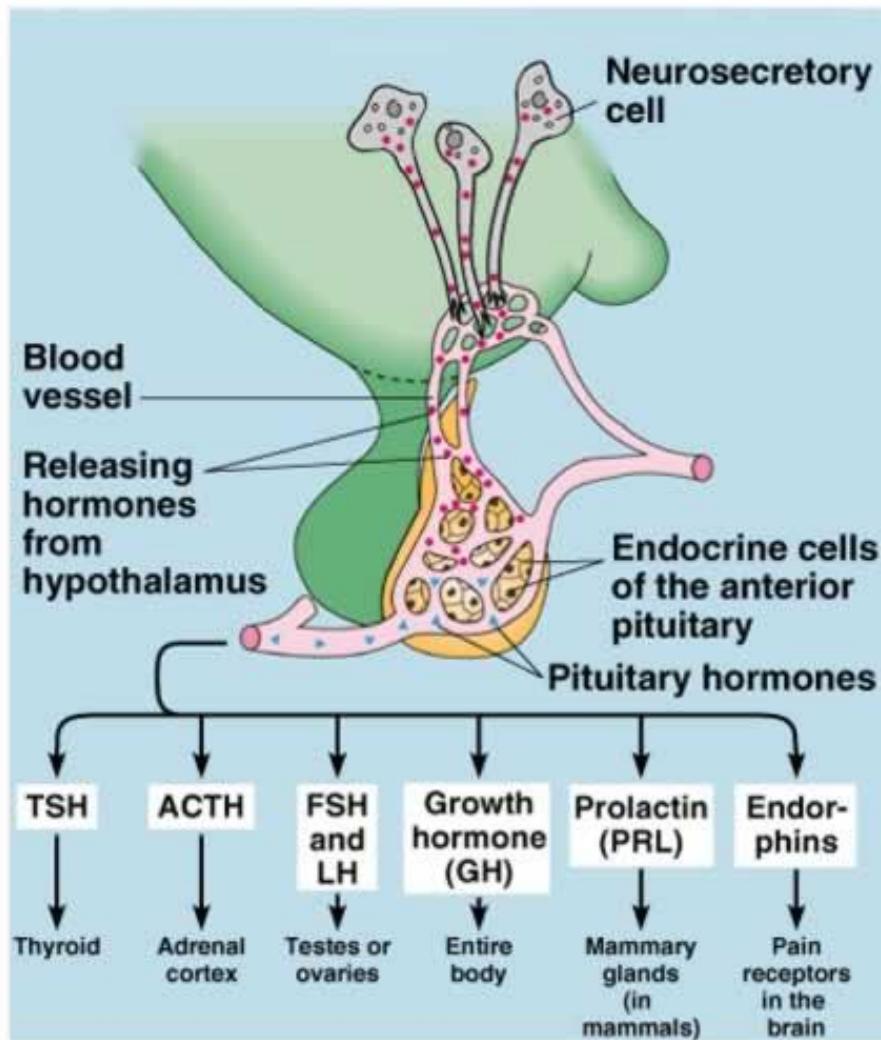
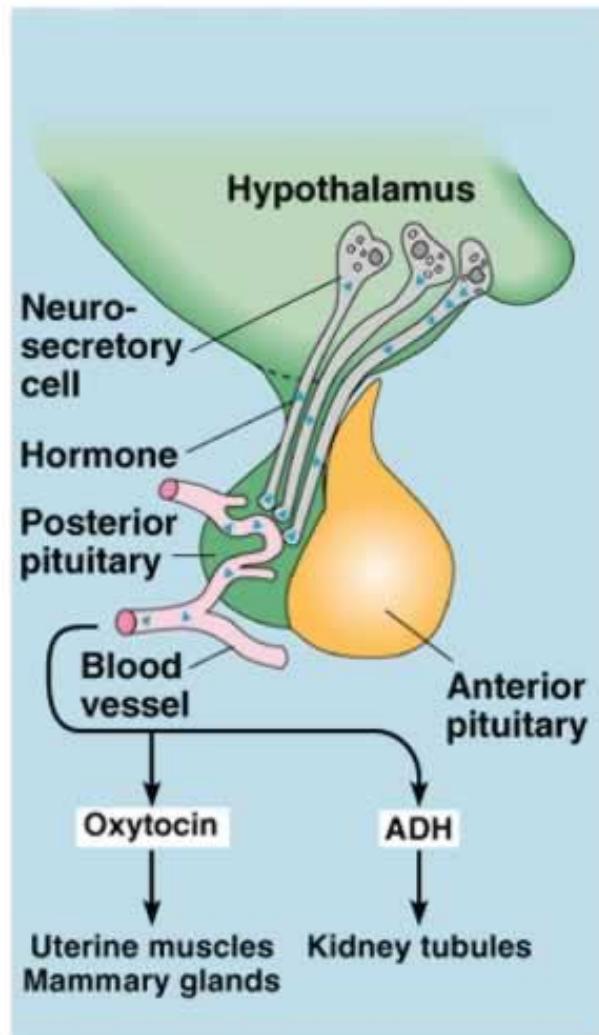
# HYPOTHALAMUS AND POSTERIOR PITUITARY



Magnocellular neurons in paraventricular and supraoptic nuclei secrete **oxytocin** and **vasopressin** directly into capillaries in the posterior lobe

# SUMMARY OF HYPOTHALAMIC CONTROL OF PITUITARY GLAND





# FEEDBACK MECHANISM

## Positive feedback

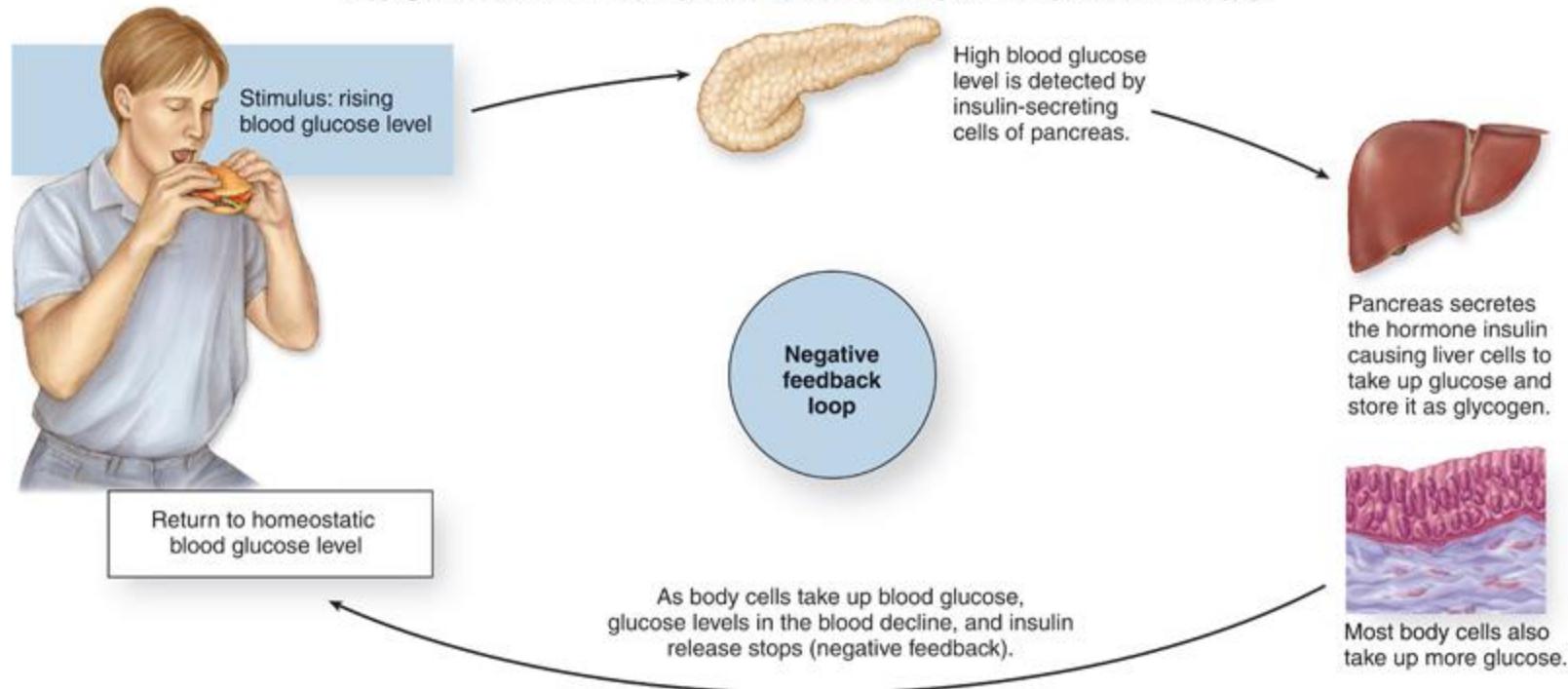
- Release of hormone A stimulates the release of hormone B
- Hormone B stimulates further release of hormone A

## Negative feedback

- Release of hormone A stimulates the release of hormone B
- Hormone B inhibits the release of hormone A

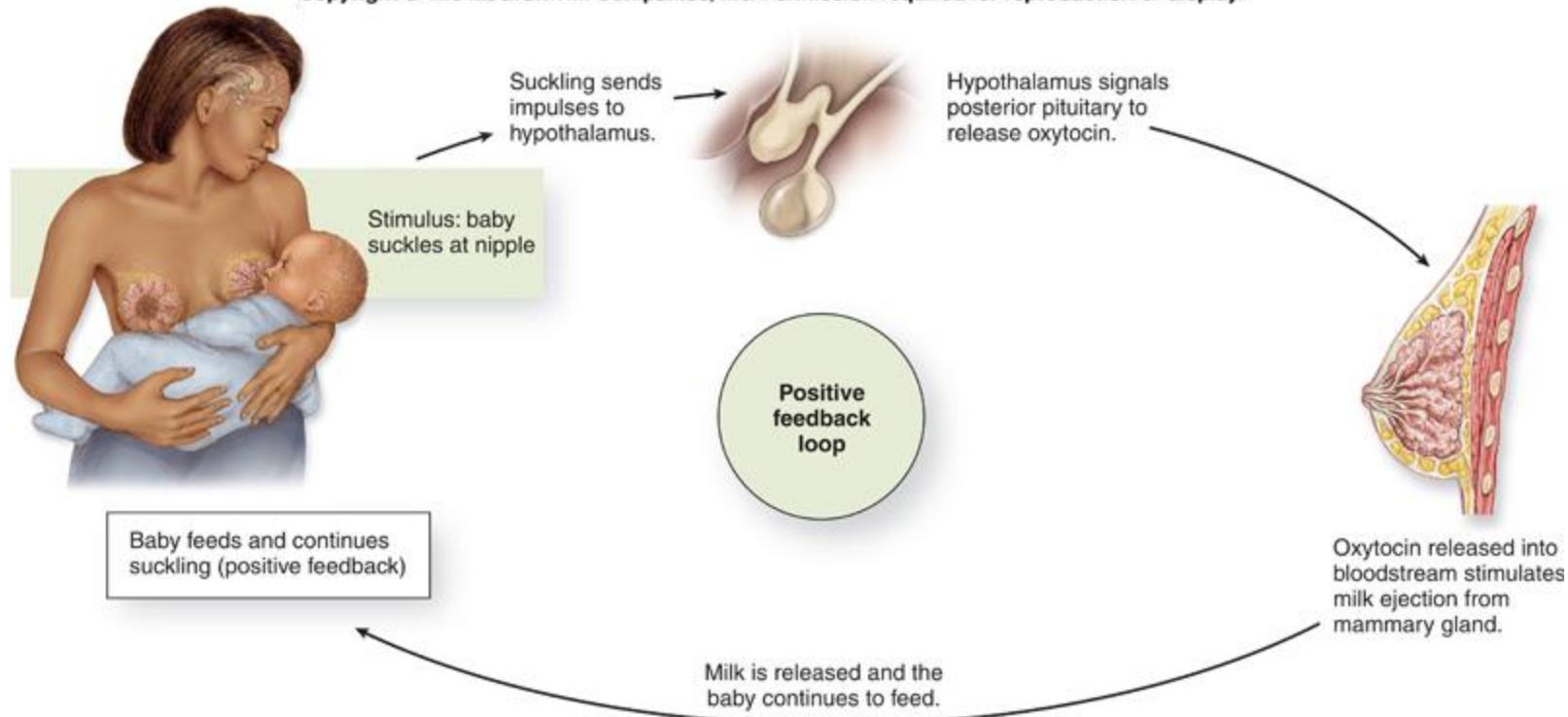
# NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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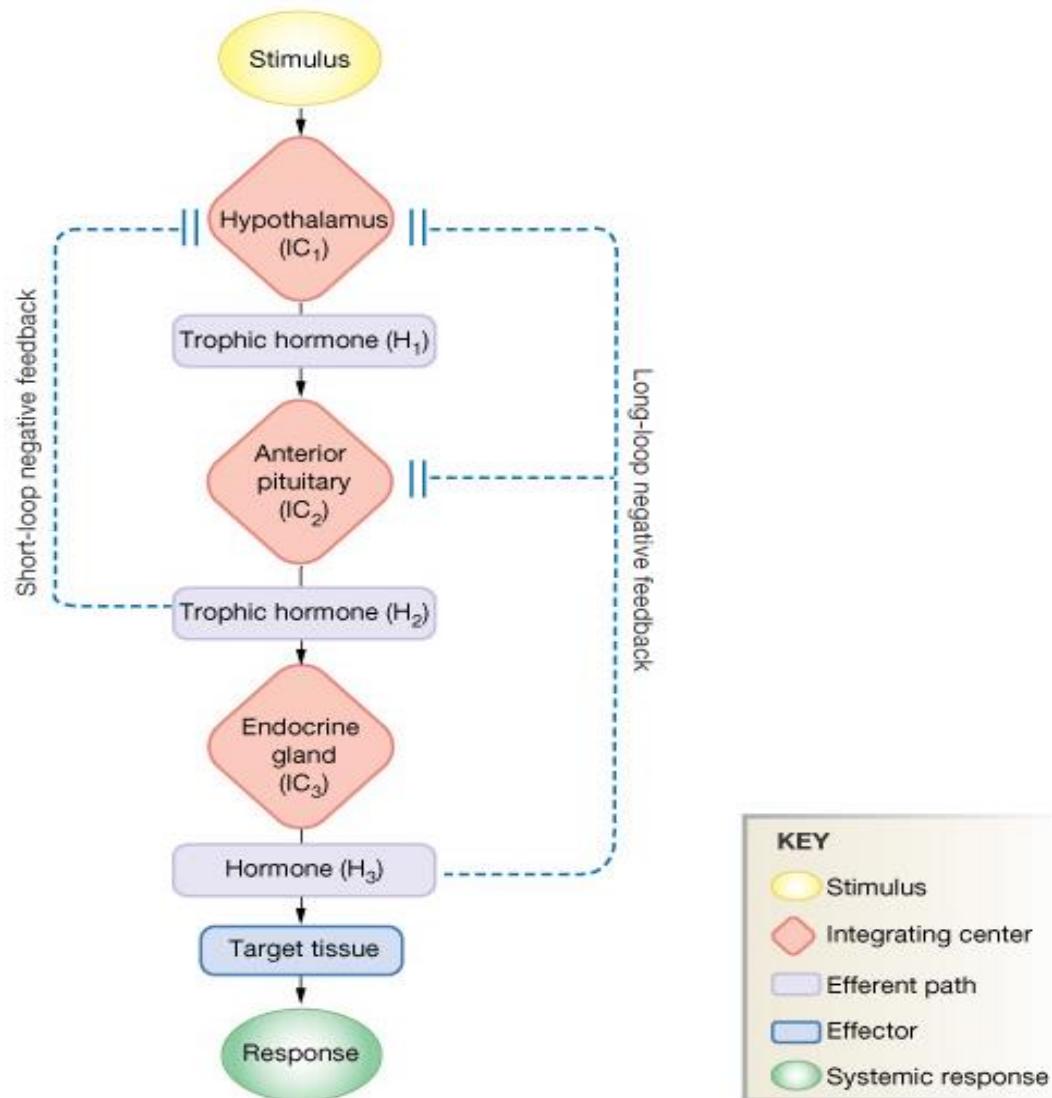
# POSITIVE FEEDBACK

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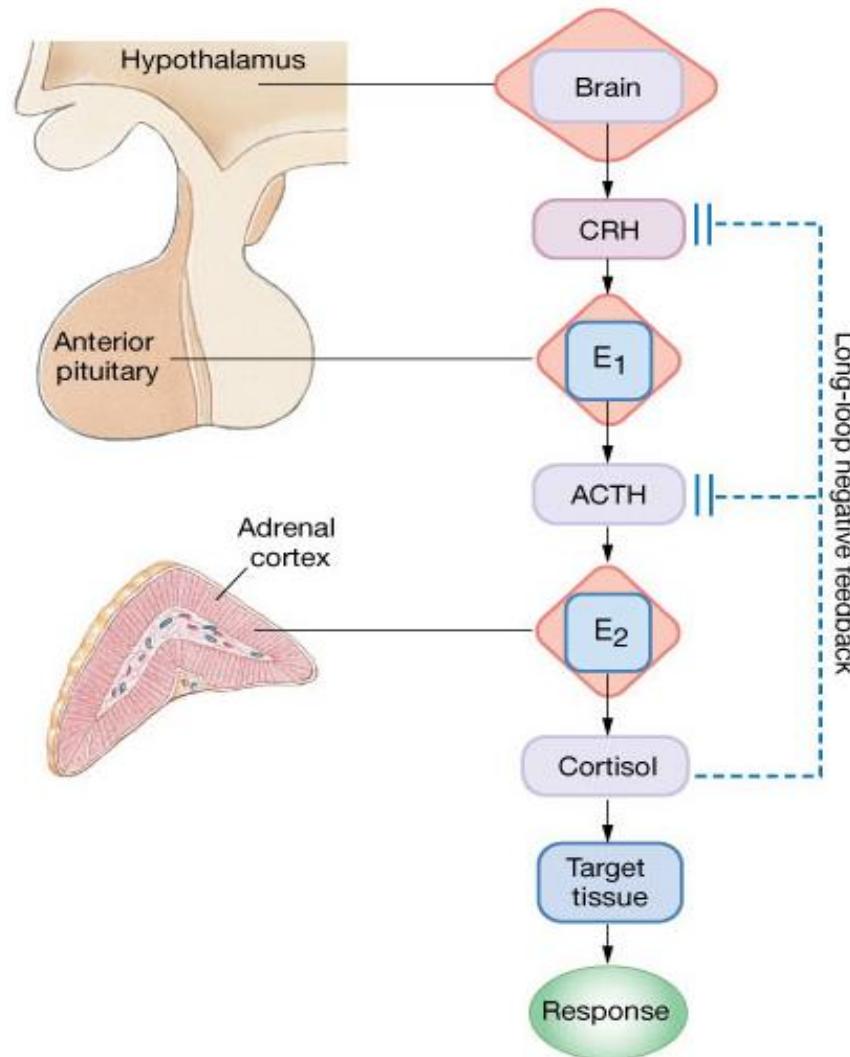


(b) Positive feedback

# NEGATIVE FEEDBACK MECHANISM: LONG & SHORT LOOP REFLEXES

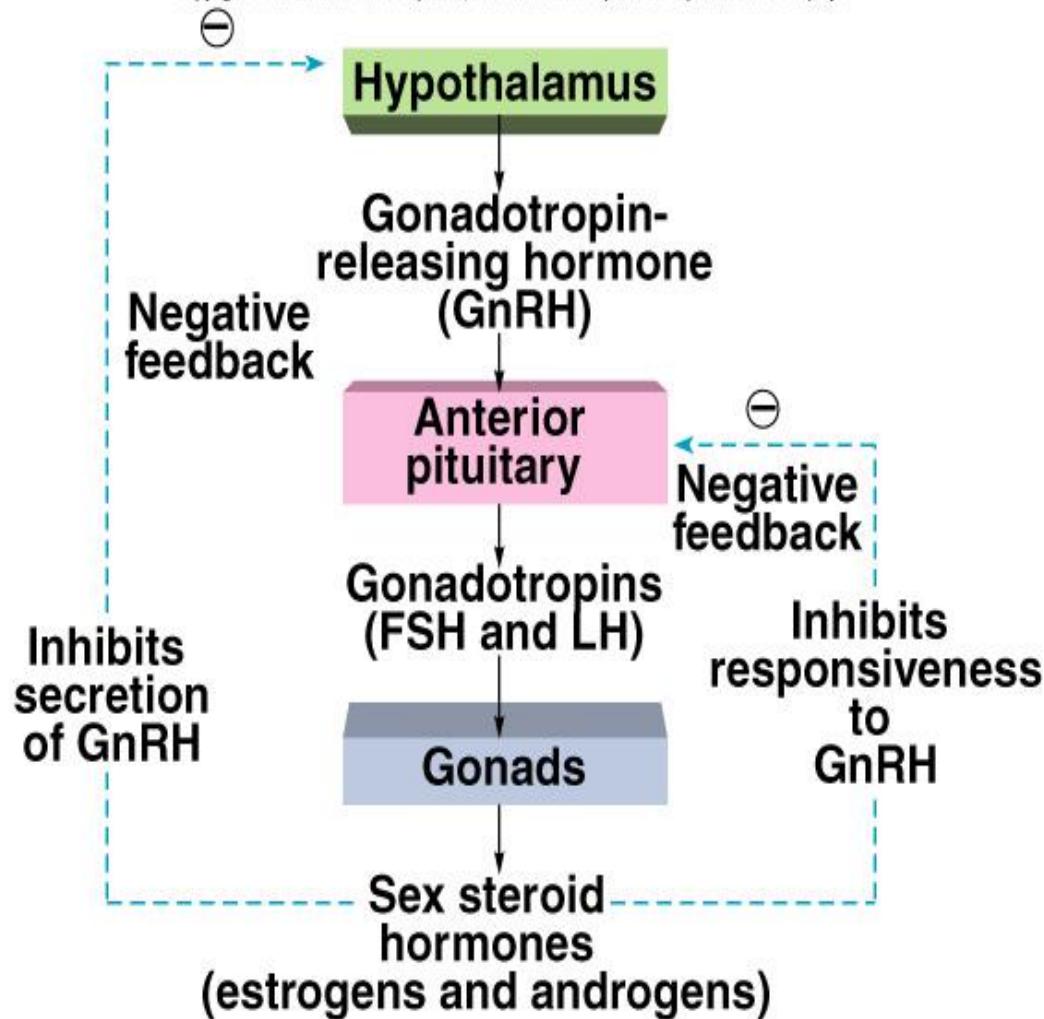


# NEGATIVE FEEDBACK MECHANISM CORTISOL



# NEGATIVE FEEDBACK MECHANISM SEX STEROIDS

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