

Lecture notes courtesy of Wyan-Ching Mimi Lee. Used with permission.

3/8/04

quantum: postsynaptic response to one vesicle released

Dobelli effect: presynaptic: sympathetic axons release norepinephrine (makes quantal content go up from motor axons)

postsynaptic: adrenal gland releases epinephrine, plugs up muscle cell leakage channels (increases  $R$  so  $\Delta V$  greater)

- pharmacological dissection

-  $\alpha$ -adrenergic receptors (presynaptic): agonist = isoproterenol (used for anaphylactic shock)

antagonist =  $\beta$ -propanolol (used for heart patients, stage fright)

agonist = norepinephrine

antagonist = clonidine

B

-  $\beta$ -adrenergic receptors (postsynaptic): agonist = isoproterenol (used for anaphylactic shock)

antagonist =  $\beta$ -propanolol (used for heart patients, stage fright)

- principle here is synaptic modulation (volume control: modulatory neurotransmitter, eg epinephrine, norepinephrine)

- blurring of function between neurotransmitters + hormones (eg norepinephrine released in vicinity of neuromuscular junction, acts semi-locally, diffuses more) (epinephrine acts not at all locally)

sympathetic ganglion:

- pioneering work done in bullfrog

- in our sympathetic nervous system, have adrenal gland + sympathetic ganglia

- in spinal cord is lump of nerve cells, some interneurons: presynaptic

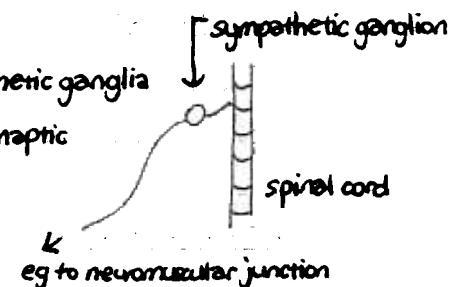
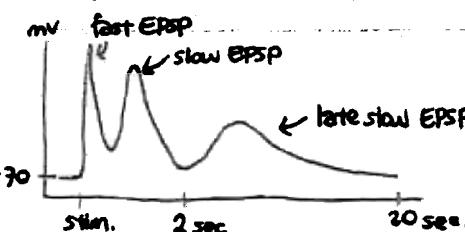
axon from spinal cord, output norepinephrine

NE, LHRH

postganglionic ending

spinal cord

stimulate presynaptically  
record output intracellularly  
(postganglionic) (synapse just like NMJ)



1 stimulation, 3 potentials recorded from 1 cell

- ganglia have lots of ACh: spraying ACh gives 2 out of 3 (fast + slow EPSPs)

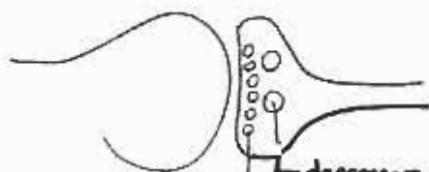


1 kind of neurotransmitter affects 2 different types of receptors (only one blocked by curare: blocks fast, but not slow or late slow)

atropine - another cholinergic antagonist

- belladonna used to dilate pupils; atropine is active ingredient (taking too much is lethal)
  - ↳ (Atropos is Fate w/ scissors, cuts off human life)
- blocker for 2nd class of cholinergic receptors
  - ↳ ionotropic (ligand-gated channel)
- neuromuscular junction receptor: nicotinic AChR (agonist = nicotine) (antagonist = curare)
- 2nd class of receptors (dominant on heart cells): muscarinic AChR (ie metabotropic, coupled)
  - ↳ like Loewe's vagus nerve heart experiments (agonist = muscarine) ← from Muscaria mushroom, insecticide (antagonist = atropine)
- applying curare gets rid of fast EPSP
- applying atropine gets rid of slow EPSP (no slow EPSP from atropine working on mAChRs)
- mAChR 2nd messenger system: patch clamping shows that stimulation w/ ACh close M-type channel ( $K^+$  channel): closing  $K^+$  channel is excitatory/depolarizing, giving you slow EPSP

late slow EPSP:



dense-core vesicles (large): contain lots of things, including peptide neurotransmitters

- got Ab to these peptides, eg

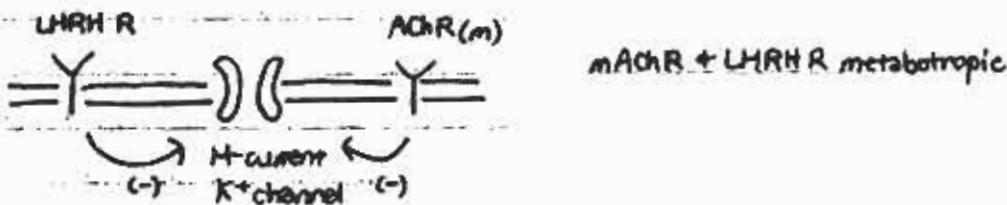
LHRH

- System of tiny hormones in rat pituitary cells: it to release other hormones (or something)

↳ from rat estrus cycle, makes luteinizing hormone in pituitary

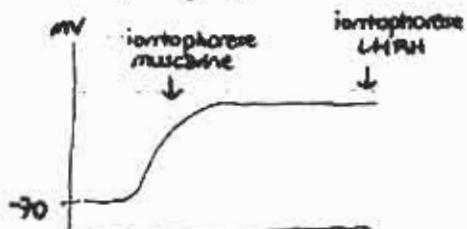
spritzing LHRH on sympathetic ganglia give you late slow EPSP

- can have 2 synaptic messengers released from same sympathetic ending.



- occlusion experiments:

- record from postganglionic cell



no additional response: muscarine occludes effect of LHRH  
- downstream pathways converge, so saturating w/  
one input (all K<sup>+</sup> channels closed) means other  
input will have no effect  
- not order-dependent

- used to test for convergent downstream effector. (eg same or different 2nd messenger systems, but converge eventually)

- in sympathetic ganglion, B + C cells  
↳ big

spritzing LHRH on C give no effect  
spritzing on B gives late slow EPSP

- LHRH effect only seen on B cells (only B cells have late slow EPSP)

- paradox is: immunoreactivity (LHRH resides) only seen on presynaptic endings to C cells

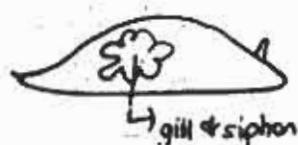
- Ach released conventionally across synaptic cleft for both B & C cells

- LHRH diffuses from synaptic cleft of C cells to that of B cells, late slow EPSP

(blurring of transmitters/hormones, localization of action) ↳ (partly b/c of diffusion)

- this is interesting b/c shows you electron microscopy not infallible: must confirm w/ electrophysiology

*Aplysia californica californica*: "sea hare" (but is basically sea slug): lives in tide pool, eats kelp (will eat turnips)

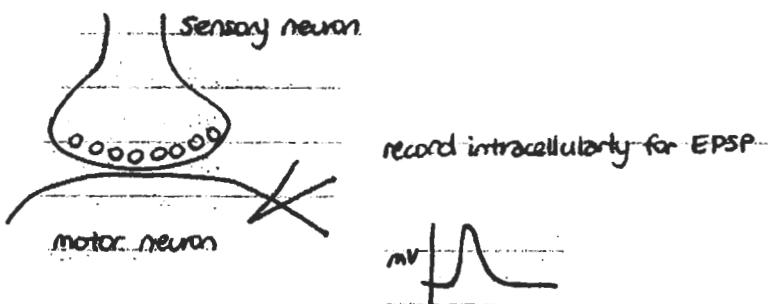


squirt terrible-smelling purple ink

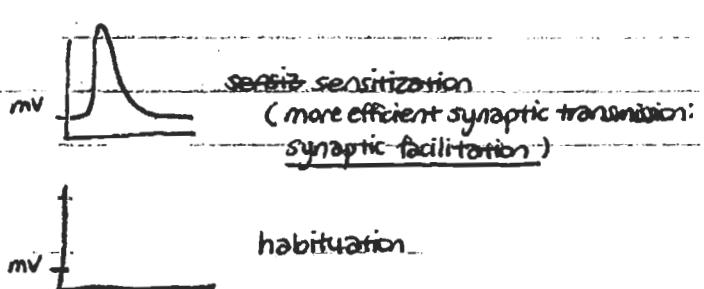
- have 7 ganglia, 20,000 cells (very large)

- reproducable arrangements of cells, eg all abdominal ganglia same

- Eric Kandel did circuit tracing in Aplyia for gill-withdrawal reflex. (poking in gill causes gill to withdraw)
- can get contraction that can be measured in muscle: eventually, will get habituation (waning in strength of reflexive response)
- give strong tail shock: this sensitizes
- sensory neurons make monosynaptic connections on motor neurons that contract gill.
- all cells in abdominal ganglia: tail shock gives you greater reaction, after many days will get permanently larger reaction. (sensitization is opposite of habituation)



this reflex comes w/ memory,  
can be related to synaptic events  
(can only be done in this system)



- what causes these changes? (sensitizing us: release epinephrine & norepinephrine)
- biogenic amines: 5-HT, epinephrine, dopamine, Ach, norepinephrine, etc. in us  
5-HT, dopamine, octopamine in animals (epinephrine w/o HO)
- sensitized bunch of animals, found out 5-HT ↑ (measured neurotransmitter levels)
  - dopamine ↑ in abdominal ganglia)
  - Octopamine ↑
- Spritzed these, found that only 5-HT gave change (synaptic facilitation)
  - long responses require 2nd messenger systems coupled to metabotropic receptors  
(at this time, only cAMP 2nd messenger system understood: spritzing 5-HT → cAMP↑)
- Synaptic facilitation presynaptic or postsynaptic? lower  $[Ca^{2+}]$ , do quantal analysis, found increased probability of failure (so presynaptic): cAMP activates kinase, blocking kinase blocker effect decreased