

**Neuroendocrinology and pituitary**James Adams

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**ABSTRACT**

Since the 1960s, the significance of the neuroendocrine brain for health and pleasure as become more apparent. Geoffrey W. Harris' model of

brain control of anterior and posterior pituitary gland hormone secretion through, respectively, releasing factors secreted into the hypothalamic-hypophysial portal system, and directly from axon terminals into the systemic circulation, built on foundations laid 100 years ago.

**Key Words:** *Posterior Pituitary Gland ; Hypophysial; Axon*

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**INTRODUCTION**

As technology has become more advanced, knowledge and comprehension have been confirmed, expanded, and deepened. This made it possible to chemically characterize the oxytocin and vasopressin produced by the posterior pituitary, as well as the releasing factors, their receptors, and genes. It also helped to understand where the neurosecretory neurons are located in the hypothalamus, how their activity is regulated, including by neural and hormonal feedback, and how hormone rhythms are produced. These neurons' and their peptides' broader functions in the brain are now understood to include appetite, feelings, and social and reproductive behaviors. Neuroendocrine systems' plasticity and epigenetic regulation have become recognized as key characteristics.

Neuroendocrinology initially focused solely on understanding how the brain, through the hypothalamus, regulates the release of hormones from the posterior pituitary gland (oxytocin, vasopressin), the anterior pituitary gland (Adrenocorticotropic Hormone (ACTH)), the adrenal medulla (adrenaline), the pineal gland, the gonadotropins Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH), and Luteinizing Hormone, melatonin. The neuroendocrine brain is made up of distinct groups of hypothalamic neurons and their diverse neural inputs, which either project to the median eminence (releasing factor neurons) or the posterior pituitary (oxytocin and vasopressin neurons), where their axon ends abut blood capillaries.

The study of the relationship between the nervous system and the endocrine system, or how the brain controls the body's hormonal activity, is known as neuroendocrinology, a field of biology (more precisely, physiology). To control the metabolic functions of the human body, the nervous and endocrine systems frequently collaborate in a process known as neuroendocrine integration. As a result of the discovery that the brain, and particularly the hypothalamus, regulates pituitary gland hormone secretion, the field of neuroendocrinology has grown to explore the many links between the endocrine and nervous systems. The body's numerous glands that create and secrete hormones with a variety of chemical structures,

such as peptides, steroids, and neuro amines, make up the endocrine system. Hormones control a variety of physiological functions collectively.

Neuroendocrinology initially concentrated only on figuring out how the brain, via the hypothalamus, controls the release of hormones from the adrenal medulla (adrenaline), the pineal gland, the gonadotropins Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) and Luteinizing Hormone (LH), the anterior pituitary gland (oxytocin, vasopressin), the anterior pituitary gland (adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACT (melatonin)). The hypothalamic neurons and neural inputs that make up the neuroendocrine brain either project to the posterior pituitary (oxytocin and vasopressin neurons) or the median eminence (releasing factor neurons), where their axon ends abut blood vessels.

The anterior pituitary, intermediate pituitary lobe, and posterior pituitary are the three lobes that make up the pituitary organ. By transmitting releasing factors, known as tropic hormones, down the hypothalamo-hypophysial portal system, the hypothalamus regulates the anterior pituitary's hormone production. For instance, thyroid-stimulating hormone is secreted by the anterior pituitary in response to thyrotropin-releasing hormone, which is released by the brain into the portal system.

The neuroendocrine cells in the hypothalamus produce the hormones oxytocin and vasopressin, which are then stored at the nerve endings in the posterior pituitary. The hypothalamus immediately innervates the posterior pituitary. The hypothalamic neurons immediately secrete them into the bloodstream.

The neuroendocrine systems regulate reproduction in all of its facets, from sexual behavior to attachment. They regulate the ovarian cycle, parturition, breastfeeding, and maternal behavior in addition to spermatogenesis. They manage how the body reacts to illness and stress. They control how the body uses the energy it consumes, or how fat is metabolized, as well as how food and drinking habits are expressed. They affect and control blood pressure, bodily fluid and electrolyte homeostasis, and mood.

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The neuroendocrine system's neurons are big, act as little factories for secretory product production, have large, coherent nerve terminal fields, often have easy-to-measure blood output, and are easily amenable to hypotheses and experiments about what they do and how they react to stimuli. Any abnormality of the pituitary gland can be linked to a broad variety of symptoms and disorders because of its location and function in the body's hormone regulation. For instance, if the pituitary gland expands, this may put pressure on the optic chiasm, a group of nerve fibers that transmits information from the eyes to the brain. This pressure may result in headaches or visual problems.

One of the more prevalent conditions affecting the pituitary system is pituitary tumors. Although almost all of these tumors are benign (noncancerous), they can still result in hormonal abnormalities that affect general health by increasing or decreasing hormone production. Not all tumors will exhibit signs, but once they are identified it is crucial that the patient go through a thorough examination by a qualified team to stop the condition from getting worse.