

Targeting the Root Causes of Stress

Thomas G. Guilliams, Ph.D. Founder/Director- Point Institute Adj. Asst. Prof. University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy Senior Scientific Advisor- Ortho Molecular Products





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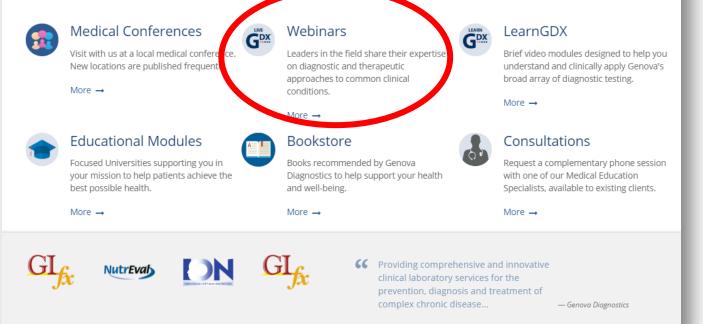
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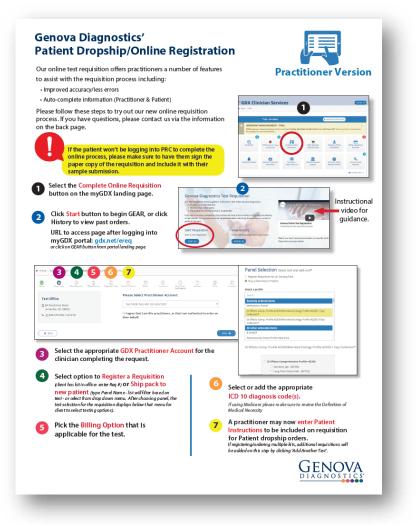
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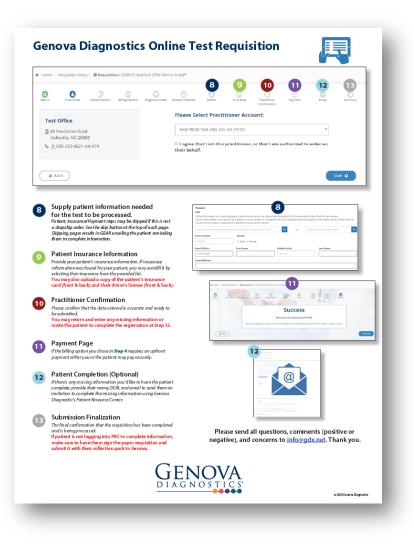




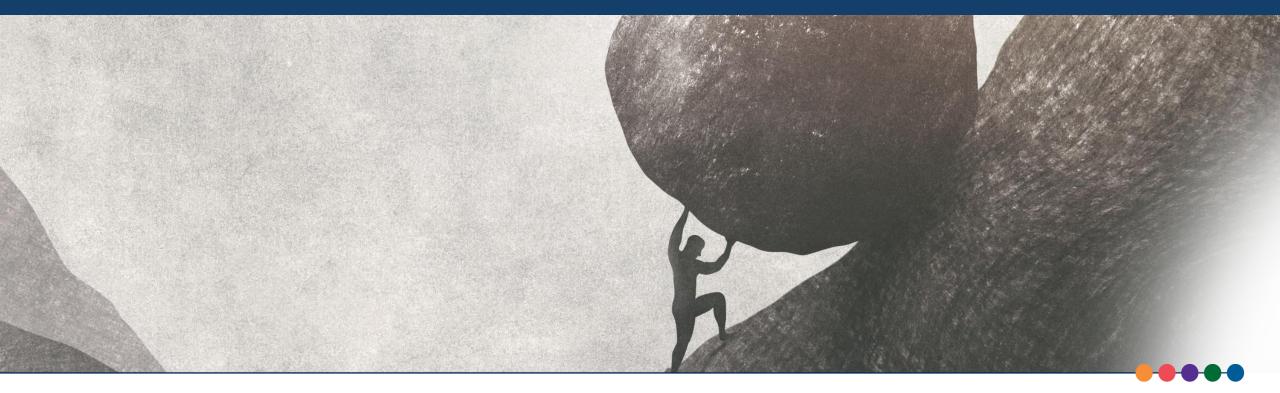
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Overview of this Presentation

- Review the root, influences, and goal of HPA Axis Stress Response
- Looking at the HPA Axis differently; beyond cortisol control
- Discuss strategies for supporting the HPA Axis Function



The Root of HPA Axis Stress is Not Adrenal Fatigue!



- Adrenal function (or dysfunction) is rarely a <u>defining</u> <u>feature or root cause</u> of a Stress Response System (HPA axis) dysfunction; this oversimplification often misses the most common root causes of HPA axis and Stress-related phenomena
- The most powerful therapies that clinicians can use to support the Stress-Response and the HPA axis are not directly related to "Adrenal Support", and they are often overlooked or underleveraged





What Influences the HPA axis Response to "Stress" A Simplified Approach

Response to Homeostatic Metabolic Needs

- Energy Needs (hypoglycemia)
- Inflammation
- Metabolic
 Dysregulation
- Circadian
 Disruption

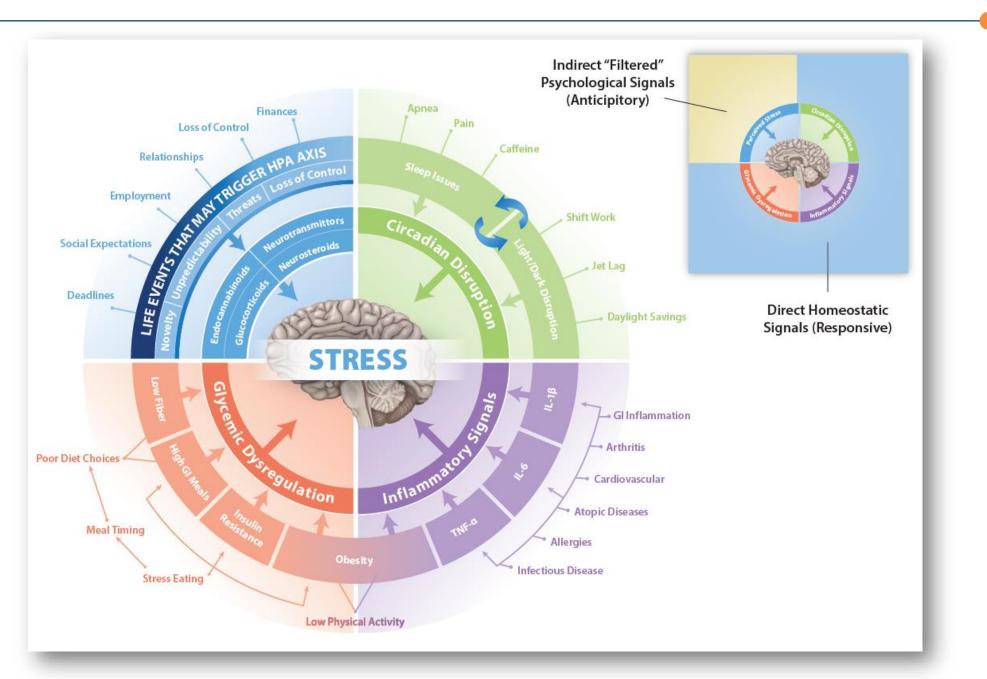
Anticipation of Metabolic Needs

- Psychosocial anticipation of dysregulation
- Circadian anticipation of metabolic functions

Adaptations from All Prior HPA axis Activations

- Early Life Stress
- Cortisol sensitivity
- Feedback Loops
- Epigenetics
- Chaperones
- Neuro-steroids
- Learned Responses



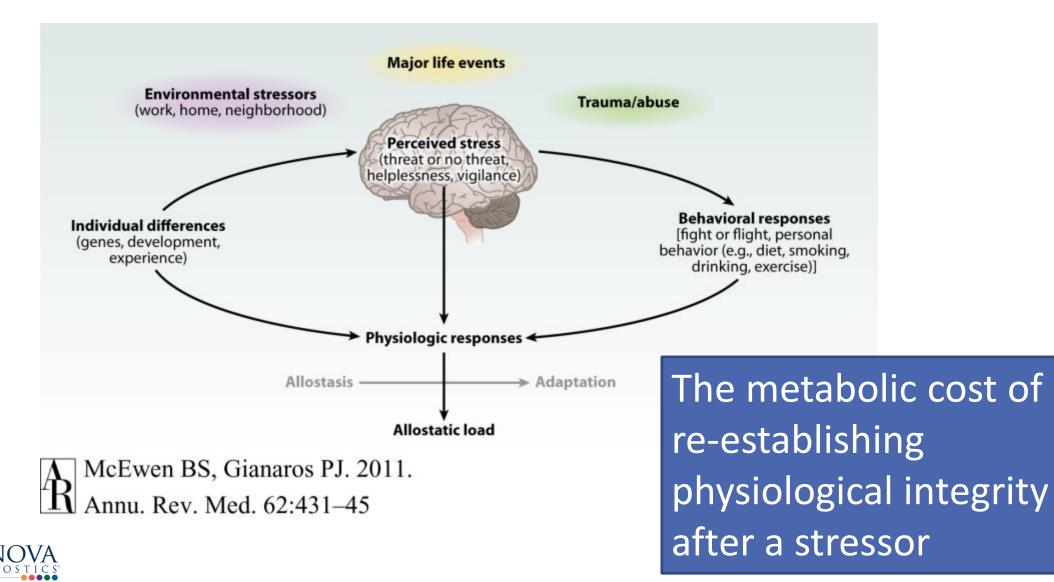




Guilliams TG, The Role of Stress and the HPA Axis in Chronic Disease Management (2nd Ed- 2020).



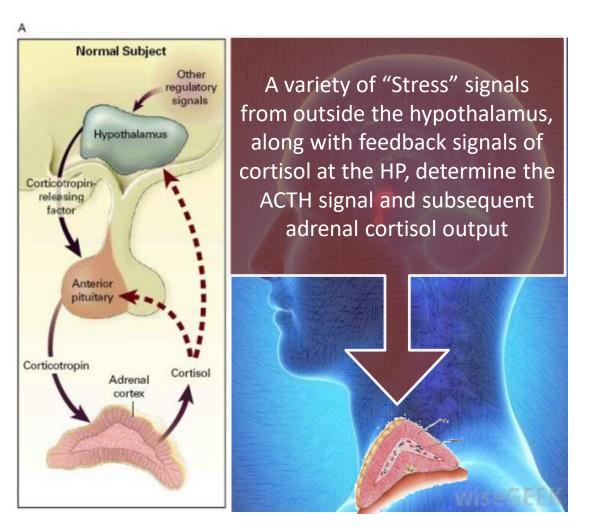
Allostatic Load: The Cost of Adaptation





The Adrenals respond to the Brain

(Feedback inhibition alters cortisol output)





The "Goal" of the Stress Response

- Maintain effective blood supply (O₂/nutrition) to brain, heart, skeletal muscle for immediate survival
- Increase energy production by recruiting substrates (glucose, FA, AA) from body stores and enhance gluconeogenesis
- Optimize ATP production for vital short-term needs at the expense of long-term metabolic functions
- Achieving Physiological Reliance at the Expense of Metabolic Reserve (akin to Ames' Triage theory)





Stress Drives on the Same Road!

- Just like emergency vehicles need to use the same roads used for non-emergency functions;
- The stress-response system uses the same organs, cells, metabolites and signaling mechanisms that the body uses to maintain non-stress metabolic functions





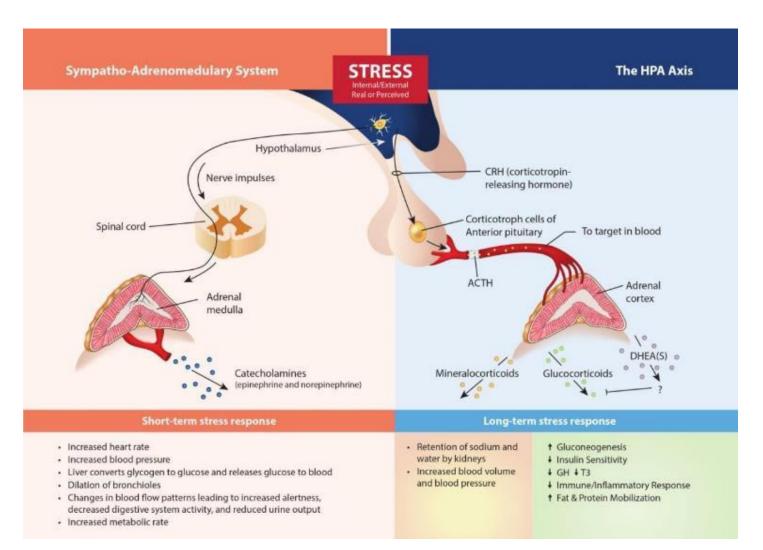


Thinking Differently About the HPA Axis: Beyond Stress!

- An Energy Management System that:
 - Upregulates metabolic systems to coincide with diurnal activities and energy needs
 - Modulates cell metabolism in anticipation of energy availability
 - Prepares immune functions for increased vulnerabilities- tied to anticipated activity
 - In an emergency- overrides metabolic systems to ensure energy availability to survive the crisis

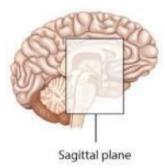


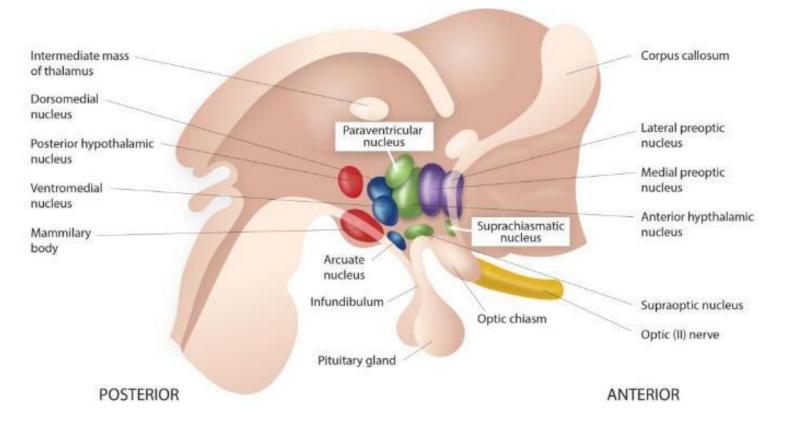
The HPA Axis is More than Just Cortisol Control





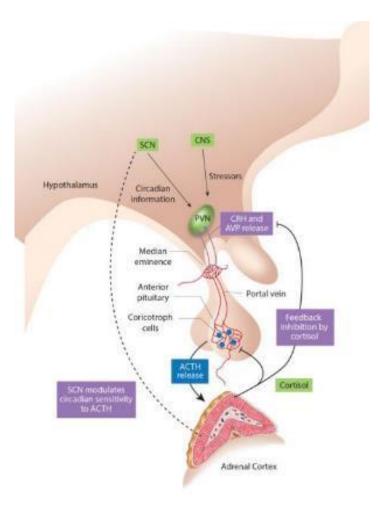
The Hypothalamus Nuclei: Defining "Stress"

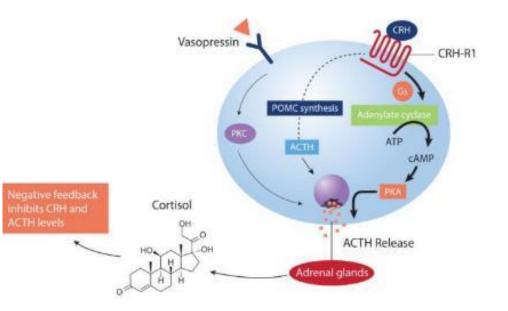






PVN Consolidates Signal

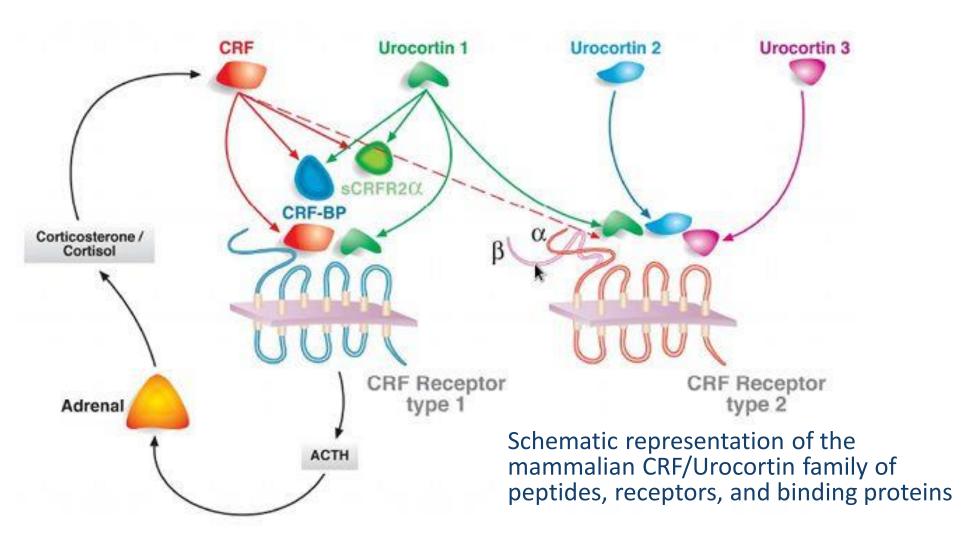




 Pre-formed ACTH is released upon CRH and/or arginine vasopressin (AVP) interaction with their respective receptors. AVP is a much weaker signal compared to ACTH



CRF (CRH) and Urocortins





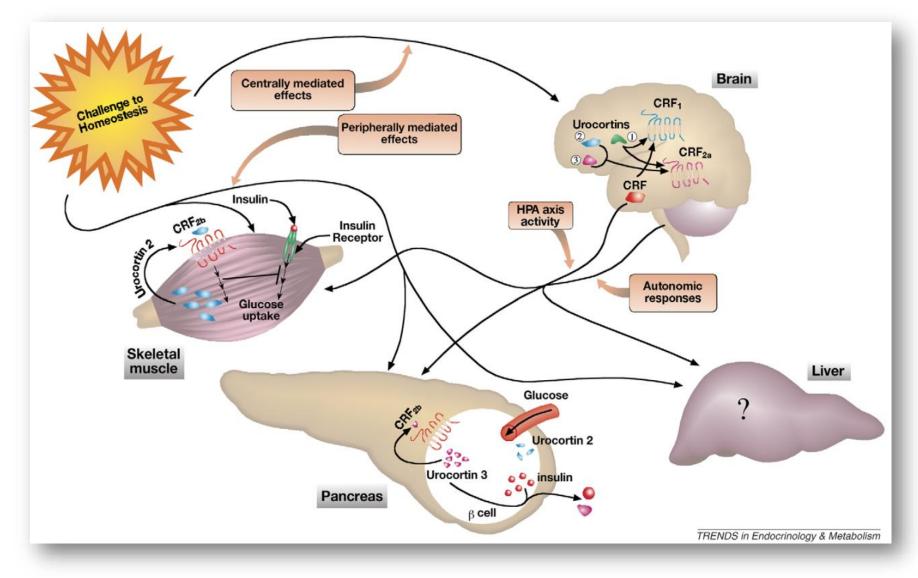
CRF/CRH Receptors: Beyond signaling ACTH

- CRH and urocortins bind to two receptors
- CRH Receptors are found in many areas of the brain and also in many peripheral tissues
- CRH is also produced by other tissues (i.e. some immune cells)

	CRH-R1	CRH-R2	
Chromosome	17q21.31	7p14.3	
Amino acids	415-446	397-438	
Splice Variants	CRH-R1a CRH-R1c, e, h: (N-terminal variants) CRH-R1b, f: (intracellular variants) CRH-R1g, d: (transmembrane variants)	CRH-R2a CRH-R2b: (N-terminal variant) CRH-R2c: (N-terminal variant) Ventromedial hypothalamic nucl Amygdala Bed nucleus Stria terminalis Lateral septum Dorsal raphe Brain stem	
Central Distribution	Anterior pituitary Lateral hypothalamic nuclei Locus ceruleus Hippocampus/amygdala Thalamus Neocortex Cerebellum		
Peripheral Distribution	Adrenal gland Ovary/testis Skin	Peripheral vasculature Heart/skeletal muscles Gastrointestinal tract	
Endogenous ligands	CRH Urocortin 1	Urocortin 1 Urocortin 2 and 3	



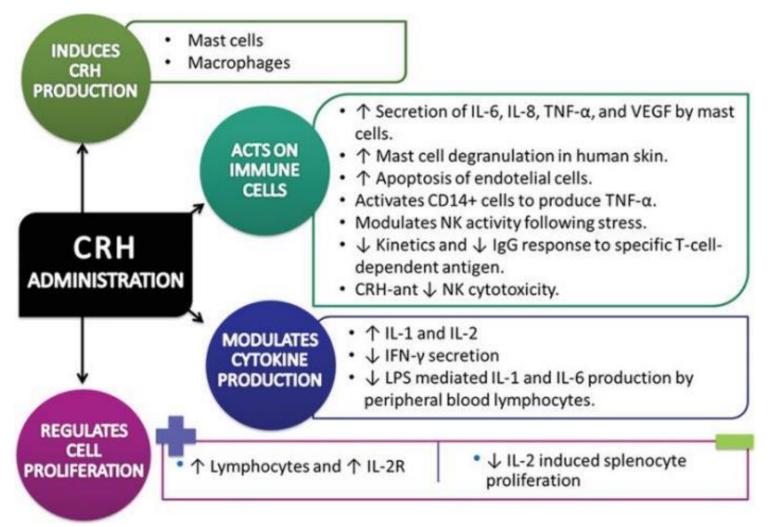
CRH/CRH Receptors in Metabolism





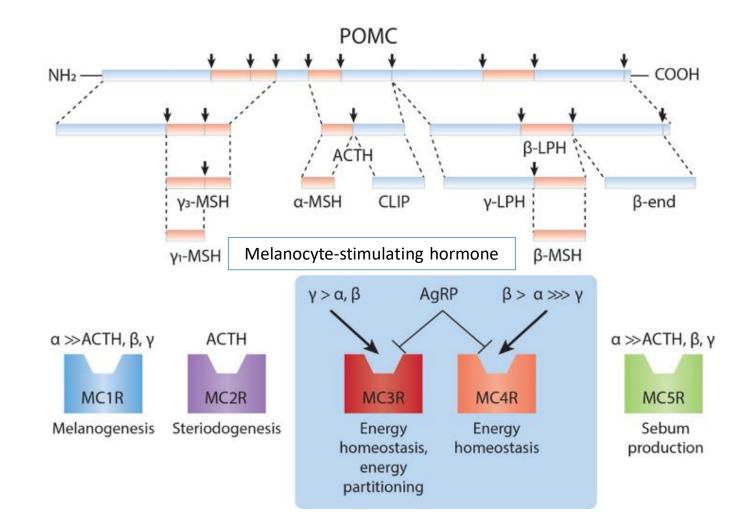
Kuperman Y & Chen A. Trends Endocrinol Metab. 2008.

CRH and Immune Cells



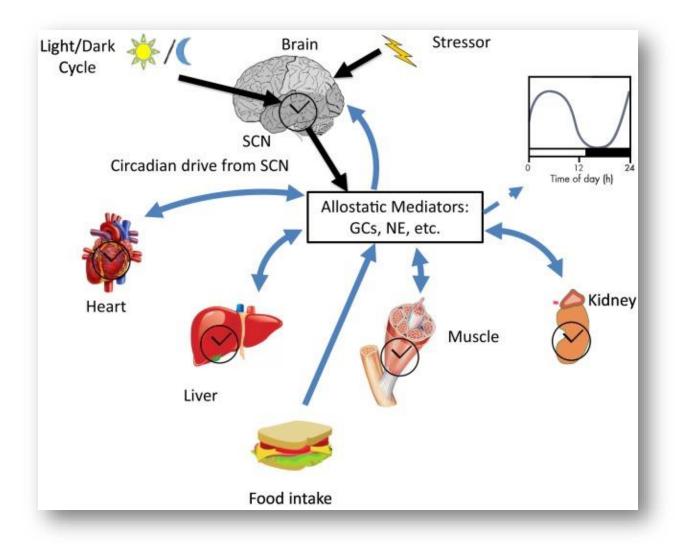


ACTH and POMC Pro-opiomelanocortin





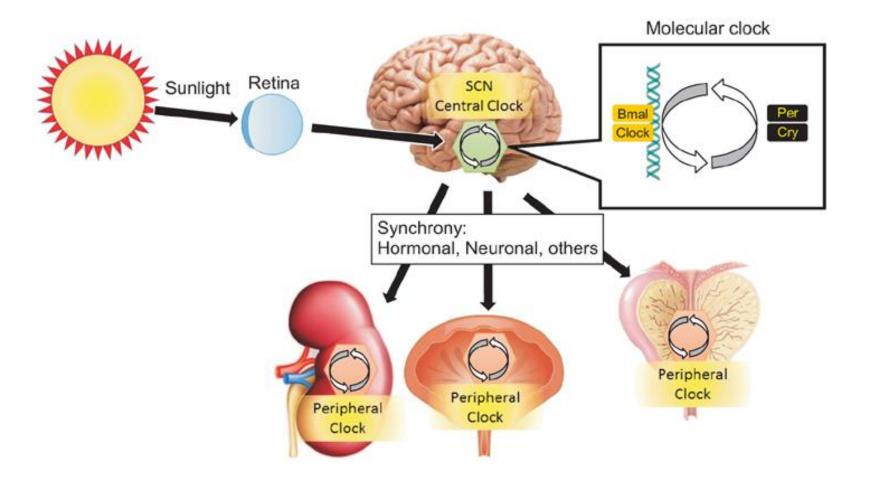
The HPA Axis-Circadian-Metabolism Connection





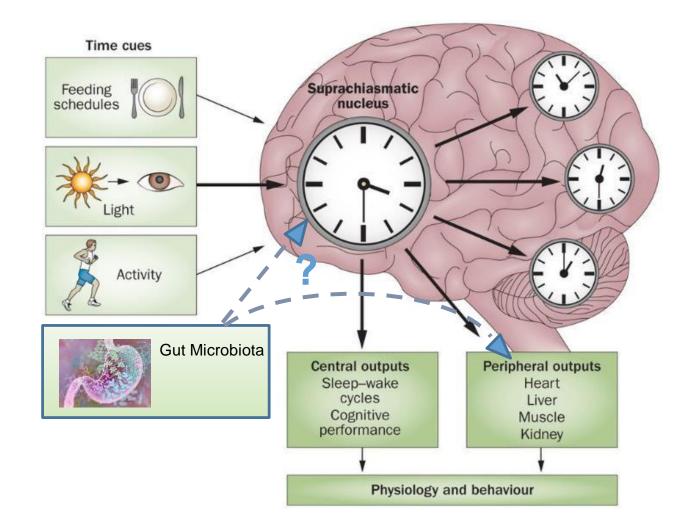


Synchronizing Peripheral Clocks via the Suprachiasmatic Nucleus (SCN)



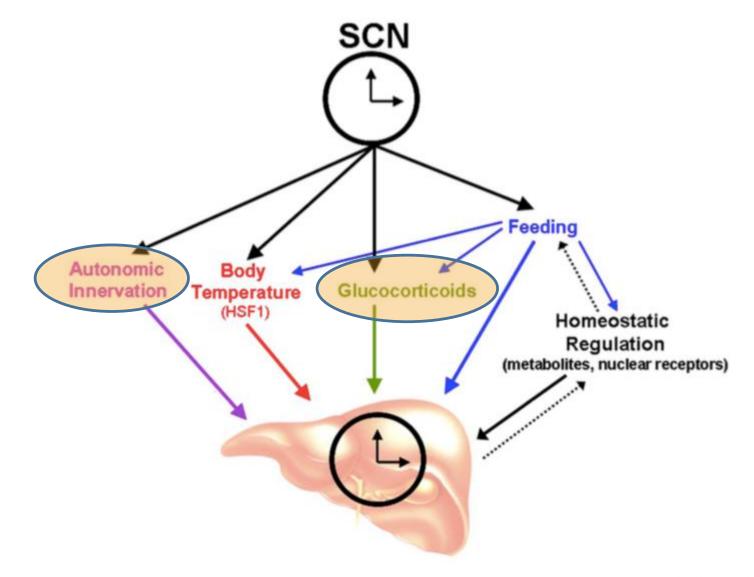


Time Cues: Zeitgebers





Major Signals from SCN to Peripheral Clocks

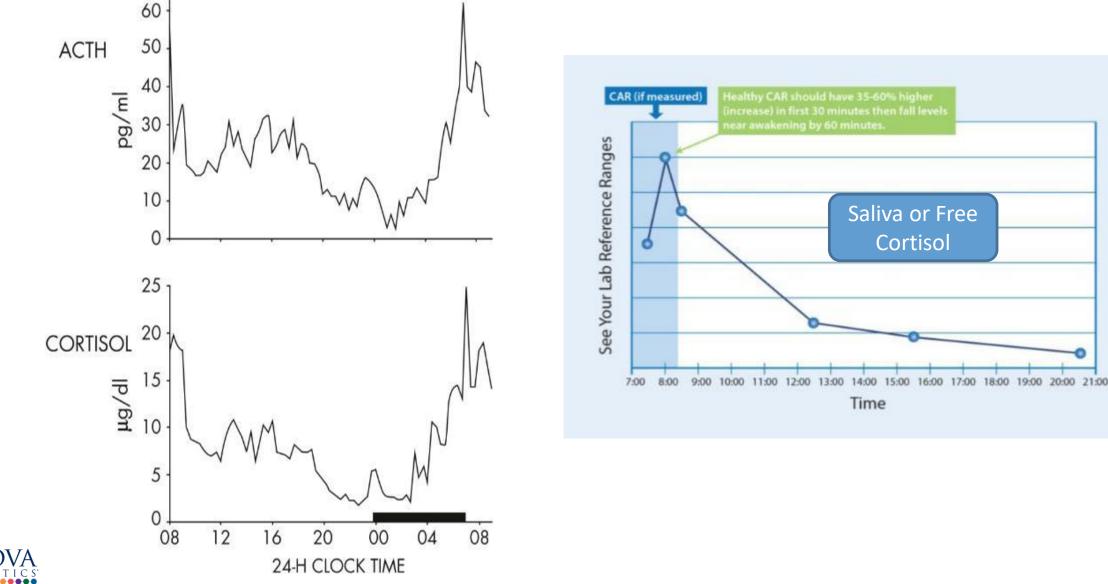




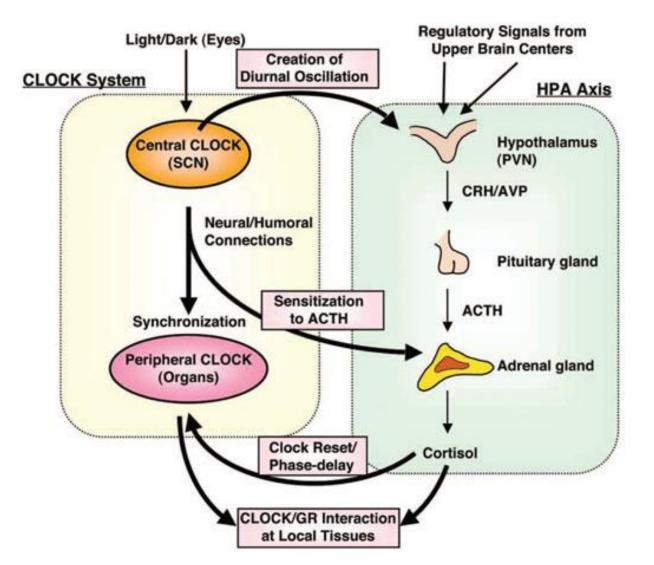
Two Major signals: Surveillance of "Stress" and Circadian Re-synchrony

PVN consolidates the CNS **Stress Signal** Hypothalamus Circadian information SCN acts as the body's Lack of Control CRH and main zeitgeber to Relationship AVP release DHEA(S) synchronize circadian Pregnenologie(5) Median ALLO rhythm to light eminence Anterior Portal vein pituitary STRESS Coricotroph Feedback nhibition by cells GLtoflamu Arthritis Poor Diet Choices Cardiovascula ACTH release Atopic Diseases Cortisol **SCN modulates** Meal Timing Allergies circadian sensitivity Infectious Disease to ACTH Stress Eating Low Physical Activity Adrenal Cortex

Circadian and Ultradian Rhythm of ACTH and Cortisol

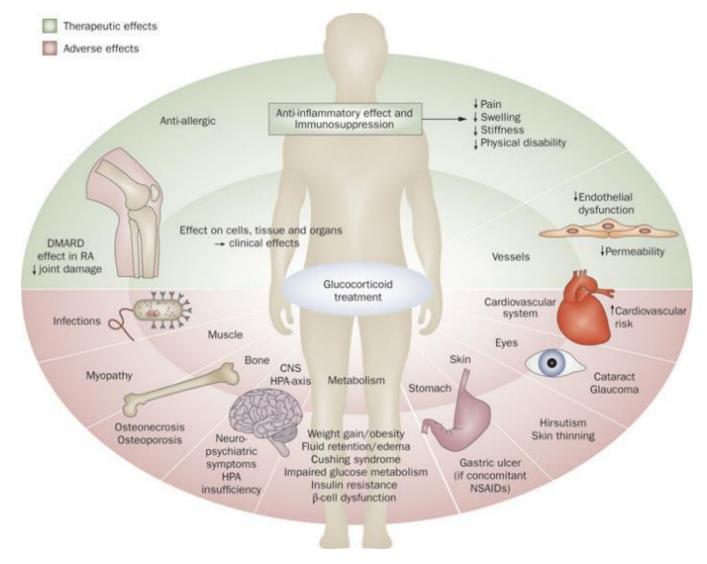


The HPA Axis and Clocks (Central and Peripheral)



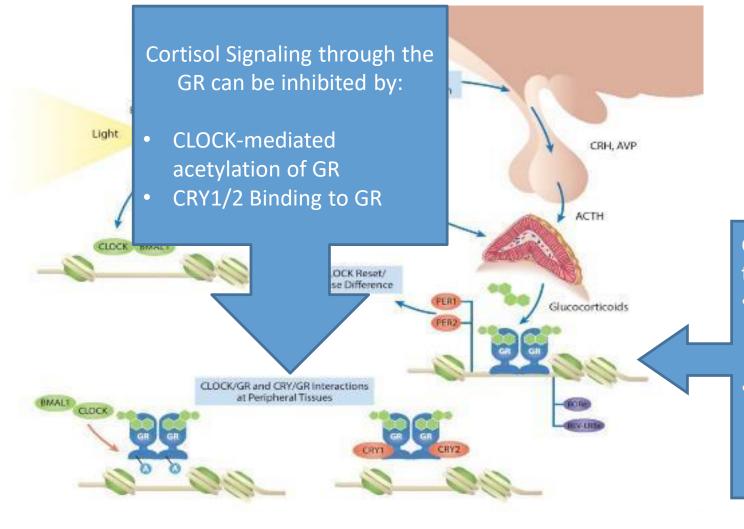


Cortisol: A Major Signal for Cellular Transcription





Cortisol/GR and Clock Gene Interactions



GR/Cortisol modulates the peripheral clock by

- Increasing or phaseshifting the expression of PER1/2.
- Reducing the expression of RORα and Rev-ERBα



Genome-wide Expression Analysis Reveals 100 Adrenal Glanddependent Circadian Genes in the Mouse Liver

Katsutaka OISHI, 1 Noriko Amaga
I, 1 Hidenori Shirai, 1,2 Koji Kadota,
 3,4 Naoki Ohkura, 5 and Norio Ishi
Da 1,2,*

Clock Cell Biology Research Group, Institute for Biological Resources and Functions, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Central 6, 1-1-1 Higashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8566, Japan¹, Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8502, Japan², Computational Biology Research Center, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Aomi Frontier Bldg 17F, 2-43 Aomi, Koto-Ku, Tokyo 135-0064, Japan³, Transcriptome Research Center, National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS), 4-9-1 Anagawa, Chiba, Chiba 263-8555, Japan⁴ and Clinical Molecular Biology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Teikyo University, 1091-1 Suarashi, Sagamiko, Tsukui, Kanagawa 199-0195, Japan⁵

(Received 9 February 2005; revised 28 April 2005)

Abstract

Recent progress in genome-wide expression analysis has identified hundreds of circadian genes not only in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (the mammalian master clock) but also in peripheral tissues, such as heart, liver and kidney of mammals. Glucocorticoid is thought to be a circadian time cue for mammalian peripheral clocks. To identify the genes of which the circadian expression is regulated by endogenous glucocorticoids, we performed DNA microarray analysis using hepatic RNA from adrenalectomized (ADX) and sham-operated mice. We identified 169 genes that fluctuated between day and night in the livers of the sham-operated mice. Among these, 100 lost circadian rhythmicity in ADX mice. These included the genes for key enzymes of liver metabolic functions, such as glucokinase, HMG-CoA reductase and glucose-6-phosphatase. The circadian expression of Lpin1, FKBP51 and S-adenosyl methionine decarboxylase was also abolished in the ADX mice. On the other hand, although the circadian expression of clock or clock-related genes, such as mPer2, DBP, E4BP4, mDec1, Usp2 and Wee1 remained almost totally intact in the liver of ADX mice, it was extremely damped in homozygous Clock mutant mice. The present findings suggested that one type of hepatic circadian genes in mice is transcriptionally regulated by core components of the circadian clock, such as CLOCK and BMAL1, and that the other depends on the adrenal gland.

Key words: circadian rhythm; glucocorticoids; Clock; DNA microarray; liver

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		92282_g_at 94297_at	AI553824 U16959	21p145 Fkbp5	zinc finger protein 145 FE506 binding protein 5
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		182949_at	AJ001418	GBPC Ddef1 Fdb4	pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase, isoenzyne 4
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For those who want the details!

Tissue Cortisol Sensitivity Fluctuates Diurnally

вмс

Nicolaides et al. BMC Endocrine Disorders 2014, 14:71 http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6823/14/71

Endocrine Disorders

REVIEW

Open Access

Recent advances in the molecular mechanisms determining tissue sensitivity to glucocorticoids: novel mutations, circadian rhythm and ligandinduced repression of the human glucocorticoid receptor

Nicolas C Nicolaides^{1,2*}, Evangelia Charmandari^{1,2}, George P Chrousos^{1,2,3} and Tomoshige Kino⁴

Abstract

Glucocorticoids are pleiotropic hormones, which are involved in almost every cellular, molecular and physiologic network of the organism, and regulate a broad spectrum of physiologic functions essential for life. The cellular response to glucocorticoids displays profound variability both in magnitude and in specificity of action. Tissue sensitivity to glucocorticoids differs among individuals, within tissues of the same individual and within the same cell. The actions of glucocorticoids are mediated by the glucocorticoid receptor, a ubiquitously expressed intracellular, ligand-dependent transcription factor. Multiple mechanisms, such as pre-receptor ligand metabolism, receptor isoform expression, and receptor-, tissue-, and cell type-specific factors, exist to generate diversity as well as specificity in the response to glucocorticoids. Alterations in the molecular mechanisms of glucocorticoid receptor action impair glucocorticoid signal transduction and alter tissue sensitivity to glucocorticoids. This review summarizes the recent advances in our understanding of the molecular mechanisms determining tissue sensitivity to glucocorticoids with particular emphasis on novel mutations and new information on the circadian rhythm and ligand-induced repression of the alucocorticoid receptor.

Keywords: Glucocorticoid receptor, Glucocorticoid resistance, Glucocorticoid hypersensitivity, Glucocorticoid signal transduction

Background

In humans, glucocorticoids are synthesized by the adrenal cortex and released following activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, and play an important role in the maintenance of resting and stressrelated homeostasis. Named for their effects on glucose metabolism, glucocorticoids are involved in almost every cellular, molecular and physiologic network of the organism, and regulate a broad spectrum of physiologic

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functions essential for life, including growth, reproduction, cognition, behavior, cell proliferation and survival, as well as immune, central nervous system (CNS) and cardiovascular functions [1-3]. Given their powerful antiinflammatory and immunosuppressive actions, synthetic glucocorticoids represent one of the most widely used therapeutic compounds employed in the treatment of acute and chronic inflammatory/autoimmune and lymphoproliferative disorders [1,3]. However, chronic exposure to glucocorticoids in patients with such disorders leads to multiple adverse effects. Sometimes glucocorticoid resistance of the affected organ or tissue may develop, representing a major challenge for the treatment of these conditions [4].

Target Tissue

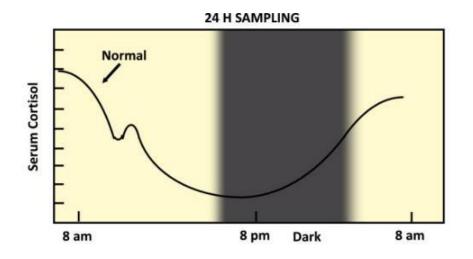
Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, Athens 11527, At the cellular level, the actions of glucocorticoids are mediated by the human glucocorticoid receptor

BioMed Centra

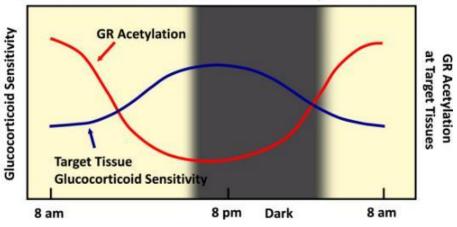
Hospital, Athens 11527, Greece

* Correspondence: nnicolaides@bioacademy.gr

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CIRCADIAN TISSUE GLUCOCORTICOID SENSITIVITY/GR ACETYLATION





HSP and Chaperones Influence GR and Circadian Function

HSP90 Affects the Stability of BMAL1 and Circadian Gene Expression

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Review

Hsp90 Heterocomplexes Regulate Steroid Hormone **Receptors: From Stress Response to Psychiatric Disease**

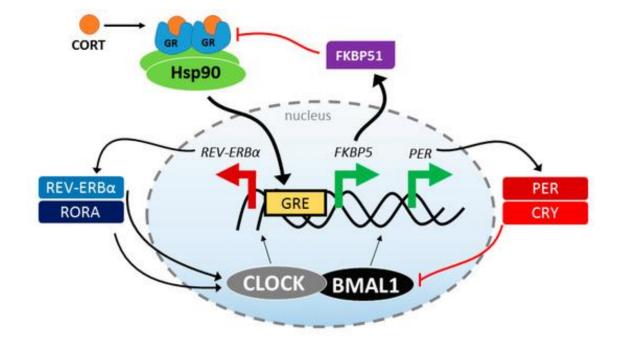
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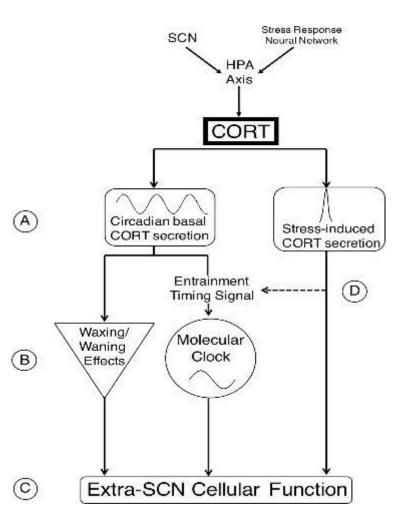




Why Use the Stress Response to Help Manage the Circadian Rhythm?

• A large number of stressors can generate extreme fluctuations of cortisol (outside the normal diurnal rhythm) on any given day....wouldn't this create havoc on the circadian rhythm of each cell? What about chronic stress?

Important Note: The Suprachiasmatic Nucleus and the Pineal Gland Do Not Have Glucocorticoid Receptors-Preventing them from being directly influenced by Stress-Related Cortisol Output





Chronic HPA Axis Dysregulation Affects Circadian Metabolism



MECHANISMS IN ENDOCRINOLOGY

A sense of time of the glucocorticoid circadian clock: from the ontogeny to the diagnosis of Cushing's syndrome

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Abstract

The circadian rhythm of glucocorticoids has long been recognised within the last 75 years. Since the beginning, researchers have sought to identify basic mechanisms underlying the origin and emergence of the corticosteroid circadian rhythmicity among mammals. Accordingly, Young, Hall and Rosbash, laureates of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, as well as Takahashi's group among others, have characterised the molecular cogwheels of the circadian system, describing interlocking transcription/translation feedback loops essential for normal circadian rhythms. Plasma glucocorticoid circadian variation depends on the expression of intrinsic clock genes within the anatomic components of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, which are organised in a hierarchical manner. This review presents a general overview of the glucocorticoid circadian clock mechanisms, highlighting the ontogeny of the pituitary-adrenal axis diurnal rhythmicity as well as the involvement of circadian rhythm abnormalities in the physiopathology and diagnosis of Cushing's disease.



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Introduction

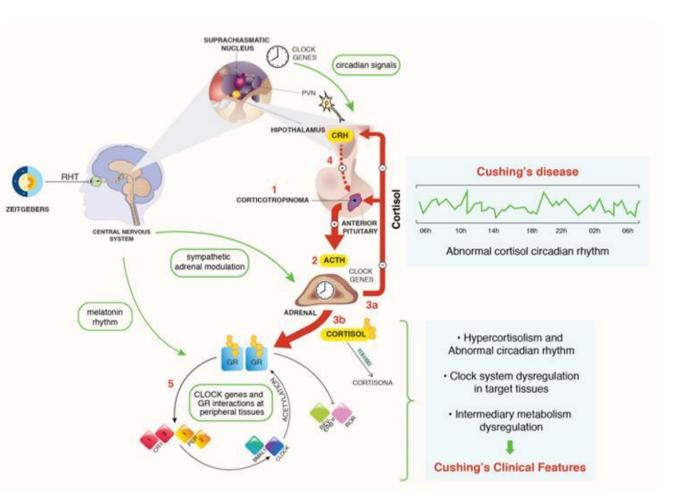
Circadian rhythms have been widely observed in preparing living organisms for environmental various organisms spanning from cyanobacteria to fluctuations and regulating sleep patterns, feeding humans. Circadian clocks have adopted geophysical behaviour, body temperature, blood pressure and cycles as part of predictive homeostasis, thereby hormone release (1, 2).

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Invited Author's profile

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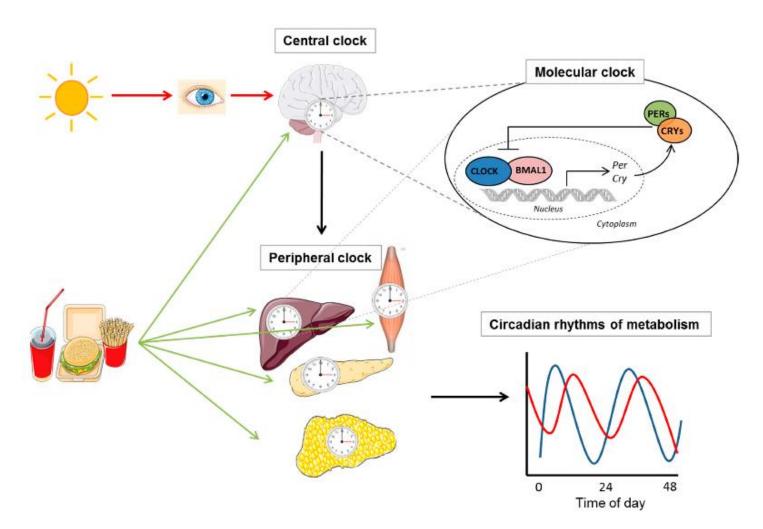


What is the Purpose of Biological Rhythms?

- Properly Time Basic Metabolic Activities to Reduce their Metabolic "Cost"
 - Modify heart rate, blood pressure, glucose availability, and alertness for activity cycle
 - To coordinate the efficiency of nutrient transport and metabolism with nutrient availabilityincluding mitochondrial activity and ROS/Antioxidants
 - To upregulate detoxification to coordinate with anticipated intake of foods
 - To modify immune system functions with activity and feeding cycles
 - Seasonally- to coordinate mating activity with safe birthing season, to coordinate metabolic efficiency with food source availability and differences, to stimulate migratory changes if necessary, etc.



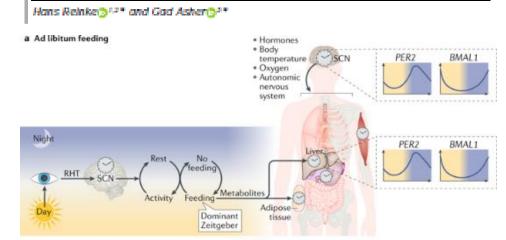
Food is a Powerful "Zeitburger"



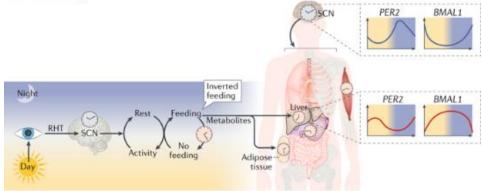
- Feeding and Fasting is recognized as a major signal synchronizing peripheral clocks, second only to light
- Rodent Studies suggest that dual system of circadian control exist when altering feeding to daytime
- Synchrony is linked to:
 - Meal timing or time of food access
 - Meal Contents

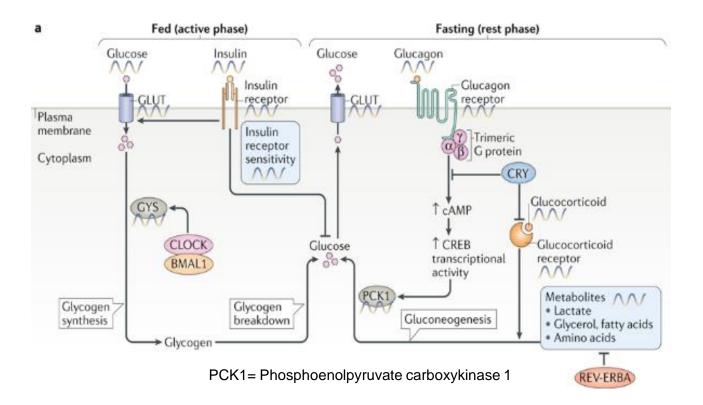
METABOLIC SIGNALLING

Crosstalk between metabolism and circadian clocks



b Inverted feeding

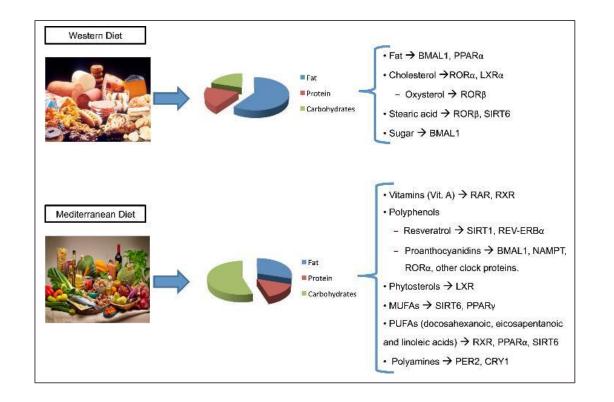






Diet Composition Produces Diverse Zeitgebers for the Clock

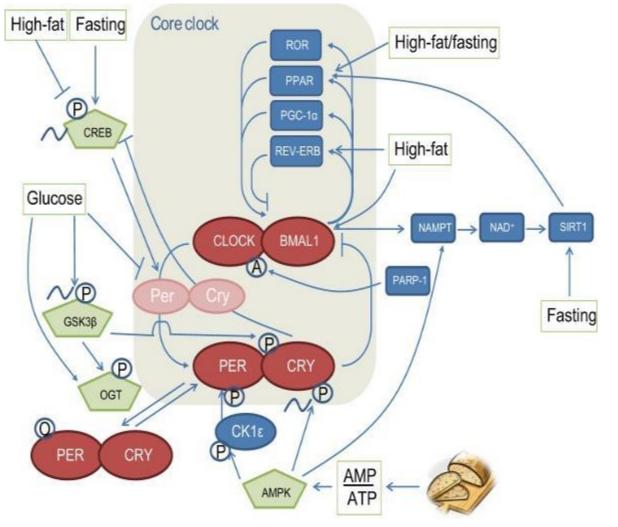
"Different diets produce macromolecules and metabolites known to function as zeitgebers for the circadian clock in various tissues and cell types. While lipids and cholesterol are known to modulate PPARy, ROR α , LXR, and ROR β , fats and high glucose likely modulates BMAL1 activity in a GSK3β-dependent manner. Stearic acid has been observed to modulate the sirtuin protein SIRT6 (which binds directly to CLOCK:BMAL1). Under different dietary conditions, there is an increase in potential clock zeitgebers including vitamin A (known to activate RAR and RXR), polyphenols such as resveratrol (activator of SIRT1) and proanthocyanidins (regulators or modulators of Bmal1, Nampt, and several other clock genes)."





What are the Important "Signals" at the Molecular Level?

- AMPK- Energy Sensor- Triggered when ATP is low
 - Can phosphorylate Clock-related genes
- CREB (cAMP-response element binding protein) is also a nutrient sensor and clock regulator
 - Phosphorylation of CREB is increased during fasting
- Glycogens Synthase Kinase: GSK activity is circadian acts to regulate CRY
 - Elevated glucose increases GSK phosphorylation (inactivating it)
 - Lithium is a GSK inhibitor
- Sirtuins (SIRT): NAD-dependent HDACs. SIRT1 binds to CLOCK/BMAL1 and PER2 in circadian fashion
 - As NAD(P)+ fluctuates (high-fasting, low fed)- this cycle triggers SIRT activities





Could SIRT1 Modulators Help Resynchronize the Clock?

- Resveratrol ameliorates the metabolic and clock-gene changes seen in mice given a HFD
- These data have not yet been repeated in humans

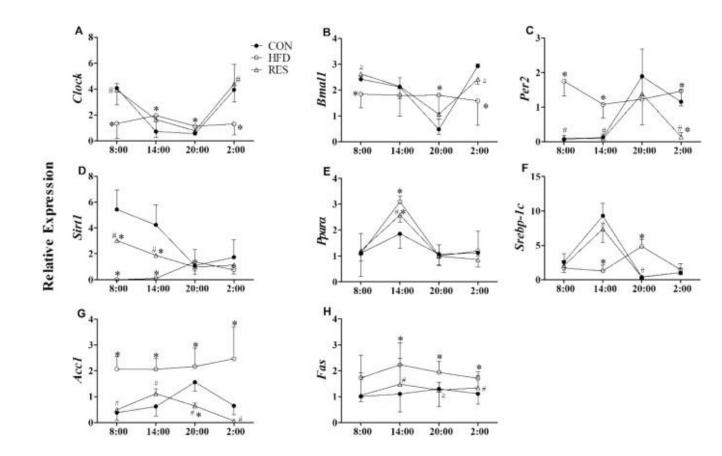




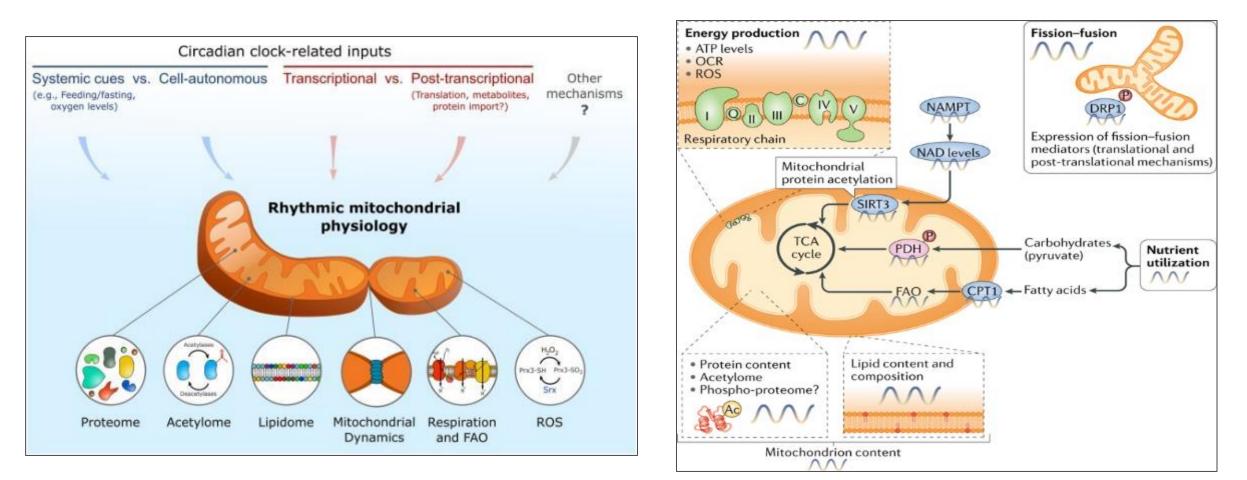


Table 1. Nutrients and food factors that modulate circadian clocks.

Faster	E. C. et	Ormanian	Reference
Factor	Effect	Organism	No.
Caffeine	Period extension	Neurospora	[63]
	Period extension	Chlamydomonas reinhardtii	[64]
	Phase delay	Mouse SCN slices	[58]
	Period extension	Drosophila	[62]
	Period extension	Human U2OS cells, Mouse NIH3T3 cells, Mouse liver slices, Mice	[59]
	Period extension, Phase shift	Mouse MEF cells, Mice	[60]
	Period extension, Phase delay of melatonin rhythm	Human U2OS cells, Humans	[61]
Cinnamic acid	Period shortening	Mouse differentiated neuronal cells, Mice	[69]
DHA, EPA	Enhancement of food entrainment	Mice	[55]
Forskolin	Phase shift	Rat-1 cells, Mouse fibroblasts	[72,73]
Harmine	Period extension	Mouse NIH3T3 cells	[66]
	Period extension	Mouse MEF cells, Mouse differentiated neuronal cells, Mouse SCN slices	[67]
Lithium	Period extension of locomotor rhythm	Rats	[85]
	Period extension of locomotor rhythm	Hamsters	[86]
	Period extension	Mouse fibroblasts, Mouse lung and SCN slices, Mice	[87]
Nobiletin	Enhancement of amplitude	Mouse immortalized fibroblasts, Mice	[84]
Ornithine	Phase advance of melatonin rhythm	Rats	[88]
	Phase advance	Mice	[56]
Palmitate	Period extension, Phase shift	Mouse fibroblasts, Mouse differentiated adipocytes	[68]
Resveratrol	Phase shift	Rat-1 cells	[57]
Theophylline	Period extension	Chlamydomonas reinhardtii	[64]
	Period extension	Trifolium repens L.	[89]
High-fat diet	Period extension	Mice	[43]
High-salt diet	Phase advance of peripheral clocks	Mice	[53]
Ketogenic diet	Phase advance of locomotor onset	Mice	[51]
Rapidly digested starch	Enhancement of food entrainment	Mice	[54]

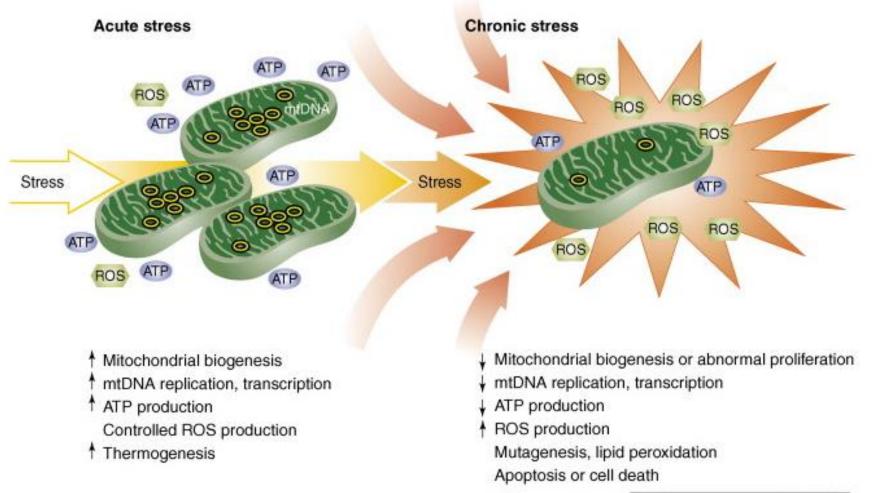


Metabolism and Circadian Clock





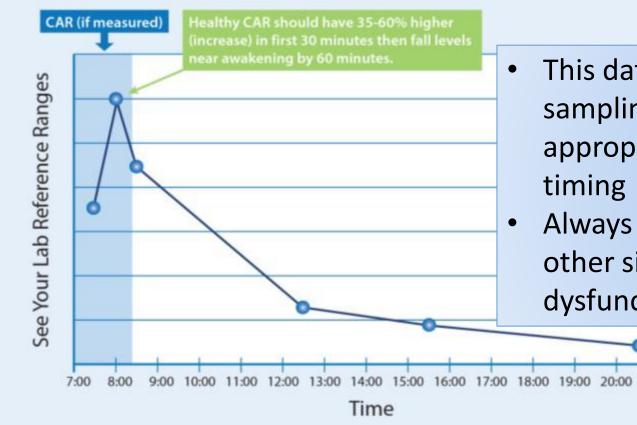
Biphasic response to Cortisol



TRENDS in Endocrinology & Metabolism



Measuring HPA Axis Response- Circadian Dynamic



- This data only represents the day of sampling and is highly dependent on appropriate sampling techniques and timing
- Always correlate salivary cortisol with other signs/symptoms of HPA axis dysfunction



What Influences the HPA axis Response to "Stress" A Simplified Approach

Response to Homeostatic Metabolic Needs

- Energy Needs (hypoglycemia)
- Inflammation
- Metabolic
 Dysregulation
- Circadian
 Disruption

Anticipation of Metabolic Needs

- Psychosocial anticipation of dysregulation
- Circadian anticipation of metabolic functions

Adaptations from All Prior HPA axis Activations

- Early Life Stress
- Cortisol sensitivity
- Feedback Loops
- Epigenetics
- Chaperones
- Neurosteroids
- Learned Responses



Perceived Stress

• Converting External Events into Internal Signals



Finances



Strategies for Supporting HPA Axis Function



CNS Support

Maintain Appropriate Hypothalamus Response to Stressors

- I Glycemic Dysregulation
- I Perceived Stressors
- Inflammatory Signals
- t Circadian Signals
- Sleep Therapy
- Light/Dark Entrainment
- Meal Timing

Balance Neurotransmitters/ Neurosteroids

- Consider Supplementing Precursors and Cofactors for Neurotransmitter Synthesis
- Consider Supplemental DHEA
 & Pregnenolone

Balance Cortisol Feedback Mechanisms

- · Consider Phosphotidyl Serine
- Consider Adaptogens



Adrenal Support

Protect Zone Reticularis

- Antioxidants
- Adaptogens (?)

Nutrient Support for Adrenal Steroidogenesis

- Vitamin C
- B-Vitamin (general)
- Pantothenic Acid
- Niacin
- Minerals (general)
- Magnesium/Zinc
- Glandulars (Adrenal)



Target-tissue Cortisol Modulation

↓ 11β-HSD1 Activity

- Reduce Inflammation
- Reduce Insulin Resistance/Insulin
- Reduce Central Adiposity
- Consider Physical Activity (not intense)

† HSP Modulation of GR

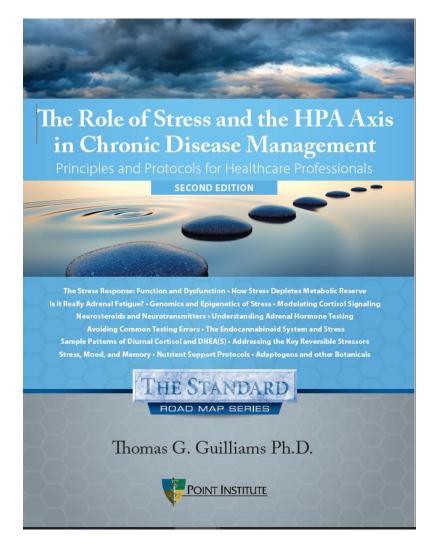
- Consider Adaptogens
- Consider Physical Activity (not intense)

† DHEA's Anti-Glucocorticoid Activity

Consider Suplemental DHEA



The Second Edition of the Stress Roadmap is Available



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We look forward to hearing from you!

Questions?

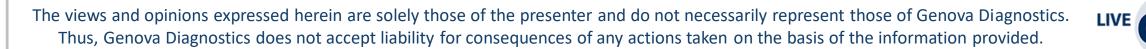


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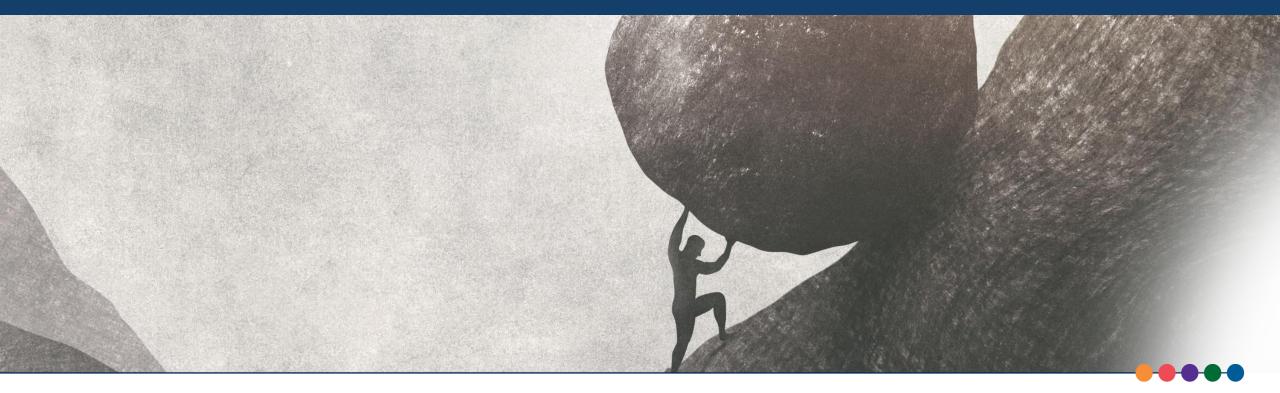
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Targeting the Root Causes of Stress

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