

Author(s): Arno Kumagai, M.D., Robert Lash, M.D., 2009

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M2 Endocrine Sequence

University of Michigan Medical School

Directors:

Arno K. Kumagai, M.D.

Thomas Giordano, M.D., Ph.D.



University of Michigan
Medical School

General Information

- Syllabus and Lecture notes
- Required Sessions:
 - Patient presentation: Friday, March 6th
 - Endocrine Small Groups: Thurs-Fri, March 5-6th
 - Longitudinal Case
- Endocrine Photo Gallery

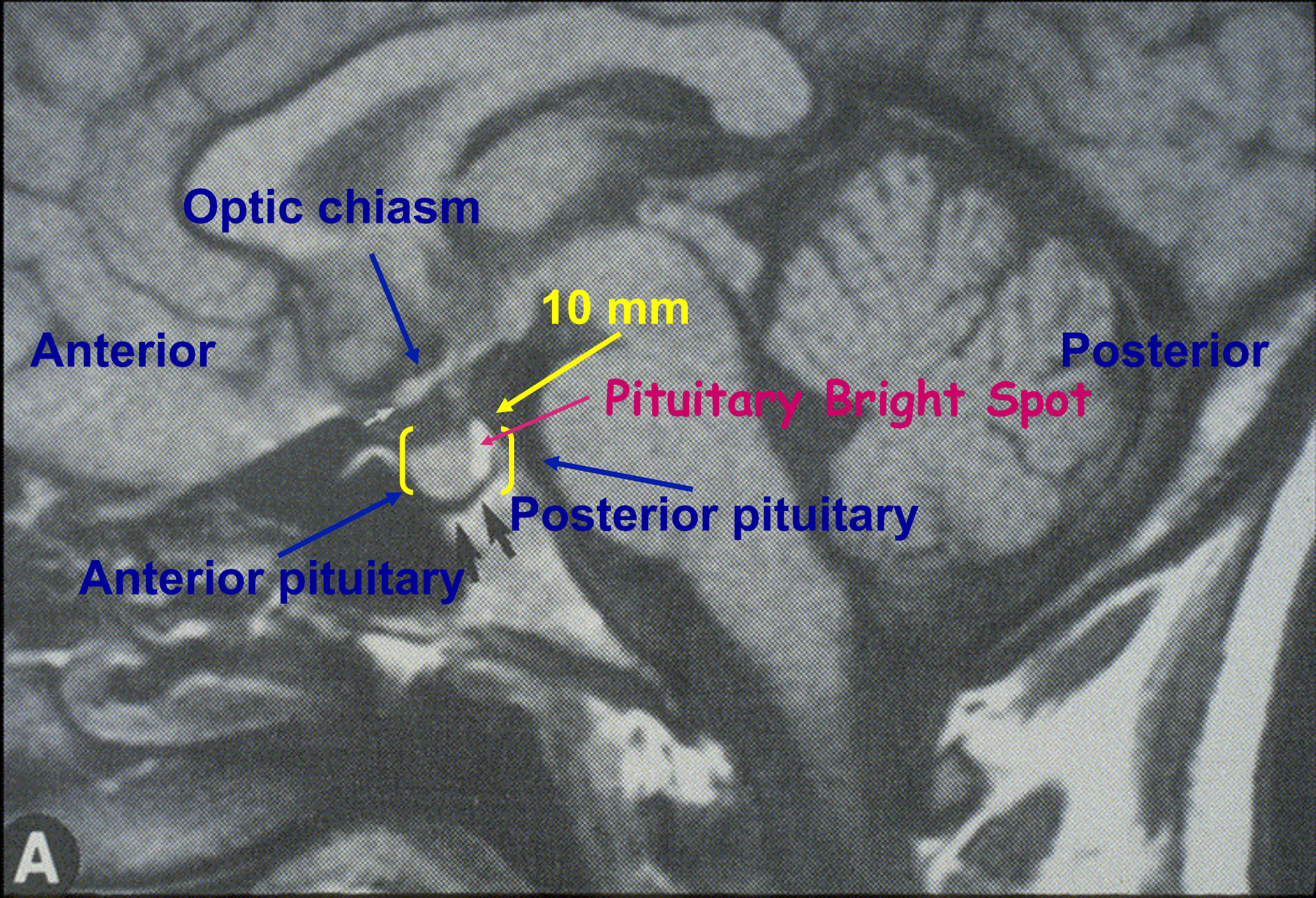
Feedback loops and anterior pituitary physiology

M2- Endocrine Sequence

Arno K. Kumagai, M.D.

Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology &
Diabetes





Optic chiasm

Anterior

Posterior

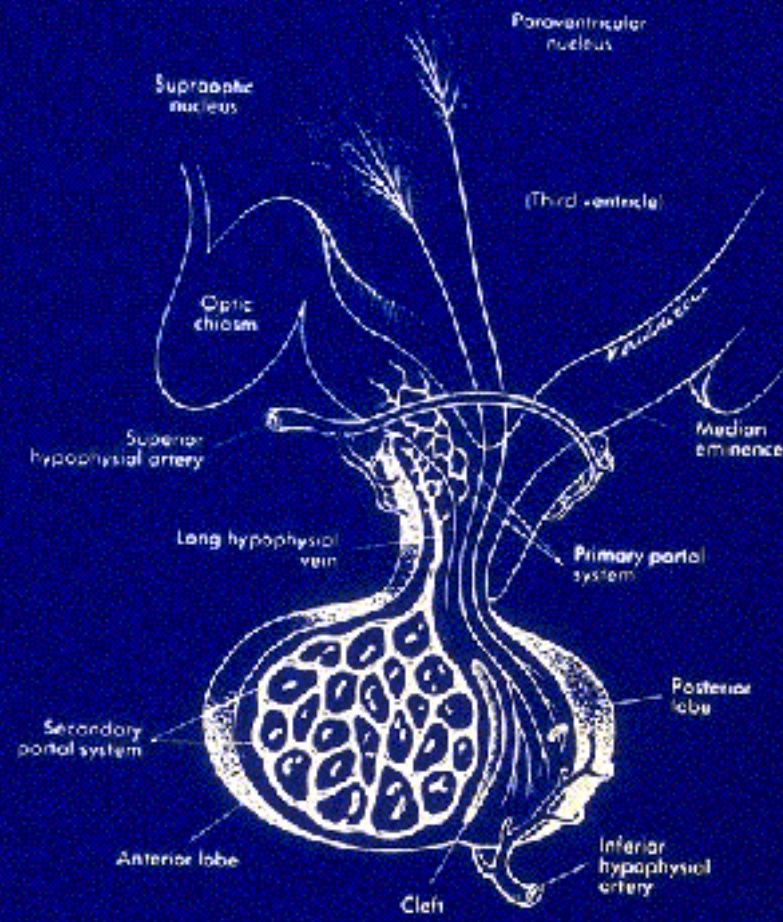
10 mm

Pituitary Bright Spot

Posterior pituitary

Anterior pituitary

A



Pituitary cell types

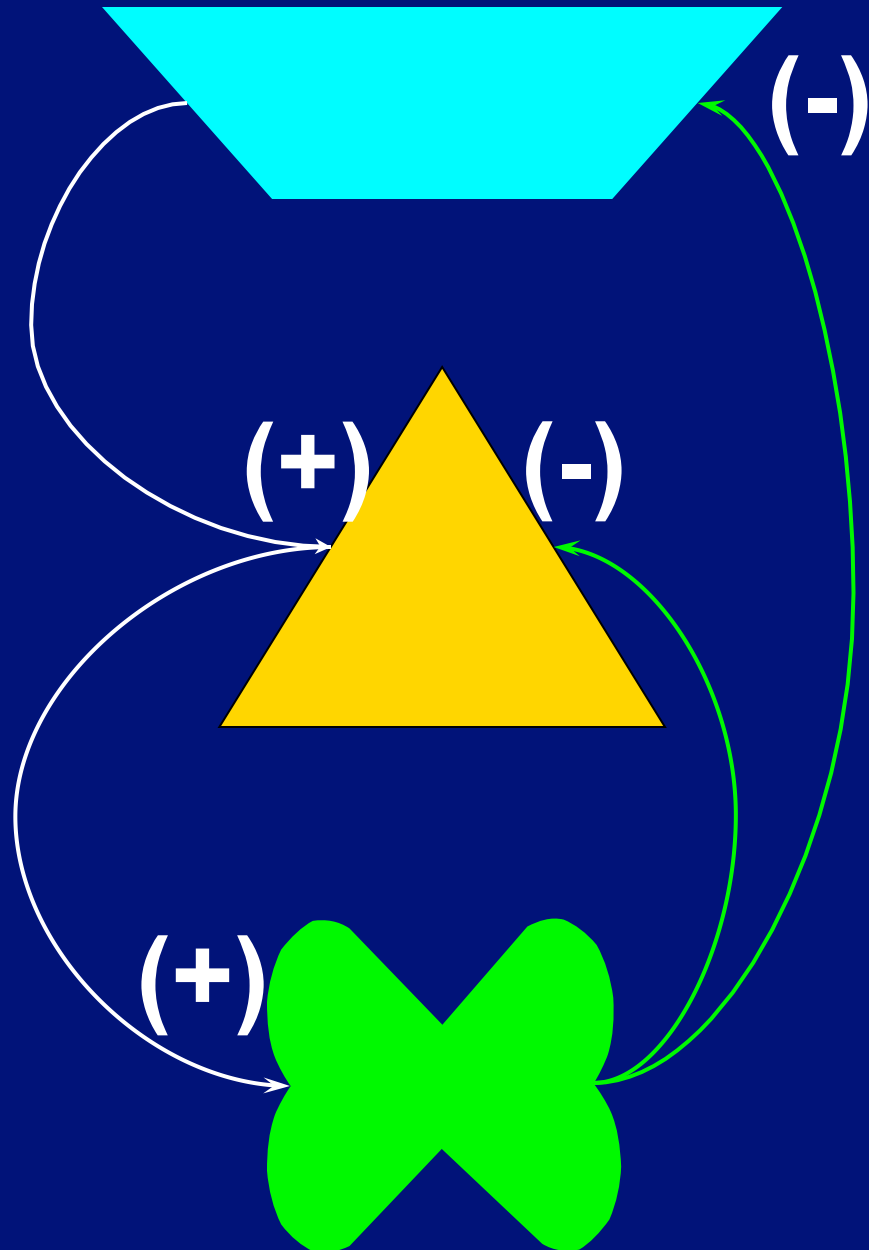
Pituitary cell type	Pituitary hormone	Clinical syndrome associated w/ tumor
Corticotrope	ACTH	Cushing's disease
Somatotrope	GH	Acromegaly
Gonadotrope	FSH and LH	None
Lactotrope	PrI	Prolactinoma
Thyrotrope	TSH	Hyperthyroidism

Hormonal Feedback Loops

You

Your thermostat

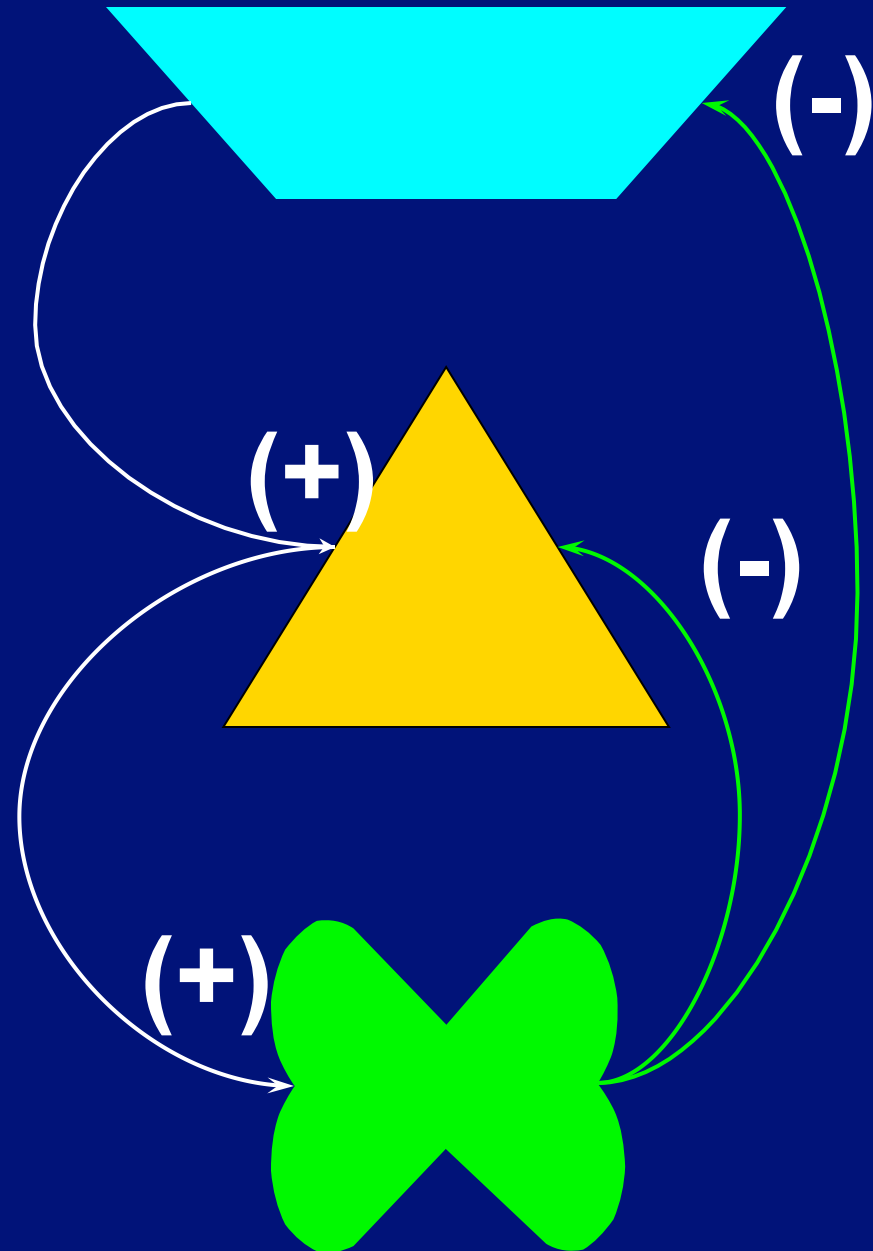
Your furnace



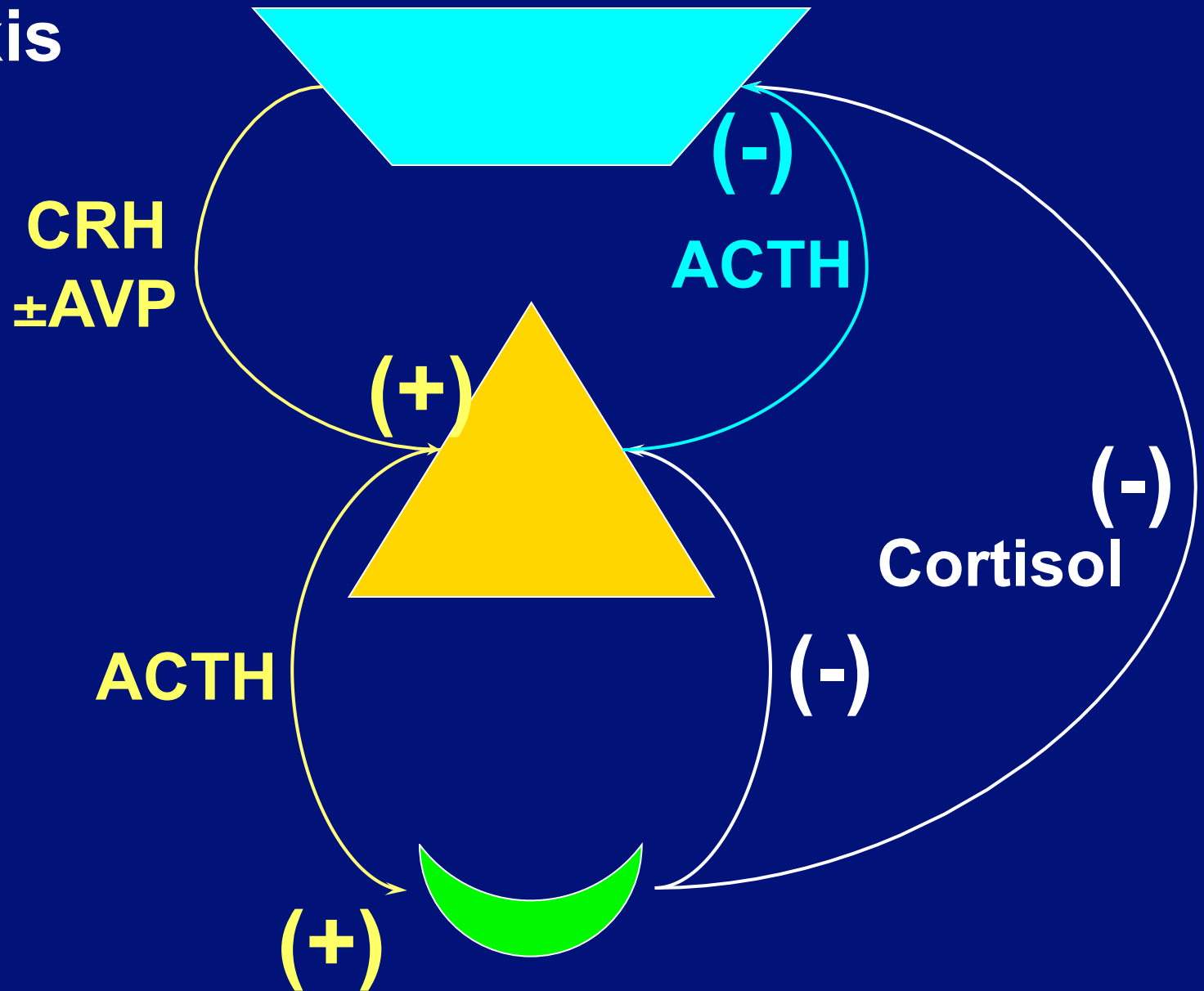
Hypothalamus

Pituitary

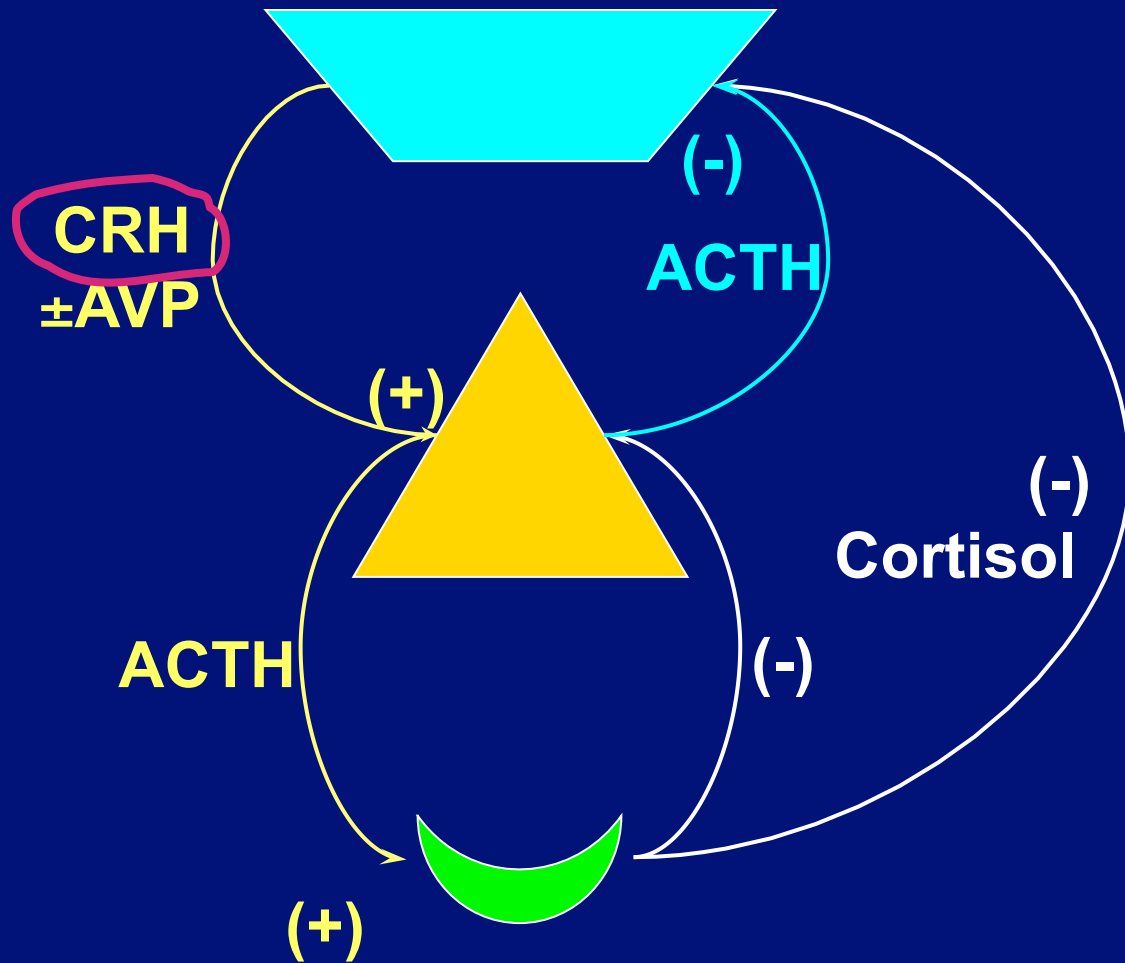
End organ



Adrenal axis



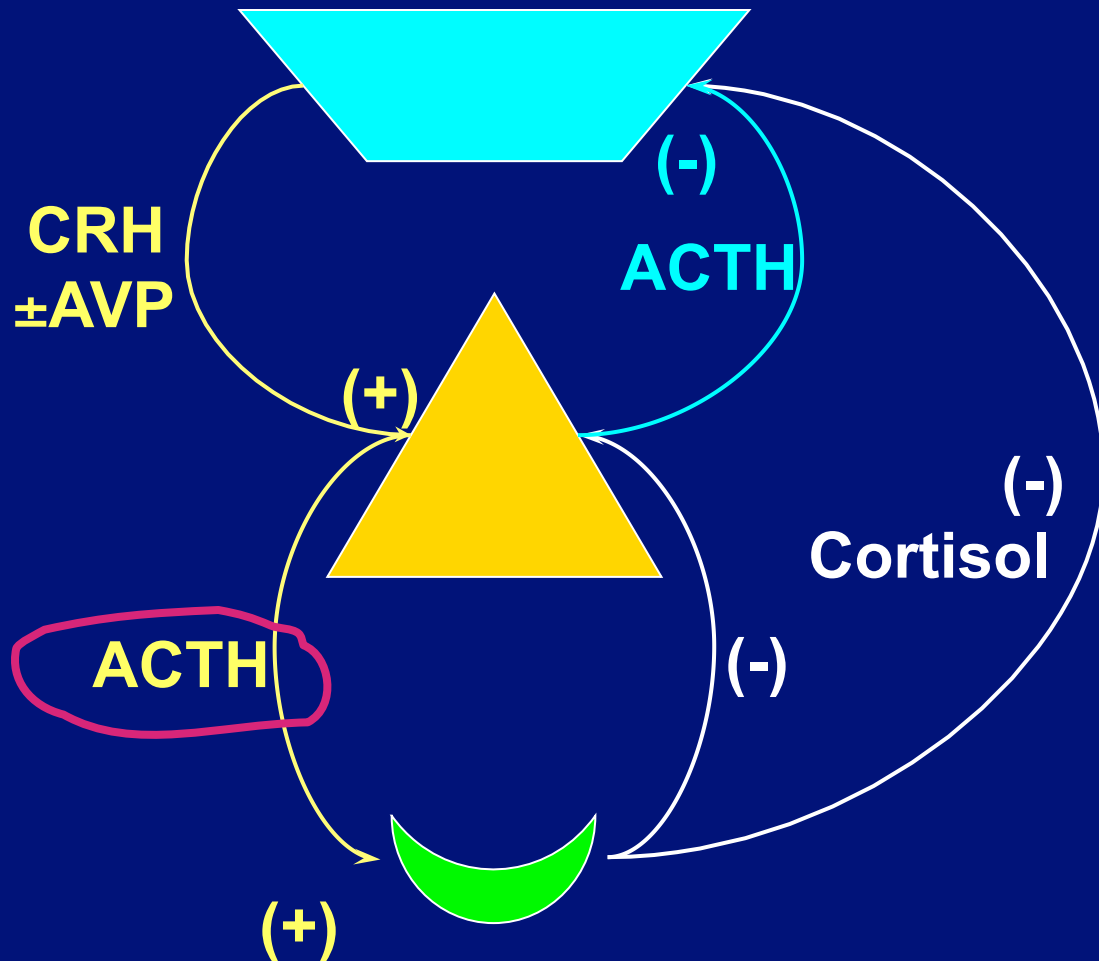
Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis



CRH = Corticotropin Releasing Hormone

- 41 amino acids long
- Ovine form is more potent than human form
- A trophic factor and a releasing hormone

Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis

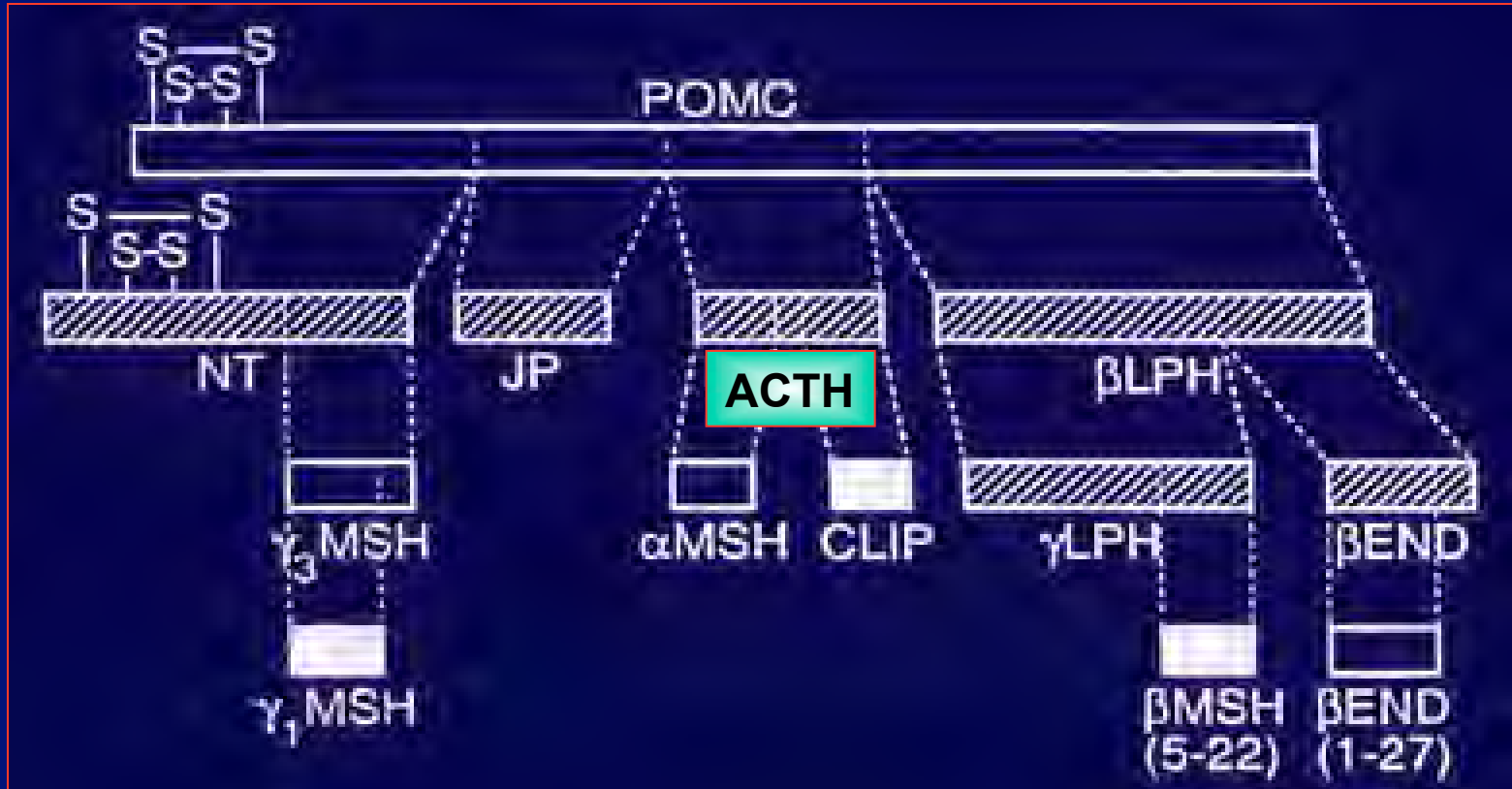


ACTH = Corticotropin

- Derived from a large molecule (POMC)
- 39 amino acids long, first 24 are the same in multiple species
 - ✓ Synthetic ACTH (aa 1-24) used clinically
- 250 μg in the pituitary - about 50 μg secreted daily

Post-translational Processing of POMC in the Normal Pituitary

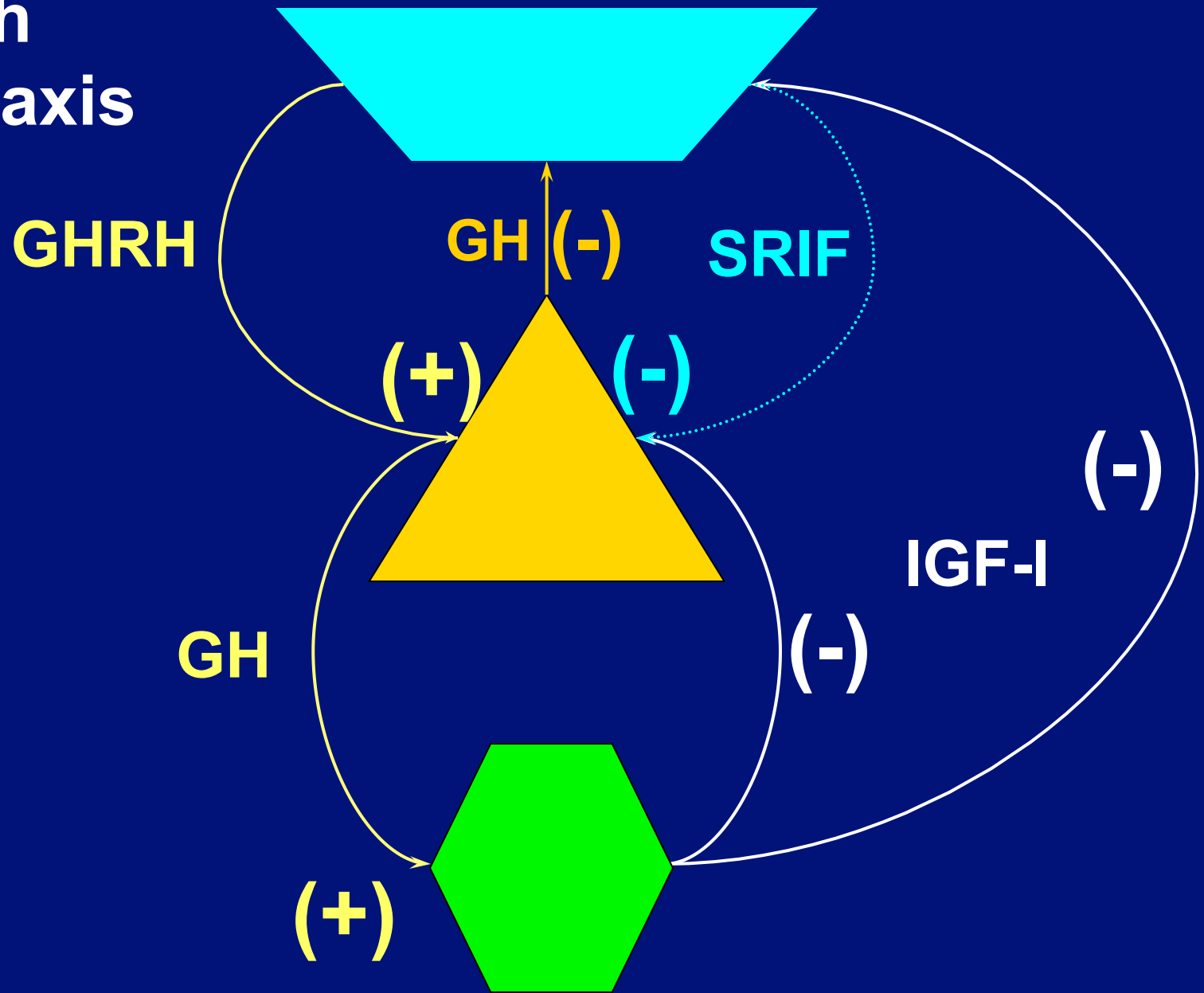
POMC = Pro-opiomelanocortin



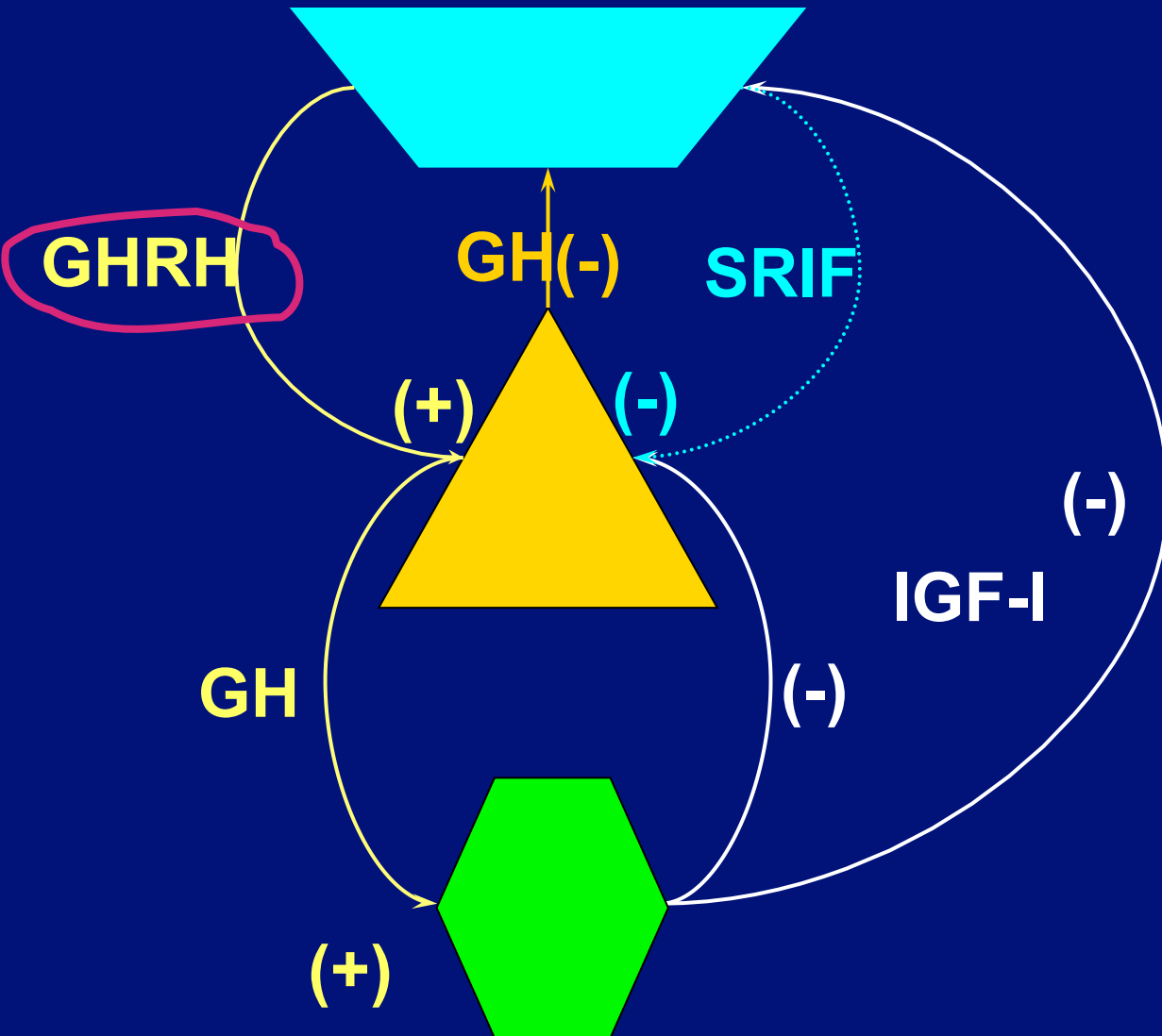
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MSH = Melanocyte stimulating hormone

Growth hormone axis



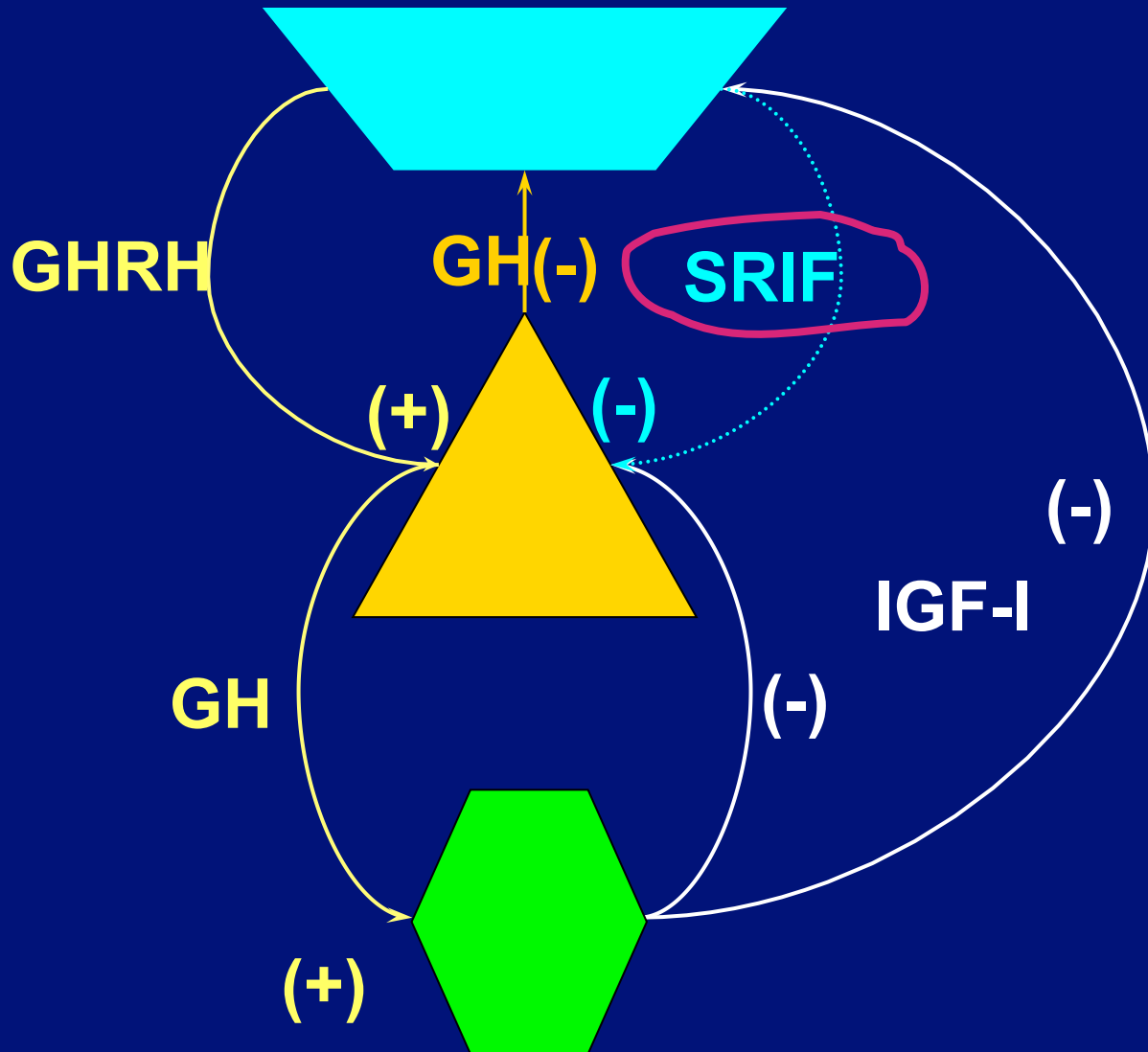
Growth hormone axis



Growth Hormone Releasing Hormone (GHRH)

- About 44 amino acids long
- Discovered in pancreatic tumors
- Men over 40 have little response to GHRH

Growth hormone axis



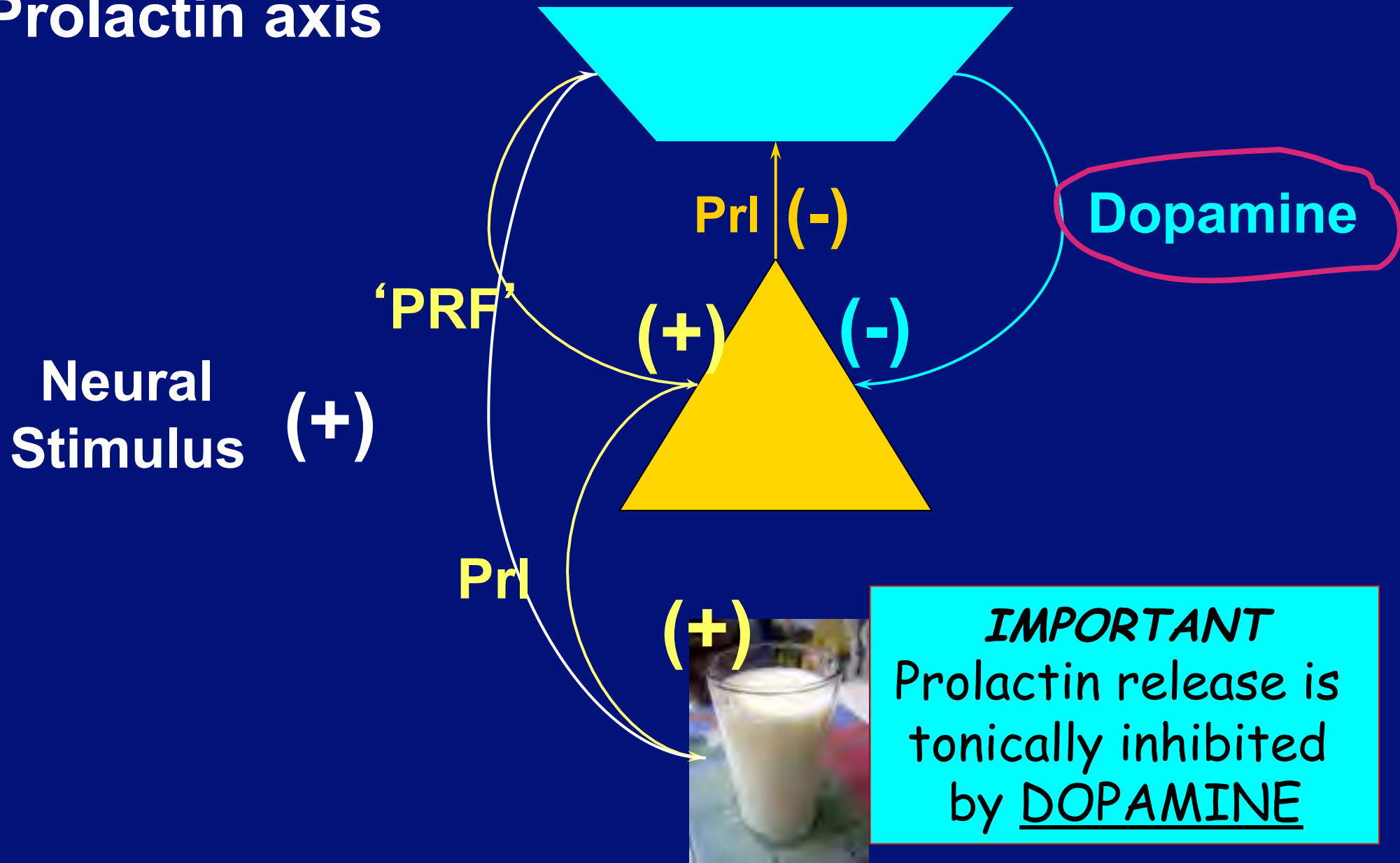
Somatostatin (SRIF)

- Inhibits secretion of GH and TSH
- Also inhibits GI hormones and functions
- Octreotide is a clinically useful analogue

Growth hormone - prolactin family

- Significant homology, less so at the protein level (16%)
- Prl & GH both activate the prolactin receptor
- Family also includes placental lactogen (PL)

Prolactin axis



IMPORTANT
Prolactin release is
tonically inhibited
by DOPAMINE



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Regulation of prolactin = tonically inhibited

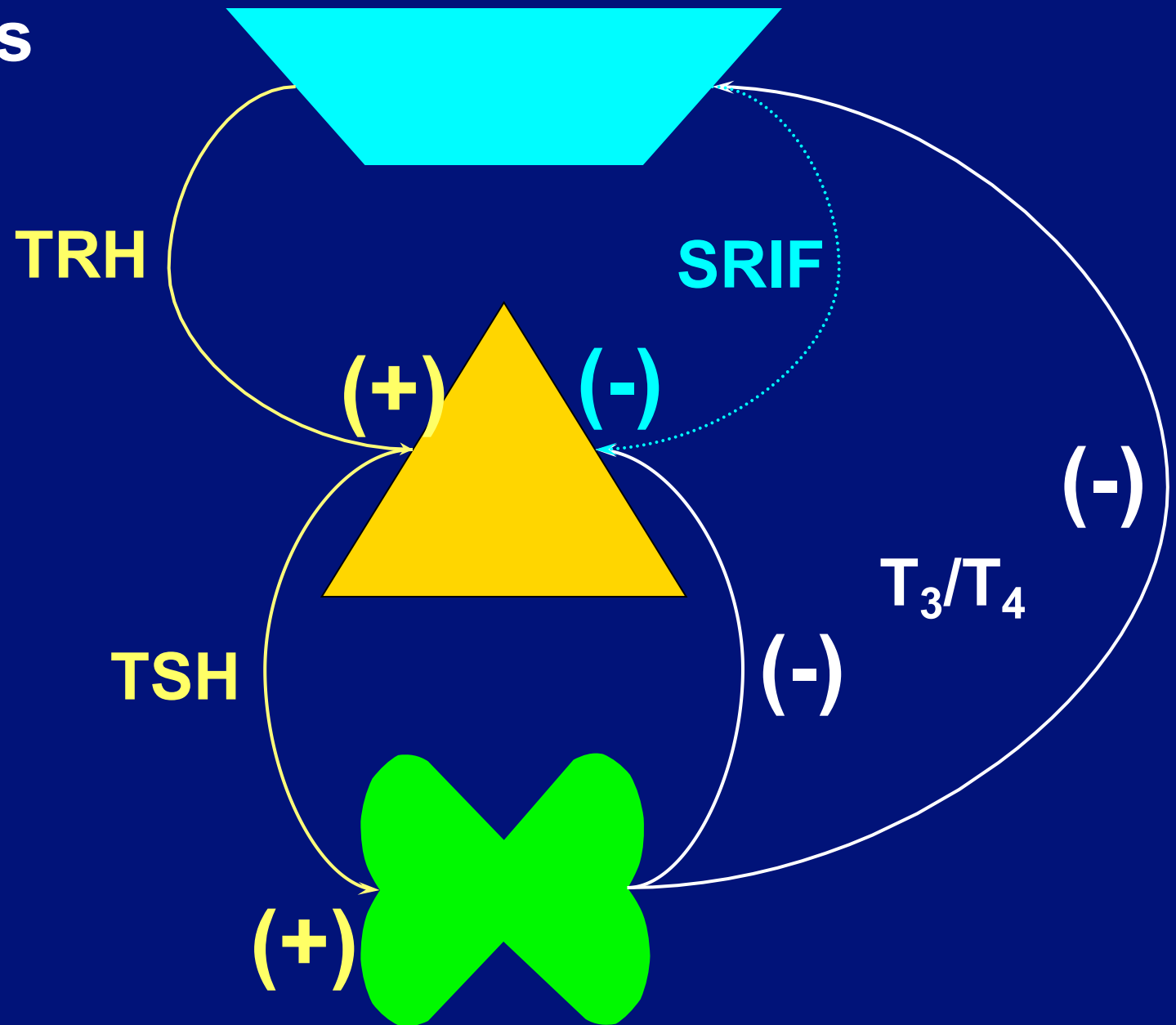
■ Prolactin-inhibiting factors (PIFs)

- Dopamine, Dopamine, Dopamine, maybe GABA
- Bromocriptine is a dopamine agonist
- Block multiple aspects of lactotrope function

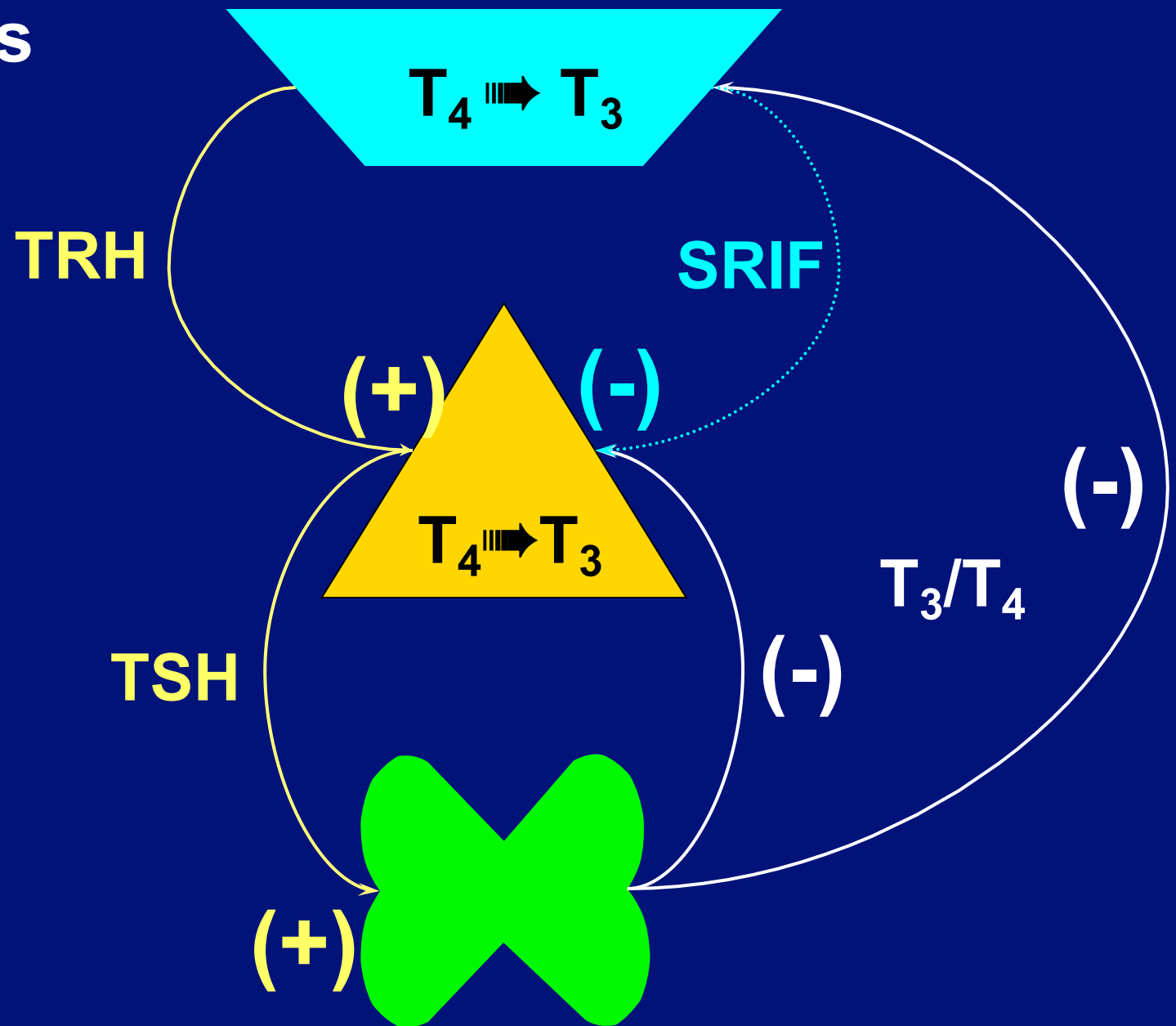
■ Prolactin-releasing factors (PRFs)

- TRH - but probably not physiologically important
- Other candidates: AVP, VIP, Oxytocin, PHI-27

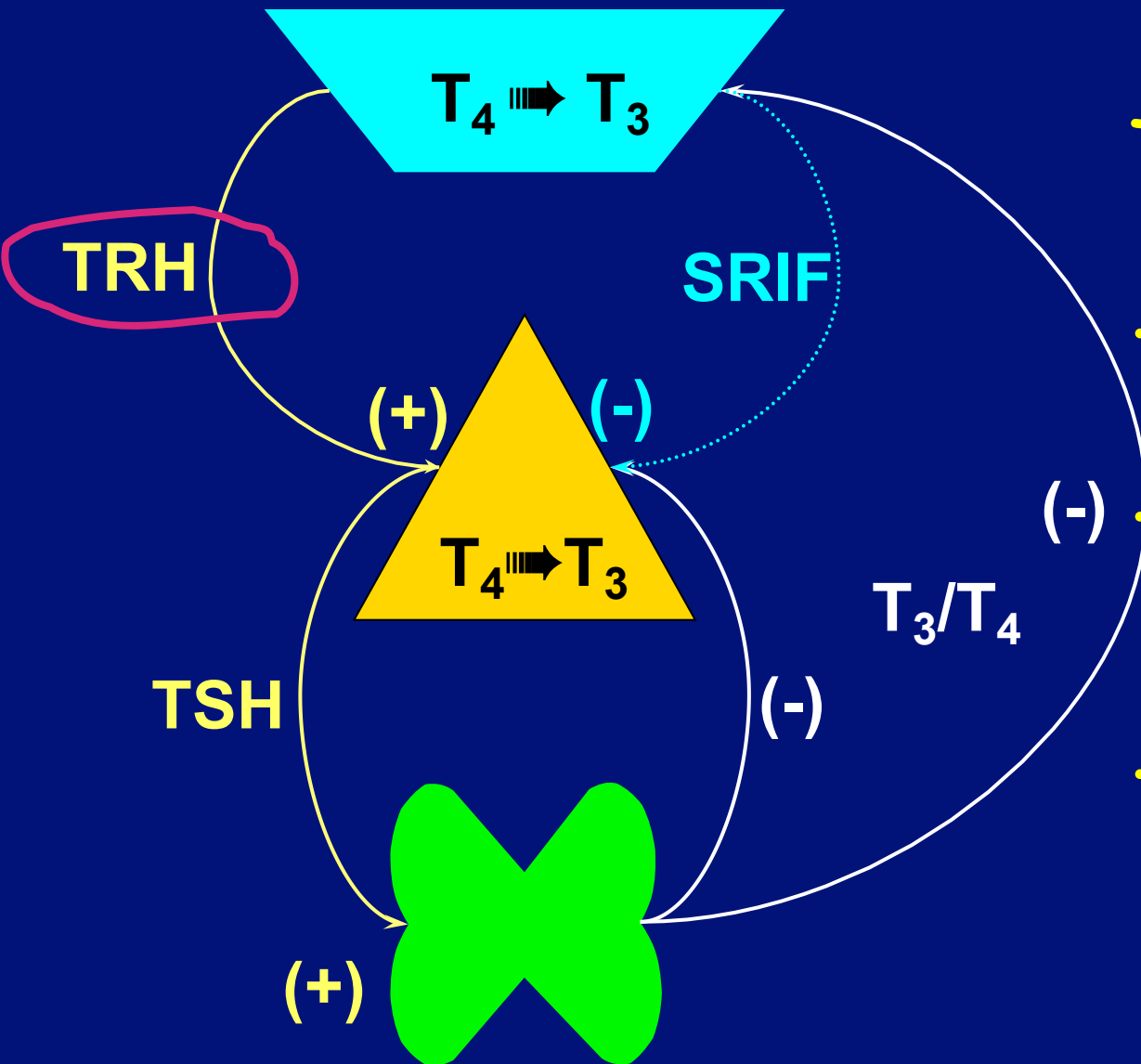
Thyroid axis



Thyroid axis

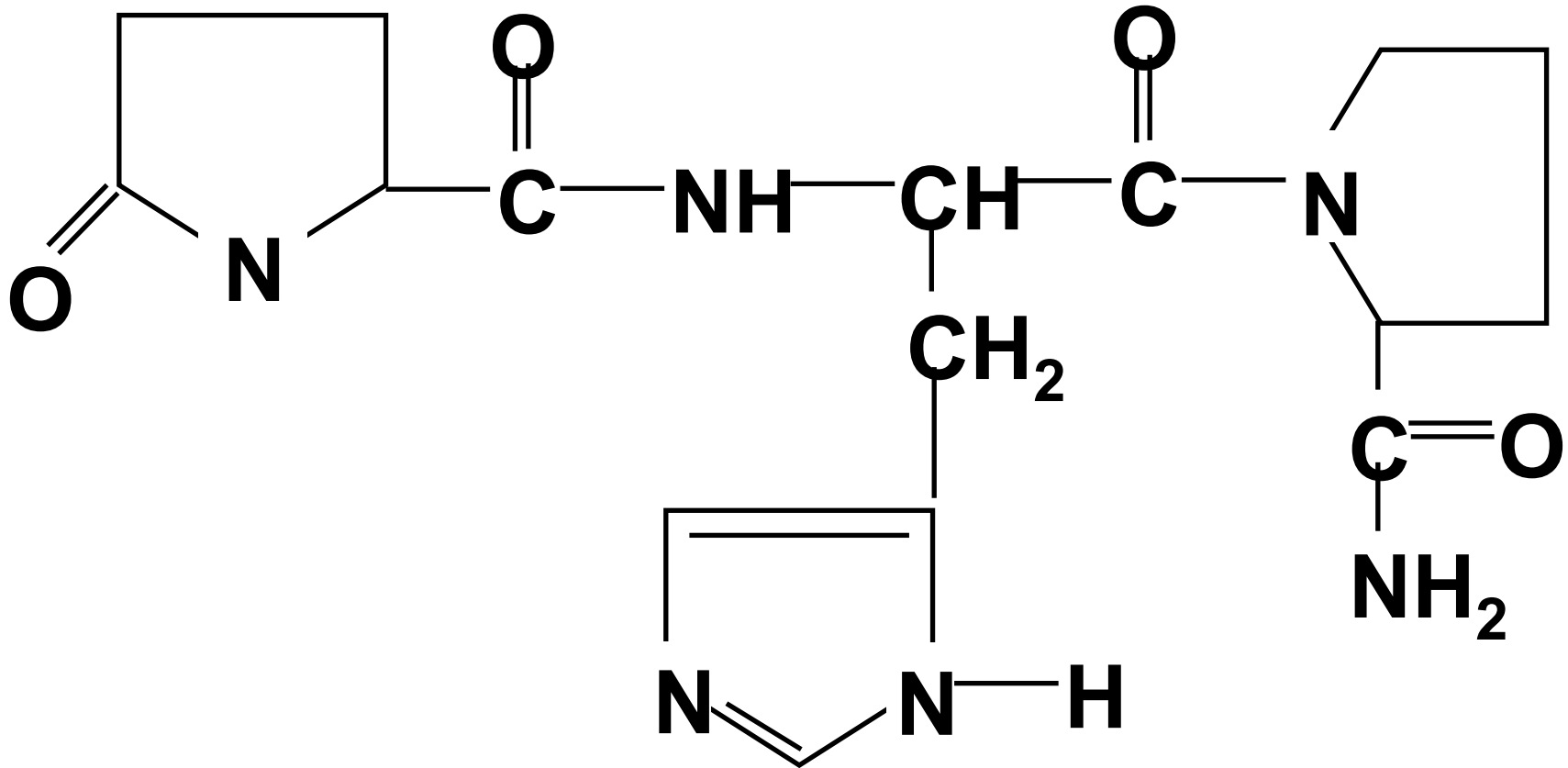


Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Thyroid Axis

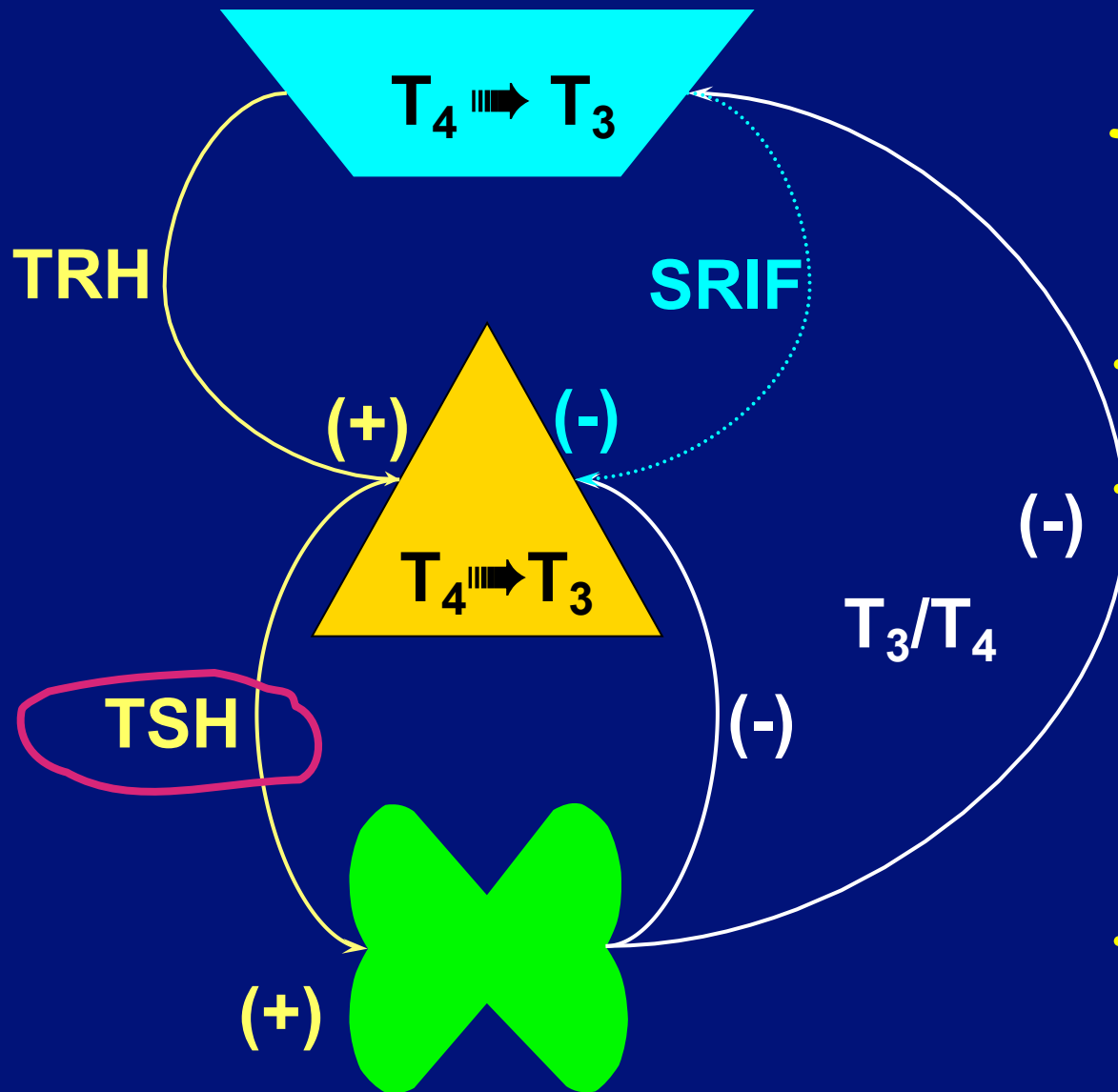


- TRH = Thyrotropin Releasing Hormone
- Tripeptide (3 amino acids)
 - Also a potent stimulator of prolactin release
 - Synthesized as a prohormone with six copies of the TRH molecule

The TRH Tripeptide



Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Thyroid Axis



TSH = Thyroid Stimulating Hormone

- **AKA “Thyrotropin”**

- **Binds to receptors on thyroid to stimulate synthesis and release of thyroid hormones T4 (and some T3).**

- **Part of a glycoprotein hormone family**

Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) is part of a family of glycoprotein hormones

- Composed of noncovalently bound α and β subunits
- Both subunits are glycosylated
- α subunit is common
- β subunits are unique - confer biologic and immunologic specificity

Glycoprotein hormone family

α -subunit

92 aa

+

TSH- β

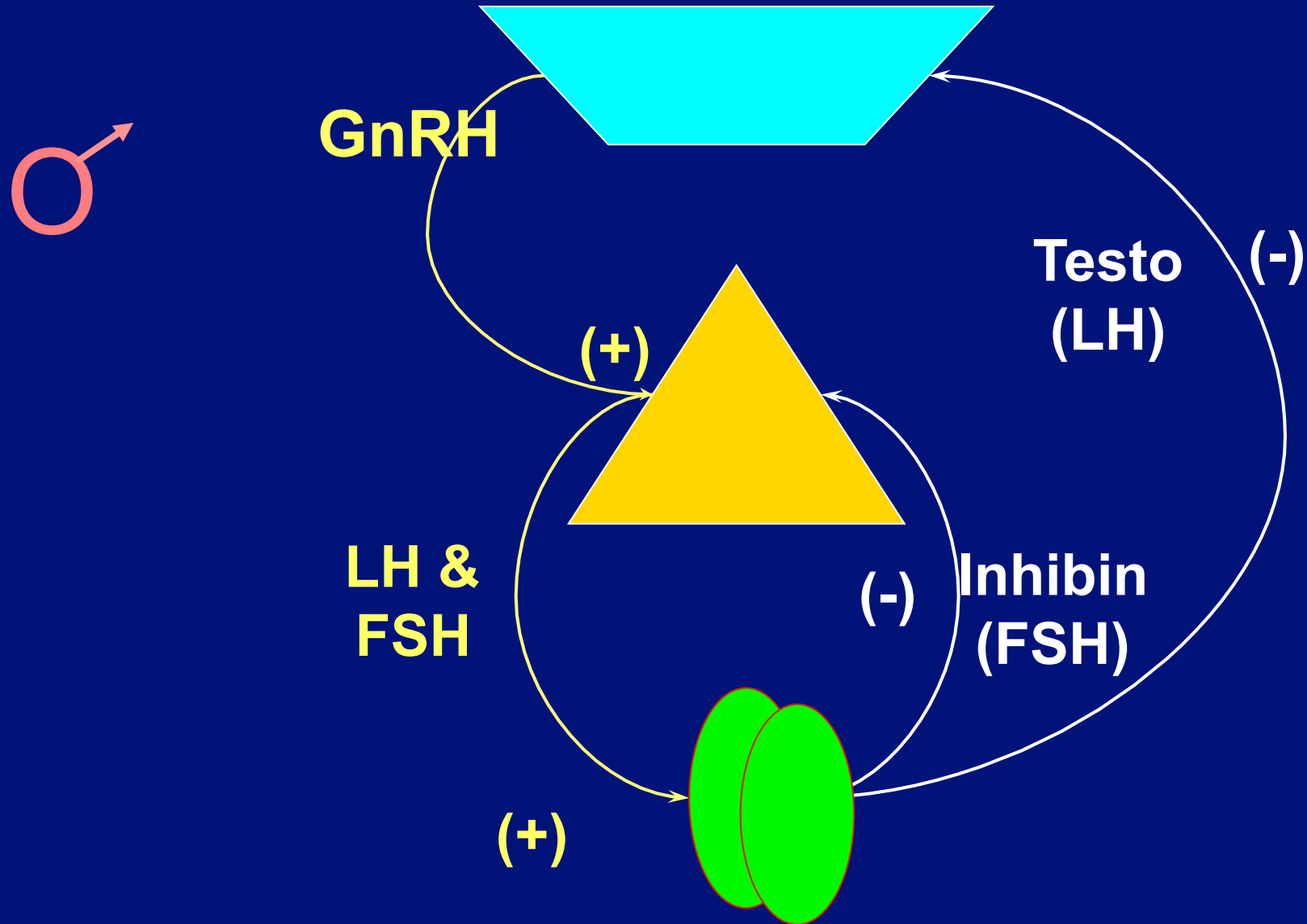
FSH- β

LH- β

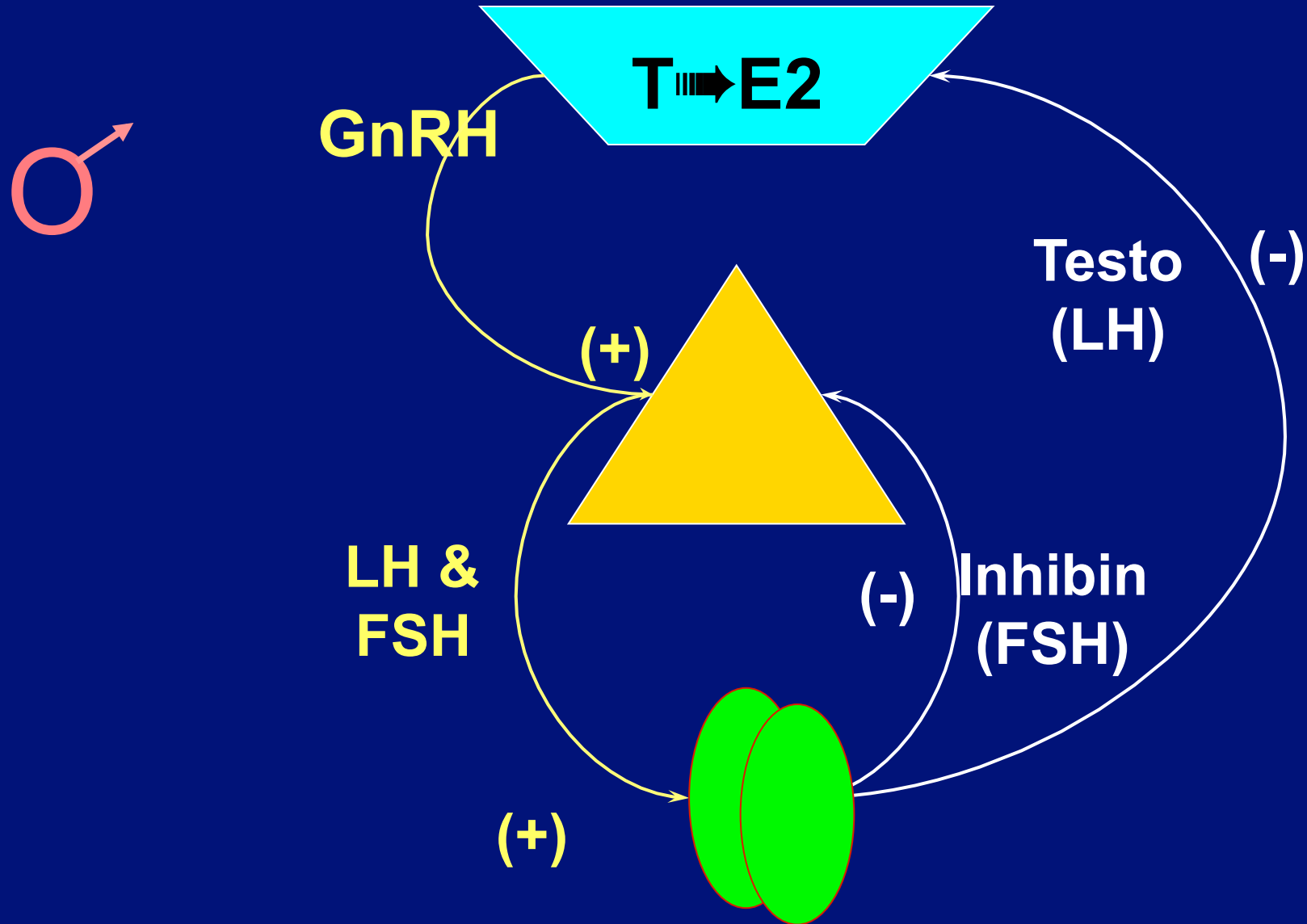
CG- β

112-147 aa

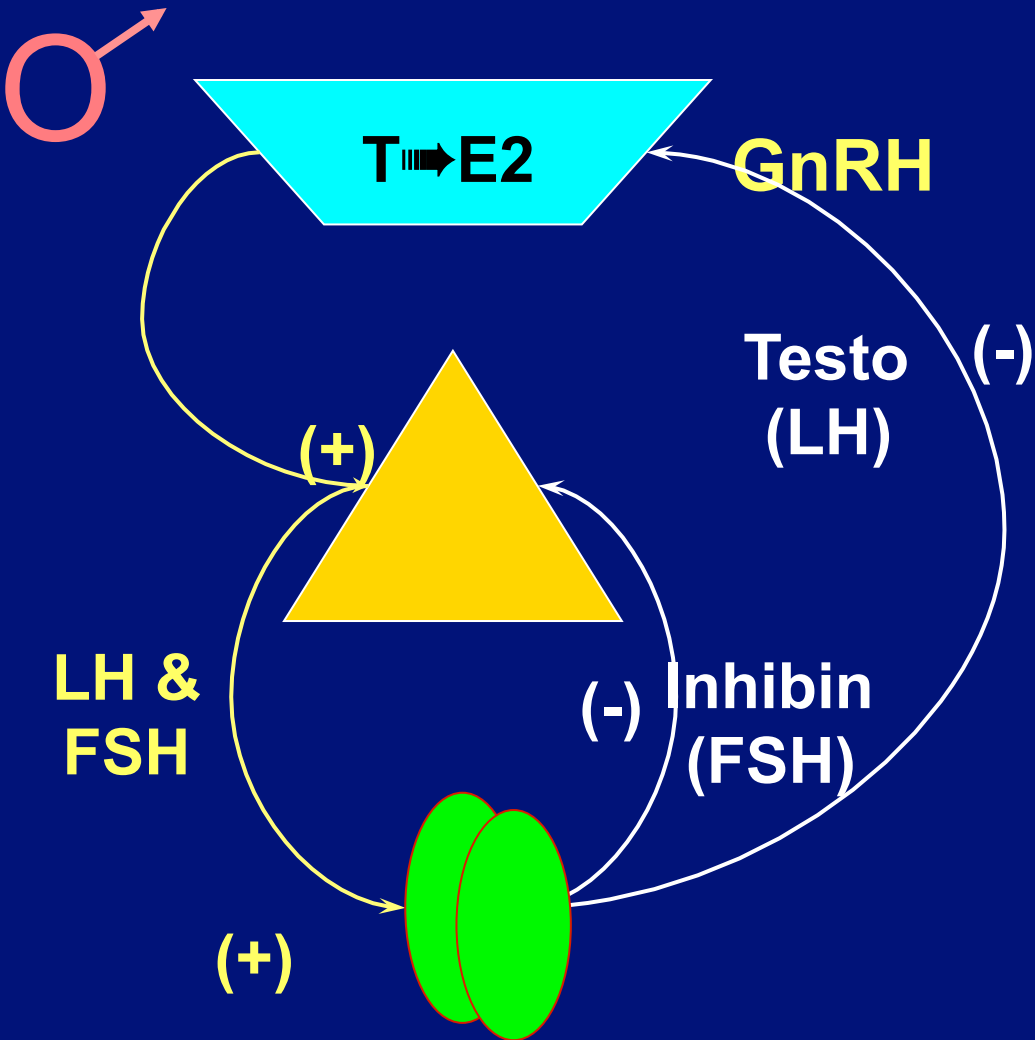
Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal Axis



Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal Axis



Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal Axis

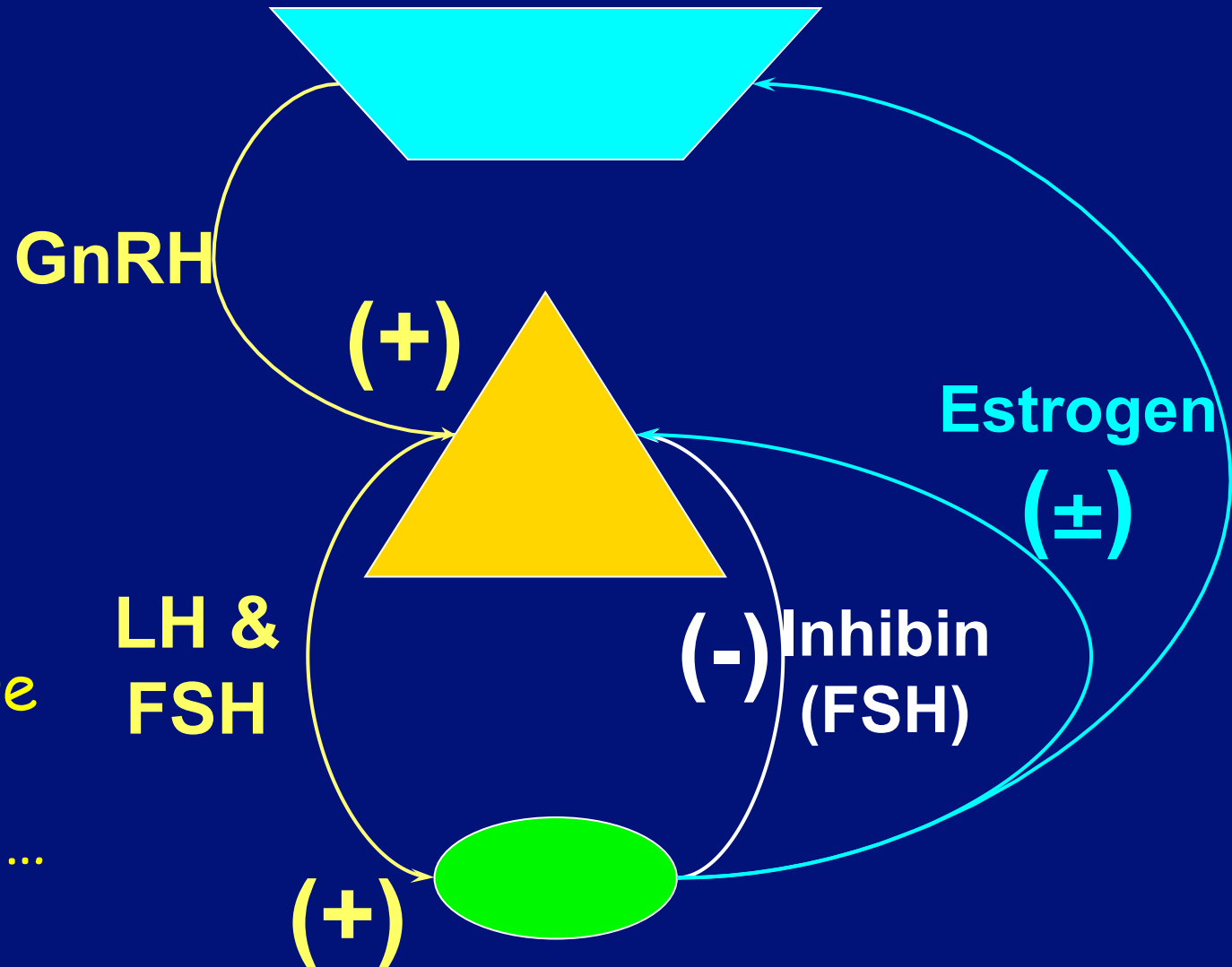


- GnRH = Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone
- 10 amino acids in length
- GnRH ⇒ LH & FSH ⇒ Sex steroids
- Regulates both LH and FSH

Gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH)

- Pulsatility and pulse frequency are critical
- Pulsatile infusion stimulates LH and FSH secretion
- Constant infusion inhibits LH and FSH secretion
- GnRH can be used to induce fertility and suppress gonadal function

Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal Axis

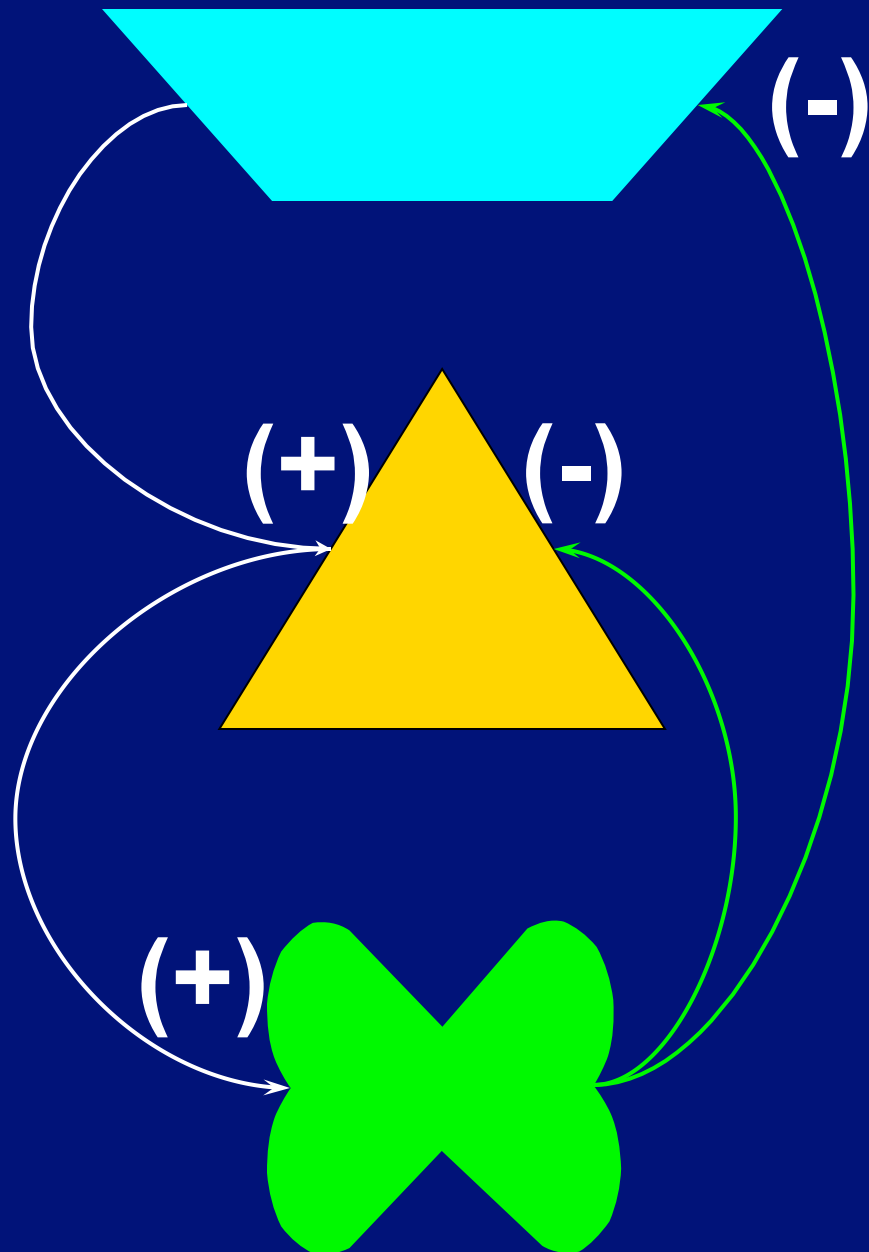


This is where things get complicated...

You

Your stereo

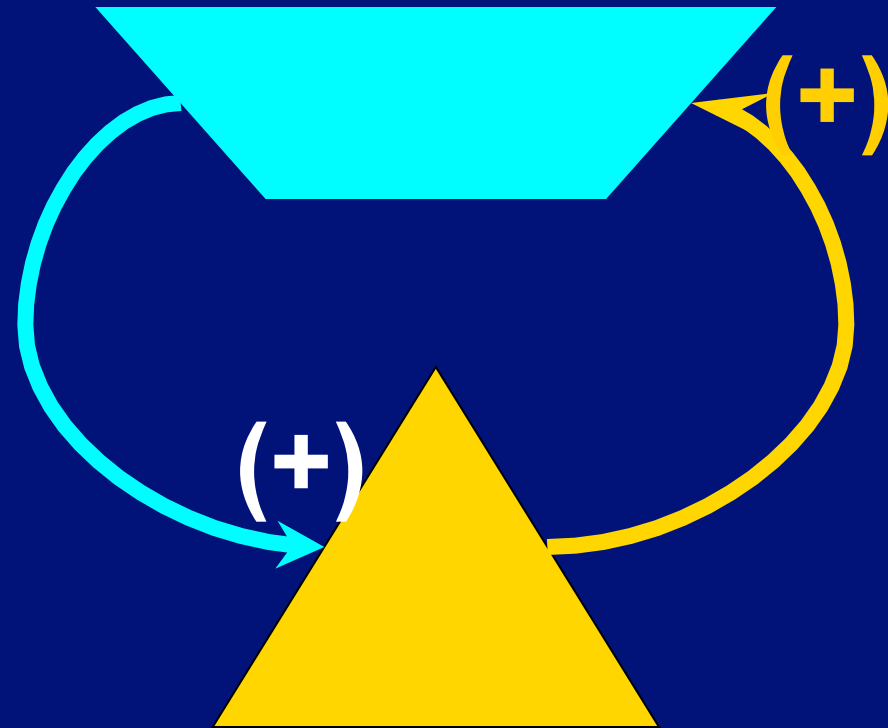
Your roommate



Positive feedback loop

You

That special
someone



You

(?)

(?)

**That special
someone**

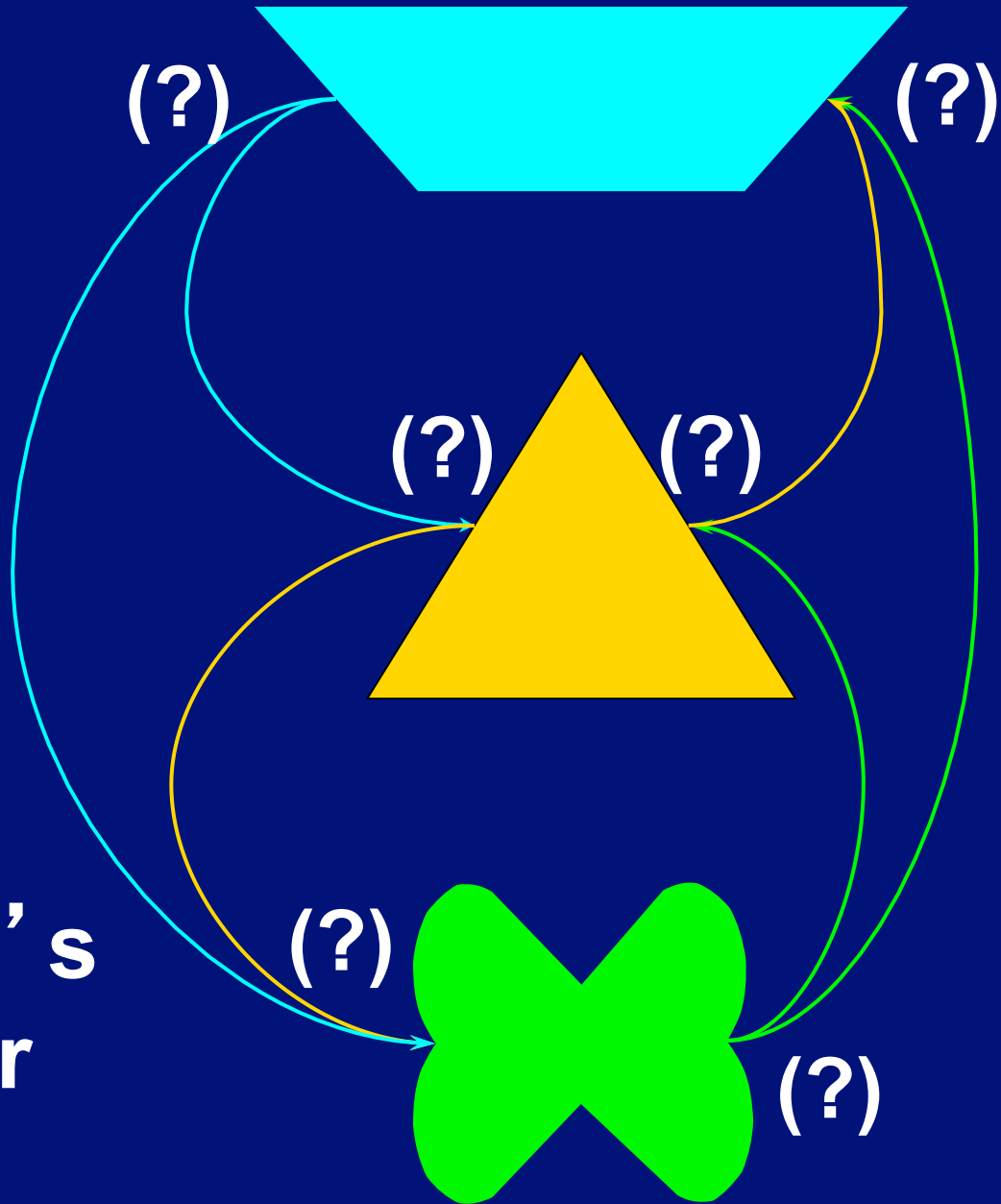
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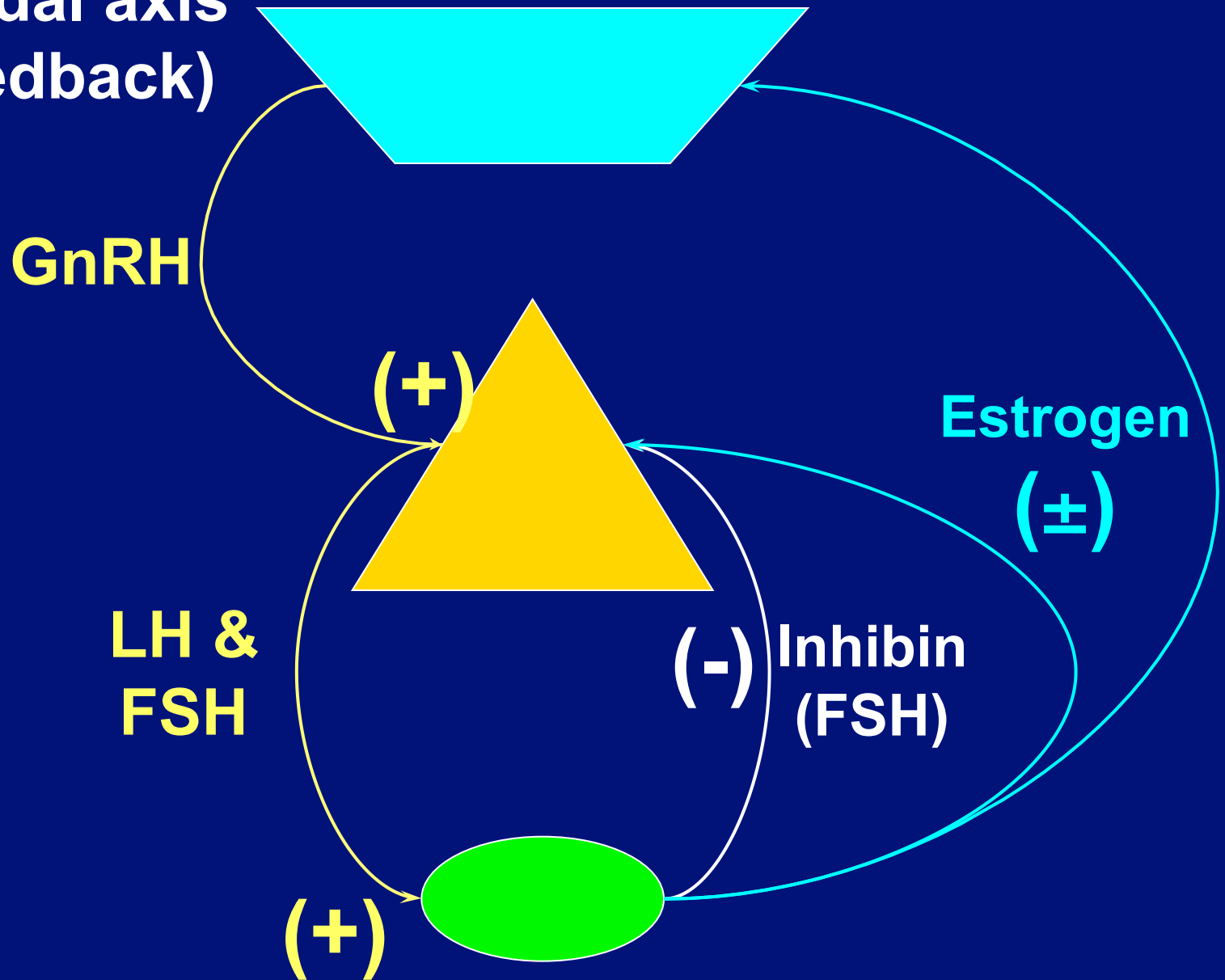
**Special someone's
significant other**

(?)

(?)

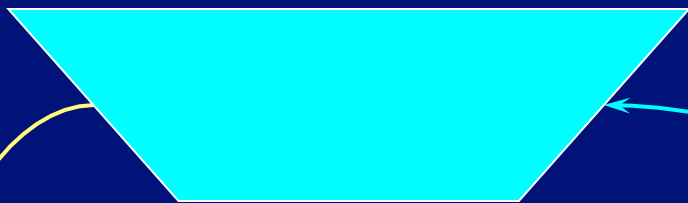


Female gonadal axis (negative feedback)

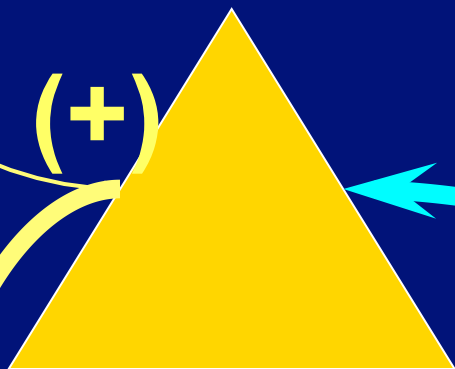


Female gonadal axis (Positive feedback during ovulation)

GnRH



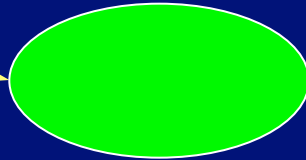
(+)



Estrogen
(+)

LH &
FSH

(+)



Let's review the major players

Hypothalamic releasing factor	Pituitary hormone	Effect of hypothalamic factor
TRH	TSH (and Pri)	Stimulatory
CRH	ACTH	Stimulatory
GHRH	GH	Stimulatory
Somatostatin (SRIF)	GH and TSH	Inhibitory
Dopamine	Pri	Inhibitory
GnRH	FSH and LH	Stimulatory

Rhythms in endocrinology

■ Circadian rhythms

- Occur over the course of a day, and repeat daily
- Characteristic of most endocrine functions
- Examples: Cortisol secretion

■ Ultradian rhythms

- Bursts (spikes) of hormone secretion
- Can be superimposed on circadian rhythms
- Physiologically important, particularly in reproduction

Pulsatility in the reproductive axis

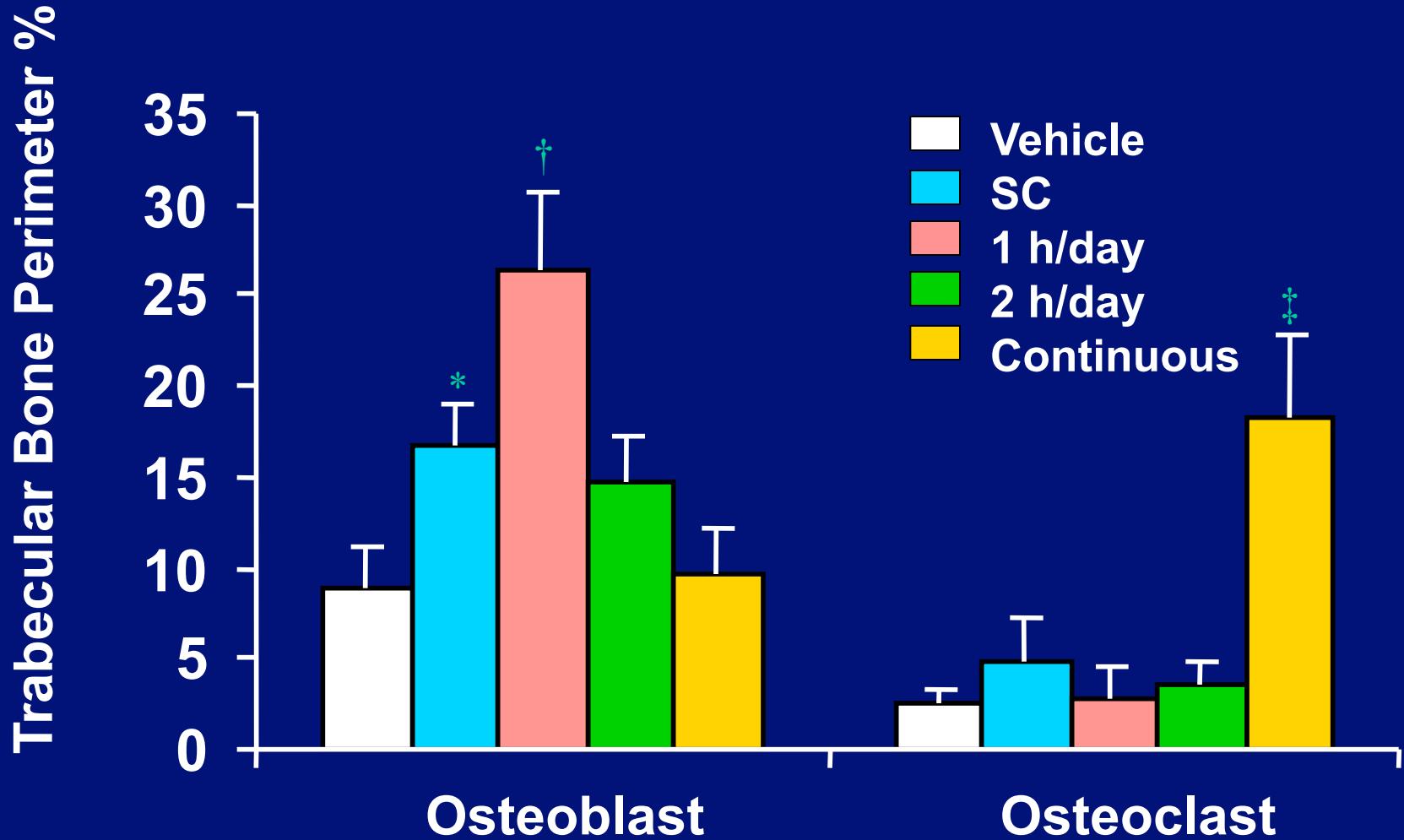
■ GnRH

- Pulsatile infusion at 90 minute intervals can induce ovulation in women with hypothalamic disease
- Continuous infusion is used to suppress LH/FSH in preparation for in vitro fertilization

■ LH and FSH

- Puberty is associated with pulses of greater frequency and amplitude

Frequency of administration determines effect of PTH on bone cells



P<0.05, †P<0.01, ‡P<0.001 vs Vehicle

Things to remember if you're just waking up

- Generally, hypothalamic hormones stimulate pituitary hormone release
- Prolactin regulation, in contrast, is primarily inhibitory
- The inhibitory hypothalamic factors worth remembering are somatostatin and dopamine

Things to remember if you're just waking up

- **Pituitary hormones fall into three groups**
 - Glycoprotein hormones (TSH, LH, and FSH)
 - ACTH
 - Growth hormone and prolactin
- **Negative feedback is the usual state of affairs, but not the only one**
- **Hormone activity depends on both the quantity present, and its mode of release**

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