### Autonomic Nervous System

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Ref: **Textbook of Medical Physiology,** Guyton, 14<sup>th</sup> Ed.:763-773, 13<sup>th</sup> ed.: 773-784. 12th ed: 729-738, and 11th ed. P748-760.

Fig.17.02



#### General functions

Control and Adaptation of body systems to internal and/or external changes

## Example of adaptation to external stimuli

#### **Fight and Flight Reaction**

-Increase heart rate and force of contraction.

-Widely dilated pupils.

-Pallor (pale of fear) as blood is directed to the skeletal muscle.

-Goose pimples.

-Cold sweat.

-Dry mouth.



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Fig. 17.03



#### ANS characteristics

## Anatomical characteristics and Synaptic organization of ANS

Fig.17.02



- Axon of 1<sup>st</sup> (*preganglionic*) neuron leaves CNS to synapse with the 2<sup>nd</sup> (*ganglionic*) neuron
- Axon of 2<sup>nd</sup> (*ganglionic*) neuron extends to the organ it serves

Diagram contrasts somatic (lower) and autonomic:



#### Fig.17.01



#### Synaptic organization of ANS

Convergence and Divergence in Sympathetic division Fig. 17.05



Fig.17.02





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### Adrenal gland is exception

- Synapse in gland
- Can cause body-wide release of epinephrine



## Physiological characteristics of ANS

- High speed of onset:
- Automatic nature:
- Tonic activity:

## Effects of sympathetic stimulation

-**Blood pressure** (blood vessels supplying skeletal muscle are major players). In addition to that the effect on heart also contributes in regulation of blood pressure.

- **Body temperature** by the sympathetic effects on cutaneous blood vessels and sweat glands.

## Effects of sympathetic stimulation

- <u>Cardiovascular system</u>: effects on vessels will result in redistribution of blood by enhancing blood flow to skeletal muscle and reducing blood flow to skin and mesentery.

- <u>Effects on heart</u>: increasing cardiac output (volume of blood pumped per minute).

- **<u>Respiratory system</u>**: causes relaxation of bronchial muscle which result in bronchodilation.
- **Digestive system**: inhibition of motility and secretion.
- Metabolic effects:
  - \* Mobilization of glucose.
  - \* Increased lipolysis.
  - \* Increased metabolic rate.

# Effects of parasympathetic stimulation

- <u>Gastrointestinal system</u>: increases motility and secretory activity.
- **<u>Glands</u>**: increases secretory activity (but remember sweat glands are under sympathetic control).
- <u>Heart</u>: decrease rate of contraction (bradycardia).
- **<u>Pupil</u>**: control pupil diameter by papillary light reflex (myosis) (regulates the amount of light falling on retina).
- Accommodation of the <u>lens</u> for near vision.
- Voiding the **urinary bladder** (micturation).

#### MOLECULAR BASIS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTIONS OF THE ANS



Fig. 17.06



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#### -<u>Neurotransmitters</u>

- <u>At ganglion</u>: preganglionic neurons of both sympathetic and parasympathetic release acetylcholine (Ach).
- Effector organs:
  - parasympathetic fibers release acetylcholine
  - Sympathetic: norepinephrine.
- <u>An exception</u> for sympathetic nerves to <u>sweat glands</u>, which release acetylcholine (Ach).

## Receptors and Signal transduction mechanisms

-<u>At ganglia</u>: sympathetic and parasympathetic have <u>nicotinic</u> receptors at the post synaptic membrane

-on effector cells: Muscarinic receptors.

## Receptors and Signal transduction mechanisms

#### **Muscarinic Receptors (M1-M5)**

#### **Inhibitory:**

-<u>M2</u> in the heart: G protein  $\rightarrow$  K+ channel  $\rightarrow$  slow the rate of depolarization.

#### -Other inhibitory receptors:

 $Gi \rightarrow adenylyl Cyclase \rightarrow reduce cAMP$ 

## Receptors and Signal transduction mechanisms

Muscarinic Receptors (M1-M5) Excitatory Rceptors: (M1, M3, M5) Found on smooth muscle and glands are coupled Gq protein  $\rightarrow$  phospholipase C. This enzyme increases production of inositol-1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP3)

## Activation of Musearinic Receptors

- Stimulation of secretory activity: salivation, tearing, sweating, nasal and bronchial secretion.
- Increase gastrointestinal tract motility  $\rightarrow$  vomiting and diarrhea.
- Contraction of urinary bladder  $\rightarrow$  urination.
- Slowing of the heart  $\rightarrow$  Bradycardia.

## Blocking of Muscarinic Receptors by ATROPIN

- Inhibition of glandular secretions  $\rightarrow$  dry mouth, dry eyes, and dry nasal passages.
- Tachycardia. (increase heart rate).
- Loss of pupillary light reflex.
- Loss of ability to focus the lens for near vision.

## Receptors and Signal transduction mechanisms

#### Adrenergic receptors:

These receptors respond to catecholamines: (epinephrine (EP) and norepinephrine (NE)).

## Receptors and Signal transduction mechanisms

#### Alpha receptors:

- The alpha 1 ( $\alpha_1$ ): Excitatory: PLC  $\rightarrow$  IP3

- Alpha2 receptors: Nerve Adrenergic terminals→ reduce NE release

Alpha 2 Heteroreceptors: Nonadrenergic -

 $Gi \rightarrow Adenylyl cyclase \rightarrow decrease cAMP$ 

## Receptors and Signal transduction mechanisms

**Beta receptors:** 

- Beta 1 ( $\beta_1$ ) receptors: found on heart

Beta 2 (β<sub>2</sub>) receptors: found on tracheal and bronchial smooth muscle, in the gastrointestinal tract, and on smooth muscles of blood vessels supplying skeletal muscles
Gs→Adenylyl cyclase→ increase cAMP

## **GOOD LUCK**

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