

Chapter 5 : Neurotransmitters

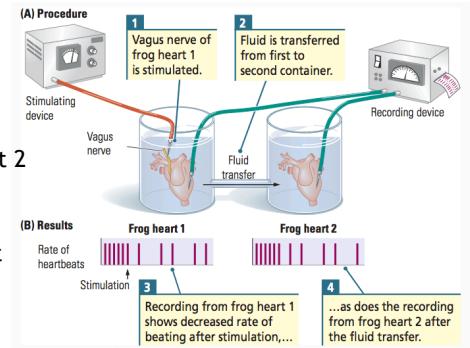
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

1

Otto Loewi's Experiment

- Frog hearts in bottles
- Stimulate vagus nerve of heart 1
 - heart 1 slows down
- Pass fluid to heart 2
 - heart 2 slows down
- Conclusion : must be chemical
- Acetylcholine



Wednesday, September 19, 2012

2

Neurons and neurotransmitters

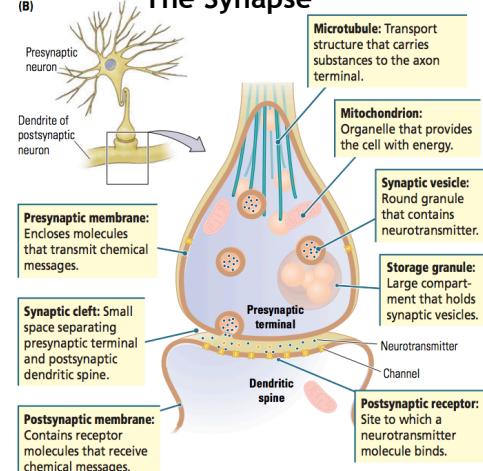
- Neurons generally release only 1 specific NT
- Neurons are named for the NT they release
 - Neurons that release Acetylcholine
 - “cholinergic”
- Some NTs function in both CNS and PNS
- Some don't
 - epinephrine : PNS
 - nor-epinephrine : CNS
- Hundreds of NTs
- NTs can be excitatory OR inhibitory depending on specific neuron
 - but typically are + or -

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

3

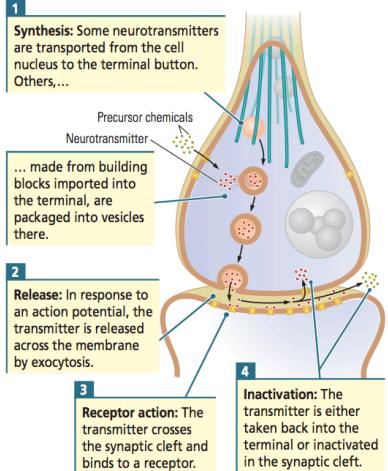
The Synapse



Wednesday, September 19, 2012

4

Neurotransmission



Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

5

Neurotransmission

- Synthesis
- Release
- Receptor Action
 - depolarize (excitation)
 - hyper-polarize (inhibition)
 - creates new synapses
 - other cascaded processes
- Inactivation
 - Reuptake
 - Degradation
- Autoreceptors
 - pre-synaptic cell may also be affected

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

6

Categories of Neurotransmitters

- More than 100
- More than one NT may be in single vesicle
- Small-molecules
 - organic chemicals
- Neuropeptides
 - short amino acid chains
- Transmitter gasses
 - tiny water-soluble gas molecules such as NO and CO

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

7

Small Molecule Neurotransmitters

- Acetylcholine
- Amines
 - Dopamine (DA)
 - Norepinephrine (NE)
 - Epinephrine (EP)
 - Serotonin (5HT)
- Amino Acids
 - Glutamate (Glu)
 - Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)
 - Glycine (Gly)
 - Histamine (H)

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

8

NTs and Behavior in PNS

- PNS
 - SNS
 - motor neurons: cholinergic (ACh), excitatory, produce muscle contractions
 - ANS
 - Sympathetic: Fight or Flight
 - epinephrine (EP) aka Adrenaline
 - Parasympathetic : Rest and Digest
 - acetylcholine (ACh)

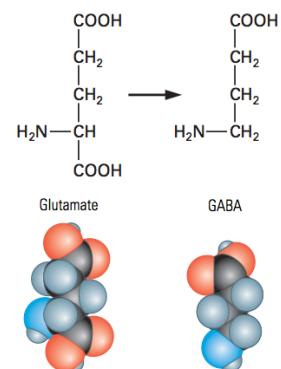
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

9

NTs and Behavior in CNS

- Glutamate (Glu)
 - major excitatory NT
- Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)
 - major inhibitory NT



Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

10

CNS Activating Systems

- In brain, NT systems have large-scale effects
- Major Ones:
 - Cholinergic
 - Dopaminergic
 - Noradrenergic
 - Serotonergic
- Functions are complex, interlinked
- Generally not possible to have 1:1 relationship between system and disease/disorder

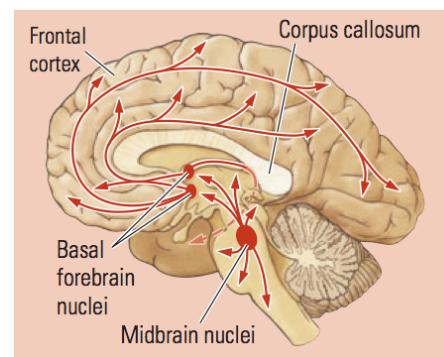
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

11

Cholinergic Activating System

- Functions:
 - Waking EEG
 - Memory
- Damage/Disease:
 - Alzheimer's Disease



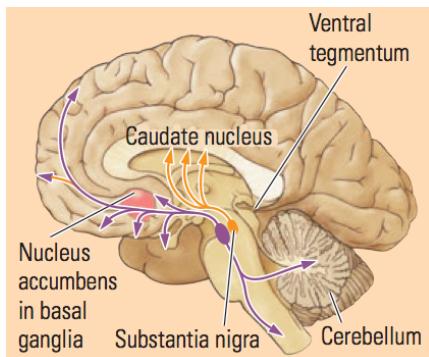
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

12

Dopaminergic Activating System

- Nigrostriatal
 - Functions:
 - normal motor behavior
- Damage/Disease:
 - Parkinson's
- Mesolimbic
 - Functions:
 - reward & pleasure
- Damage/Disease:
 - addiction
 - schizophrenia

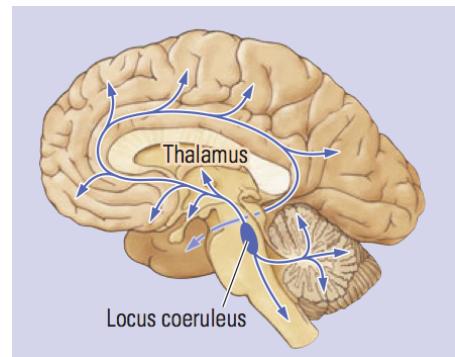


Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

13

Noradrenergic Activating System

- Functions:
 - emotional tone
 - cognitive functioning
- Damage/Disease:
 - impaired thinking
 - depression

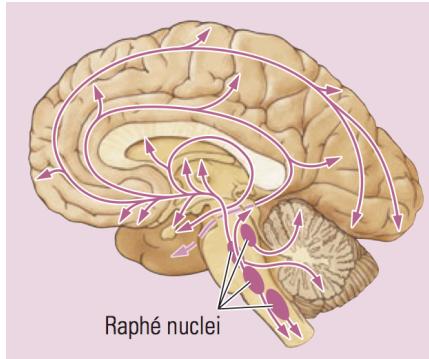


Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

14

Serotonergic Activating System

- Functions:
 - waking EEG
 - resistance to stress
- Damage/Disease:
 - depression
 - anxiety
 - OCD
 - tics
 - schizophrenia



Psychology 465 Human Neuropsychology Fall 2012

15

Wednesday, September 19, 2012