



# **KiSS-1/GPR54 mRNA expression in pituitary gland and the relationship between KiSS-10 and luteinizing hormone secretion from pituitary cells of cyclic and PCOS-affected sows**

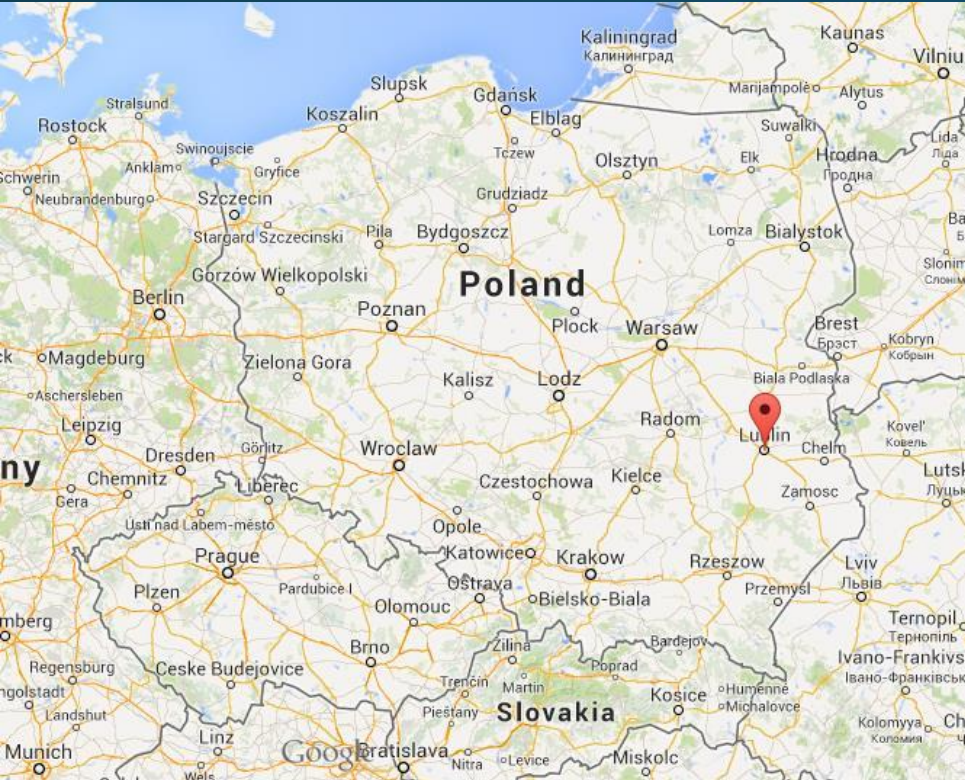
**URSZULA KOSIOR – KORZECKA<sup>1</sup>, NATALIA SZYSIAK<sup>1</sup>,  
VINCENZO LONGO<sup>2</sup>, CLARA DELLA CROCE<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Sub-Department of Pathophysiology, Department of Preclinical Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Poland <sup>2</sup>National Research Council, Institute of Agricultural Biology and Biotechnology, Research Unit of Pisa, Italy

The 2nd CZU hybrid seminar – 2023

Animal reproduction, sperm cryopreservation and analysis: an international experience

Prague, 2023



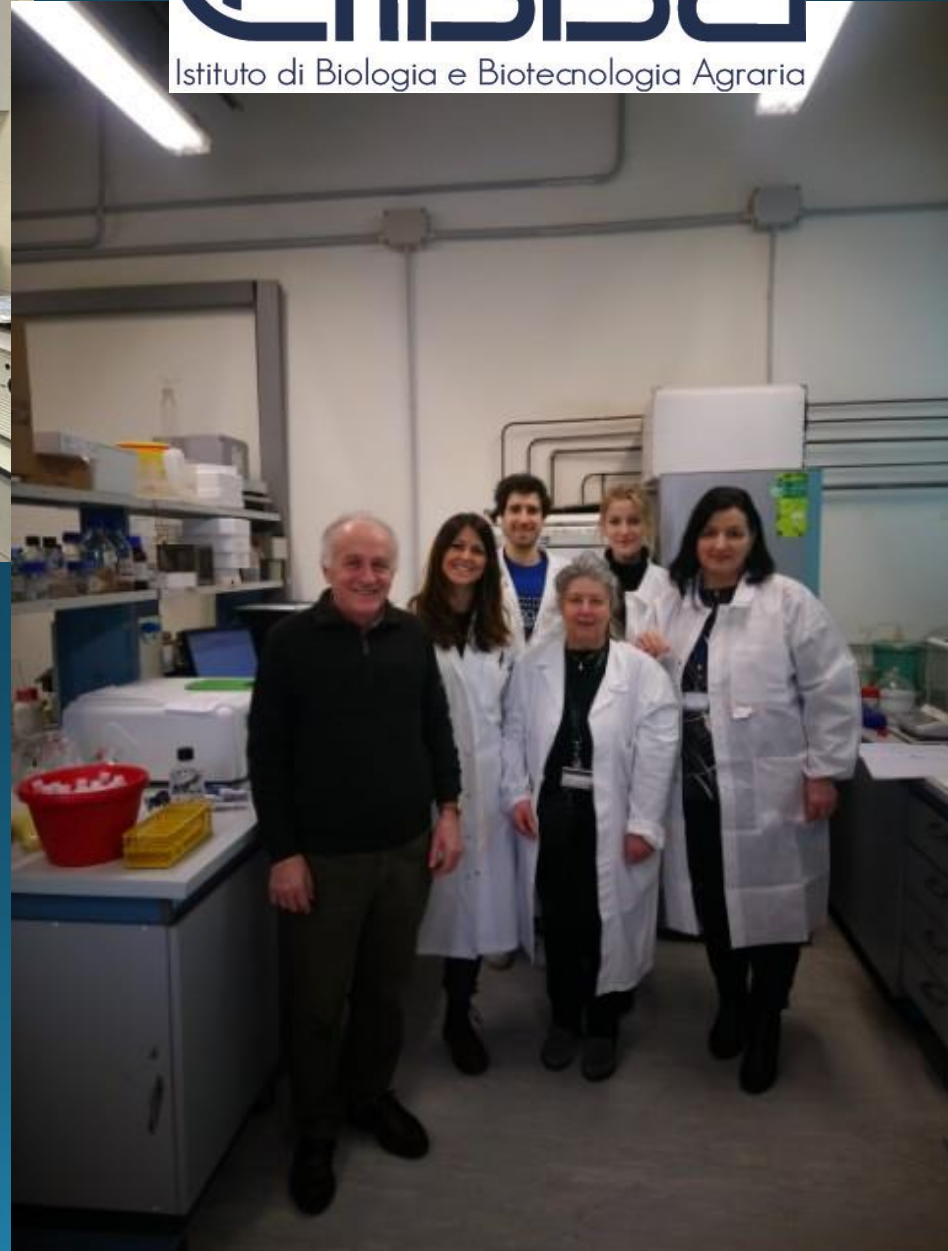
Lublin



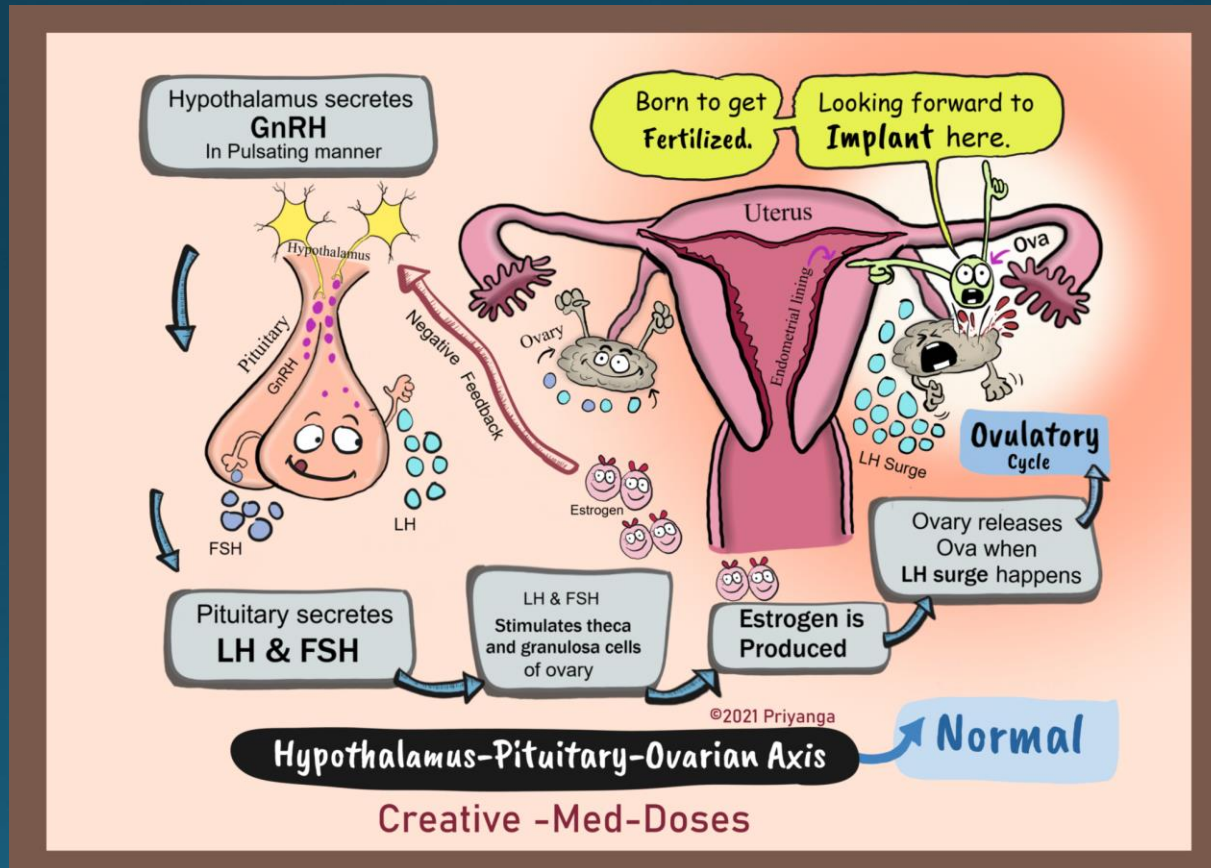


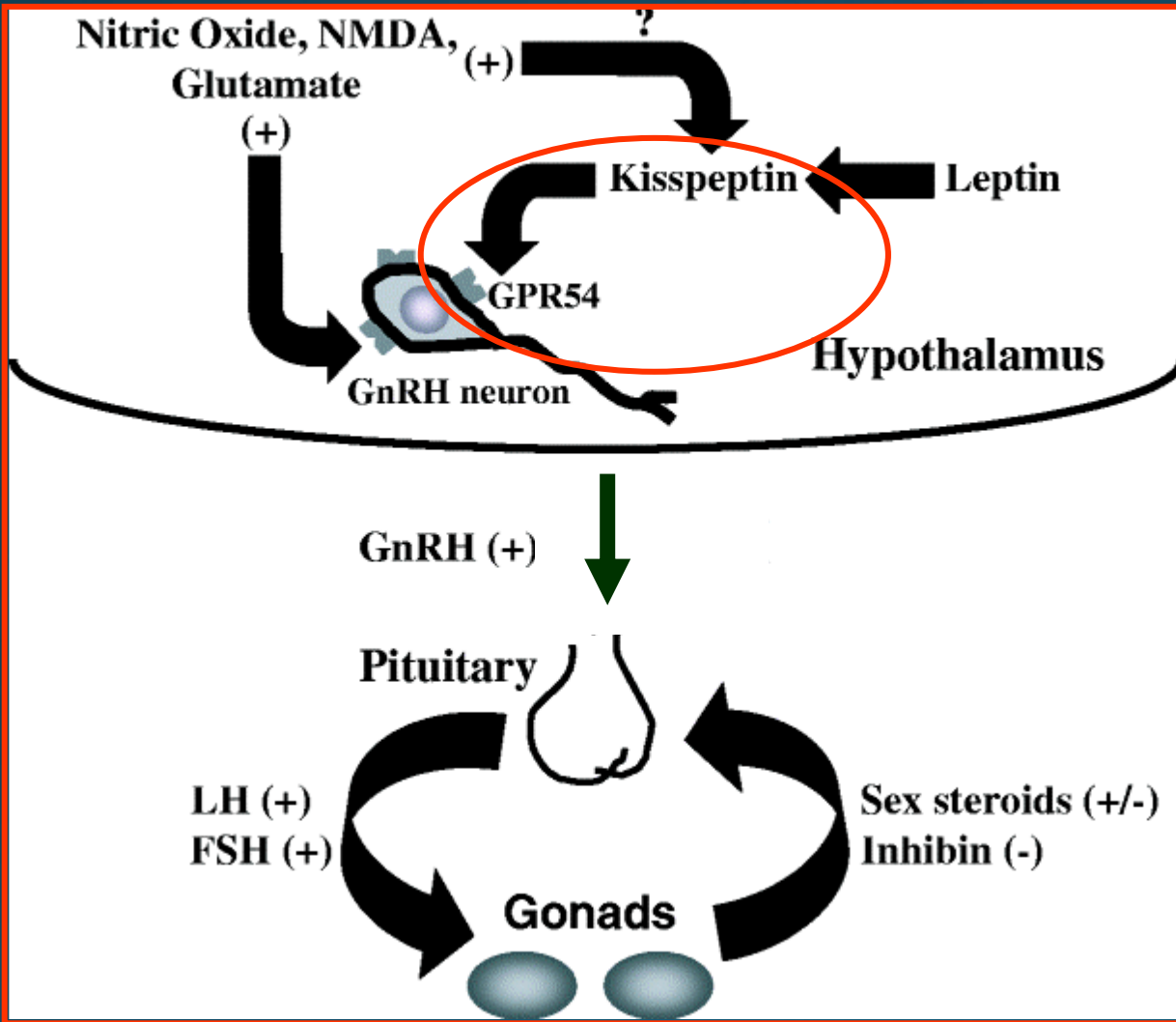


Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche  
**CNIR**  
Istituto di Biologia e Biotecnologia Agraria

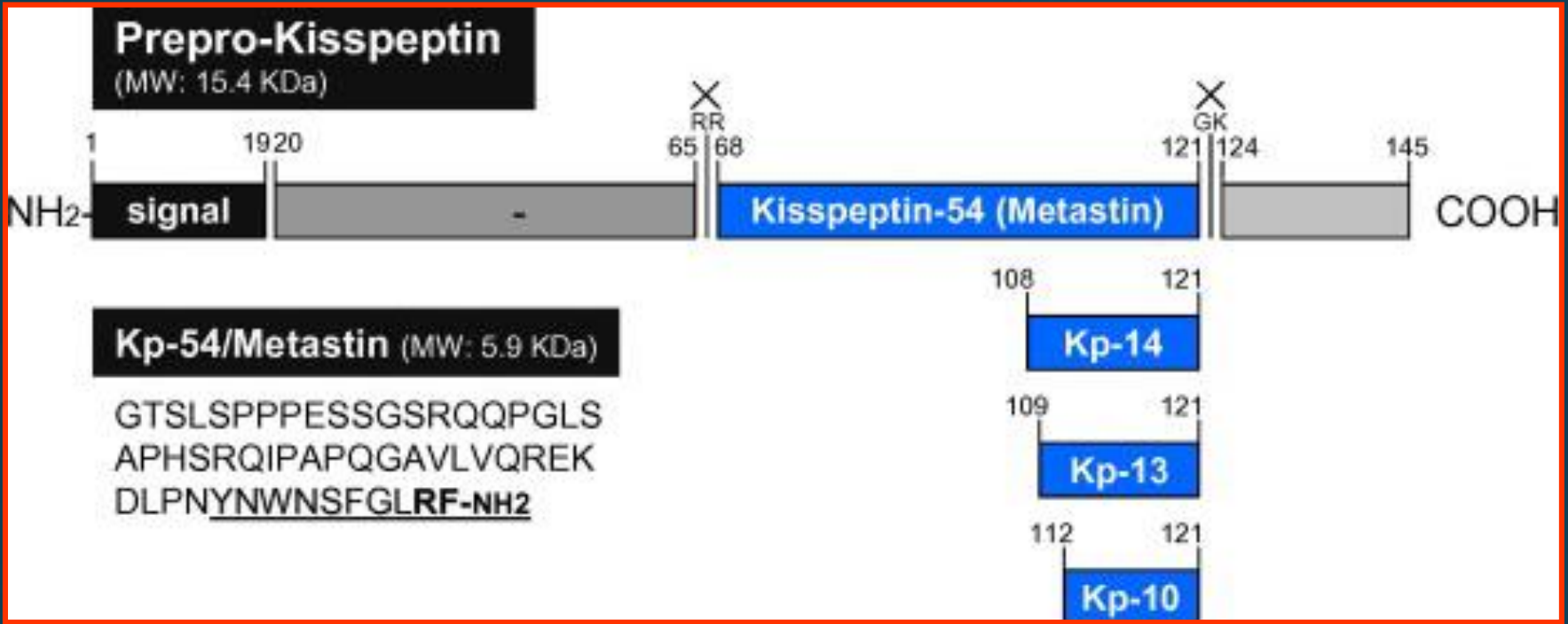


# The principal role of the KiSS-1/GPR54 system in the control of the hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian axis





**GPR54** – G protein-coupled receptor



RF-amide family

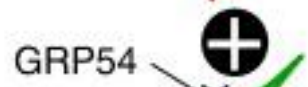
Common sequence **Arg-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>C**



AVPV  
POA  
ARC



**KiSS-1  
Neuron**



GRP54



**GnRH  
Neuron**

GnRH

POA

Pituitary

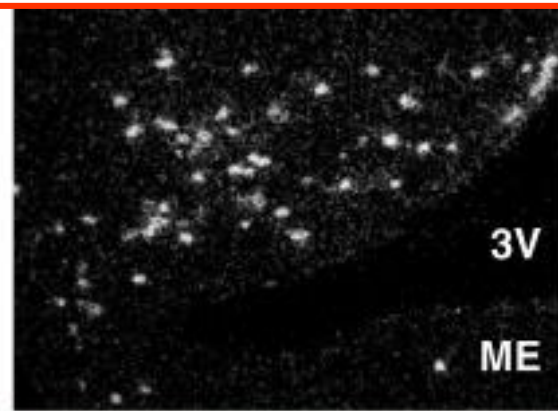
LH/FSH

Ovary

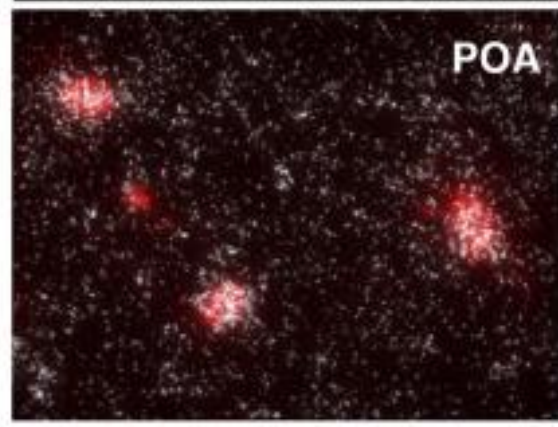


Estradiol  
Progesterone

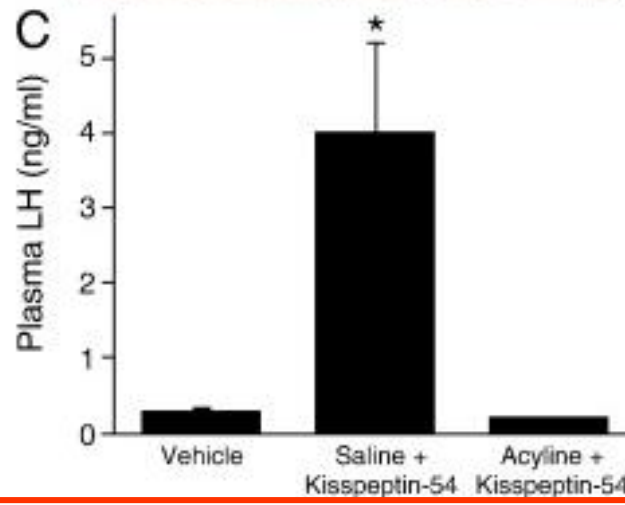
A



B



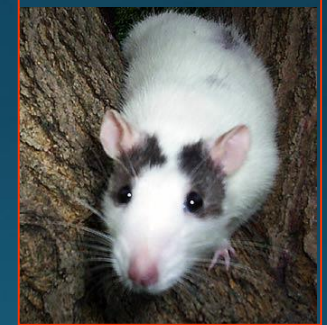
C



A – KiSS-1 mRNA in sheep ARC neurons (silver grains)

B - co-expression of GnRH (red) and GPR54 (silver grains) in POA neurons of rats

C – effect of kisspeptin-54 on LH concentration in peripheral blood of rats





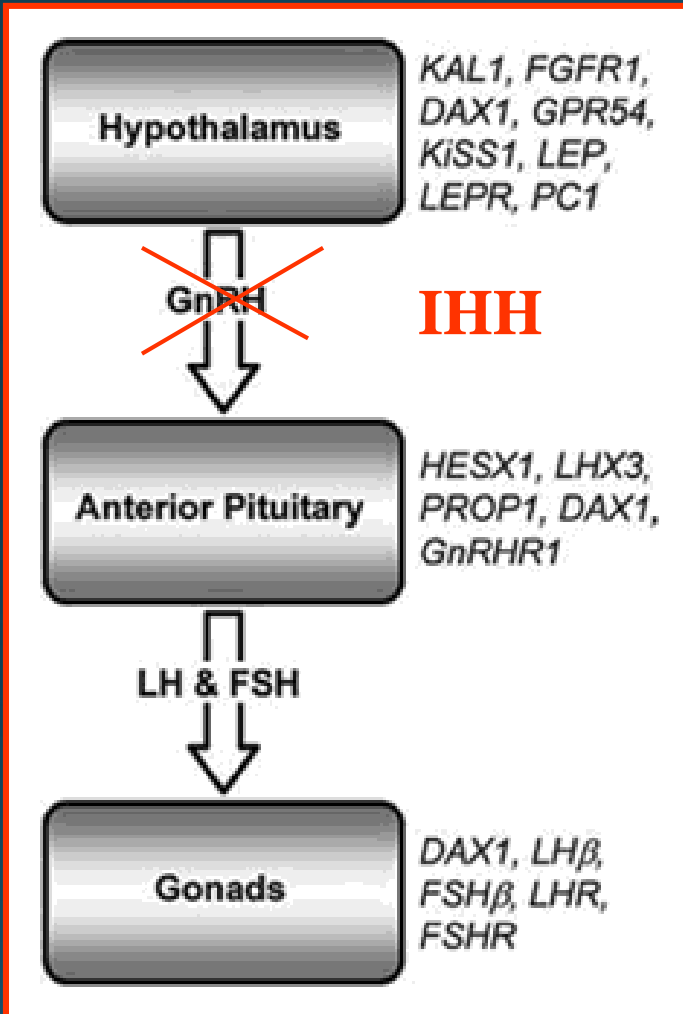


## Kisspeptin expression:

- hypothalamus – AVPV, POA, ARC
- amygdala
- pituitary gland
- ovaries
- testes
- placenta
- pancreas
- liver
- small intestine

## GPR54 expression:

- hypothalamus – AVPV, POA, ARC
- amygdala
- pituitary gland
- ovaries
- testes
- placenta
- pancreas
- small intestine
- heart
- skeletal muscle
- kidneys
- lungs
- thymus



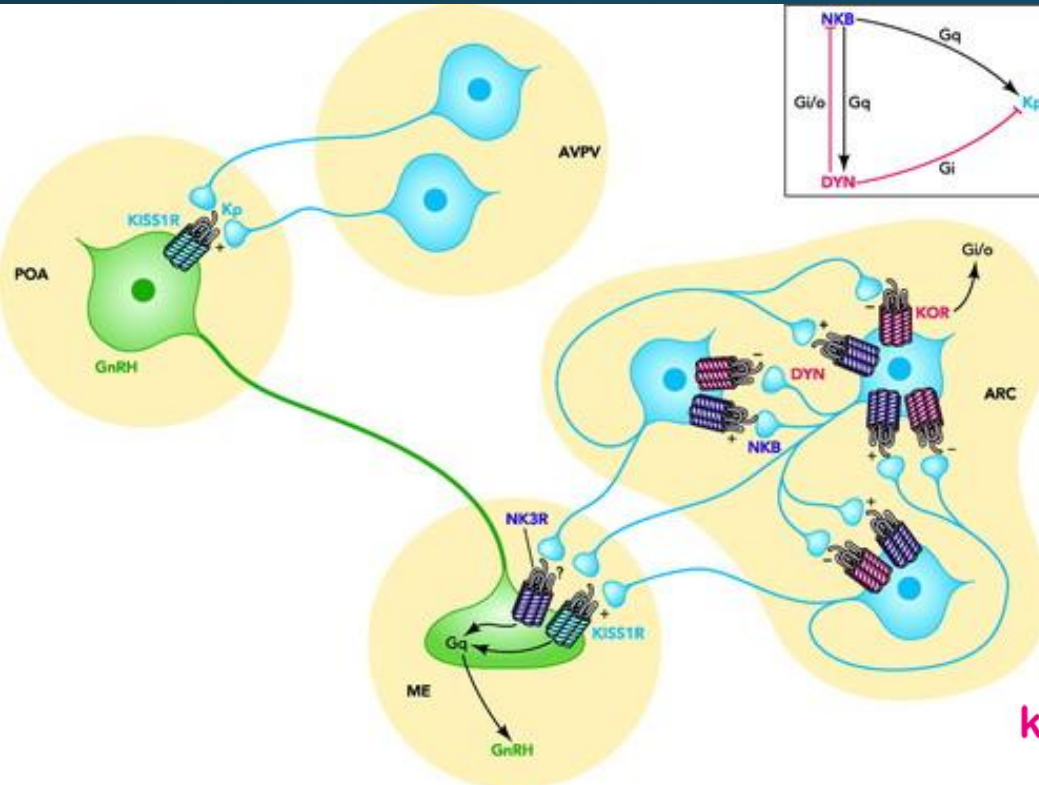
**Symptoms of isolated secondary hypogonadism (IHH - isolated hypogonadotrophic hypogonadism):**

- low levels of gonadotropins
- low levels of ovarian steroid hormones
- reduced ovarian weight
- narrowing of the lumen of the uterine horns
- only primary and secondary follicles are present in the ovaries
- high number of atretic follicles
- infertility

# The contribution of kisspeptin in the regulation of hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian axis

## I. HYPOTHALAMUS





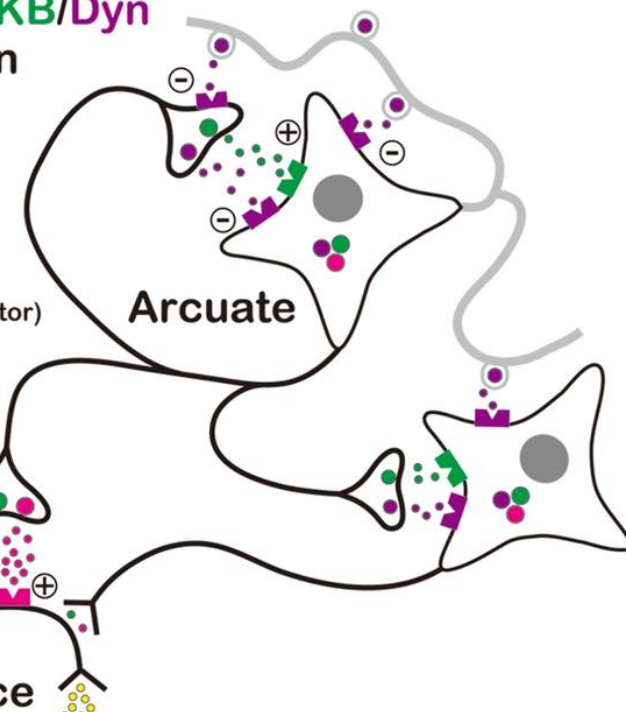
### kisspeptin/NKB/Dyn Neuron

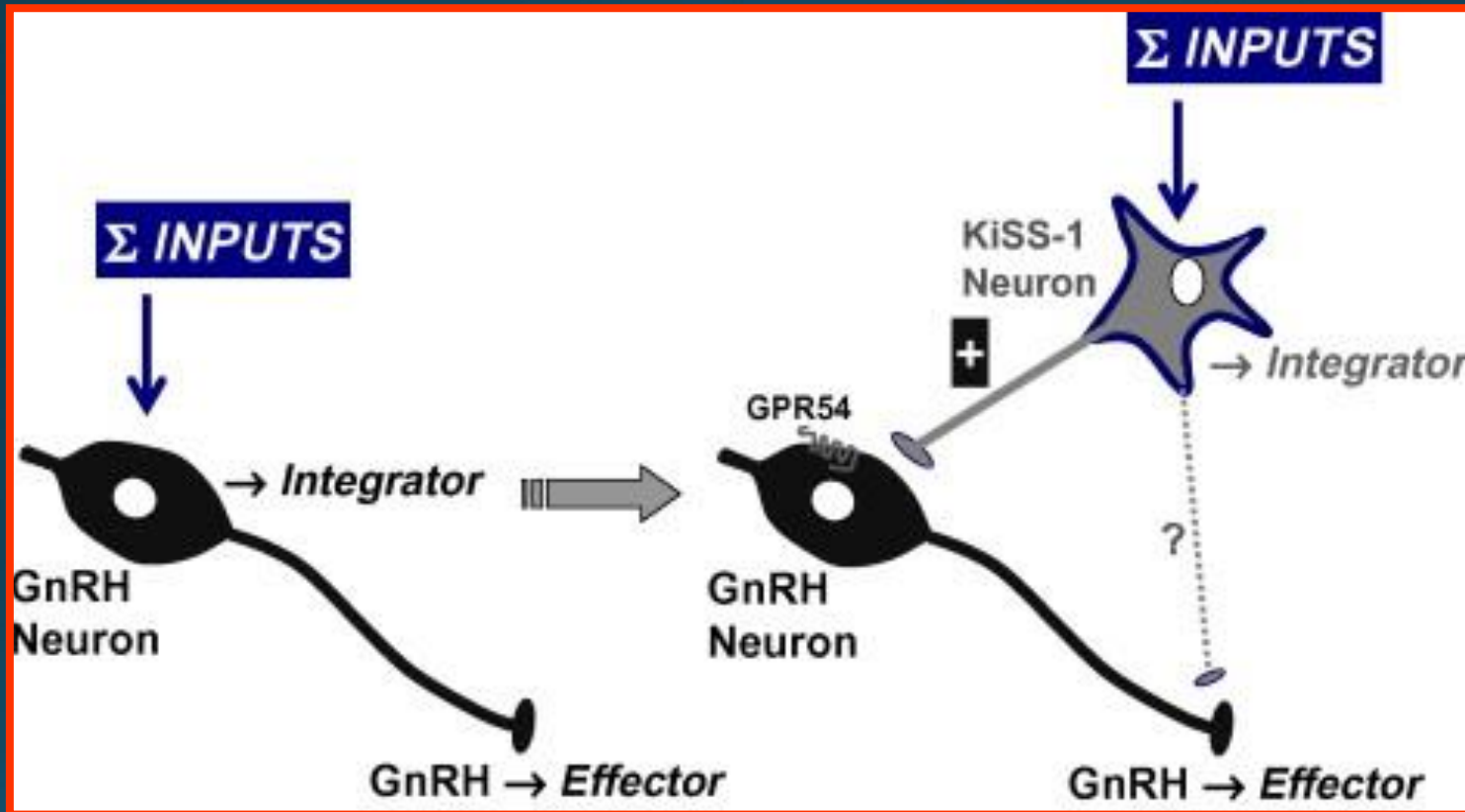
- kisspeptin
- NKB
- Dyn
- GnRH

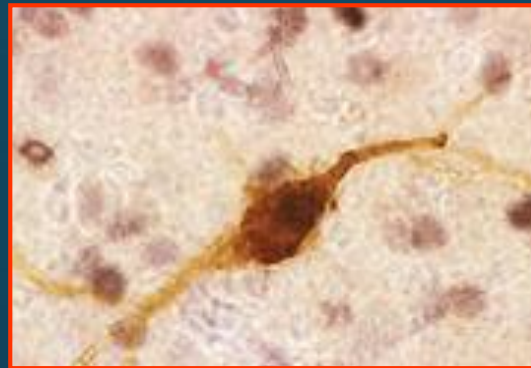
- Kiss1r (kisspeptin receptor)
- NK3 (NKB receptor)
- KOR (Dyn receptor)

GnRH  
Neuron

Median  
Eminence





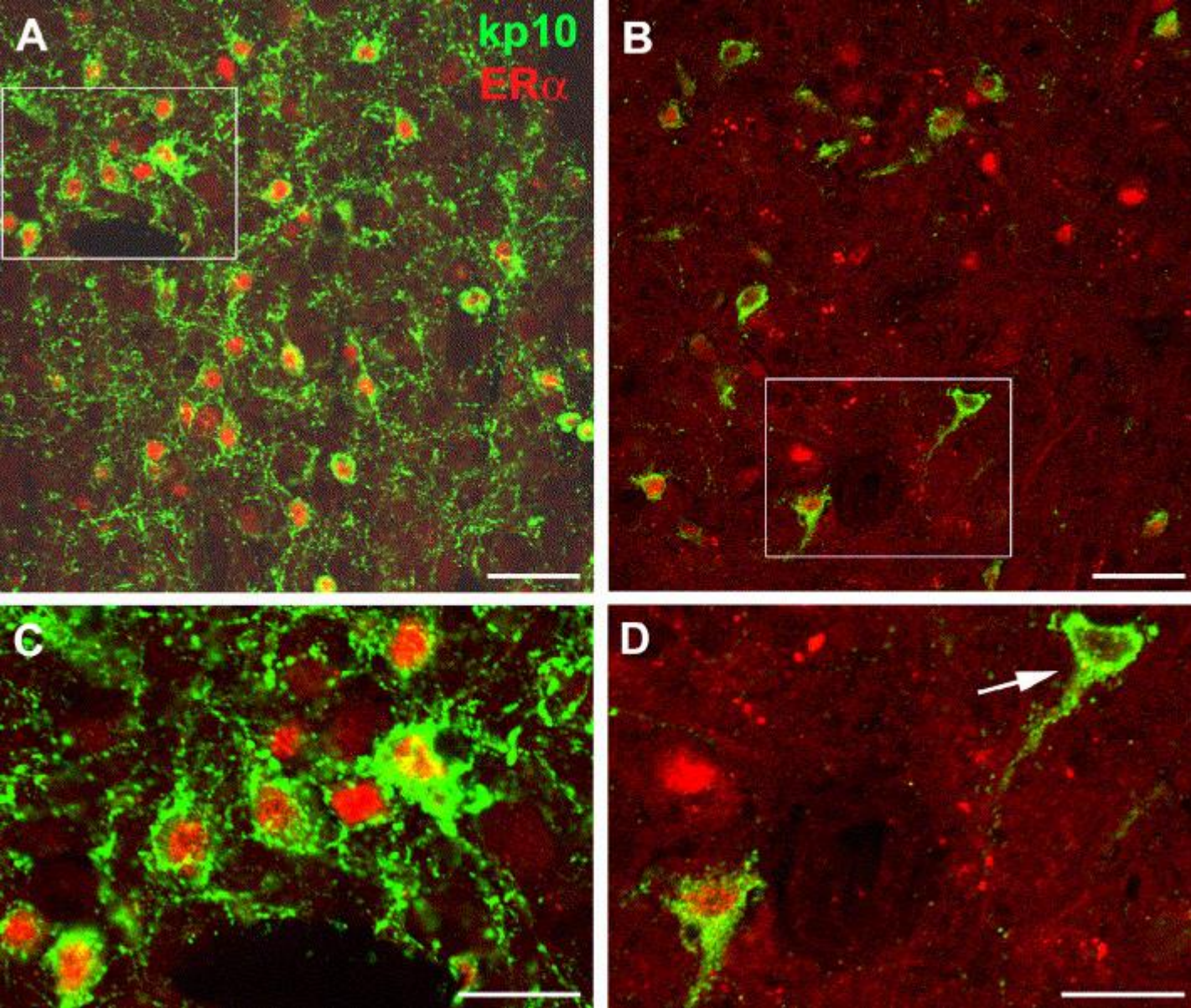


### GnRH neurons

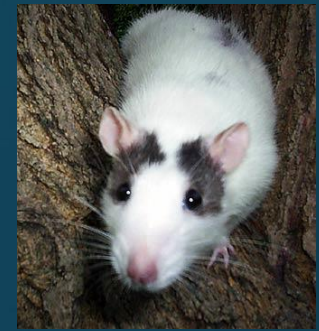
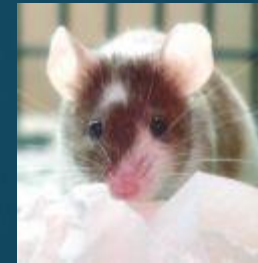
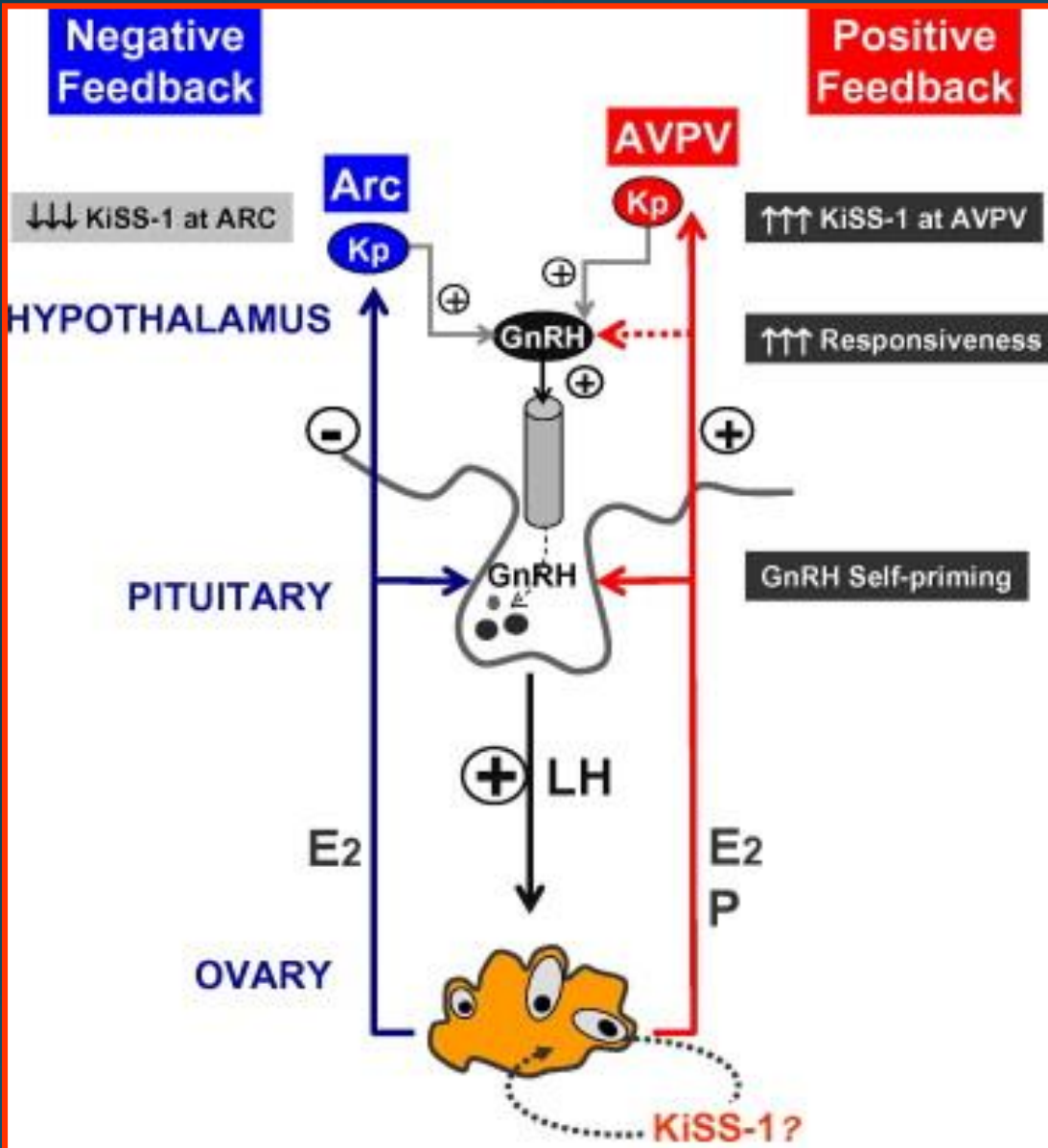
90% - the presence  
of kisspeptin

77% - expression  
of GPR54

86% - increase in expression of the Fos protein  
under the influence of kisspeptin

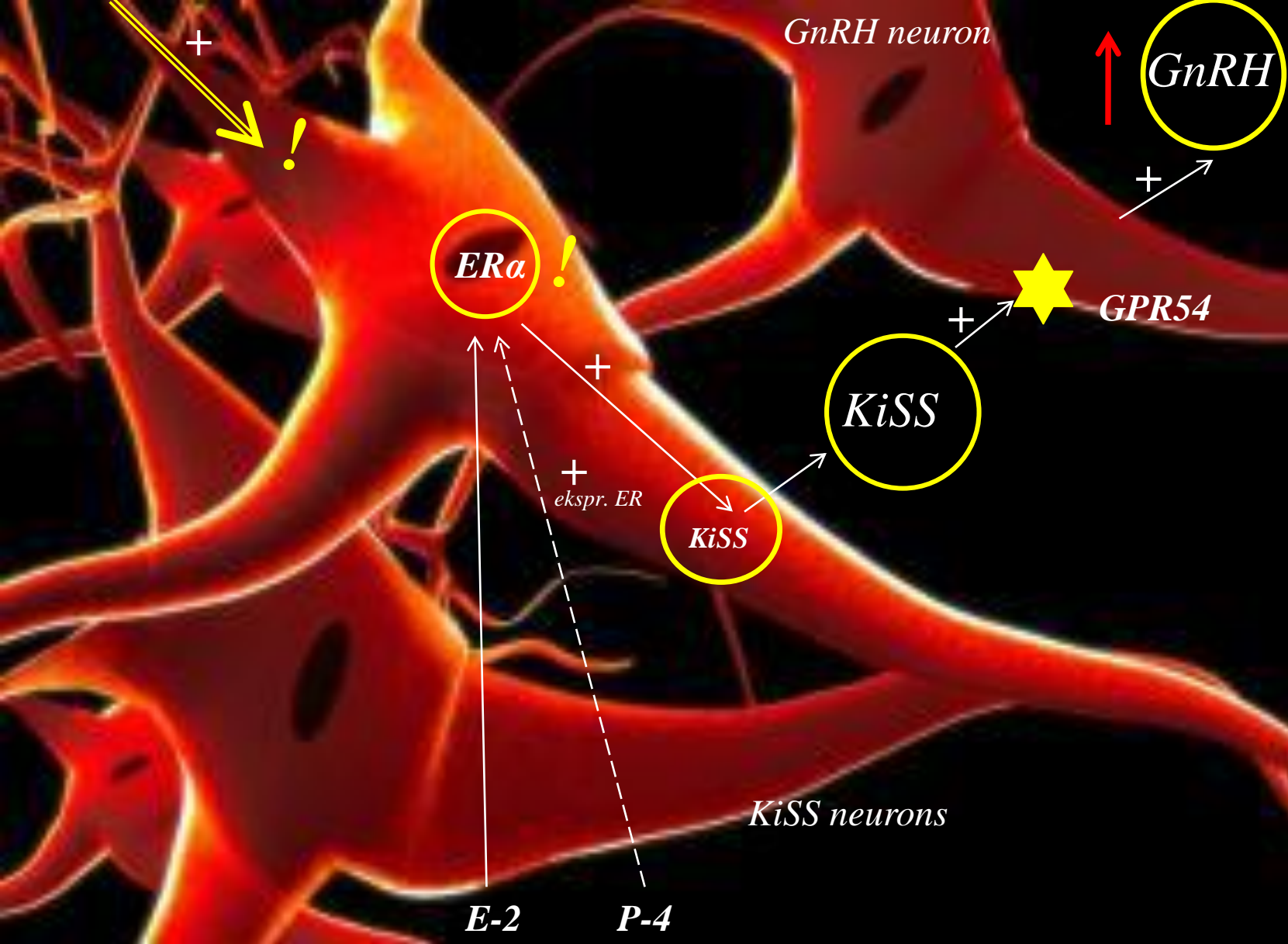


Localization of kisspeptin-10 (green) and ER receptors (red) in arcuate nucleus neurons (A and C) and preoptic area (B and D) in a sheep (double immunofluorescence labeling). In the arcuate nucleus, in contrast to the preoptic area, most kp-10ir neurons show high nuclear immunoreactivity for ER.

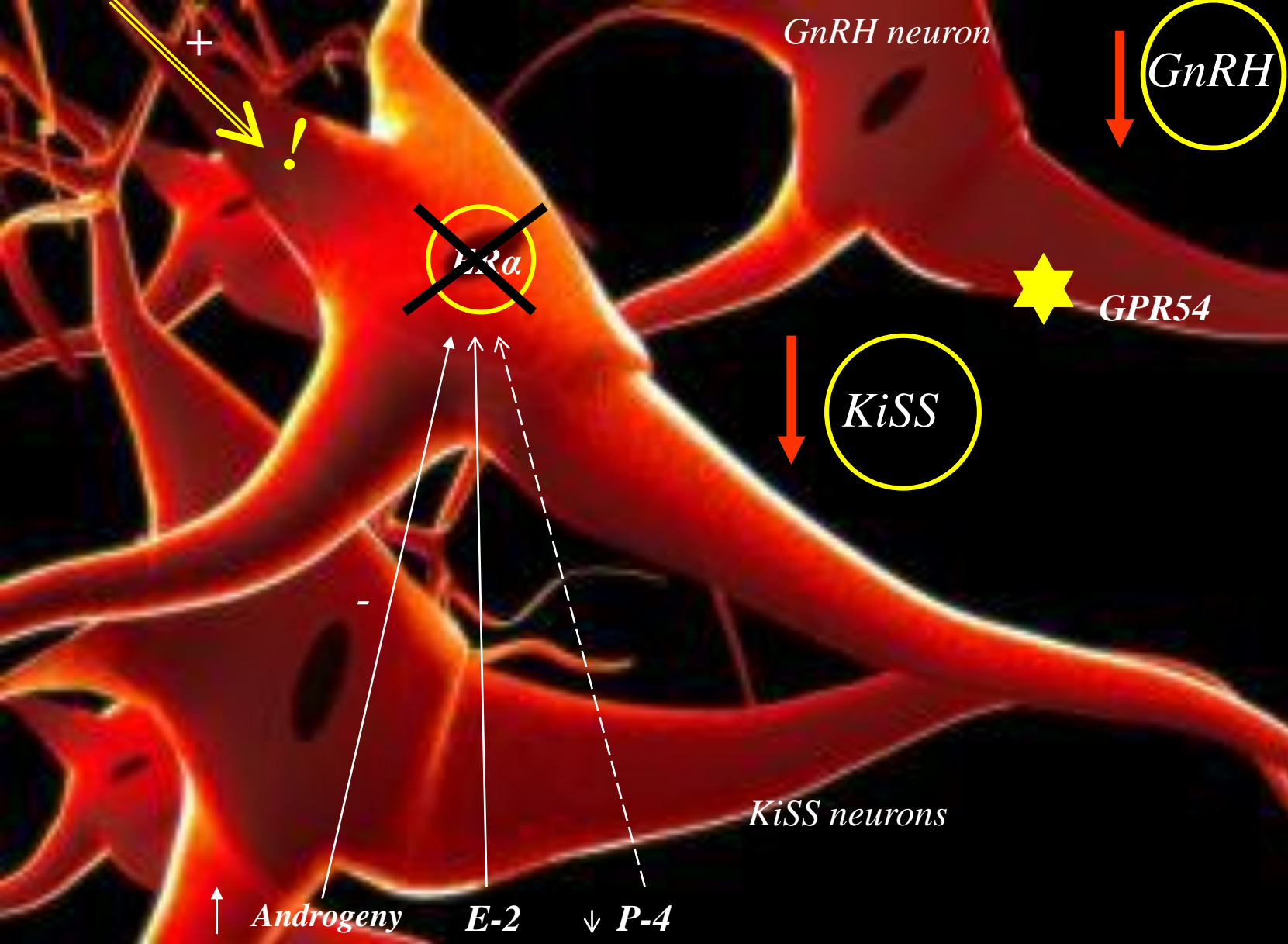


Mechanism of negative and positive estradiol feedback involving kisspeptins in rodents.

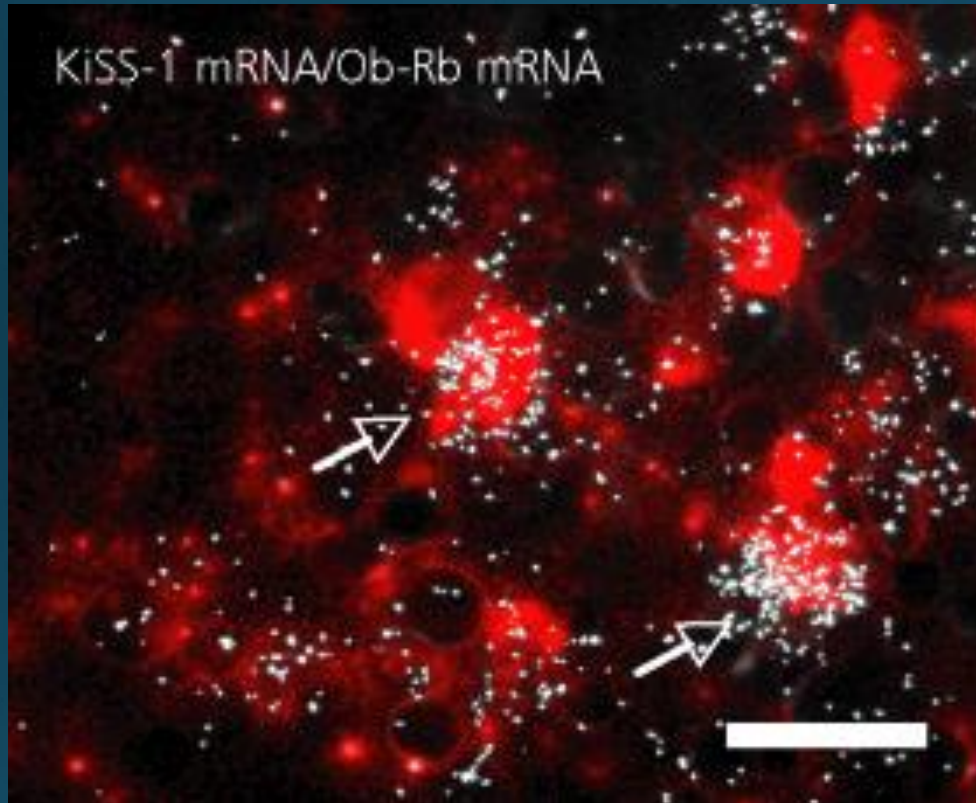




*Contribution of the KiSS-1/GPR54 system to stimulating the preovulatory GnRH surge in response to 17β-estradiol*

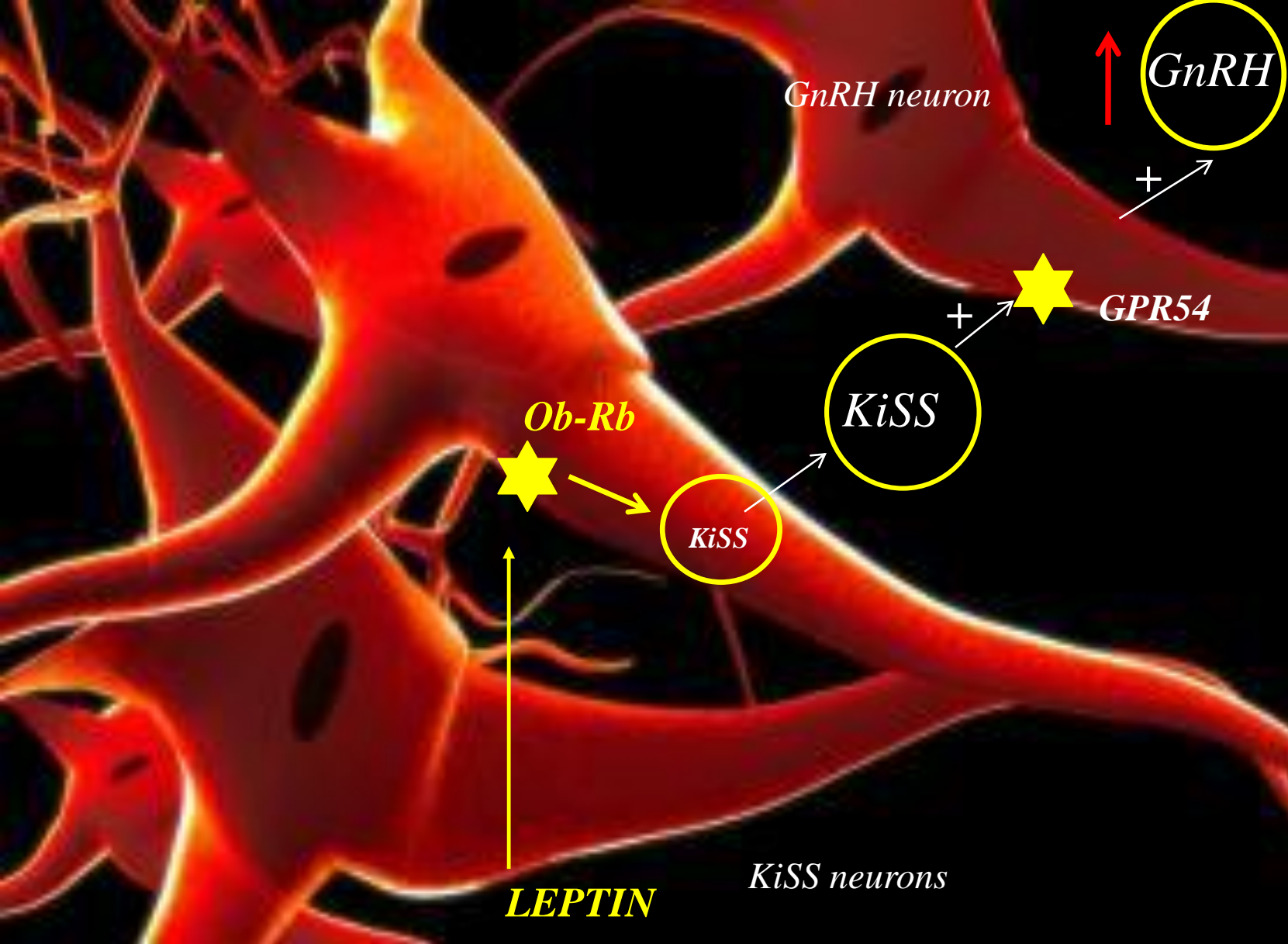


*Mechanisms responsible for the suppression or lack of preovulatory GnRH surge related to regulation of kisspeptin neurons activity by ovarian steroid hormones*

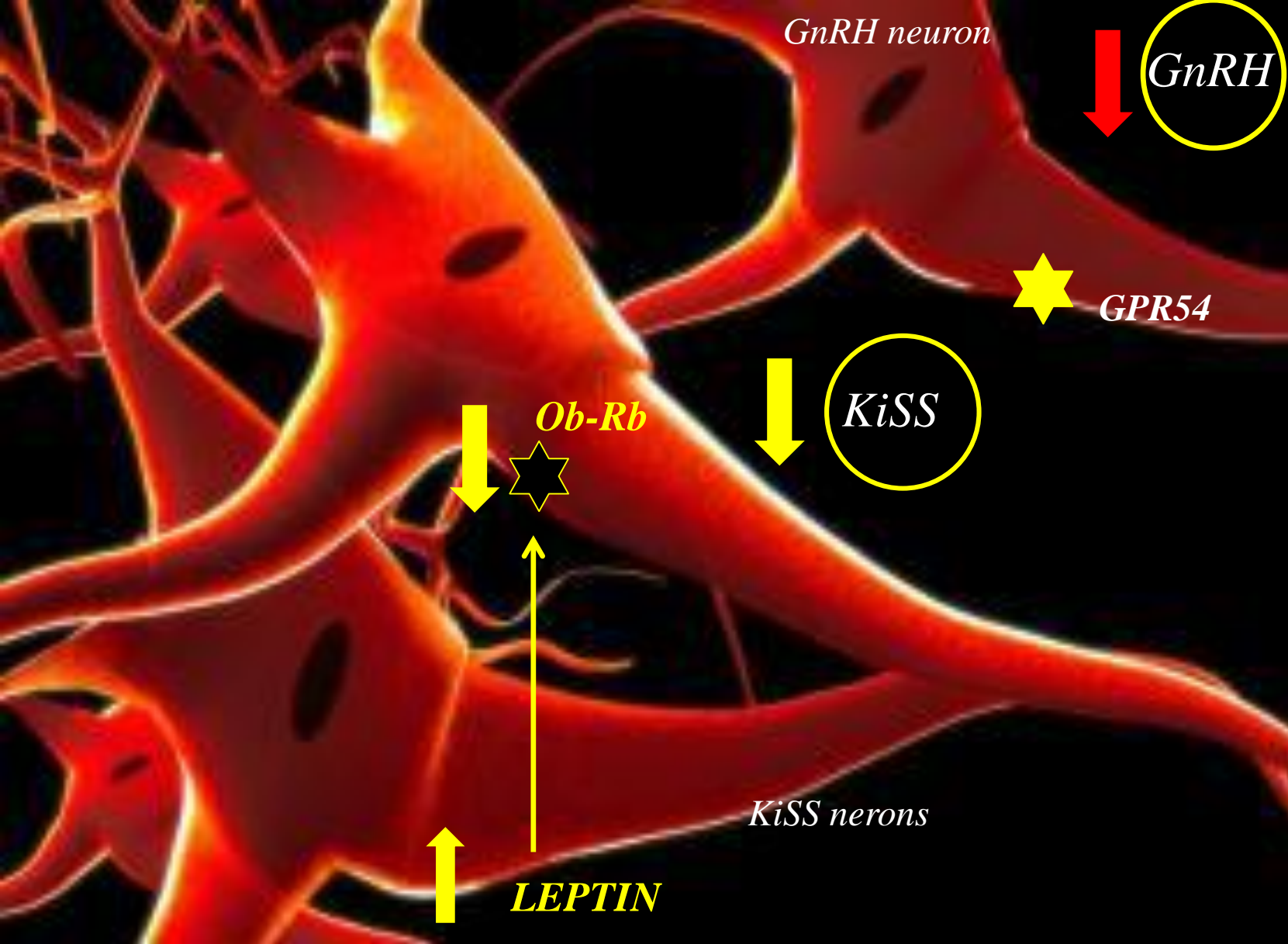


*Co-expression of KiSS-1 mRNA (red) and Ob-Rb mRNA (silver grains) in sheep arcuate nucleus.*

*Approximately 42% of KiSS-1 neurons express Ob-Rb mRNA.*



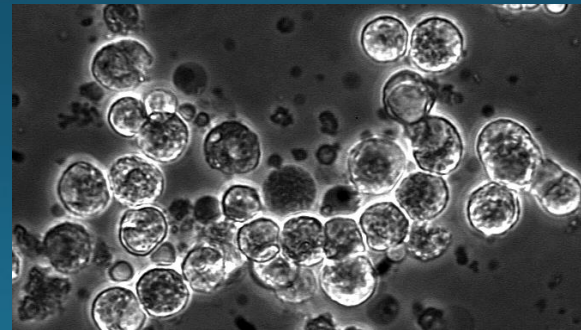
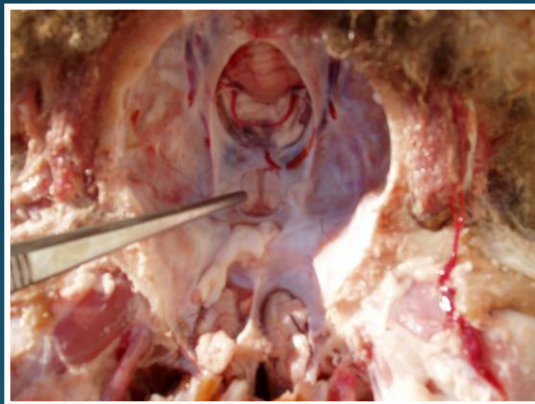
The role of leptin in stimulating GnRH secretion  
via the KiSS-1/GPR54 hypothalamic system

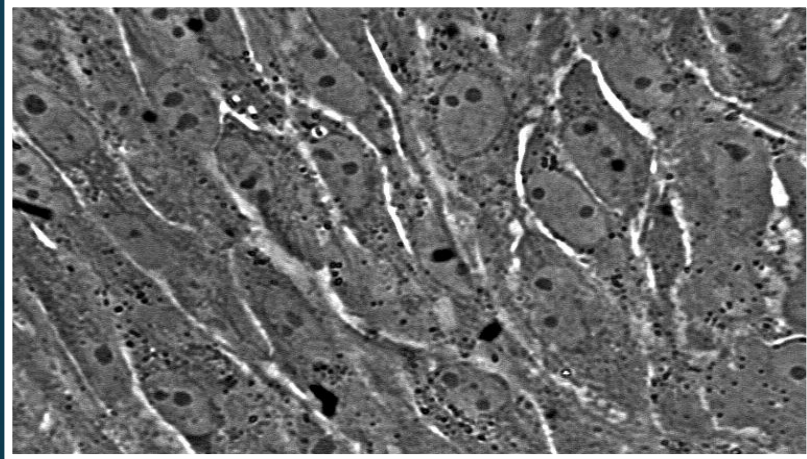


Hyperleptinemia can cause suppression or inhibition of GnRH release

**The principal role of the KiSS/GPR54 system  
in the control  
of the hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian axis**

## **II. Pituitary gland**





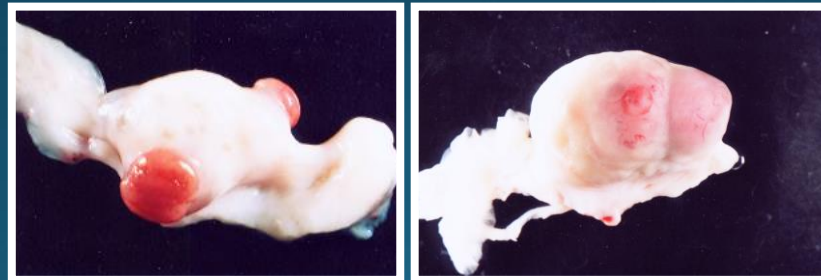
*KiSS-10* causes an increase  
in the concentration  
of free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions  
in about 62% of cells

estrogens increase *kiss-1* expression

expression of *kiss-1* and *gpr54* genes

**The principal role of the KiSS/GPR54 system  
in the control  
of the hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian axis**

**III. OVARY**







*kiss-1* and *gpr54*  
expression in theca  
cells, corpus luteum  
and interstitial cells

kisspeptins can control  
ovulation  
by regulating  
the activity  
of proteases

mutations in the *gpr54*  
gene cause a reduction  
in  $17\beta$ -estradiol levels

mutations in the *gpr54* gene  
cause a reduction  
in  $17\beta$ -estradiol levels

*kiss-1* expression increases  
under the influence  
of preovulatory  
gonadotropin release

*KISS-1/GPR54 system is a crucial element in a control mechanisms of development and reproductive processes, such as:*

*initiation of puberty, secretion of gonadotropins and metabolic regulation of fertility.*



*The theory about the superior role of GnRH, and then leptin, has undergone some modification in recent years after the discovery of kisspeptins and GPR54.*

*KiSS-1 neurons in the hypothalamus are now considered to be a fundamental element of the HPO axis, involved in both receiving and integrating key signals such as ovarian steroids and metabolic factors.*



***KISS-1/GPR54 was considered to be a missing link connecting individual levels of the HPO axis into one coherent and functional system.***



Praca oryginalna

Original paper

# Kisspeptin-10 and peptide 234 modulate GnRH-induced follicle-stimulating hormone secretion from anterior pituitary cells of prepubertal lambs in vitro\*)

URSZULA KOSIOR-KORZECKA, PAULINA RADWAŃSKA, KATARZYNA WITKOWSKA,  
KRZYSZTOF PATKOWSKI\*, MARTA WÓJCİK, JOANNA WESSELY-SZPONDER,  
RYSZARD BOBOWIEC

Pathophysiology Unit, Department of Preclinical Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Akademicka 12, 20-033 Lublin, Poland

\*Department of Small Ruminant Breeding and Agricultural Consultancy, Faculty of Biology and Animal Breeding,  
University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Akademicka 13, 20-950 Lublin, Poland

Received 04.03.2014

Accepted 08.04.2014

Kosior-Korzecka U., Radwańska P., Witkowska K., Patkowski K., Wójcik M.,  
Wessely-Szponder J., Bobowiec R.

## Kisspeptin-10 and peptide 234 modulate GnRH-induced follicle-stimulating hormone secretion from anterior pituitary cells of prepubertal lambs in vitro

### Summary

The aim of the study was to analyze the contribution of kisspeptin-10 (KiSS-10) and peptide 234 (kisspeptin-234, potent neutral antagonist of GPR-54 receptors) to the modulation of GnRH-induced follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) secretion from anterior pituitary cells of prepubertal ram lambs in vitro. Pituitary cells were cultured in McCoy 5A medium without hormones (the negative control), with GnRH ( $4 \times 10^{-9}$  M, the positive control), with GnRH ( $4 \times 10^{-9}$  M) and  $10^{-11}$ - $10^{-8}$  M of KiSS-10 or GnRH ( $4 \times 10^{-9}$  M),  $10^{-11}$ - $10^{-8}$  M of KiSS-10 and  $10^{-7}$  M of peptide 234. After 6, 12 and 48 h of the experiment, the secretion of follicle-stimulating hormone was determined. The obtained results show that FSH secretion from anterior pituitary cells of ram lambs in vitro was dependent on kisspeptin-10 concentration in the culture medium. Addition of  $10^{-11}$ - $10^{-9}$  M of KiSS-10 caused an increase in FSH secretion ( $r = 0.73, 0.90, \text{ and } 0.82$  after 6, 12 and 48 h, respectively) compared to both the negative and positive control, whereas the highest concentration of KiSS-10 ( $10^{-8}$  M) suppressed the secretion of this gonadotropin. The most stimulating effect was observed under the influence of  $10^{-9}$  M of KiSS-10. However, concurrent cell exposure to peptide 234 abolished the stimulating action of kisspeptin-10 on FSH secretion. The negative correlation between FSH secretion and  $10^{-11}$ - $10^{-8}$  M of KiSS-10 in this condition was found ( $r = -0.68, -0.91, \text{ and } -0.81$  after 6, 12 and 48 h, respectively). This confirms that the observed increase in GnRH-induced FSH secretion was a direct effect of KiSS-10 on the anterior pituitary cells of prepubertal ram lambs.

Keywords: kisspeptin-10, peptide 234, follicle-stimulating hormone, anterior pituitary cells



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Small Ruminant Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/smallrumres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/smallrumres)

## Relationships between leptin, the KiSS-1/GPR54 system and thyrotropic axis activity in ewe lambs predisposed to the delayed puberty



Paulina Radwańska\*, Urszula Kosior-Korzecka

Department of Pathophysiology, Chair of Preclinical Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Lublin, Poland

## ARTICLE INFO

## Article history:

Received 8 November 2015

Received in revised form 25 July 2016

Accepted 26 July 2016

Available online 27 July 2016

## Keywords:

Leptin

KiSS-1/GPR54 system

Thyrotropic axis

Ewe lambs

Puberty

Laparoscopy

## ABSTRACT

In the present study we compared body weight gains, some factors involved in the initiation of sexual maturation (pituitary expression of KiSS-1 and G protein-coupled receptors (GPR54), plasma concentrations of kisspeptin-10 (KiSS-10), leptin, thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), free thyroxin (fT4)) and the time of the first ovulation in ewe lambs predisposed to delayed puberty and control animals. The experiment was carried out on 114 ewes and 64 female lambs divided according to their birth type and body weight of their mothers. All ewe lambs were weighed at birth and every two weeks thereafter, until eight months of postnatal age. From four to eight months of postnatal age at monthly intervals, blood samples were collected from the jugular vein of all ewe lambs. Then, daily weight gains were recorded and plasma KiSS-10, leptin, TSH and fT4 concentrations were analysed by ELISA using species-specific antibodies. Starting from six months of age, the pituitary expression of KiSS-1/GPR54 mRNA was determined by Real Time-PCR. The activity of the ovaries was estimated using laparoscopy. The results obtained showed that the time of the onset of puberty in the ewe lambs depended on the mother's body mass, the plasma leptin level, and the birth type (singleton/twin). It was observed that the elevation of leptin concentration up to  $3.35 \pm 0.26$ – $3.60 \pm 0.19$  ng/mL was associated with the initiation of puberty. Conversely, the hyperphysiological leptin levels found in ewe lambs, which were twin offspring of fatty sheep, were correlated with puberty delayed until the age of ten months. Moreover, it was found that a significant increase in pituitary KiSS-1 mRNA expression ( $1.40 \pm 0.12$ – $1.63 \pm 0.22$ ) (relative KiSS-1 mRNA expression level, ratio of KiSS-1 mRNA/GAPDH mRNA) and plasma KiSS-10 concentration ( $31.26 \pm 1.54$  ng/mL– $32.24 \pm 2.25$  ng/mL) was connected with the occurrence of the first ovulation. On the other hand, GPR54 mRNA expression in the pituitary decreased around the time of the first ovulation. Also, the increase in thyroid gland activity was dependent on the mother's body mass as well as birth type and occurred around the time of the first ovulation.



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Research in Veterinary Science

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/rvsc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/rvsc)



# Relationships between leptin, KiSS-1/GPR54 expression and TSH secretion from pituitary cells of pubertal ewes *in vitro*



Paulina Radwańska \*, Urszula Kosior-Korzecka

Department of Pathophysiology, Chair of Preclinical Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Lublin, Poland

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 28 May 2015

Received in revised form 8 February 2016

Accepted 21 February 2016

Available online xxxx

#### Keywords:

Kisspeptin

Leptin

Thyroid-stimulating hormone

Pubertal ewes

Pituitary cells *in vitro*

### ABSTRACT

Kisspeptin and leptin play a crucial role in the puberty of sheep as they initiate the activity of hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian axis. Also hormones of thyrotropic axis are probably involved in this process. The aim of study was to analyze the impact of leptin on kisspeptin-10 secretion as well as kisspeptin-1 and G protein-coupled receptor (GPR54) mRNA expression in pituitary cells of pubertal ewes *in vitro*. The influence of kisspeptin on TSH secretion was also examined. Cells were cultured in McCoy's 5A medium without hormones; with  $10^{-10}$ – $10^{-5}$  M of leptin; with  $10^{-11}$ – $10^{-5}$  M of kisspeptin-10; with peptide 234 ( $10^{-7}$  M, antagonist of GPR54) or  $10^{-11}$ – $10^{-5}$  M of kisspeptin-10 and peptide 234. Then, kisspeptin-10 and TSH secretion as well as KiSS-1 and GPR54 expression were analyzed. We found that leptin directly affected kisspeptin-10 secretion and kisspeptin-1/GPR54 expression in pituitary cells of pubertal ewes. Kisspeptin-10 did not change TSH secretion, except exerting a short-term influence after 2 h.

© 2016 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.