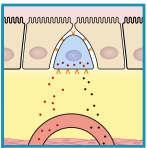# GHRELIN, CCK, GLP-1, AND PYY(3–36): SECRETORY CONTROLS AND PHYSIOLOGICAL ROLES IN EATING AND GLYCEMIA IN HEALTH, OBESITY, AND AFTER RYGB

Robert E. Steinert, Christine Feinle-Bisset, Lori Asarian, Michael Horowitz, Christoph Beglinger, and Nori Geary

University of Adelaide Discipline of Medicine and National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia Centre of Research Excellence in Translating Nutritional Science to Good Health, Adelaide, Australia; DSM Nutritional Products, R&D Human Nutrition and Health, Basel, Switzerland; Institute of Veterinary Physiology, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; Department of Biomedicine and Division of Gastroenterology, University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland; and Department of Psychiatry, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, New York

Steinert RE, Feinle-Bisset C, Asarian L, Horowitz M, Beglinger C, Geary N. Ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36): Secretory Controls and Physiological Roles in Eating and Glycemia in Health, Obesity, and After RYGB. *Physiol Rev* 97: 411–463, 2017. Published December 21, 2016; doi:10.1152/physrev.00031.2014.—The efficacy of Roux-en-Y gastric-bypass (RYGB) and other bariatric surgeries in the management of obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus and novel developments in gastrointestinal (GI) endocrinology have renewed interest in the roles of GI hormones in the control of eating, meal-related glycemia, and obesity. Here we review the nutrient-sensing mechanisms that control the secretion of four of these hormones, ghrelin, cholecystokinin (CCK), glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), and peptide tyrosine tyrosine [PYY(3–36)], and their contributions to the controls of GI motor function, food intake, and meal-related increases in glycemia in healthy-weight and obese persons, as well as in RYGB patients. Their physiological roles as classical endocrine and as locally acting signals are discussed. Gastric emptying, the detection of specific digestive products by small intestinal enteroendocrine cells, and synergistic interactions among different GI loci all contribute to the secretion of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36). While CCK has been fully established as an endogenous endocrine control of eating in healthy-weight persons, the roles of all four hormones in eating in obese persons and following RYGB are uncertain. Similarly, only GLP-1 clearly contributes to the endocrine control of meal-related glycemia. It is likely that local signaling is involved in these hormones' actions, but methods to determine the physiological status of local signaling effects are lacking. Further research and fresh approaches are required to better understand ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) physiology; their roles in obesity and bariatric surgery; and their therapeutic potentials.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The first hormones, secretin (66), gastrin (229), and cholecystokinin (CCK) (362), were discovered in the early 20th century. These discoveries provided a novel signaling mechanism for the control of gastrointestinal (GI) physiology, which supplanted Pavlov's "nervism" doctrine (44, 401, 566a). From this beginning, endocrinology rapidly grew into a discipline crucial to virtually all of physiology and medicine.

The contributions of GI hormones to insulin secretion and glycemic regulation were identified in the 1960s (109, 782). The discovery of CCK's satiating effect in the 1970s (278) ushered GI hormones into the physiology of eating. By the 2000s, at least a dozen GI hormones had been hypothesized to contribute to eating (836). GI hormones secreted in response to eating, however, were mainly considered to be phasic signals sculpting the timing and size of individual

meals and were not thought to be relevant for the tonic control of total energy intake and body-weight regulation (e.g., Refs. 172, 521, 672, 837). This view soon changed. In 2002, Cummings et al. (174) reported that levels of the gastric hormone ghrelin, which had been shown to increase eating when infused intravenously in humans (839), were inversely related to body adiposity in healthy-weight, obese, and weight-reduced humans, consistent with a tonic signaling function. Recent clinical trials indicate that treatment with long-acting glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists such as liraglutide [Victoza for type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and Saxenda for weight control, Novo Nordisk, Bagsvaerd, Denmark] leads to weight loss and amelioration of T2DM (335, 414, 581). Finally, changes in GI hormone secretion provide plausible mechanisms for the remarkable therapeutic efficacy of bariatric surgery, especially Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB), to reduce adiposity and improve glycemic control (113, 310, 421, 513, 551, 712).

In light of this, we review, *1)* the secretion of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and peptide tyrosine tyrosine [PYY(3–36)] around meals; *2)* the contributions of these hormones to the control of meal size, meal timing, and meal-related glycemia, but as explained below, not to hedonics; *3)* because it is an increas-ingly important issue in GI endocrinology, whether the hormones' mode of signaling in these situations is classically endocrine or local; *4)* given the close relationship of GI endocrine and GI motor physiology, the role of GI motility in the hormones' effects; *5)* whether obesity [i.e., body mass index (BMI); weight in kg/(height in m)^2 $\geq$30 kg/m^2], alters the hormones' effects on eating or glycemic control, and *6)* because of the marked alterations in nutrient delivery into the small intestines and contact with enteroendocrine cells after RYGB **(FIGURE 1)**, the hormones' contributions to the effects of RYGB on eating and glycemic control.

B. Approach

1. Why focus on meals?

Total amount eaten and glycemic control are critically dependent on the control of and physiological responses to individual meals, and a significant component of these functions is thought to be mediated by ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) secretion, as schematized in **FIGURE 2**.

The timing, size, and content of meals provide a complete description of what, when, and how much (in terms of g,
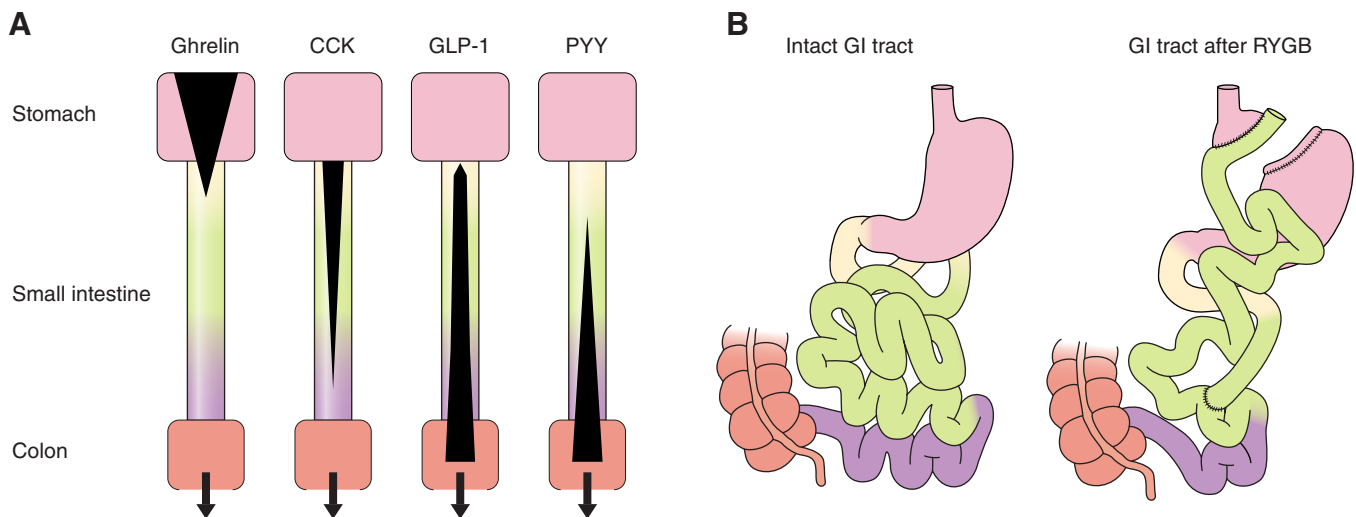

FIGURE 1. Schematic depictions of the localization of enteroendocrine cells and changes after RYGB. *A*: distribution of enteroendocrine cells secreting ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY in the stomach (pink), duodenum (yellow), jejunum (green), and ileum (violet). Black areas indicate the relative densities of expression of enteroendocrine cells producing the hormones indicated. Enteroendocrine cells secreting particular hormones were initially categorized histologically, e.g., I cells for CCK, L cells for enteroglucagons and PYY, etc. (166, 567, 591). It is now clear, however, that this categorization is not a reliable guide to hormone secretion. Rather, individual enteroendocrine cells secrete variable mixtures of hormones (231, 303, 597, 738). Bottom salmon rectangle, proximal large intestine. *B*: intact gastrointestinal tract (*left*) and gastrointestinal rearrangement after RYGB (*right*). Pink areas are stomach, salmon areas are large intestine (~1.5 m long in healthy adults), yellow is duodenum (typically ~25 cm long), green is jejunum (~2–3 m), and violet is ileum (~3–4 m). For RYGB, the stomach is divided into a small upper pouch with a volume of ~25 ml and an isolated gastric remnant, the small intestine is divided ~50 cm from the pylorus, and the distal limb of the small intestine (Roux or alimentary limb) is brought up to the gastric pouch and connected to it by an end-to-side gastroenterostomy. As a result, ingested food enters the small gastric pouch and empties directly into the jejunum. The gastric remnant and isolated ~50 cm of small intestine ("biliopancreatic limb") is connected to the jejunum ~150 cm distal to the gastroenterostomy. The small intestine distal to the anastomosis is called the common channel.

kcal, or macronutrients) is eaten. Meal patterns are produced by species-specific physiological controls as well as environmental, social, and cultural contingencies. The control of meal size is disturbed in psychiatric eating disorders (271, 483, 743). In addition, obese individuals eat larger meals than healthy-weight individuals (5, 74, 189, 497) (healthy body weight is BMI $\geq$18.5 and <25 kg/m^2). Thus the physiology of individual meals is crucial for understanding normal and disordered eating, including the chronic overeating that has led to the obesity epidemic (368, 741, 792). Smith (702) referred to the recognition of the central role of meals in the physiology of eating as "a paradigm shift from nutritional homeostasis to behavioral neuroscience."

Ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) contribute to three of the putative motivational processes that provide the basic unconditioned control of meal initiation and meal size (85, 86, 271): 1) hunger, which refers to the process energizing the acquisition of food and meal initiation; 2) satiation, which leads to ending the meal; and 3) postprandial satiety, which inhibits eating after meals and prolongs the intermeal interval. The hormones' possible roles in a fourth meal-control process, flavor hedonics, and the central neural mechanisms integrating their effects are not reviewed, as these topics have been adequately reviewed elsewhere (for reviews of the hormones' hedonic effects, see Refs. 24, 212, 467, 499, 571, 699, 700, 827; for reviews of their central processing, see Refs. 75, 76, 291, 524, 623, 625).

It has long been known that meal-stimulated insulin release accounts for about half of total daily insulin secretion (408, 592, 593). More recently, measurement of glycated hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) in T2DM patients with well-controlled glucose levels (HbA1c <7.3%), i.e., patients most closely resembling metabolically healthy persons, revealed that meal-related increases in blood glucose account for ~70% of the total increment in diurnal blood glucose levels over fasting levels (509, 621). ("Meal related" indicates both during and after meals and is clearer than "prandial," which sometimes is used to indicate only during meals.) Two of the principal factors related to meal-related increases in blood glucose are GI functions: 1) gastric emptying, which determines the rate of appearance of glucose in the small intestines, and, ordinarily, in the blood, and 2) the release of incretin hormones, i.e., GI hormones that stimulate insulin secretion (472). Thus, because CCK and PYY(3–36) contribute to gastric emptying, because GLP-1 is one of the principal incretin hormones (together with glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide, GIP), and because ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) may have other effects that influence meal-related glycemia, meal physiology is an integral component of glycemic control.

2. Why a "physiological" approach?

Since its beginning, endocrinology has been organized around specific empirical criteria to identify hormones and their normal physiological functions (59, 156, 293, 489, 833). The first criteria were stated implicitly by Bayliss and Starling in 1902 (66) in their description of the discovery of secretin (TABLE 1). In their "crucial experiment," they observed that pancreatic secretion was stimulated both by acid introduced into a denervated loop of an anesthetized dog's jejunum and by intravenous injection of an extract of jejunal mucosa. This effectively began a new chapter in physiology. Starling coined the term *hormone*, from the Greek for I arouse or excite, in 1905 (711) based on the secretin work, on earlier studies of the pressor effect of adrenal
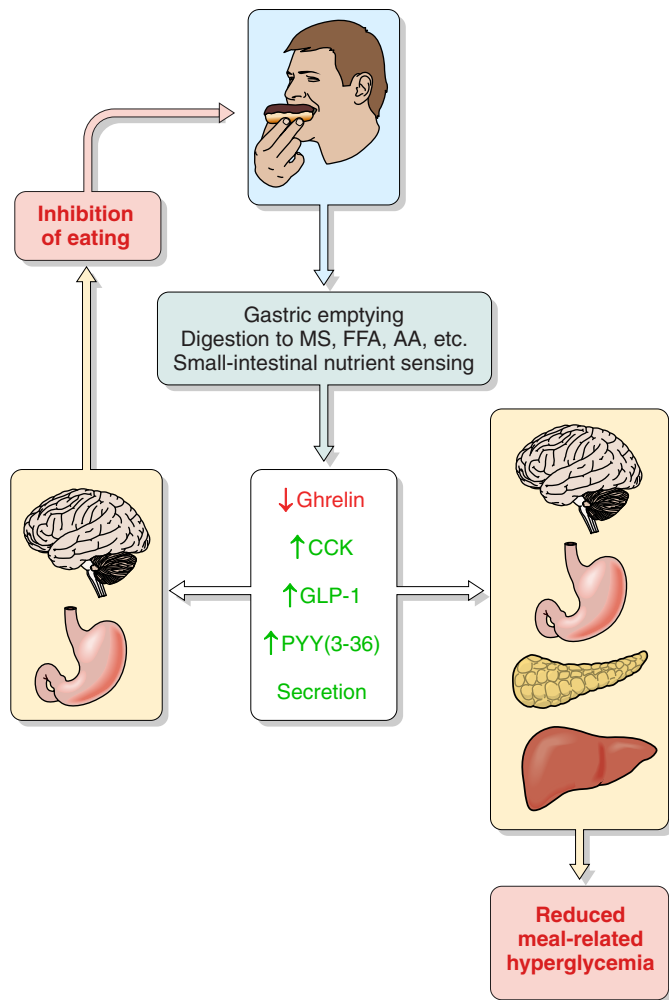

FIGURE 2. Overview of the hypothesized physiological roles of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) in the control of eating and of meal-related glycemia. Gastric emptying, which controls the rate of appearance of ingested food in the small intestine, intestinal transit, rate of digestion, and small intestinal nutrient sensing are the major determinants of the inhibition of ghrelin secretion and the stimulation of CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) secretion during and after meals. *Left*: changes in hormone levels lead to GI and central nervous system events whose outcome is to inhibit eating. *Right*: changes in hormone levels lead GI, pancreatic, hepatic, and central nervous system events whose outcome is to dampen postprandial increases in blood glucose. All four hormones have been hypothesized to contribute to each type of outcome. MS, monosaccharides; FFA, free fatty acids; AA, amino acids.

Table I. *Evolution of endocrine criteria*

A. William Bayliss and Ernest H. Starling (1902)

1. The adequate stimulus produces the response after complete denervation of the hormone-producing tissue.

2. Intravenous injection of an extract of the hormone-producing tissue produces the response.

B. Edward A. Doisy (1936)

1. Identification of the tissue that produces a hormone.

2. Development of bioassay methods to identify the hormone.

3. Preparation of active extracts that can be purified, using the relevant bioassay.

4. Isolation, identification of structure, and synthesis of the hormone.

C. Morton I. Grossman (1973)

1. The adequate stimulus produces a response in a distant target.

2. The response persists after cutting all nerves connecting the site of stimulation and the target.

3. The response is produced by an extract of the hormone-producing tissue.

4. The effect is produced by infusing exogenous hormone in amounts and molecular forms that copy the increase in blood concentrations produced by the adequate stimulus for endogenous release.

See text for references and discussion.

epinephrine by Oliver and Schäfer (556), and on his belief in the importance of chemical control in physiology (320). In the subsequent decades, isolating hormones from gland tissue was a major enterprise and was organized around additional criteria, such as Doisy's (218, 833) **(TABLE 1)**. The development of radioimmunoassay and other accurate assay methods beginning in the mid-20th century brought additional criteria, based on appropriate changes in plasma hormone levels, such as Grossman's (293) **(TABLE 1)**. Radioactive (and other) molecular-labeling methods also enabled the study of hormone receptors, and criteria based on receptor function were added (267, 270, 703), as discussed further below.

It is now clear that many hormones signal locally as well as via the classic blood-borne, endocrine mode (163, 463, 611). Local signaling in the GI tract can take three forms. First, hormones may act in a paracrine mode, i.e., be released as usual into the GI lamina propria and act on neighboring nonneural cells before absorption. Second, they may act in a neuroendocrine-like mode if they affect neural afferents in the laminal propria. Third, they may act in a neurocrine-like mode following release from axonlike cytoplasmic extensions of the enteroendocrine cells, called neuropods (90, 418). CCK- and PYY-containing neuropods, ending mainly in close apposition to glial cells of the enteric nervous system, were recently described in mice (92, 93). Neuropods appear to have a synapse-like function because there are accumulations of secretory vesicles near the appositions, the neuropods and target cells express characteristic

pre- and postsynaptic proteins, and rabies virus moves retrogradely through them. This neuropod mode of action presumably mediates more specific cell-to-cell signaling than paracrine mechanisms. One possibility is that this signaling contributes to enteric nervous system reflexes linking the proximal and distal small intestine, which, as described below, appear important in the control of GI hormone secretion. **FIGURE 3** summarizes the signaling modes of GI hormones.

The criteria used here for normal, endogenous physiological function are listed in **TABLE 2**. Criteria 1 and 2 address the plausibility that the candidate signal controls a particular function, criteria 3–5 concern the candidate signal's sufficiency, and criterion 6 concerns its necessity. For hormones acting via an endocrine mode, endocrine tests of criterion 1 may be based on concentrations of the molecule in the blood and at its site of action, and criteria 3, 4, and 6 may be tested with intravenous infusions (unless bloodborne agonists or antagonists do not readily access the receptors, for example because of the blood-brain barrier). Plasma levels and intravenous infusions, however, do not provide adequate tests of paracrine or neuropod signaling. This is because intravenous infusion of a hormone, even if it matches the hormone's meal-related changes in the blood, may not mimic its concentration at paracrine or neuropod sites of action, i.e., in the lamina propria or at the site of close appositions with other cells, respectively. The same goes for agonist or antagonist administration. Thus, for paracrine or neuropod modes of action, the criteria remain theoretical possibilities, at least in humans, because, at present, there are no validated means to deliver hormones locally into the lamina propria or the close appositions formed by neuropods, or to measure their concentrations at such sites. In animals, however, these limitations soon may be surmounted, for example, by targeting the lamina propria with infusions into intestinal lumen (147).

A related issue is that multiple parameters of hormone secretion other than plasma concentrations may encode feedback signals controlling eating. These include times of onset of changes in plasma levels, rates of change, pulsatility, and effects of sustained or integrated levels versus momentary levels. Unfortunately, the parameters that actually serve as endogenous physiological signals have not been intensively studied. Rather, researchers have modeled mainly a single parameter, the peak plasma level, and peaks have been modeled only crudely by continuous infusions that do not consider the duration or timing of the peaks. Therefore, for the purposes of evaluating criterion 1, "physiological" endocrine doses are provisionally defined as those reproducing the peak plasma levels produced by mixed-nutrient meals **(TABLE 3)**. As limited as this definition is, it is at present the state of the art and has proven quite useful.

The ability to analyze hormone function with agonists and antagonists (criterion 6) is linked to developments in receptor pharmacology and receptor-subtype analyses. The use of antagonists in particular is now considered one of the cardinal criteria for physiological function. These tools also demand careful interpretation if the biological half-life, receptor affinity, relative access to receptors beyond the blood-brain barrier, etc., differ between the hormone and the agonist or antagonist. For example, the eating-inhibitory effects of the long-lasting GLP-1 agonist exendin-4 differ markedly from those of native GLP-1.

3. Why consider GI motor function?

GI endocrine function and GI motor function are so closely related that one cannot be understood without the other. Gastric emptying and intestinal transit determine which enteroendocrine cells are exposed to chyme and for how long. This in turn affects GI hormone secretion, which feeds back onto gastric emptying. Therefore, the review begins with an introduction to the effects of GI motor function on eating and glycemia in health, obesity, and after RYGB.

II. GI MOTOR FUNCTION

A. Gastric Accommodation and Emptying

Physical digestion of solid food begins in the mouth, but is primarily a gastric function (126, 127, 318, 341, 366, 481, 578, 724). Gastric volume during the meal usually exceeds the volume of ingesta due to gastric secretions and swallowed saliva and air (118, 282). Vago-vagal gastric-accommodation reflexes increase gastric volume as meals progress, avoiding significant increases in intragastric pressure or gastric-wall tension (43, 405). The lack of stimulation of gastric-tension receptors ensures that accommodation does not lead to aversive sensations, although they do appear sufficient to elicit a pleasant sensation of fullness (215, 464). Accommodation reflexes are triggered mainly by gastric mechanoreceptors and intestinal nutrient receptors and are mediated in part by CCK (43, 246).
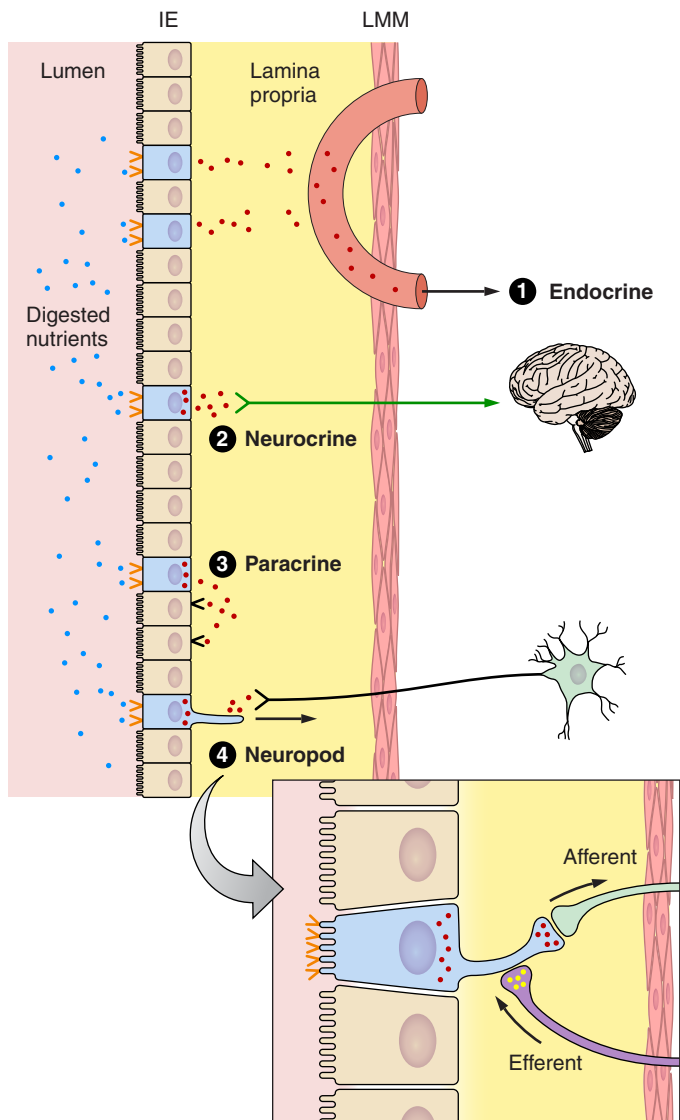

FIGURE 3. Schematic of the small intestinal mucosa showing potential modes of action of CCK, GLP-1, and PYY. The mucosa includes the epithelial cell layer (IE) on the luminal side, the lamina propria, and the lamina muscularis mucosae (LMM), which limns the submucosa and underlying serosa (not shown). The epithelium consists of enterocytes (tan), which are specialized for nutrient absorption, enteroendocrine cells (blue, villi not shown), which secrete GI hormones, and other cell types (not shown). Digested nutrients activate specific nutrient receptors and transporters (orange <) expressed on the apical surface of enteroendocrine cells, leading to secretion of CCK, GLP-1, and PYY from the basolateral side of enteroendocrine cells. Four modes of action are diagrammed. *Mode 1* is the classical endocrine mode, in which hormones diffuse from the lamina propria into mesenteric capillaries (salmon), which drain into the hepatic-portal vein and finally the systemic circulation, allowing hormones to act on distant targets. *Modes 2–4* show variations of local actions. *Mode 2* is a neuroendocrine mode, in which hormones in the lamina propria activate vagal afferents (green arrow), which in turn stimulate brain-mediated responses. *Mode 3* is the paracrine mode, in which hormones in the lamina propria act on receptors (black <) on nearby cells, either neuroendocrine cells or other cell types. *Mode 4* shows the anatomical basis for a neuropod mode of action, which has been described for enteroendocrine CCK and PYY cells, and may exist for other GI hormones. This involves hormone release from enteroendocrine-cell neuropods that end in synapse-like appositions to glial cells of the enteric nervous system and other cell types. Note that the hormone concentrations involved in these different modes vary: hormone concentrations in the small gap between neuropods and adjacent cells are likely to be highest, paracrine and vagal neuroendocrine signaling may be the next highest hormone concentrations, endocrine signaling in the liver involves moderate hormone concentrations, and endocrine signaling in which hormones reach their receptors via the systemic circulation involves relatively low hormone concentrations. Hormones also enter the lymph from the lamina propria via bulk flow (not shown), but this is not known to be functionally relevant. Although ghrelin secretion is not stimulated directly by nutrients, secreted ghrelin may act in the modes shown here.

Table 2. *Criteria to assess physiological status of GI hormones in meal-related functions*

1. Concentrations of the hormone change at the site of action in a pattern consistent with the effect. *

2. Cognate receptors for the hormone are expressed at its site(s) of action.

3. Exogenous administration of the hormone in amounts duplicating the meal-related changes in endogenous patterns at the site of action produces the effect.

4. Administration of secretagogues for the hormone produce effects similar to the effect of the hormone.

5. The hormone's effect occurs in the absence of abnormal behavioral, physiological, or subjective effects.

6. Administration of selective agonists and antagonists of the hormone's receptors produce effects that are consistent with their receptor pharmacologies. † ‡

*These criteria extend earlier versions (265, 268, 696) to accommodate paracrine and neuropod signaling as well as endocrine signaling, as described in the text. †At a minimum, the change in concentrations of the proposed signal should precede the effect; see Geary (265) for discussion. For example, administration of specific and potent receptor antagonists should delay or reduce eating in the case of a hunger signal or increase eating in the case of a satiation signal. ‡We do not include phenotypic evaluation of global transgenic or spontaneous genetic loss-of-function models in this criterion. These are valuable research tools, but complications due to developmental compensatory effects, pleiotropic actions, and species differences preclude their use as a "necessity" criterion for physiological function. Rapidly inducible, tissue-specific reductions in gene function, however, may complement the use of receptor antagonists in establishing necessity.

Ingested liquids are distributed evenly throughout the stomach and begin emptying almost immediately. In contrast, ingested solids are initially restricted mainly to the fundus and move gradually to the antrum, where they are mixed with gastric secretions and reduced in size by antral trituration, i.e., by churning and grinding movements that pro-

Table 3. *Physiological endocrine doses of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) in healthy-weight humans*

Hormone	Physiological Dose, $pmol \cdot kg^{-1} \cdot min^{-1}$	Reference Nos.
Ghrelin	? (<0.3)*	441, 759
CCK	0.2–0.7	54, 297, 433, 435
GLP-1	0.3–0.90†	69, 253, 299, 659
PYY(3–36)	? (<0.2)‡	10, 192, 196, 421

Physiological endocrine doses ($pmol \cdot kg^{-1} \cdot min^{-1}$) are those reported to reproduce the peak plasma levels produced by mixed-nutrient meals [CCK, GLP-1, PYY(3–36) or premeal levels (ghrelin)]. *In one study, infusion of 0.3 $pmol \cdot kg^{-1} \cdot min^{-1}$ acyl ghrelin increased plasma total ghrelin levels 2.2-fold to about the fasting level (759); in another study, infusion of the same dose after breakfast increased acyl ghrelin 2.4-fold above the fasting level (441); the effects of lower doses have not been reported. †Physiological GLP-1 doses are based on across-study comparisons. ‡Physiological PYY(3–36) doses are based on one study of meals and infusions (196) and separately reported meal and infusion effects (10, 192, 421); effects of doses <0.2 $pmol \cdot kg^{-1} \cdot min^{-1}$ on eating have not been reported.

duce semi-solid chyme. When chyme particles reach a size of ~1–2 mm, they are emptied through the pylorus into the duodenum, a process that involves coordinated antropyloric propulsive pressure waves, pyloric-sphincter relaxation, and duodenal pressure waves. The delay until the first emptying of solid food, known as the lag phase, can last from a few minutes to over an hour, depending on the physical characteristics of the food. Once in the proximal small intestine, chyme initiates several neural and GI-hormonal reflexes that decelerate emptying.

When gastric emptying is measured for intervals approximating the normal intermeal interval, beginning after the lag phase for solids and ignoring pulsatile pyloric chyme propulsion, exponential curves provide good fits **(FIGURE 4)** (118, 123, 126, 129, 158, 314, 349, 481, 663, 693, 744, 795, 855). The Weibull or "power-exponential" function fits the lag phase as well (118, 126, 234, 347, 372, 452, 645, 772).

Emptying patterns are affected by meal volume, osmotic pressure, energy density, digestibility, and macronutrient adaptation (97, 162, 175, 176, 340). When meals contain both liquids and solids, the two phases empty differentially, although each affects the other, with liquids generally emptying faster (345, 481, 643). Gastric emptying is somewhat slower in women than men (73, 187, 200, 295, 350, 394), although whether it is affected by the menstrual-cycle phase is not clear (101, 200). Normal aging apparently has little effect (606). As a result of these factors, there is considerable interindividual variability in gastric emptying rate. In
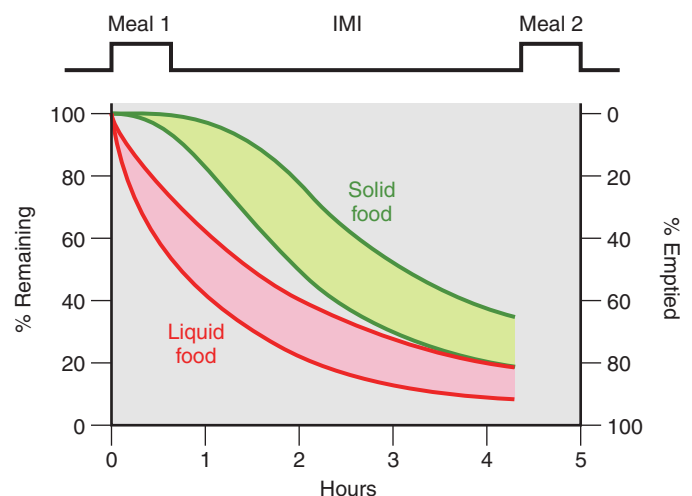

FIGURE 4. Typical patterns of gastric emptying of solid (green) and liquid (red) foods in relation to meals and intermeal intervals. Depending on the physical digestibility of solid foods, emptying during the first several minutes is very slow (the lag phase), whereas it is uncontrolled and rapid for liquids. The overall shapes of the gastric emptying curves for solid food after the lag phase and for liquid foods are exponential, although significant extents of each approximate linear functions. As described in the text, gastric emptying plays important roles in the control of eating and meal-related glycemia.

contrast, intraindividual variability is low under laboratory conditions (532).

Neural and endocrine reflexes are generally thought to synergize in the control of gastric emptying (126, 216, 555). The importance of the vagal contribution is underscored by the decrease in emptying of solid foods after vagotomy (405). The roles of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) are reviewed in section IIC.

B. Small Intestinal Motility

The contributions of segmentation, mixing, and propulsion of chyme in the small intestine to intestinal nutrient sensing and the control of eating and glycemia are not well understood. Challenges include: *1*) present methods to measure segmentation, mixing, and propulsion of chyme are limited, although novel approaches may soon accelerate progress (30, 33, 87, 220); and *2*) the simultaneous changes in gastric accommodation, gastric emptying, and GI-hormone secretion are difficult to control (641, 681, 682, 718). Multivariate statistics, such as the approaches of Seimon et al. (683) and Acosta et al. (5), provide a useful strategy to dissect these diverse factors functionally.

Two pharmacological studies suggest an important role for small intestinal motility in incretin hormone secretion. In both, healthy-weight subjects received intraduodenal infusions of glucose, and intraduodenal pressure and flow events were assessed by manometry and impedance measurements. Pretreatment with hyoscine butylbromide (137) increased intraduodenal waves for 10 min and reduced flow events for 60 min. This was associated with decreased plasma level GIP at 10 and 20 min, suggesting that normal GIP release depends on the spread of glucose through duodenum and proximal jejunum. In contrast, pretreatment with metoclopramide (411) stimulated duodenal pressure waves, but did not affect flow events. Metoclopramide produced marked increases in plasma GLP-1 and GIP, suggesting that increased mixing of the luminal contents increased their contact with enteroendocrine cells, thus increasing incretin secretion. By extension, small intestinal motility may also affect ghrelin, CCK, and PYY secretion.

When the stomach is empty, small intestinal peristaltic activity is controlled by phase III activity of the migrating motor complex (MMC), which originates in the stomach in humans, rats, and mice (203, 266, 748, 853) and appears to be stimulated by motilin (203).

C. Roles of Ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36)

Supraphysiological doses of ghrelin accelerated gastric emptying (429) and reversed the inhibition of gastric emp-

tying elicited by intragastric lipid infusion (374), but whether reproducing endogenous amounts and patterns of ghrelin is sufficient to stimulate gastric emptying and whether ghrelin antagonists inhibit gastric emptying have not been tested in humans. Thus ghrelin does not yet fulfill criteria 3 and 6 **(TABLE 2)** for having an endocrine role in gastric emptying. Similarly, a supraphysiological ghrelin infusion elicited phase III MMC activity, but smaller doses did not (203, 748), and endogenous phase III MMC activity was not temporally associated with plasma ghrelin concentrations (although phase III MMC activity was associated with motilin levels) (204). Thus these tests did not produce evidence that ghrelin fulfills criteria 1 or 3 **(TABLE 2)** for an endocrine effect on GI motility.

Several studies indicate that CCK meets both criteria 1 and 6 **(TABLE 2)** for having an endocrine role in gastric emptying of liquid food (262, 263, 436, 447, 495, 674; but see Ref. 433 for a negative report). Animal studies indicate that CCK slows gastric emptying via vago-vagal reflexes stimulated by both endocrine and paracrine signaling (216, 555, 823). CCK also fulfilled criteria 1, 4, and 6 for endocrine roles in the increases in tonic and phasic pyloric pressures and reductions in antral and duodenal pressures stimulated by intraduodenal lipids (102, 190, 259, 316, 584), responses that presumably contribute to CCK's inhibitory effect on gastric emptying (382). One study in humans failed to detect an effect of CCK-receptor antagonism on small intestinal transit time (495).

There is also support for GLP-1 as an endocrine control of gastric emptying. Physiological doses of GLP-1 slowed emptying of liquid meals (541, 822), supporting criterion 3 **(TABLE 2)**, and administration of the GLP-1 receptor antagonist exendin(9–39) accelerated gastric emptying in two studies (41, 196), supporting criterion 6. Exendin(9–39) failed to affect gastric emptying in three other studies (531, 546, 650), however, suggesting that differences in test meal characteristics, plasma glucose levels, or other situational variable may contribute to GLP-1's influence on gastric emptying. Exendin(9–39) also stimulates PYY(3–36) secretion, which may slow gastric emptying and contribute to these variable results (41, 230, 665, 670, 721, 843). Intravenous infusion of physiological doses of GLP-1 also stimulated tonic and phasic pyloric pressures and reduced antral and duodenal pressure waves (662), and infusion of exendin(9–39) abolished glucose-induced changes in antropyloroduodenal pressures (664), indicating a role for GLP-1 in small intestinal motility.

Supraphysiological PYY(3–36) infusions slowed gastric emptying in two studies (26, 834). Savage et al. (659) reported that emptying of a non-nutrient liquid meal was slowed by infusion of 0.4 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36). They measured only 0.18 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36) at the tip of the catheter, however, PYY(3–36) may meet the

physiological-dose criterion (criterion 2, **TABLE 2)** for having a physiological endocrine role in gastric emptying. Studies with PYY(3–36) antagonists have not yet been reported. PYY(3–36) has been hypothesized to mediate the "ileal brake" on gastric emptying, a term referring to the ability of nutrients in the ileum to slow gastric emptying. In support of this, intra-ileal infusions of triglycerides, free fatty acids, sucrose, or casein increased plasma PYY(3–36) levels and slowed gastric emptying in several studies (585, 708, 709, 787). Whether endocrine, paracrine, or neuropod PYY(3–36) signaling mediates this effect is not known. Whether PYY(3–36) affects small intestinal motility has not been studied in humans. Intravenous infusion of PYY(3–36) and ileal infusion of a mixed-nutrient solution similarly increased the cycle length of phase III MMC in dogs (819), but the relevance of this for humans is uncertain because the control of the phase III MMC differs in dogs and humans (554).

In summary, different degrees of evidence support the physiological roles for ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) in GI motility. An important feature of these relationships is that gastric volume, gastric emptying, intestinal-nutrient sensing, and the secretion of these four hormones are linked in negative-feedback loops **(FIGURE 5)**.

D. Eating

Perhaps the oldest mechanistic explanation for eating is Galen's suggestion that hunger results from gastric "pangs and gnawing sensations" (7, 482). These sensations may result from phase III MMC. *1*) In 12 h-fasted subjects, subjective hunger ratings were closely associated with the intensity of gastric motility during both spontaneous phase III MMC and phase III MMC elicited by erythromycin, a motilin agonist. *2*) Erythromycin infusion elicited meal requests (205, 746). When spontaneous eating was measured in another study, however, no premeal increases in gastric motility occurred (728). In addition, under other conditions, erythromycin decreased rather than increased food intake (770). Furthermore, phase III MMC develop only when the stomach is nearly empty, which usually occurs only after overnight fasts, yet subjective hunger is usually quite low in the morning (660) and breakfast is typically the smallest meal of the day. Thus the role of gastric motility in hunger remains doubtful.

Several lines of evidence support the hypothesis that increased gastric volume contributes to satiation. *1*) Ratings of fullness were correlated with total gastric volume and with antral cross-sectional area after both liquid and solid test meals (201, 282, 351, 373, 474, 655, 730, 794). *2*) Manipulations designed to selectively increase gastric volume increased fullness ratings and decreased eating (331, 475, 630–632). *3*) Inflation of an intragastric balloon during meals also increased fullness ratings and decreased meal
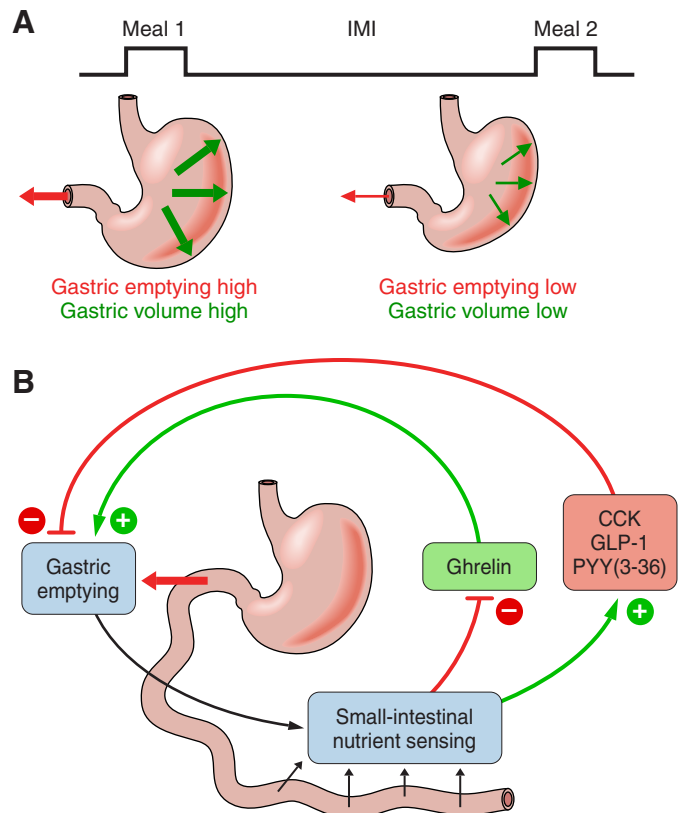
FIGURE 5. Gastric volume, gastric emptying, and ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) secretion in relation to meals. *A*: eating a meal increases gastric volume-related mechanoreception (bold green arrows), which increases satiation signaling via neural afferents, and increases gastric emptying and the delivery of ingested nutrients into the small intestine (bold red arrow), which increases satiation and satiety signaling and decreases hunger signaling. As the intermeal interval (IMI) progresses, volume sensing and gastric emptying progressively decrease (thin red and green arrows). *B*: gastric emptying determines the rate of appearance of nutrients into the small intestine and, together with the rate of digestion and small-intestinal motility, controls small intestinal-nutrient sensing. For most meals, small intestinal-nutrient sensing inhibits ghrelin secretion (red arrow, −) and stimulates CCK, GLP-1, and PYY secretion (green arrows, +). In turn, ghrelin stimulates (green arrow, +) and CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) inhibit (red arrows, −) gastric emptying. Note that each feedback loop is negative, as indicated by the change in sign (e.g., red to green) between (small intestinal-nutrient sensing)–(hormone secretion) and (hormone secretion)–(gastric emptying).

size (273). *4*) Pharmacological inhibition of the gastric-accommodation reflex decreased gastric volume during a meal and decreased meal size (747). *5*) Rapid intragastric glucose infusions increased fullness more than intraduodenal infusions roughly matched to the rate of gastric emptying (719), although it was not clear whether this was due to gastric-volume detection because the intragastric infusions also increased GLP-1 and PYY(3–36) secretion more than the intraduodenal infusions. Interestingly, gastric-volume effects appear to synergize with postgastric satiation signals because oral nutrient preloads together with intraduodenal nutrient infusions (133, 480, 552), CCK infusions (528), or

GLP-1 infusions (199) each decreased eating more than the individual manipulations.

Gastric-volume signals are thought to control eating via mechanoreceptors that are tuned to both tension and stretch or length (294, 366, 560, 579) and are linked to the CNS by vagal and spinal visceral (splanchnic) afferents (272, 791, 809). In rats, these include polymodal vagal afferents whose response can be increased severalfold by combinations of gastric fill and CCK infusion (671) or influenced oppositely by CCK and ghrelin treatment (217). Thus neural information processing controlling GI function and eating appears to begin at the level of the vagal afferents.

As mentioned above, negative-feedback loops link gastric volume and gastric emptying to intestinal nutrient sensing and to ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) secretion (FIGURE 5). The relationship of these feedback loops to satiation is complex because both gastric and postgastric signals contribute to satiation. Thus, depending on the circumstances, accelerating gastric emptying may either decrease satiation by decreasing gastric-volume signals or increase satiation by increasing postgastric signals. This point is underscored by the report (770) that erythromycin accelerated gastric emptying and decreased rather than increased meal size in a group of overweight (i.e., BMI ≥ 25 and <30 m/kg^2) and obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m^2) subjects. Finally, recent data suggest functional roles for gastric nutrient-sensing receptors, which may include roles in eating (see sect. IIIC).

E. Glycemic Control

Gastric emptying contributes importantly to the regulation of meal-related glycemia and, thus, to overall glucose homeostasis (472). For example, in both healthy subjects and patients with T2DM, intersubject variability in emptying of an oral glucose load accounted for significant amounts of the variability in plasma glucose increments (342, 470). In addition, pharmacological manipulation of gastric emptying of a solid-liquid mixed-nutrient meal produced corresponding glycemic changes in patients with T2DM (285). Variation in factors that affect gastric emptying, such as decreasing dietary fiber content (369, 771), would presumably increase the relative contribution of gastric emptying to meal-related glycemia; conversely, manipulating postgastric factors, such as incretin-hormone secretion, would reduce it. Small intestinal nutrient transport also may affect meal-related glycemia. For example, pharmacological slowing of intestinal flow of intraduodenally infused glucose slowed glucose absorption and reduced blood glucose (137).

F. Obesity

In several small-scale studies, gastric emptying was comparable (562, 681), faster (295, 794, 797), or slower (338,

497) in obese relative to healthy-weight people. These inconsistent results may be related to several differences among the studies, including differences in the nutrient composition of the test meals and methodological differences (e.g., scintigraphy vs. less direct measures). In contrast, a large scintigraphic study (389 subjects) demonstrated clearly that overweight and obesity are associated with increased gastric emptying rates of both solid and liquid foods (5). Interestingly, the degrees of increase were similar in overweight, obese, and morbidly obese (i.e., BMI ≥ 35 kg/m^2) subjects (decreases of $\sim 20\%$ in solid-meal half-emptying time and $\sim 30\%$ in liquid-meal half-emptying time in each group). This suggests increased gastric-emptying rate is more likely to be a permissive rather than an effective cause of obesity.

Manipulations of gastric volume may contribute to obesity therapy. Consistent with this possibility, some data relate the eating-inhibitory, weight-reducing, and glycemic effects of the GLP-1 receptor agonist liraglutide to reduced gastric emptying (343, 789). Furthermore, implantable devices designed to electrically stimulate the vagus in a way that blocks vagal signaling reduced subjective hunger, increased fullness, decreased body weight, and improved glycemic regulation in clinical trials (89, 134, 353, 654, 656, 689). The most compelling of these was a randomized, double-blind, sham-controlled trial involving 239 obese patients (353). Those receiving vagal blockade lost 24% of their excess weight in 1 year, versus 16% in the sham-operated group. The mechanism underlying the efficacy of vagal blockade is unknown. One possibility is that slowed gastric-emptying rate is involved (134, 405). In the patients described above, gastric emptying was reportedly unchanged, but because gastric emptying was measured after the patients had undergone more than a year of vagal stimulation, it is possible that there was tachyphylaxis of an earlier effect (658). In other studies, vagal blockade increased ghrelin secretion and reduced secretion of CCK and GLP-1 (153, 154), effects that presumably would oppose any decrease in eating. An alternative hypothesis that deserves investigation is that vagal blockade reduces gastric accommodation during meals, leading to increased distension and early satiation. Because the blockade prevents vagal afferent signaling, this hypothesis requires that distension is adequately sensed by spinal-visceral afferents (82, 146).

G. RYGB

Due to a greatly reduced gastric lumen (FIGURE 1), only a fraction of the normal gastric volume can be accommodated, and antral trituration and pyloric control of emptying are absent after RYGB. As a result, RYGB markedly accelerates gastric emptying of liquids and solids (although emptying of small, solid meals with volumes not exceeding the pouch volume may be slower) (213, 244, 339, 518, 536, 802, 808). This, in turn, often leads to bloating, nausea, and

dumping in RYGB patients (307, 377, 545, 695, 745). Glucose solutions, as used in glucose-tolerance tests, may empty almost immediately in RYGB patients, leading to the appearance of ~300 kcal in the jejunum within 1–2 min (544). Such rapid increases in small intestinal nutrient content are likely to contribute to the increased meal-related secretion of CCK, GLP-1, PYY(3–36), and insulin after RYGB, as described in the next sections. For example, infusion of glucose at a high physiological rate (4 kcal/min) into the Roux limb of RYGB patients and into the duodenum of healthy subjects elicited comparable increases in GLP-1, whereas oral glucose loads (200 kcal/150 ml) produced larger GLP-1 responses in the RYGB patients (544).

Three additional studies reveal further contributions of RYGB-induced alterations of GI function to changes in eating and body weight: *1*) faster pouch emptying on postoperative day 1 was associated with a ~4 kg increase in 1 year weight loss (21); *2*) pouch size was negatively correlated with weight loss after 6 months and 1 year (626); and *3*) thresholds for detection of inflation of a balloon placed in the Roux limb were negatively correlated with spontaneous meal sizes 6 months and 1 year postoperatively (81). Relearning to eat comfortably is likely to be important in some of these effects, but such learning has not yet been studied much in either humans (108, 177) or animals (424, 690). For example, a questionnaire follow-up indicated that meat was the food most often linked to food aversions after RYGB (288), which may be due to the challenge of digesting meat without a stomach.

H. Summary

GI motor function and gastric emptying are closely regulated. Neural gastric-volume detection contributes to the inhibitory control of eating, and gastric emptying contributes to meal-related glycemic control. CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) contribute to the control gastric emptying, and ghrelin may do so. Intestinal-nutrient sensing links the secretion of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) to gastric emptying and gastric volume (FIGURE 5). Loss of normal gastric accommodation, food storage, food trituration, and emptying are likely to play important roles in the effects of RYGB on eating and glycemic control.

III. GHRELIN

A. Introduction

Ghrelin is a 28-amino acid peptide hormone discovered in 1999. Ghrelin is produced by closed-type enteroendocrine cells in the oxyntic glands of the gastric fundus (184, 397) (FIGURE 6A), as well as by some small intestinal enteroendocrine cells, pancreatic-islet cells, and neurons in various brain areas, including the arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus (Arc) (184, 398, 524, 597, 742, 799, 826). Ghrelin O-acyltransferase (GOAT) catalyzes the conversion of ghrelin into its biologically active acylated forms, octanoyl- and decanoyl-ghrelin (together referred to as acyl-ghrelin, in contrast to unacylated or des-acyl-ghrelin). GOAT physiology has emerged as an important modulator of ghrelin function (58, 389, 524, 847). Less than 10% of circulating ghrelin is acyl-ghrelin, which together with the difficulty in assaying it, complicates studies of endogenous ghrelin (390, 596, 707). The ghrelin receptor was described in 1996 as the growth hormone-secretagogue receptor-1A (GHSR1A) (348). It is widely expressed peripherally and centrally (398, 524, 799). Des-acyl-ghrelin has little affinity for GHSR1A but may have metabolic effects via other receptors (524).

B. Secretion

Plasma concentrations of total and acyl-ghrelin increase before meals, decline precipitously after meals, and then increase gradually until the next meal (173, 326, 707). For example, when acyl-ghrelin was sampled frequently throughout the day in subjects adhering to a controlled sleep-wake, activity and meal protocol (707), acyl-ghrelin maxima were ~110 pM before breakfast and ~100 pM before lunch and dinner, and post-meal minima were ~70 pM. Importantly, the ratio of circulating acyl- to total ghrelin may change around meals (707). Because ghrelin's plasma half-life is ~30 min (20, 800), postprandial acyl-ghrelin dynamics presumably primarily reflect inhibition of secretion. There is also a gradual decrease in acyl-ghrelin after midnight, which probably reflects an inhibitory effect of sleep; the pre-breakfast increase begins only after awakening (707). These patterns suggest that habitual sleep-wake cycles and the timing of breakfast modulate morning ghrelin levels. This complicates any definition of "basal" plasma ghrelin and indicates that across-group comparisons of pre-meal plasma ghrelin concentrations should consider the times of sampling with respect to habitual meal times. Average daily ghrelin levels might provide a useful alternative. Cummings et al. (173) reported *1*) a correlation of 0.95 between the 0930 h ghrelin level (i.e., the post-breakfast minimum) and the 24 h ghrelin area under the curve (AUC), and *2*) a correlation of 0.87 between the 0600 h ghrelin level (the pre-breakfast minimum) and the 24 h AUC, indicating that both measures accurately reflect the integrated or average daily ghrelin level.

The mechanisms stimulating ghrelin secretion during fasting are poorly understood. In one study, ghrelin levels were elevated after a 3-day fast and did not change around meals, although the nocturnal increase was unaffected (139). Autonomic efferents contribute to the stimulation of ghrelin secretion in both humans (107) and animals (346, 852). Cephalic-phase reflexes activated by the sight, smell, and taste of food (i.e., elicited by modified sham feeding) were reported to both stimulate (511,
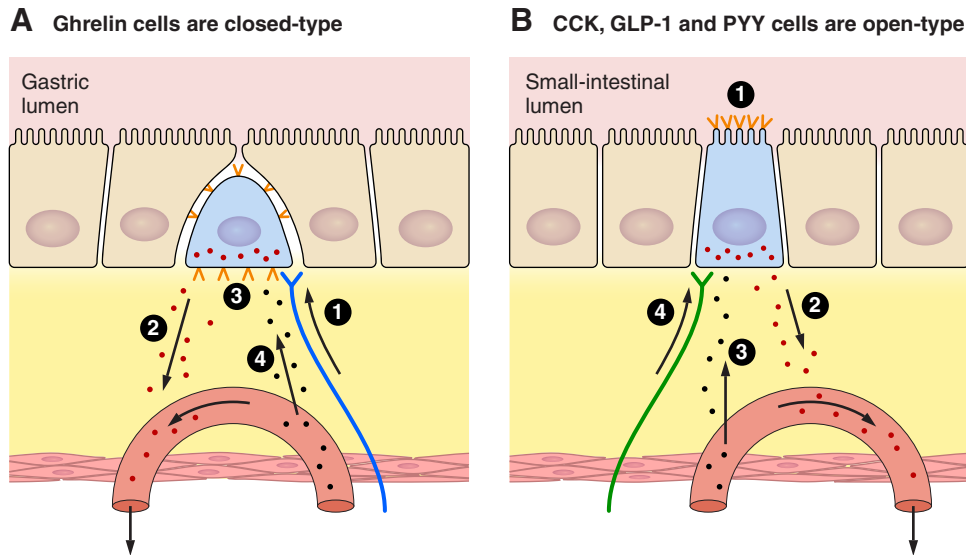
FIGURE 6. Schematic of the organization of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY entroendocrine cells. *A*: gastric ghrelin cells (blue) are closed-type. Their apical aspects are enclosed by epithelial cells (tan) so that they have no direct contact with the gastric lumen. *1*) Neural signals provide the major stimulatory control of ghrelin secretion. *2*) Secreted ghrelin (red dots) diffuses through the lamina propria (yellow) into gastric capillaries (salmon) and is transported into the hepatic-portal vein and systemic circulation. *3*) Ghrelin cells express a number of nutrient receptors, mainly on the basal and lateral aspects (orange <). These are probably stimulated mainly by metabolites reaching them by diffusion from the gastric capillaries through the lamina propria, although some nutrients may reach them directly from the stomach. *4*) CCK, PYY(3–36), perhaps other small intestinal hormones, and other humoral stimuli reach ghrelin cells via the circulation and inhibit ghrelin secretion. Paracrine signals (not shown) may also be involved. *B*: CCK, GLP-1, and PYY cells (blue) are open-type, with direct contact with the small intestinal lumen. *1*) Each expresses a number of nutrient receptors, mainly on the apical and lateral aspects (orange <). These are probably the major controls of secretion of these hormones. The nutrient receptors expressed by ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY cells are listed in **TABLE 4**, which also indicates the extensive overlap in the nutrient receptors expressed by the these cell types. *2*) Secreted hormones (red dots) diffuse through the lamina propria (yellow) into small-intestinal capillaries (salmon) and are transported into the hepatic-portal vein and systemic circulation. *3*) Metabolites, hormones, and other humoral factors reach CCK, GLP-1, and PYY cells by diffusion from mesenteric capillaries through the lamina propria (yellow) or from nearby small-intestinal epithelial cells (tan). *4*) Neural inputs also control CCK, GLP-1, and PYY secretion.

512, 696) and inhibit ghrelin secretion (35) in humans. Time cues also increase pre-meal ghrelin levels in schedule-fed rats (180, 494).

Ghrelin secretion after meals is inhibited by GI signals that are recruited rapidly by nutrient ingestion. Conditioned (167) and cephalic-phase reflexes (315) may contribute. There appears to be no gastric phase to post-meal ghrelin inhibition because *1*) intragastric water or liquid-diet infusions had no effect on ghrelin levels in rats when infusates were confined to the stomach with a pyloric cuff (558, 829), *2*) plasma ghrelin concentrations were reduced comparably by intragastric and intraduodenal glucose infusions in healthy-weight men and women (563, 719), and *3*) in contrast to most enteroendocrine cells, gastric ghrelin cells are closed type, i.e., do not directly contact to the GI lumen **(FIGURE 6A)**. Nevertheless, gastric ghrelin cells express several nutrient-sensing receptors that may affect ghrelin secretion (207, 237, 311, 367, 457, 524, 824, 825) **(TABLE 4**, which includes the full and the former names of the nutrient receptors discussed below). Because these are expressed mainly on the basolateral aspects of ghrelin cells, they are

probably stimulated mainly by metabolites entering the laminal propria from the circulation, as discussed below. There is some evidence, however, that they can be stimulated by gastric contents. Lu et al. (457), for example, found that mouse ghrelin cells express the free fatty acid receptor 4 (Ffar4), that fatty acids inhibited ghrelin secretion in vitro, and that intragastric lipid loads reduced serum ghrelin levels in mice with ligated pylori. Similar results were obtained in rat gastric explants (22, 692). These data are inconsistent with the rat pyloric cuff data described above (558, 829), and relevant studies remain to be done in humans. Few human enteroendocrine ghrelin cells express GNAT3, TAS1R1/TAS1R3, or FFAR4, although nearby cells do, suggesting the possibility of a gastric paracrine chemosensory control of ghrelin secretion (825).

The intestinal phase of post-meal ghrelin inhibition is well established (169, 248, 563, 640, 719). The critical site for inhibition by glucose appears to be distal to the duodenum and proximal jejunum because ghrelin secretion (60 min AUC) was not inhibited by intraduodenal infusions of glucose that were limited to only the proximal 60 cm of the

Table 4. *Nutrient receptors expressed by enteroendocrine ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY cells*

Nutrient Receptor	Ghrelin	CCK	GLP-1	PYY
CASR (CaR)	X	X	X	X
CD36		X		
FFAR1 (GPR40)		X		
FFAR2 (GPR43)	X		X	
FFAR3 (GPR41)			X	
FFAR4 (GPR120)	X	X	X	
GNAT3 (gustducin)	X	X		
GPR119			X	
HCAR1 (GPR81)	X			
LPAR5 (GPR93)		X		
SLC2A1 (GLUT1)			X	
SLC2A2 (GLUT2)			X	
SLC2A5 (GLUT5)			X	
SLC5A1 (SGLT1)			X	
SLC15A1 (PEPT1)		X	X	
TAS1R1/TAS1R3 (T1R1/T1R3)		X		X
TAS1R2/TAS1R3 (T1R2/T1R3)		X	X	
TAS1R3 (T1R3)			X	

The table is based on the evidence of receptor expression in mice, rats, or humans discussed in the text. Former names of the receptors are given in parentheses. CaR, calcium receptor; CASR, calcium-sensing receptor; CD36, thrombospondin receptor; FFAR, free fatty acid receptor; GLUT, glucose transporter; GNAT3, guanine nucleotide-binding protein, alpha transducing 3; GPR, G protein-coupled receptor; HCAR1, hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 1; LPAR5, lysophosphatidic acid receptor 5; PEPT1 and SLC15A1, solute carrier family 15 (oligopeptide transporter), member 1; TAS1R1 and T1R1, taste receptor, member 1; TAS1R2 and T1R2, taste receptor, member 2; TAS1R3 and T1R3, taste receptor, member 3 (T1R1/T1R3). Note that abbreviations are for the human genes, although many of the receptors indicated have been identified on the respective enteroendocrine cells so far only in mice or rats.

small intestine to glucose by an inflated balloon, but was inhibited when glucose was also allowed access to the more distal small intestine (445). The underlying mechanisms are unknown.

Circulating metabolites and hormones may also contribute to the inhibition of ghrelin secretion. Intravenous glucose infusion, alone or together with insulin, reduced ghrelin levels under several conditions (254, 506, 526, 644, 688). Insulin may be the key factor, as meals did not reduce ghrelin levels in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) in the absence of insulin therapy, but did so following reinstatement of basal euinsulinemia (526). In contrast to glucose infusions, intravenous lipid infusions failed to affect plasma ghrelin levels (506). Increases in peripheral concentrations of lactate and short-chain fatty acids resulting from colonic fermentation of poorly digestible carbohydrates (46, 523, 753, 758) may be sensed by hydrocarboxylic acid receptor 1 (HCAR1) and FFAR2, respectively, because the corresponding receptors are expressed by gastric ghrelin cells in mice (237). Plasma lactate also increases following many meals (694, 734) as well as during exercise and hypoxia (135, 286, 815), and both exercise and hypoxia decrease plasma ghrelin levels in rats and humans (135, 815). Finally, circulating amino acids may inhibit ghrelin secretion via calcium-sensing receptor (CASR) (237).

All three macronutrients inhibit ghrelin secretion after meals. Consumption of carbohydrate and protein reduced ghrelin levels during the next 3 h more than did isoenergetic lipid loads (258, 510). Whether carbohydrates and proteins differentially affect ghrelin secretion is less clear. *1*) In overweight and obese men, ~250 kcal oral loads containing 80% energy as lactose, whey or casein reduced ghrelin levels more than similar glucose loads 120–180 min after ingestion (96). *2*) In healthy-weight and overweight men and women, ~500 kcal oral protein and glucose loads reduced ghrelin levels similarly for ~3 h, but protein reduced ghrelin levels more effectively subsequently (258). *3*) In healthy-weight women, no differences in ghrelin levels were detected during 24 h trials comparing a 10% protein-energy diet, a 60% carbohydrate-energy diet, and a 30% protein- and 40% carbohydrate-energy diet (427). Carbohydrate type is also important: oral glucose reduced ghrelin levels less than lactose (96), but more than fructose (755). Because none of the studies reviewed above assessed gastric emptying, differential rates of small intestinal appearance of ingested nutrients may have contributed as well as direct effects of specific intestinal nutrient sensors.

Lipids and di- or polysaccharides require digestion to inhibit ghrelin secretion fully because tetrahydrolipstatin, a lipase inhibitor, and arcabose, an α-glucosidase inhibitor,

decreased the inhibition of ghrelin secretion by intraduodenal lipid infusions and sucrose drinks, respectively (197, 248, 250, 749). These studies also revealed that only fatty acids with a chain length greater than or equal to C12 inhibit ghrelin secretion (197, 250).

The neuroendocrine reflexes mediating post-meal ghrelin inhibition by intestinal nutrient sensing are poorly understood. The vagus nerve seems unnecessary in rats because vagotomy did not affect post-meal ghrelin inhibition in rats (830). CCK and PYY(3–36) may be involved because intravenous infusions of each reduced plasma ghrelin levels in humans (61, 104, 198), whereas GLP-1 infusion did not (104). We are aware of only one test of the physiological relevance of these potential endocrine controls of ghrelin secretion: CCKA-receptor blockade abolished long-chain fatty acid-induced ghrelin inhibition in healthy subjects, suggesting that the mechanism involves CCK (197). Finally, although fasting plasma ghrelin levels correlated with basal leptin levels (240), leptin infusion failed to reinstate normal meal-related ghrelin patterns in healthy-weight men who had fasted 3 days (139).

C. Eating

Changes in plasma ghrelin levels around meals fulfill criterion 1 of **TABLE 2** for an endocrine role in hunger signaling. *1*) Plasma ghrelin levels increase progressively before meal onset and fall precipitously afterwards (173, 276, 390, 707, 778). *2*) Hunger ratings were closely related to the drops and subsequent increases of total ghrelin levels between lunch and a spontaneous dinner in healthy-weight, time-blinded men (171) as well as between breakfast and a lunch offered at a set time in overweight and obese men and women (276). *3*) Breakfast-to-lunch intermeal intervals in healthy-weight, time-blinded men who were served dinner upon request were correlated with post-breakfast decreases in total ghrelin and with the AUC of the breakfast-to-lunch ghrelin response (84) [although these correlations were not detected in non-time-blinded men (124)]. *4*) Ghrelin concentrations at meal onset correlated with meal size in healthy-weight and overweight men and women offered lunch at a set time (276). Tests of ghrelin infusions, however, have hitherto failed to fulfill criterion 3 of **TABLE 2**. Intravenous infusion of 0.3 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} ghrelin, a near-physiological dose **(TABLE 3)**, that began 1 h after a standard meal did not affect subjective hunger, the spontaneous intermeal interval, or the size of the following spontaneous meal (444). Pre-meal infusion of 1–5 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} ghrelin, however, did stimulate eating in two tests in which meals were offered at set times (221, 839). Interestingly, supraphysiological ghrelin infusions also increased neural activity in response to pictures of food, as detected by functional magnetic-resonance imaging (fMRI), in brain regions associated with food reward (284, 465). This suggests that ghrelin may affect eating primarily via changes in food hedonics rather than hunger, a hypothesis supported by neuropharmacological data in animals (211, 370). For example, in rats and mice, injection of ghrelin into the ventral tegmental area, a reward area, activated dopamine neurons, and injection of a ghrelin-receptor antagonist into the ventral tegmental area prevented the stimulation of eating by peripheral ghrelin administration (4).

Animal studies also link ghrelin signaling to brain networks thought to be related primarily to homeostatic eating. For example, in mice, ghrelin administration into the Arc acutely stimulated eating and altered the activities of Arc neuropeptide Y, agouti-related peptide, and pro-opiomelanocortin neurons (145, 164, 810). Ghrelin also appears to act in the Arc to reduce serotonin 2C receptor-mediated inhibition of eating (661). Finally, initial reports that the vagus nerve was required for ghrelin to stimulate eating (36, 185, 186) were not replicated when a more selective lesion method was used, which also supports a central action of ghrelin on eating (34).

An unresolved challenge to the hypothesis that ghrelin signals hunger is that transgenic mice with reduced ghrelin signaling do not display a tonic increase in eating (524). Some such transgenics do develop obesity, especially when fed a high-fat diet (524), but this may be secondary to decreases in fatty acid oxidation and increases in lipid deposition in response to changes in autonomic nervous system activity (484, 524, 572, 757). As a consequence, ghrelin is currently considered to be a stronger candidate for the development of pharmacotherapies for metabolic disease than for overeating.

D. Glycemic Control

Ghrelin may affect glycemic control by accelerating gastric emptying, inhibiting insulin secretion, or stimulating secretion of glucagon or other counterregulatory hormones (106, 152, 170, 202, 524, 530, 750, 799). In one study, intravenous infusion of a near-physiological dose of 0.3 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} ghrelin, reduced insulin levels in response to intravenous glucose infusion and increased growth hormone and cortisol, but not glucagon, epinephrine, or norepinephrine, levels (767). Studies in mice indicate that the insulin-inhibitory effect of ghrelin is mediated by a direct action on pancreatic β-cells (208, 413). The modulation of ghrelin acylation by dietary levels of C8 and C10 fatty acids may provide a mechanism for brain nutrient sensing and the neural regulation of glucose metabolism (389), although given the low levels of these fatty acids in most diets, this seems unlikely to be a physiological endocrine effect under most conditions.

E. Obesity

GHRL polymorphisms were associated with BMI variation in several human populations (430). Although significant,

the effects are quite small [for example, a *GHRL* polymorphism at rs35683 accounted for <0.3% of the variance in BMI in a sample of 2,000 European-Americans (430)], and the functional pathways that contribute to the effects are unknown.

Fasting plasma ghrelin levels are decreased in obese subjects and increased by diet-induced weight loss (174, 240, 390, 779). Because obesity increases fasting insulin levels, the inhibitory effect of insulin on ghrelin secretion (see sect. III*D*) may contribute to obesity's effect on fasting ghrelin. Shiiya et al. (688), however, did not detect any effect of T2DM on fasting plasma ghrelin in obese subjects. Postprandial drops in plasma ghrelin were reduced in some (239, 240, 497, 574), but not all (103, 174, 403), studies of obese subjects.

We are aware of one study of the effect of ghrelin on eating in obese humans (221), which was inconclusive. Acute intravenous infusions of supraphysiological doses of ghrelin (1 and 5 $pmol \cdot kg^{-1} \cdot min^{-1}$) appeared to increase eating more in obese than in healthy-weight subjects, but whether the differences were statistically significant was not tested.

F. RYGB

Fasting and post-meal ghrelin levels are reduced in the first 2 wk after RYGB, but the longer-term effects are controversial (174, 310, 390, 403, 574, 712). Peterli et al. (574) reported that in obese subjects who had elevated fasting ghrelin levels and no post-meal ghrelin drops, RYBG initially reduced fasting ghrelin, but that by 1 year post-RYGB, fasting ghrelin levels were no longer reduced and there were typical post-meal drops. Such gradual normalization of ghrelin secretion after RYGB may result either from weight loss or from dynamic adaptation of the GI tract (678). RYGB increased ghrelin levels in some rodent studies (31, 780, 854), but decreased them in others (731, 735). Stylopoulos et al. (731) suggested that this apparent discrepancy may be attributable to an effect of the initial rapid postsurgical weight loss to increase ghrelin levels combined with a sustained decrease in ghrelin secretory capacity due to the gastric resection. Interestingly, in their rat model, weight loss 3 months after surgery was correlated with the pre- to postsurgery decrease in ghrelin levels (731). In another rat study (691), in which there were no consistent changes in pre-meal ghrelin levels tested 12–16 wk after RYGB, ghrelin levels decreased more after meals in RYGB than control rats, and the magnitude of the effect was correlated with weight loss.

G. Summary

FIGURE 7 summarizes ghrelin physiology around meals. Ghrelin secretion increases during fasting and is inhibited by cephalic- and intestinal-phase reflexes during and after meals. Sensing of all three macronutrients contributes to the intestinal phase of ghrelin inhibition. Pre-meal ghrelin levels
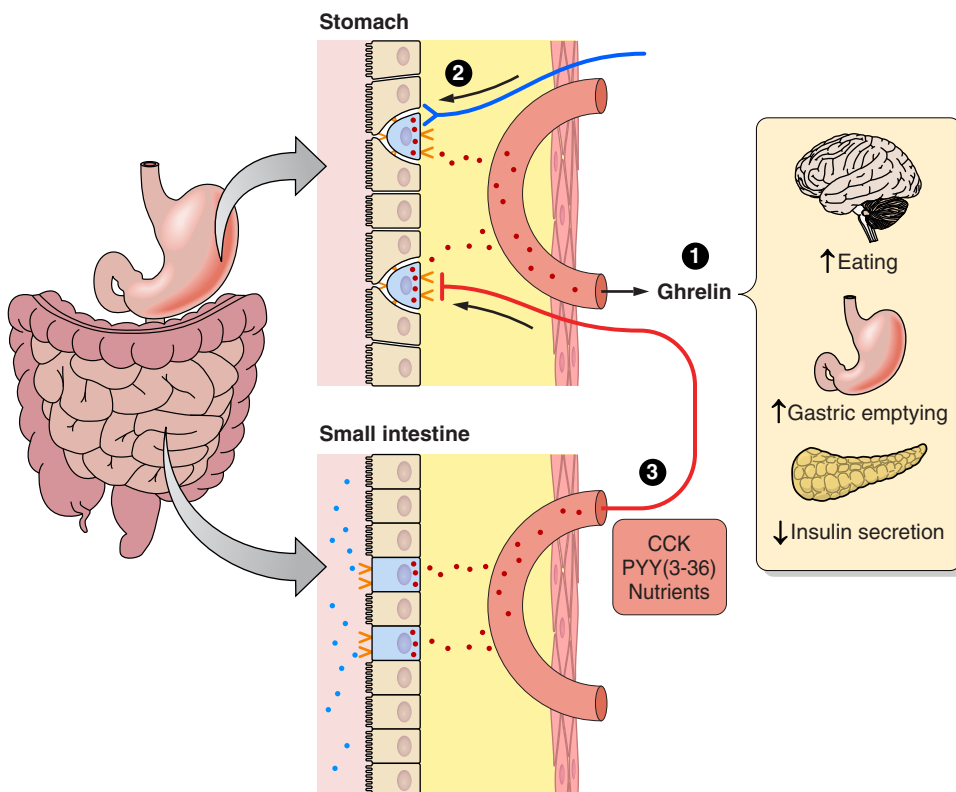

FIGURE 7. Some features of ghrelin physiology. Ghrelin is secreted from closed-type enteroendocrine cells (blue) dispersed in the epithelial layer (tan) of the gastric mucosa. Ghrelin diffuses through the lamina propria (yellow) and into gastric capillaries (salmon). *1*) Ghrelin's potential physiological effects include acting in the brain to stimulate eating, acting in the stomach to stimulate gastric emptying, and acting on the pancreatic β-cells to inhibit insulin secretion. *2*) Ghrelin secretion is stimulated mainly by neural controls. *3*) Feedback from small-intestinal nutrient sensing, mediated in part by open-type CCK and PYY(3–36) cells, inhibits ghrelin secretion during and after meals.

are correlated with hunger sensations and meal size, but if ghrelin has a causal endocrine role in hunger is unclear. Ghrelin may contribute to glycemic control via several mechanisms. Indeed, it has been hypothesized that ghrelin's major function is to prepare the organism for the nutrient repletion and storage (389, 524). Studies to date of ghrelin physiology in obese individuals and after RYGB have not produced consistent results. Ghrelin antagonists and inverse agonists suitable for human use (78, 125) may soon resolve many of these outstanding questions.

IV. CHOLECYSTOKININ

A. Introduction

CCK cells are open-type cells, i.e., their apical surfaces are exposed to the intestinal lumen (FIGURE 6*B*). Initial electron microscopy and immunocytochemistry studies suggested that they were a unique species of enteroendocrine cells, called I-cells (590). Contemporary methods, however, indicate that, at least in rodents, many enteroendocrine CCK cells also express and secrete ghrelin, GLP-1, PYY, GIP, neurotensin, or secretin (231, 303, 597, 738, 742). In humans, swine, and rats, enteroendocrine CCK cells are densely expressed in the duodenum and proximal jejunum, less dense in the distal jejunum, and sparse in the ileum (45, 478, 503).

CCK circulates predominantly in a 58-amino acid form (CCK-58) (243, 431, 612, 722). Importantly, many CCK assays that involve plasma formation recover <20% of endogenous CCK, so they provide accurate relative, but not absolute, levels (243, 431, 722). Additionally, most tests of exogenous CCK use CCK-8, which is rare or absent in the plasma. This may be important because the liver clears CCK-8 faster than larger forms (287, 404) and CCK-8 had slightly different effects than CCK-33 or CCK-58 in animal models (607, 608), including in tests of eating in rats (232, 279, 281).

There are two CCK receptors, CCKAR (or CCK1R) and CCKBR (CCK2R) (216, 514, 515, 612). CCKAR is more abundant peripherally than centrally and requires the seven-amino carboxy-terminal segment and sulfation of the tyrosine residue at position 7 for full activation. CCKBR, or the gastrin receptor, is sensitive to unsulfated CCK hexapeptides and is abundant both peripherally and centrally, where CCK-8 is a neurotransmitter.

B. Secretion

Mixed-nutrient meals increase CCK secretion. Using a well validated radioimmunoassay, Rehfeld et al. (609) found that a 1,470 kcal mixed-nutrient meal increased plasma CCK from a fasting level of ~1 to ~3 pM at 30 min and ~5 pM at 60–90 min. Similarly, using the state-of-the-art RAPID method, Eysselein et al. (242) found a 1,600 kcal mixed-nutrient meal increased plasma CCK from a fasting level ~2.5 to ~7 pM at 60 min. A number of studies involving isoenergetic loads of highly digestible nutrients that were infused intraduodenally to control gastric-emptying effects indicate that, with respect to both peak values and AUC, *1*) oral lipids stimulate CCK secretion most per kcal, proteins are intermediate, and carbohydrates stimulate CCK secretion least; and *2*) plasma levels increase in 10–15 min (327, 337, 446, 584, 641, 682).

Hydrolysis of proteins and triglycerides is required for normal CCK secretion (55, 159, 247, 325, 479, 718). Additionally, fatty acids with chain length greater than or equal to C12 stimulate CCK secretion much more than fatty acids less than C12 (249, 479, 486, 487), and less saturated long-chain fatty acids stimulated CCK secretion more than highly saturated fatty acids (67). Carbohydrate digestion may not be required, as the α-glucosidase inhibitor acarbose had little or no effect on the CCK response to mixed-nutrient meals (236, 751, 784).

Consistent with the higher density of enteroendocrine CCK cells in the proximal small intestine, intraduodenal glucose infusions that were prevented from transiting more than 60 cm distal to the pylorus by an inflated balloon stimulated CCK secretion as much as infusions done without balloon inflation (445). This is likely also to be the case for fat and protein. Intraileal lipid infusion also increased CCK secretion (466), but whether this was due to a direct action on ileal CCK cells or to an indirect, presumably endocrine, distal-to-proximal reflex is unknown.

Intraluminal nutrients directly and indirectly stimulate CCK secretion. Direct nutrient effects are mediated by a variety of nutrient receptors expressed on the apical surface of CCK cells (FIGURE 6*B* AND TABLE 4, which includes the full and the former names of the nutrient receptors discussed below). In humans, free fatty acids act on FFAR1 (443), FFAR4 (752), and the fatty-acid transporter CD36 (733); oligopeptides and amino acids act on CASR (161, 328, 811), LPAR5 (149), TAS1R1/TAS1R3 (160, 182, 543) and, perhaps, SLC15A1 (183). The presence of transcripts for TAS1R2/TAS1R3 and GNAT3 on CCK-secreting mouse enteroendocrine STC-1 cells suggests that sweet-receptor signaling may contribute to glucose-induced CCK release in mice (228, 849). This may not be the case in humans, however, because intragastric and intraduodenal infusions of the sweet-receptor inhibitor lactisole that reduced glucose-induced GLP-1 and PYY secretion did not affect CCK secretion (275). Intraluminal nutrients also stimulate CCK secretion indirectly via the CCK-releasing factors "pancreatic monitor peptide" and "intestinal luminal CCK-releasing factor" (456, 504, 812). This occurs in part due to binding of proteases to proteins and lipids,

which reduces protease-induced degradation of CCK-releasing factors (168, 432).

C. Eating

CCK is the best-established GI endocrine satiation signal in humans. First, in three studies (54, 299, 438), intravenous infusions of physiological doses of CCK reduced meal size without adverse physical or subjective effects in men and women, which fulfills criteria 3 and 5 of **TABLE 2**. The study by Lieverse et al. (438) is especially interesting because the test food, bananas, did not elicit CCK secretion under their conditions (440), so that the infused CCK did not synergize with endogenous CCK, as probably happens in most satiation tests. Second, intravenous infusions of the CCKAR antagonist loxiglumide increased premeal hunger feelings, reduced fullness feelings during the meal, increased meal size, and blocked the satiating effects of intraduodenal lipid infusion (70, 439, 480), which fulfills criteria 4 and 6 of **TABLE 2**. These studies, summarized in **FIGURE 8,** have made CCK paradigmatic for the study of the endocrine control of eating.

In addition, *1*) human *CCKAR* polymorphisms are associated with increased meal size, increased food intake, and obesity (192, 473, 501), suggesting that endogenous CCK is also important for the tonic control of eating. *2*) fMRI following intragastric lauric acid loads with or without loxiglumide indicated that CCK signaling is crucial for normal brain responses to this fatty acid (419) (because lauric acid is uncommon in Western diets, the generality of this finding is uncertain). *3*) CCK doses substantially above physiological (i.e., ~1.8 to ~3.5 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1}, **TABLE 3**) inhibited eating without eliciting adverse effects (100, 269, 290, 391). Interestingly, CCK infusions reduced meal size ~30–50% in these studies without affecting fullness or other meal-related sensations compared with the control condition, suggesting that CCK had an effect on consciousness indistinguishable from the presumably more complex afferent activation produced by the larger quantity of food eaten in the control condition. *4*) In most of these studies, CCK infusions began after a small preload to capitalize on the synergy between gastric mechanoreception and CCK (528), described in section IIC.

Attempts to relate endogenous CCK levels with subjective measures of appetite have been less informative than studies of manipulation of CCK. *1*) In the sole study of intrameal effects, plasma CCK increased more during meals in women than in men, but hunger and fullness ratings did not differ;
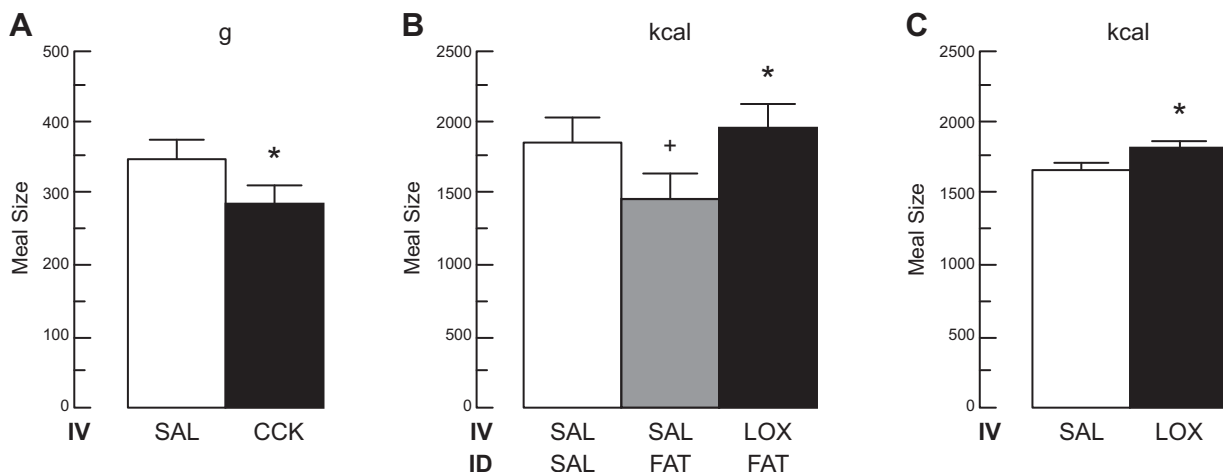

FIGURE 8. Evidence that endogenous CCK signals satiation in healthy humans. *A*: intravenous infusion of a physiological dose of CCK inhibited eating. Ten healthy-weight women [body mass index (BMI) 22 ± 3 kg/m^2] and 8 obese women (BMI 39 ± 2 kg/m^2) received 60 min intravenous (IV) infusions of 0.24 pmol·kg ideal body weight^{-1}·min^{-1} CCK-33 or saline (SAL) beginning at 0800 after an overnight fast. At 0900, a 132 kcal preload of bananas was served, and at 0915, a banana-shake meal was served in excess; bananas were used because they did not elicit CCK secretion. CCK significantly reduced meal size [*] without physical or subjective side effects. [From Lieverse et al. (438), with permission from BMJ Publishing Group Ltd.] *B*: the CCKA receptor antagonist loxiglumide (LOX) antagonized the satiating action of endogenous CCK stimulated by intraduodenal (ID) infusion of a fat emulsion. Healthy-weight adult males began a midday lunch buffet 4 h after a standard breakfast, 90 min after onset of an IV infusion of 10 μmol·kg^{-1}·h^{-1} LOX or SAL, 60 min after an ID infusion of 0.4 ml/min corn oil (FAT) or SAL, and 20 min after an oral preload of 400 ml of a low-fat banana milkshake. Infusions were continued throughout the meal. ID fat infusion significantly reduced the size of the lunch meal [+], and that this was reversed by LOX [*]; no physical or subjective side effects occurred in any condition. [From Matzinger et al. (480).] *C*: antagonism of CCK signaling with the CCKA receptor antagonist LOX stimulated eating. Healthy-weight adult males began a midday lunch buffet 4 h after a standard breakfast and 60 min after beginning an IV infusion of 22 μmol·kg^{-1}·h^{-1} LOX or SAL. Infusions were continued throughout the meal. LOX significantly increased meal size [*] without physical or subjective side effects. [From Beglinger et al. (70).]

women gave higher ratings of "sickness" early in the meal, but not later when CCK levels increased more, nor did they spontaneously report illness or display signs of illness (549). The small sample size (four of each sex) further limits this study. *2*) Postprandial CCK levels and hunger and fullness ratings were significantly correlated in a group of nine men, but the relationships were not detected in all individuals (3 of 9 for hunger and 4 of 9 for fullness) (260). *3*) Meals containing different fats differentially increased postprandial plasma CCK levels in eight women, and these were mirrored by subjective hunger and fullness ratings; but neither CCK responses nor appetite ratings differed in seven men (119). *4*) Meals containing different fat-to-carbohydrate ratios differentially increased postprandial plasma CCK levels in 16 overweight and obese men and women, but no associations with subjective appetite were detected; there was also no difference in the size of meals offered 3 h later, but by this time CCK levels had returned to basal (277). Because CCK appears to signal satiation, but not postprandial satiety, it is unfortunate that there are not more studies of the relationships among differential intrameal plasma CCK levels, appetite, and meal size.

Reproductive physiology may affect CCK satiation. Women spontaneously eat progressively less during the follicular phase of the menstrual cycle, reaching a nadir in daily food intake during the periovulatory phase that is ~275 kcal/day less than the luteal-phase maximum (38). Rats and mice also display a decrease in food intake during the periovulatory phase, due in part to an increase in the satiating potency of CCK related to estrogen signaling in the nucleus of the solitary tract (NTS) (38).

Studies in rodents suggest that CCK inhibits eating via both local and endocrine modes of action. In support of local action, intravenous infusion of the small-molecule CCKAR antagonist devazepide, which presumably diffused from the capillaries into the small intestinal-lamina propria, increased food intake, but infusions of a CCK antibody, which would not escape the vasculature so as to selectively block endocrine effects, did not (616). Infusion studies indicate that the most likely physiological site of CCKAR mediating satiation is the proximal small intestine (165, 814). In addition, the satiating action of intraperitoneal injections of CCK is mediated by vagal afferent fibers (165, 426, 704, 705), and most small intestinal vagal afferents terminate within the crypt and villous lamina propria, but not in close apposition to enteroendocrine CCK cells, indicative of a paracrine action (77). Nevertheless, some vagal afferents terminate with 5 μm of CCK cells (77), and CCK neuropods appear to signal via enteric glial cells (90) (described in section I*B3* and **FIGURE 3**) so that neurocrine or neuropod satiation signaling is also possible.

Other data in rats and mice support an endocrine mode of action. *1*) CCKAR in the pyloric muscle layers contribute to the satiating effect of exogenous CCK (516). As little or no food reaching the pylorus is digested sufficiently to stimulate CCK secretion and the CCKAR are localized in the muscle layer rather than the mucosal layer (565), the pyloric contribution to CCK satiation is likely to be endocrine. *2*) Vagotomy studies suggest that endocrine CCK may also act in the brain to inhibit eating (615, 850). For example, intravenous infusions of devazepide, which enters the brain, stimulated eating after vagotomy, whereas infusions of a larger-molecule CCKAR antagonist that penetrates peripheral capillaries, but not the blood-brain barrier, did not (615). The site of the brain CCKAR mediating these effects is not known. The NTS (83, 330), to which vagal afferents project, and the dorsomedial nucleus of the hypothalamus (79) are candidates.

Whether CCK's physiological satiating effect in humans involves local or endocrine action is unclear. That infusions mimicking systemic levels reached during meals are sufficient to reduce eating even when endogenous CCK secretion is minimized (438, 440) suggests, but does not prove, that local signaling is not responsible. This is because GI hormones diffuse down a steep concentration gradient from the lamina propria into the mesenteric veins and are then successively diluted in the hepatic-portal circulation and systemic circulation **(FIGURE 3)**. Thus, although the exact difference between lamina propria and systemic CCK concentrations is unknown, it seems likely that physiological intravenous CCK infusions are not sufficient to reproduce the CCK concentrations in the lamina propria that occur during meals.

D. Glycemic Control

No direct role has been established for CCK in glycemic control in humans. Infusion of a physiological CCK-8 dose (0.4 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1}) reduced plasma glucose after an oral glucose load, but not after an intraduodenal glucose infusion that mimicked the gastric-emptying rate of the oral glucose (437), suggesting that CCK reduces blood glucose indirectly via inhibition of gastric emptying. In two studies, however, the CCKAR antagonist loxiglumide failed to affect plasma glucose despite accelerating gastric emptying (263, 323). Physiological levels of CCK do not appear to lower blood glucose by increasing insulin secretion because infusion of 0.2–0.4 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} CCK-8 did not increase the insulin response to co-infusion of glucose (637). Physiological infusions of CCK did, however, increase the insulin response produced by amino-acid infusions in two (324, 637) of three (253) studies. But several attempts to demonstrate a direct insulinotropic effect of CCK using various CCKAR antagonists and various nutrient stimuli failed (65, 263, 323, 324, 400, 434, 547, 667, 673).

CCK secretion was reduced in patients with longstanding T2DM (112, 636), perhaps due to the autonomic neuropa-

thy and reduced rates of gastric emptying typical of these patients (344). CCK-8 infusion further slowed gastric emptying and improved postprandial insulinemia and glycemia in patients with T2DM (18, 580, 636). Thus CCK agonists may be useful in diabetes therapy.

Studies in rats indicate that CCK affects glucose metabolism by reducing hepatic glucose production via a vagal-vagal reflex (98, 99, 147, 605). CCK was infused intraduodenally in amounts that failed to increase CCK concentration in the hepatic-portal vein to mimic the local action of CCK in the lamina propria, thus providing unique evidence for a paracrine action. This method seems feasible for human studies and may lead to better understanding of the relative roles of local and endocrine signaling in GI hormone function.

E. Obesity

Whether obesity affects CCK secretion is controversial. Fasting CCK levels were reduced in obese subjects in one study (57), but not two others (103, 725). CCK responses to intraduodenal oleic acid infusions tended to be delayed and reduced in overweight or obese compared with healthy-weight subjects in one study (725), but CCK responses to high-fat, high-carbohydrate, and high-protein meals were comparable in obese and healthy-weight subjects in another (103), and CCK responses to ingestion of high-fat meals were larger in obese than healthy-weight subjects in a third study (261). Whether these contrasting results were due to differences in the specific nutrient stimuli used, in gastric emptying, which was not assessed, or other factors is not known.

Some defects in CCK signaling can lead to obesity. As mentioned above, human *CCKAR* polymorphisms are associated with increased meal size, increased food intake, and obesity (192, 473, 501), suggesting that CCK-signaling defects can contribute to obesity etiology. In addition, allelic variations in *CCK* were significantly more prevalent in obese persons who habitually ate very large meals than those who did not (the "extreme discordant phenotype" approach) (192).

We know of only one study comparing the satiating action of CCK infusions in healthy-weight and obese humans (438). No difference was obtained (infusion of 0.24 $pmol \cdot kg^{-1} \cdot min^{-1}$ CCK-33 reduced meal size $\sim$18% in 10 healthy-weight women and $\sim$20% in 8 obese women).

Obesity produced by high-fat feeding may interfere with CCK satiation. *1*) CCK injections and balloon distension in isolated jejunal segments elicited smaller vagal-afferent electrophysiological responses in mice made obese by feeding a high-fat diet than in chow-fed mice (181). *2*) The CCK responsivity of vagal afferents was reduced in high-fat fed, leptin-resistant rats (193). *3*) Fat-induced CCK secretion, the satiating effect of exogenous CCK, and the de-satiating effect of devazepide were reduced in rats fed a high-fat diet (225, 739).

Reports that rats that received intraperitoneal infusions of CCK during every spontaneous meal for 6 days (821) and mice with transgenic null mutations of *Cckar* (402) increased meal frequency and failed to gain weight contributed to the views that CCK (and by extension other GI hormones) does not contribute significantly to tonic energy homeostasis and is a poor candidate for obesity pharmacotherapy. [The OLETF rat, which also bears a *Cckar* null mutation, is obese, but this is apparently due to loss of hypothalamic Cckar rather than vagal Cckar (79).] Recent preclinical data are more promising. First, stabilized forms of CCK that resist enzymatic degradation reduced food intake and body weight in various mouse obesity models (357, 359, 582). Second, native and stabilized CCK and CCKAR agonists increased the anorectic and weight-lowering actions of a GLP-1 receptor agonist, amylin, leptin, or amylin plus leptin in various rat and mouse obesity models (358, 776, 777), as did a CCK/GLP-1 agonist hybrid peptide (360). These promising results suggest that increased CCK signaling may contribute effectively to obesity pharmacotherapy.

F. RYGB

CCK has not been a focus of RYGB research because RYGB prevents ingesta from contacting the majority of CCK-secreting cells. Nevertheless, intraileal lipid infusions increased CCK secretion in healthy-weight subjects (466), and postprandial CCK levels were normal (383, 622, 634) or increased (364, 574) following RYGB. For example, Peterli et al. (574) found that CCK levels 30 min after a mixed-nutrient meal were increased approximately twofold 1 wk, 3 mo, and 1 yr after RYGB. That the increase occurred just 1 wk post-RYGB suggests that it does not require proliferation of CCK cells. The larger increases at later points may be related to the proliferation of CCK cells, which was reported in the Roux and common limbs of RYGB rats (525). The effect of RYGB on CCK secretion is an interesting and under-researched phenomenon that may lead to new opportunities for obesity therapy.

RYGB reduced food intake and body weight in obese OLETF rats (305), indicating that Cckar signaling is not necessary for some response to RYGB in this model. As no ad libitum-fed, genetically normal RYGB rats were included in the experiment, however, it is unclear whether the OLETF rats were normally responsive to RYGB. We know of only one test of acute CCKAR antagonism in RYGB rats (37), which failed to reveal any effect of RYGB on endogenous CCK satiation.

G. Summary

CCK is secreted in response to the products of carbohydrate, lipid, and protein digestion. It has been clearly established as a satiation signal in humans and may contribute to the control of meal-related glycemia both indirectly, via its effect on gastric emptying, and directly via control of hepatic glucose production. The satiating effect in humans may result from both local and endocrine actions, although the latter appear more likely. These actions of CCK are summarized in **FIGURE 9**. Pathophysiology of CCK signaling may contribute to overeating, to obesity and T2DM in some patients, and to early satiation after RYGB. Preclinical studies indicate that CCK is a candidate for obesity pharmacotherapy, especially in combination with other endocrine-based therapies.

V. GLUCAGON-LIKE PEPTIDE-1

A. Introduction

GLP-1 is secreted by open-type enteroendocrine cells **(FIGURE 6B)**, originally identified as L cells (114, 589), located in both the small and the large intestine (336, 597). Most GLP-1 cells in the distal jejunum and ileum coexpress and secrete PYY; in addition, some GLP-1 cells coexpress CCK, GIP neurotensin, or secretin (231, 303, 568, 597, 738, 742). GLP-1 is also produced by a small group of neurons located in the NTS (72, 128, 222, 336). Two equipotent molecular forms circulate, GLP-1(7–37) and GLP-1(7-36NH$_2$); the latter predominates in humans. Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4), a proline/alanine-specific peptidase found on the luminal surface of capillary endothelial cells, in the liver, and in the blood, rapidly degrades active GLP-1 to inactive forms, GLP-1(9–37) and GLP-1(9-36NH$_2$). In swine, only ~25% of active GLP-1 secreted from the intestine reaches the portal circulation, and only ~10–15% reaches the systemic circulation (336).

GLP-1 receptors (GLP-1R) are expressed in the GI tract, pancreas, cardiac atrium, abdominal vagal afferents, and many brain areas (28, 115, 128, 336, 450, 623, 783). In some animals, GLP-1 degradation products appear to signal via non-GLP-1 receptors (766). Whether these peptides have physiological functions in humans is not known.

B. Secretion

Available GLP-1 assay methods usually yield similar relative changes, but often different absolute concentrations (49, 410). Due to the rapid degradation of active GLP-1, GLP-1 secretion is best estimated by the sum of active and inactive GLP-1 in plasma (336, 508). Plasma GLP-1 concentrations are at their lowest levels after overnight fasts, increase rapidly during meals, and usually do not return to
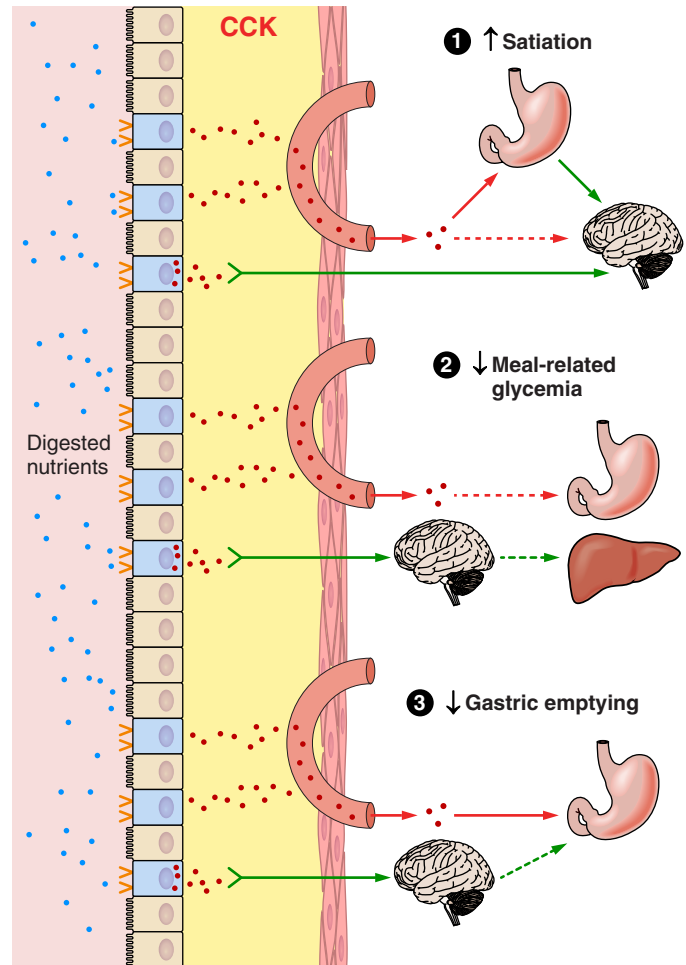

FIGURE 9. Some features of CCK physiology. CCK (red dots) secretion is stimulated by the digestive products of all three macronutrients acting on nutrient receptors on the apical aspects of enteroendocrine CCK cells (blue) dispersed in the epithelial layer (tan) of the small intestinal mucosa. CCK acts in an endocrine mode by diffusing through the lamina propria (yellow) and into intestinal capillaries (salmon) to reach distant target organs (red arrows), or acts locally. *1*) CCK's physiological effects include stimulating satiation. This may occur via endocrine actions in the pyloric area of the stomach that produce signals relayed to the brain via vagal afferents (green arrow) or via local actions on vagal afferents in the lamina propria. An endocrine action in the brain may also contribute. *2*) CCK lowers meal-related glycemia via an endocrine effect on gastric emptying and perhaps via a vagal-vagal reflex. *3*) Similarly, CCK slows gastric emptying via a direct endocrine effect and perhaps via a vagal-vagal reflex. Solid lines indicate well-established effects, and dashed lines indicate less well established effects.

the morning level between meals (130, 235, 322, 557, 681, 804, 805). For example, when healthy-weight men and women ate 524 kcal breakfasts and, 4 h later, mixed-nutrient lunches containing 511, 743, or 1034 kcal, active GLP-1 increased from ~5 pM to ~8, ~12, and ~16 pM, respectively, after 30 min and then decreased to ~7 pM after 180 min (27).

Oral loads of glucose and several other carbohydrates usually result in monophasic increases in plasma GLP-1, with onsets after 5–15 min, peak values after 15–30 min, and

initial values regained after 3–4 h (130, 235, 322, 399, 663, 714, 759, 793, 805). Oral fructose, however, was only about half as potent a GLP-1 secretogogue as oral glucose, both on a molar basis (409) and when matched for perceived sweetness (716). Oral protein and lipid typically produce slower-onset, more sustained increases than does glucose (95, 122, 128, 131, 195, 235, 336, 442, 600, 762). Due to the complex patterns of GLP-1 secretion described below, however, it is unclear whether any macronutrient should be considered to be the most potent GLP-1 secretagogue. Both fasting and glucose-stimulated GLP-1 secretion are pulsatile, with a period of ~8 min (50); the controls and consequences of this are not known.

GLP-1 levels after mixed-nutrient meals sometimes display biphasic patterns (130, 235, 604), with secondary peaks after 60–120 min. Differences in rates of gastric emptying and other differences in digestibility of the meal components are likely to contribute to this, but are not their sole cause because biphasic patterns also occurred after oral loads of individual nutrients (130, 322).

There may be sex-specific effects on GLP-1 secretion. Oral glucose and mixed-nutrient meals increased GLP-1 levels more in women than men in two studies (763, 805), but not in two others (132, 385). In addition, oral glucose increased GLP-1 levels less during the follicular phase than during the luteal phase, apparently due to slower gastric emptying (101).

Several mechanisms may contribute to the rapid initial GLP-1 response: *1*) GLP-1-cells are expressed in the duodenum and proximal jejunum (148, 365, 738, 759), so direct stimulation of GLP-1 secretion occurs as soon as ingesta pass the pylorus. *2*) The initial rate of gastric emptying of glucose solutions, especially in fasted subjects, may produce glucose concentrations that exceed the absorption capacity of the proximal small intestine, so that glucose may reach more distal GLP-1 cells within 5–10 min after meals (50, 663). *3*) The rate of increase in plasma GLP-1 may exceed the rate of increase of plasma glucose, suggesting that neuroendocrine reflexes may stimulate GLP-1 secretion in addition to direct stimulation of GLP-1 cells by glucose (508).

Intraduodenal-infusion studies, similar to oral-loading studies, indicate that carbohydrate increases plasma GLP-1 levels faster than either protein or lipid (71, 247, 249, 412, 446, 550, 583) and that biphasic responses sometimes occur (446, 583). In addition, *1*) for each macronutrient, increasing caloric load increased GLP-1 levels (446, 583, 640). *2*) GLP-1 responses were greater during initially faster and subsequently slower nutrient infusions compared with identical loads infused at constant rates, suggesting that increases in the initial intraluminal nutrient load disproportionally increase GLP-1 secretion (136, 550). Because gastric emptying rates are highest initially, this suggests that

gastric empting contributes to the control of GLP-1 secretion.

The distal small intestine usually plays the leading role in sustained GLP-1 secretion. This was first indicated by comparisons of GLP-1 secretion and glucose absorption. The threshold intraduodenal glucose infusion rate for sustained increases in plasma GLP-1 was between 1 and 2 kcal/min in two studies (663, 774) and between 2 and 4 kcal/min in another study (583). Because the absorptive capacity of the duodenum and first 25–30 cm of jejunum is ~0.9–1.4 kcal/min (334, 505, 575), glucose probably reached the more distal jejunum in these studies only when at least ~1.5 kcal/min glucose was infused, which suggests that stimulation of more distal GLP-1 cells is required to elicit sustained GLP-1 secretion. Two experiments confirm this suggestion. The first (159) involved intraduodenal infusion of 3.5 kcal/min glucose 2 cm distal to the pylorus, aspiration of the intestinal contents 60 cm distal to the pylorus, inflation of an occluding balloon just distal to the aspiration site, and intrajejunal infusion of glucose or saline distal to the occlusion, 75 cm distal to the pylorus. Plasma GLP-1 levels increased when glucose was infused intrajejunally in amounts matching the aspirated glucose, but not when saline was infused intrajejunally. In the second (844), 2 kcal/min glucose was infused either via intraduodenal catheters that ended 12 cm distal to the pylorus or via intrajejunal catheters that ended 50 cm distal to the pylorus; in this condition a balloon was inflated 30 cm distal to the pylorus to exclude reflux. Plasma GLP-1 levels increased markedly more when glucose was infused intrajejunally than intraduodenally. These two experiments demonstrate that small intestinal glucose stimulation ≥50–75 cm distal to the pylorus is necessary for GLP-1 secretion and that small intestinal glucose stimulation <50–60 cm distal to the pylorus is not sufficient for it.

Further observations also attest to the importance of distal small intestinal GLP-1 cells in GLP-1 secretion. *1*) Reducing intestinal nutrient transit with hyoscine decreased GLP-1 secretion in response to glucose (137). *2*) GLP-1 secretion was increased when carbohydrates were administered with the acarbose, which slows digestion of starch and disaccharides and increases the amounts of carbohydrates reaching the more distal small intestine (274, 601, 680, 784, 785). *3*) GLP-1 secretion was increased more by lower glycemic load foods, i.e., less digestible, than by higher glycemic load foods (635), again presumably by increasing the amounts of carbohydrates reaching the more distal small intestine. *4*) Delivery of small amounts of lauric acid to the ileum and colon by enteric-coated pellets increased meal-induced GLP-1 secretion (459). *5*) GLP-1 responses to intraduodenal infusions of amino acids and fatty acids are slow in onset (71, 718), which, because no digestion is required in these situations, indicates that GLP-1 cells in the proximal small intestine are not sufficient for the responses. *6*) That

GLP-1 cells are more dense in the distal jejunum and ileum than in the more proximal small intestine in humans (233) also supports the importance of the distal small intestine in GLP-1 secretion.

Many products of digestive hydrolysis directly stimulate GLP-1 secretion via membrane receptors on the apical surfaces of enteroendocrine GLP-1 cells (TABLE 4, which includes the full and the former names of the nutrient receptors discussed below). Intragastric infusion of lactisole, an inhibitor of the TAS1R2/TAS1R3 sweet receptor, reduced the GLP-1 response to intragastric glucose in humans (275, 717), suggesting that GLP-1 cells express these receptors (228). TAS1R2/TAS1R3 receptors do not appear to be sufficient for GLP-1 secretion, however, because artificial sweeteners that stimulate them had no effect (716, 845, 849). Glucose absorption via the glucose transporters SLC5A1 and SLC2A2 may be required because selective inhibitors of both transporters reduced GLP-1 secretion in animals (461, 519). SLC2A1 and SLC2A5 have also been found on GLP-1 cells (618); the latter suggests a mechanism for the stimulation of GLP-1 secretion by fructose mentioned above.

There is indirect evidence that protein hydrolysis is required for GLP-1 secretion (142, 302, 322, 461, 718, 760). Oligopeptides and amino acids may be sensed by CASR (210, 461). Phenylalanine, tryptophan, asparagine, arginine, and glutamine each stimulated GLP-1 in isolated rat small intestine, and this was abolished in the absence of extracellular Ca^{2+} or the presence of a CASR inhibitor (461).

As for ghrelin and CCK, the effect of lipids on GLP-1 secretion depends on digestive hydrolysis and the presence of fatty acids with chain length greater than or equal to C12 (71, 249). The free fatty-acid receptors FFAR2, FFAR3, and FFAR4 are densely expressed on distal small intestinal GLP-1 cells (329, 380, 715, 754), which may contribute to the slower-onset, more sustained GLP-1 responses after lipid ingestion. Carbohydrates reaching the large intestine are fermented to short-chain fatty acids, which are sensed by FFAR2 and FFAR3 (206, 617) and contribute to the later phase of GLP-1 secretion (376, 765). For example, oral loads of xylose, a poorly absorbed sugar, led to greater increases in GLP-1 than did glucose from 60 to 180 min after loading (793). GLP-1 cells also express GPR119, which mediates responses to oleoethylamine (151, 420, 618), a long-chain fatty acid derivative formed during absorption.

Nutrients may also stimulate GLP-1 secretion indirectly by increasing bile secretion. Bile acids appear to control GLP-1 secretion in two ways. First, circulating bile acids diffuse into the lamina propria and reach GPBAR1 on the basolateral aspects of GLP-1 cells, which stimulates GLP-1 secretion in mice (105, 564, 761). Second, the nuclear bile-acid receptor FXR appears to inhibit GLP-1 production because treatment with a bile-acid sequestrant improved glucose tolerance and increased ileal GLP-1 expression in wild-type mice, but not *Fxr* knockout mice (773). The importance of bile acids for human GLP-1 secretion is not clear. *1*) Bile acid and GLP-1 responses were correlated in one study (627). *2*) Intrajejunal infusion of taurocholic acid did not affect GLP-1 secretion by itself, but increased glucose-stimulated GLP-1 secretion beginning after ~90 min (841). *3*) Intraduodenal infusion of chenodeoxycholic acid had only a small effect on plasma GLP-1 levels (496).

There appear to be several reflexive controls of GLP-1 secretion. *1*) The nicotinic cholinergic antagonist trimethaphan did not reduce the early increase in GLP-1 after a mixed-nutrient meal, but did reduce the increases in insulin and pancreatic polypeptide, suggesting that cephalic-phase reflexes did not contribute to the GLP-1 response (17). A preprandial cephalic-phase GLP-1 reflex, however, was demonstrated in rats (180, 786). *2*) The muscarinic cholinergic antagonist atropine reduced the GLP-1 response to an oral glucose load (50). *3*) Mouse GLP-1 cells express the melanocortin 4 receptor (Mcr4), whose activation increased GLP-1 secretion (561).

The afferent limbs of GLP-1 reflexes may involve gastric-phase signals because intragastric infusion of glucose or a mixed-nutrient solution led to greater plasma GLP-1 levels than matched intraduodenal infusions (719), although it is also possible that the initial rate of gastric emptying may have exceeded the rate of intraduodenal infusions, leading to greater direct stimulation of GLP-1 release. An intestinal-phase reflex appears to contribute to GLP-1 secretion in response to intraduodenal fat infusions because GLP-1 did not increase after CCKAR antagonism (71). Finally, research in rats indicates that vagal signaling contributes importantly to reflexive GLP-1 release (29, 110, 628).

C. Eating

GLP-1 fulfills criterion 3 of TABLE 2 for an endocrine satiation signal in humans because intravenous infusion of physiological doses of GLP-1 ($0.3–0.9$ pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1}) reduced meal size in the absence of adverse effects in healthy-weight men (199, 255, 299, 301). Test context may affect GLP-1 satiation, however, because a physiological dose failed to inhibit eating in another test (100), and supraphysiological doses ($1.2–1.5$ pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} GLP-1) reduced meal size in one (301), but not in another study done under different conditions (454). The site(s) of the GLP-1R mediating this satiating effect is unknown. As explained in section IVC, we conclude that positive results with physiological endocrine doses suggest that GLP-1 acts via an endocrine mode of action, rather than signaling locally, to inhibit eating in these tests.

With respect to criterion 6 of **TABLE 2**, GLP-1R antagonism with exendin(9–39) failed to increase test meal size in healthy humans tested under five distinct experimental conditions (492, 721) and in two groups of RYGB patients tested 3–12 mo after surgery, when their mean BMI was ~34 kg/m^2 (737). In contrast, exendin(9–39) did increase test meal size in one of the RYGB-patient groups in a preoperative test (737). Several factors may have contributed to these disparate results. *1*) The positive result was obtained with a primed infusion and a higher maintenance dose of exendin(9–39). *2*) Meal-related GLP-1 secretion was markedly increased in the patients tested after RYGB, so even the higher exendin(9–39) dose may not have been sufficient. *3*) Patients were heavier before RYGB (~40 kg/m^2) than after (~34 kg/m^2), suffered from T2DM, and were receiving insulin treatment (after RYGB only 2 of 12 patients had T2DM, and treatment was not specified). *4*) Exendin(9–39) led to unusually high levels of PYY(3–36) in healthy subjects (721) and in patients tested after RYGB, but failed to increase PYY(3–36) in patients tested before RYGB (737).

Intravenous GLP-1 infusions failed to inhibit eating in men with truncal vagotomy and pyloroplasty (588), suggesting that GLP-1 acts in the abdomen to inhibit eating. Many data in rats also support a vagal mechanism (1, 313, 407, 639), although capsaicin lesions of unmyelinated abdominal afferents failed to block GLP-1's eating-inhibitory effect in one study (613).

Additional rat and mouse data also indicate that intestinal GLP-1 acts locally to inhibit eating in these species. *1*) Meals failed to increase systemic active GLP-1 levels in rats (598, 691) [although meals did lead to GLP-1 increases in mice (15, 297)]. *2*) Infusion of 0.5 nmol/kg GLP-1 via the cranial-mesenteric artery, which supplies much of the small and large intestines, reduced meal size more than identical infusions via the hepatic-portal vein or femoral artery in rats (832). *3*) Hepatic-portal vein infusion of 1 nmol/kg GLP-1, which was near the threshold for an eating-inhibitory effect under the conditions tested in rats, increased active GLP-1 in portal-vein plasma to ~20-fold the maximum level observed after a meal under the same conditions (599, 639). *4*) Intraperitoneal injections of an GLP-1-albumin conjugate, which is unlikely to enter the brain, inhibited eating in mice (48). *5*) In chow-fed rats, intravenous infusions of GLP-1R antagonists failed to increase eating (387, 638, 832), whereas intraperitoneal injections of GLP-1R antagonists did so in several (37, 828, 831), although not all (3, 179, 832), tests. The inconsistent eating-stimulatory effect of intraperitoneal GLP-1-antagonist administration suggests that locally acting GLP-1 may be an endogenous satiation signal in rats only under particular conditions. Dietary fat content may be one factor that downregulates the eating-inhibitory effect of GLP-1 (224, 595, 831).

Animal studies have also identified a number of brain sites where GLP-1 may act to inhibit eating, including the area postrema, NTS, lateral parabrachial nucleus, ventral tegmental area, paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus, and nucleus accumbens (23, 219, 499, 500, 599, 619, 620, 652). Because the data reviewed above suggest that GLP-1 does not increase in the systemic circulation after meals in rats and that intestinal GLP-1 does not control eating in rats via an endocrine mechanism, however, these sites are probably physiologically stimulated by neuronal GLP-1 in rats, which originates in neurons in the caudal brain stem that project to all the areas listed above and more (450, 623). Because postprandial GLP-1 levels are relatively high in the systemic circulation in humans, it is possible that endocrine GLP-1 does affect these brain areas in humans. GLP-1 appears to enter the brain by simple diffusion (381). Finally, rat studies indicate that GLP-1 signaling in the NTS affects satiation in part by modulating the processing of signals related to gastric fill (312, 806), although whether endocrine or neurocrine GLP-1 is involved is unclear.

GLP-1 may contribute to postprandial satiety as well as to satiation. *1*) As described above, GLP-1 levels are often increased for several hours postprandially. *2*) In a test of healthy-weight subjects who consumed fixed-size, high-fat, low-carbohydrate test meals (276), plasma GLP-1 levels 60–180 min later were correlated with both hunger ratings and the size of meals offered at 180 min (neither correlation was present 0–60 min after the fixed-size meals). *3*) In rats, chronic intrajejunal infusions of linoleic acid increased GLP-1 levels and selectively reduced meal frequency, and intraperitoneal exendin(9–39) infusion reversed the reduction in meal frequency (179).

GLP-1 may affect eating in other ways. *1*) GLP-1 may contribute to flavor hedonics (24, 212, 499, 699, 827). Many of the effects on rats' eating produced by central GLP-1 manipulations described above related to "hedonic eating," and the effects of GLP-1 on human fMRI responses to pictures of foods also occurred in brain areas related to the generation of hedonic judgments (788). *2*) GLP-1 signaling in the caudal brain stem (624) and in the amygdala (388) may be involved in the aversive control of eating in rats. *3*) GLP-1 may have physiological roles in thirst and in sodium and water homeostasis (298, 485), which may influence eating under some conditions. Future research should carefully consider these possibilities.

There are two interesting distinctions between the eating-inhibitory effects of chronic GLP-1 treatments in animals versus in humans. *1*) The site of action in humans is unknown. Chronic GLP-1-agonist treatments that produce weight loss in rats do so by acting centrally (379, 677, 698), whereas the long-lasting GLP-1 agonist liraglutide had low uptake into the cerebrospinal fluid in humans (150). *2*) Visceral illness is not a serious side effect of GLP-1-agonist

treatment in humans (335, 414, 581), but reliably accompanies the reductions in food intake and body weight produced by chronic GLP-1-agonist treatment in rats (379). GLP-1 agonist-induced illness in rats is apparently mediated by a subset of central GLP-1R sites (378). Better understanding of these phenomena is important for advancing GLP-1 obesity pharmacotherapy.

D. Glycemic Control

GLP-1 appears to contribute to meal-related glycemic control by stimulating insulin secretion, inhibiting glucagon secretion, slowing gastric emptying, and reducing hepatic glucose metabolism (128, 222, 336, 653). GLP-1 may also contribute to glycemic control in the fasting state. The latter is suggested by recent studies employing pancreatic clamps, i.e., somatostatin infusion and glucagon and insulin replacement, that suggest that GLP-1 reduces endogenous glucose production during the fasting state in both metabolically healthy individuals (594) and those with T2DM (679). Studies in mice suggest that these effects are due in part to an insulin-independent effect GLP-1R in the hepatic portal vein or liver (117).

GLP-1, together with GIP, mediates the incretin effect by exerting dose-related, glucose-dependent insulinotropic effects on β-cells (128, 223, 336, 406). Infusions of physiological endocrine doses of GLP-1 are sufficient to increase insulin secretion in fasting subjects and during glucose infusions (406, 537, 803). Furthermore, a physiological dose of GLP-1 infused during isoglycemic glucose infusions, i.e., infusions leading to identical glycemic profiles as oral glucose, reproduced the insulin response to oral glucose (537). These data indicate that GLP-1 meets criterion 3 of **TABLE 2** for a physiological endocrine incretin effect. Infusion of the GLP-1R antagonist exendin(9–39) decreased insulin secretion after oral glucose loads, after meals, during intraduodenal glucose infusions, and during hyperglycemic glucose clamps (546, 650, 664, 721), indicating that GLP-1 meets also criterion 6 for a physiological endocrine incretin effect.

Additional important aspects of the incretin effect in metabolically healthy individuals include *1*) comparisons of insulin or C-peptide secretion in response to oral glucose or isoglycemic intravenous glucose infusions indicate that the incretin effect increases with increasing glucose loads and, thus, limits meal-related glucose excursions even after large glucose loads (47, 490, 539). *2*) GLP-1 synergizes with GIP to increase insulin secretion (537, 803), but *3*) intraduodenal glucose infusions at rates in the physiological range of gastric emptying of glucose solutions indicated that GIP was the predominant incretin during infusion of ≤2 kcal/min glucose, whereas GLP-1 predominated during infusion of either 3 or 4 kcal/min glucose (471, 774).

Although glucose stimulated GLP-1 and GIP secretion normally in patients with T2DM (47, 121, 460, 542), the in-

cretin effect was diminished (47, 128, 223, 472). This apparently reflects a decrease in the β-cell response to GLP-1 and, more importantly, a near lack of response to GIP (332, 392, 476, 491, 493, 538, 764, 842). As a result, GLP-1 may contribute relatively more to the incretin effect in T2DM patients than in metabolically healthy persons (835). The defect in the incretin effect in T2DM is reversible: improving glucose levels in patients with T2DM for only 4 wk improved C-peptide secretion in response to both GLP-1 and GIP infusions markedly (332). Thus GLP-1 agonists hold great promise for the treatment of T2DM. GLP-1-based therapy, however, may not be advantageous for all T2DM patients. For example, the discovery of gene polymorphisms that affect incretin hormone secretion and action in T2DM patients (527) and that affect GLP-1's insulinotropic effect in healthy individuals (657) suggest that defects in incretin function may be a primary pathophysiology in some patients.

GLP-1's glucagonostatic action also contributes to meal-related glycemic control. Physiological infusions of 0.25–0.4 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} GLP-1 inhibited glucagon secretion and reduced glucose levels in both healthy subjects and T2DM patients (309, 352), and exendin(9–39) markedly elevated glucagon secretion and increased glucose levels in healthy subjects (230, 546, 721).

As described in section IIC, GLP-1 slows gastric emptying, which also improves glycemic control (448, 541, 659, 834). Comparisons of the relative contributions of GLP-1's diverse effects on glycemia suggest that its glucagonostatic and gastric-emptying inhibitory effects are more important than its insulinotropic effect in healthy subjects (541, 546). Several aspects of GLP-1's effect on GI motility are relevant for the treatment of T2DM. *1*) The slowing of gastric emptying by exogenous GLP-1 displayed tachyphylaxis during sustained (>24 h) GLP-1 infusions in healthy subjects (540, 781). *2*) Shorter-acting GLP-1 agonists have a more sustained effect on gastric emptying and thereby reduce meal-related glycemia more than longer-acting GLP-1 agonists (577). *3*) A short-acting GLP-1 agonist also reduced duodenal motility and flow, suggesting an additional mechanism by which GLP-1 may reduce meal-related glycemia (756).

Additional mechanisms also may contribute to GLP-1's glycemic effects. A study in truncally vagotomized human subjects indicated that the vagus is involved in GLP-1's effect on GI glucose disposal, but not in its incretin effect, although a limitation was that the subjects had pyloroplasty together with vagotomy (587). This effect of GLP-1 on glucose disposal may involve GLP-1R in the hepatic-portal vein, which animal studies indicate activate neural reflexes that increase glucose clearance without affecting insulin secretion (117, 355, 548). The role of these reflexes in normal meal-related glucose control remains unclear. Mice with global deletion of GLP-1R in which GLP-1R were selec-

tively reconstituted in the pancreas displayed normal oral and intraperitoneal glucose tolerance (417), suggesting the endocrine mechanism is sufficient and neural and other mechanisms are not necessary. Other data suggest that brain GLP-1R also may contribute GLP-1's glycemic effects: *1*) GLP-1 infusions into the third cerebral ventricle increased insulin secretion in rats and mice (393, 652) and decreased gastric-emptying rates in rats (354); *2*) exendin(9–39) infusions into the third cerebral ventricle increased muscle glucose utilization independent of insulin signaling in mice (393); and *3*) GLP-1 infusions directly into the Arc reduced hepatic glucose production in rats (652). Whether these central effects reflect actions of enteroendocrine GLP-1 or neural GLP-1, however, is unclear.

E. Obesity

The peak and AUC of meal-stimulated GLP-1 secretion were reduced in several studies of obese persons (6, 130, 458, 497, 603, 798), although not all (245, 681, 794). These decreases appear to be secondary to obesity because meal-stimulated GLP-1 secretion increased to near that of healthy-weight individuals in obese patients following weight loss (from mean BMI of 39 to 33 kg/m^2) achieved by caloric restriction (798). Obesity does not appear to influence GLP-1's incretin effect because the β-cell response to GLP-1 infusion during hyperglycemic clamps increased in proportion to insulin resistance in individuals without T2DM identically in healthy-weight and morbidly obese subjects (42). Postprandial circulating bile-acid levels are reduced in obesity (570), which may contribute to the reduction in GLP-1 secretion.

A polymorphism in *GLP1R* at rs2268641 was associated with BMI in a European-American sample, although it accounted for <0.3% of the variance (430), suggesting that defects in GLP-1 signaling contribute to obesity risk in some individuals. Tests of GLP-1's effects on eating in children who are at high familial risk for obesity before they become hyperphagic and overweight (see Ref. 726) would be useful in analyzing this.

Intravenous infusion of physiological doses of GLP-1 inhibited eating in obese subjects in three studies (256, 300, 534) and failed to do so in one, apparently underpowered study (535). Although these studies did not include nonobese control groups, an across-study analysis of 72 normal-weight and 43 overweight and obese subjects, some with T2DM, failed to detect any change in the dose-effect relations of infusions of 0.4–1.5 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} GLP-1 (796). As described in section V*C*, exendin(9–39) increased test meal size in morbidly obese patients with T2DM, but no longer did so after RYGB (737).

F. RYGB

Meal-related GLP-1 secretion is substantially increased after RYGB (94, 310, 574, 846). Although fasting GLP-1 levels are usually unchanged, meal-related GLP-1 increases within 2 days of surgery, increases progressively for at least 6 mo, and persists apparently indefinitely. As described in section II*G*, increased gastric empting may account for these increases in GLP-1 secretion when highly digestible nutrients enter the Roux limb rapidly, as in the case of oral glucose challenges (544). Increases in meal-related GLP-1 secretion may contribute to the beneficial effects of RYGB on eating, body weight, and glycemic regulation: *1*) the magnitude of meal-related GLP-1 responses has been associated with weight loss (214, 425) and remission of T2DM (533); and *2*) patients bearing the *MC4R* variant I251L lost more weight after RYGB (502), which may reflect increased GLP-1 secretion (469).

Tests of acute somatostatin treatment support the involvement of GLP-1 and PYY(3–36) on RYGB's eating effects. *1*) Somatostatin treatment decreased meal-related GLP-1 and PYY(3–36) levels, decreased fullness rating during a test meal, and increased test-meal size in RYGB patients; it was not established that these effects were specific to RYGB, however, as no unoperated control subjects were tested (191, 425). *2*) Somatostatin failed to affect pre-meal hunger ratings but did increase progressive-ratio responding for chocolate sweets in RYGB patients more than it did in control subjects, an effect the authors interpreted in terms of hedonics rather that satiation (283). *3*) In a rat study, somatostatin injection appeared to increase eating more in RYGB than in control animals, although the difference was not tested statistically (251). In view of the myriad effects of somatostatin, whether these effects were due to changes in GLP-1, PYY(3–36), or other effects is uncertain. Similarly, simultaneous antagonism of GLP-1R with exendin(9–39) and inhibition of PYY(3–36) synthesis with sitagliptin (Januvia or Sitagliptin, Merck, Kenilworth, NJ) increased test meal size ~20% in RYGB patients, although neither treatment alone affected test meal size (737). These data suggest that GLP-1 and PYY(3–36) have a synergistic satiating action after RYGB. Again, however, it was not established that the effect of the combination treatment was increased by RYGB because no unoperated control subjects were tested.

Studies of the role of GLP-1 in RYGB in rodents produced mainly negative results. *1*) In RYGB rats, acute administration of exendin(9–39) increased eating in one test (3), but not in two others (37, 477). *2*) The GLP-1R agonist exendin-4 had comparable effects in RYGB and sham-operated rats (251). *3*) Meals increased systemic GLP-1 levels in RYGB rats (691), suggesting that brain GLP-1R may mediate RYGB's eating-inhibitory effect. But chronic infusions of exendin(9–39) into the lateral cerebral ventricle increased food intake and weight gain similarly in RYGB and

sham-operated rats, suggesting that central GLP-1R are not involved in the effects of RYGB (848). Unfortunately, the effects of peripheral GLP-1 were not assessed, so it was possible that peripheral GLP-1 signaling contributed to the observed effects of RYGB. *4*) RYGB had comparable weight-loss and eating-inhibitory effects in mice with transgenic deletions of GLP-1R ($Glp1r^{-/-}$) or Gnat3 (α-$Gust^{-/-}$), which do not secrete GLP-1 in response to oral glucose, and wild-type mice (507, 848). Thus the preponderance of evidence from animal models argues strongly against the hypothesis that GLP-1 contributes importantly to the eating-inhibitory and weight-loss effects of RYGB (the $Glp1r^{-/-}$ and α-$Gust^{-/-}$ models are discussed further below).

In marked contrast to the eating data, there is compelling evidence that GLP-1 contributes in several ways to the beneficial effects of RYGB on glycemic regulation in humans. The clearest evidence is that exendin(9–39) markedly reduced insulinemia and increased glycemia after consumption of mixed-nutrient meals or glucose solutions tested 1 wk to 5 yr after RYGB (371, 375, 648–650, 684, 736). This also occurred in RYGB patients with T2DM (371, 375). Additionally, exendin(9–39) increased glucagon secretion (375, 650, 736) and accelerated gastric emptying rate in one study (684), although not another (650). In contrast to these increased effects of GLP-1, RYGB did not appear to increase the contribution of GIP to meal-related glycemic control (736). A dual-isotope glucose-tracing study indicated that GLP-1 was not involved in the reduction of endogenous glucose production and the increase in glucose disposal after RYGB (375). Increased GLP-1 secretion after RYGB also contributed to the development of meal-related hyperinsulinemic hypoglycemia in some patients (647–649; for reviews of these and related data, see Refs. 468, 646, 653). It is also important to note that reduced eating also contributes importantly to the improvements in glycemic control after RYGB (361, 363, 415).

Exendin(9–39) treatment also reversed the improvements in glucose tolerance and insulin secretion after RYGB in a rat model (138). There is a disconnect, however, between the demonstrations with exendin(9–39) of the importance of GLP-1 for glycemic regulation after RYGB and a report (507) that $Glp1r^{-/-}$ and α-$Gust^{-/-}$ mice with RYGB and wild-type RYGB mice had similar glucose tolerance, insulin tolerance, and glucose-stimulated insulin release [α-$Gust^{-/-}$ mice, which do not secrete measureable GLP-1, were used to test the role of GLP-1's degradation products GLP-1(9–36)amide and GLP-1(28–36)amide, which may improve glucose homeostasis via GLP-1R-independent mechanisms]. The resolution of this apparent paradox is unclear. It is possible that there are important species differences. In addition, because these were germline transgenic animals, mechanisms compensating for the lack of GLP-1 signaling may have developed during the animals'

maturation. In any case, these data provide an important challenge to the human literature.

RYGB increases meal-stimulated circulating bile-acid levels (157, 570, 740), which might contribute to RYGB-induced increases in GLP-1 secretion and to RYGB's therapeutic effects. Consistent with this hypothesis, meal-stimulated bile-acid and GLP-1 responses were associated in several studies done 4 mo or more after RYGB (396, 566, 668, 820). But meal-stimulated bile-acid levels did not increase in tests 1 wk, 1 mo, or 3 mo after RYGB (16, 720). Thus, because meal-related GLP-1 levels are markedly increased at these times, any contribution of elevated bile-acid levels to GLP-1 secretion or the effects of RYGB are likely to be late-developing mechanisms. Finally, mouse models support the hypothesis that changes in bile acids contribute to the effects of bariatric surgery. *1*) Diversion of bile to the ileum increased circulating bile acids 10-fold and led to decreases in food intake, glycemia, and body weight that were similar to those produced by RYGB and appeared to be at least in part independent of fat malabsorption; unfortunately, the role of GLP-1 was not assessed (257). *2*) A transgenic mouse-model study (642) implicated FXR in the efficacy of vertical-sleeve gastrectomy; again, the importance of GLP-1 was not assessed. Furthermore, although vertical-sleeve gastrectomy increased circulating bile acids in mice (529), the human data are mixed (157).

G. Summary

GLP-1 is secreted in response to the products of carbohydrate, lipid, and protein digestion. It may act as an endocrine satiation signal in healthy humans, but antagonist studies have not yet confirmed this. Intestinal and brain GLP-1 also may have other effects on ingestive behavior, but these are not established in humans. Intestinal GLP-1 reduces meal-related increases in glycemia by stimulating insulin secretion (i.e., acting as an incretin), by inhibiting glucagon secretion, by slowing gastric emptying, and, perhaps, other effects. The effects of GLP-1 on eating and glycemic control are summarized in **FIGURE 10**. Defects in GLP-1 secretion or signaling may contribute to overeating in obesity. Although GLP-1's effectiveness in glycemic control decreases in individuals with insulin resistance or T2DM, it remains a crucial contributor, and GLP-1 agonists are already in use in T2DM and obesity therapy. GLP-1 contributes to improved glycemic control after RYGB; its role in eating after RYGB is unclear.

VI. PYY(3–36)

A. Introduction

Endocrine PYY is synthesized and secreted by open-type enteroendocrine cells **(FIGURE 6B)**. Enteroendocrine PYY
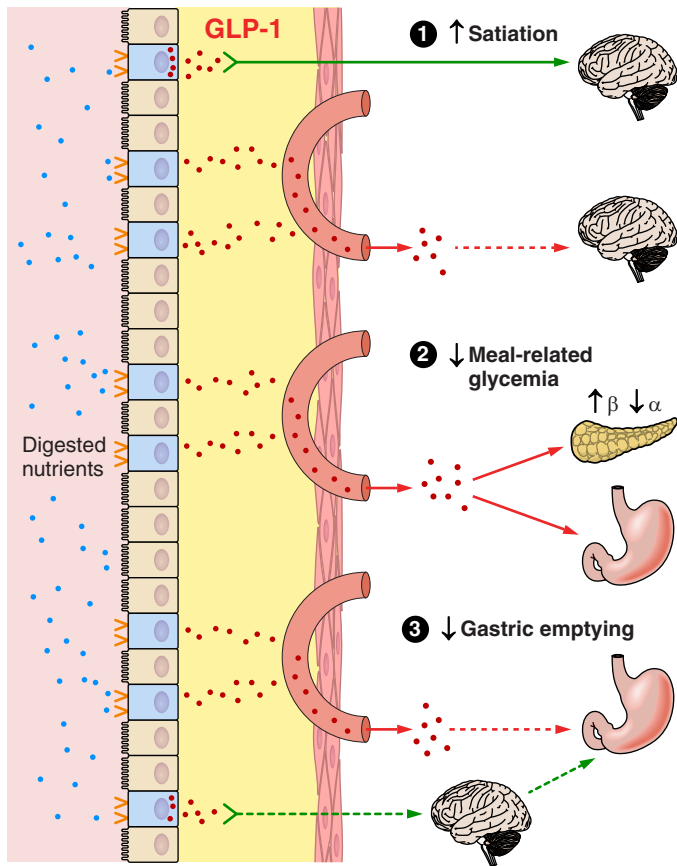
FIGURE 10. Some features of GLP-1 physiology. GLP-1 secretion is stimulated by the digestive products of all three macronutrients acting on nutrient receptors on the apical aspects of enteroendocrine GLP-1 cells (blue) dispersed in the epithelial layer (tan) of the small intestinal mucosa. GLP-1 acts in an endocrine mode by diffusing through the lamina propria (yellow) and into intestinal capillaries (salmon) to reach distant target organs (red arrows), or acts locally. *1*) GLP-1 stimulates satiation. Data in rats indicate GLP-1 signals satiation via a local action on vagal afferents (green arrow) in the lamina propria. GLP-1 may also act in the brain to affect satiation or postprandial satiety. *2*) GLP-1 improves meal-related glycemia by increasing pancreatic β-cell insulin secretion in a glucose-dependent manner, by inhibiting pancreatic α-cell glucagon secretion, and by inhibiting gastric emptying; all three appear to be endocrine effects of GLP-1. *3*) GLP-1 slows gastric emptying via a direct endocrine effect and perhaps via a vagal-vagal reflex. Solid lines indicate well established effects, and dashed lines indicate less well established effects.

cells are located predominately in the distal small intestine and colon and often coexpress and secrete GLP-1 and, less frequently, CCK, GIP, neurotensin, or secretin (8, 10, 25, 231, 303, 597, 738, 742). Plasma PYY is a mix of PYY(1–36), the secreted form, PYY(3–36), the active endocrine form, which results from cleavage of the tyrosine-proline residue from the NH_2-terminal of PYY(1–36) by DPP-4 in the lamina propria (296, 451), capillary endothelial cells, liver and blood (51, 289, 488), and some breakdown fragments (768, 769). As discussed in section I*B2*, mouse intestinal PYY cells appear to release some PYY from axon-like cytoplasmic extensions, or neuropods, that end in close apposition to glial cells of the enteric nervous system (92, 93).

PYY is also expressed in the endocrine pancreas, where PYY(1–36) may have paracrine intraislet actions (573). Finally, PYY is expressed by neurons in the gigantocellular reticular nucleus of the rostral medulla, which have widespread central projections (280).

PYY(1–36) activates several neuropeptide Y-family receptors, including NPY1R (or Y1R), NPY2R, NPY4R, and NPY5R, whereas PYY(3–36) is selective for NPY2R (120, 226, 697, 807). NPY2R are expressed throughout the body, including in several brain regions, the GI tract, and vagal afferents.

B. Secretion

Difficulties in assaying PYY(3–36) complicate studies of its physiology (467, 768, 769). Therefore, the plasma levels described here refer to total PYY. Plasma PYY levels generally begin to increase ~15–30 min after meals, reach maxima ~60–90 min after meals, and remain elevated for several hours so that morning fasting levels are not reached until several hours after evening meals (51, 61, 64, 198, 241, 276, 326, 453, 713). Morning fasting PYY levels are typically 10–20 pM, and peak levels after moderate-size meals are ~15–30 pM (10, 198, 276). Postprandial PYY and GLP-1 profiles are often dissimilar because DPP-4 activates PYY, but inactivates GLP-1 (233, 520), and because, at least in rodents, the enteroendocrine cells that express PYY are located more distally than those that express GLP-1 (597, 738).

Orally ingested lipids lead to larger and more sustained elevations in plasma PYY than glucose ingestion (10, 103, 241, 276, 319, 462); the relative effect of protein is less clear (10, 64, 317, 319, 787). The PYY effects in these studies were relatively variable, possibly reflecting assay variability, differences in gastric emptying, time of day (317), test-food digestibility, or subject variables, including differences in DPP-4 activity (467).

Lipid-induced PYY secretion is dependent on hydrolysis and fatty-acid chain length greater than or equal to C12 (197, 250). Amino acids stimulated PYY release (718), but whether PYY release requires protein hydrolysis has not been assessed directly. Acarbose increased PYY levels after a mixed-nutrient meal (265), suggesting that secretion is increased when carbohydrates reach the distal small intestine or proximal colon, where the densities of PYY cells are higher. This suggestion is consistent with the increased PYY levels in patients with dumping syndrome, tropical sprue, small-intestinal resection, or RYGB (12–14, 467, 574).

The stimulation of enteroendocrine PYY secretion via membrane nutrient receptors has been less extensively studied than for ghrelin, CCK, and GLP-1 **(TABLE 4**, which includes the full and the former names of the nutrient re-

ceptors discussed below). Carbohydrate (glucose in most studies) appears to stimulate PYY secretion in part via stimulation of TAS1R1/TAS1R3 sweet receptors (228, 275, 717), but because equally sweet artificial sweeteners did not trigger PYY release, other mechanisms must be also involved (461, 716, 732, 849). Whether FFAR1 or FFAR4 contributes to PYY secretion has not been studied to our knowledge, but given that many enteroendocrine cells produce both GLP-1 and PYY (304), it is likely that they do so. CASR appears to contribute to the stimulation of PYY secretion by oligopeptides and amino acids because their effects on PYY secretion in isolated loops of rat small intestine were reduced by a CASR inhibitor and dependent on extracellular Ca^{2+} (461).

Neurohumoral reflexes also appear to contribute to PYY release, especially its early phase (51, 227, 586). *1*) Intravenous CCK infusions increased plasma PYY in humans (102). *2*) GLP-1 infusion decreased (104) and exendin(9–39) infusion increased (230, 721) PYY secretion, perhaps reflecting an autoregulatory mechanism in GLP-1/PYY cells. *3*) Bile acids may be an important mediator, particularly of lipid-stimulated PYY secretion (9, 11, 569, 840). *4*) Animal studies implicated vasoactive intestinal polypeptide and the vagus nerve in PYY secretion (9, 51–53, 264, 685). *5*) Some mouse PYY cells express Mc4r, which appears to facilitate PYY secretion (561).

C. Eating

The eating-inhibitory effect of peripheral PYY is mediated by PYY(3–36) (62, 144, 172, 676). *1*) Intravenous infusion of PYY(3–36) inhibited eating ~10-fold more potently than infusions of PYY(1–36) in rats and, comparing across experiments, ~4- to 8-fold more potently in humans (69, 198, 701). *2*) Central administration of PYY(1–36) stimulated eating in rats.

Potential roles of PYY(3–36) in both satiation and postprandial satiety have been investigated. Four studies (62, 194, 423, 701) modeled PYY(3–36)'s postprandial satiety effect using intermeal infusions that began after standard meals (62, 194, 423, 701) or after an overnight fast (701) and ended before the test meal. *1*) In one test, infusion of a supraphysiological dose of 0.8 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36) for 90 min increased peak plasma PYY(3–36) concentration from ~8 to ~44 pM and reduced the size of a buffet meal presented 2 h after the infusion ended (62). The authors concluded that this was a physiological effect because in a previous study, meals of 530, 870, and 4500 kcal increased PYY to from ~8–10 pM to ~12, ~25, and ~55 pM, respectively (10). *2*) In another test, the threshold for a significant decrease in meal size was 0.7 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36), although infusion of 0.5 and 0.6 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36) increased fullness and tended to decrease eating. These infusions increased peak plasma

PYY to ~45–60 pM, more than the ~40 pM produced by a 3000 kcal meal in the same study (423). *3*) Infusion of lower PYY(3–36) doses, 0.2–0.3 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1}, failed to affect subsequent meal size (194, 701). Thus doses of PYY(3–36) that inhibited eating in these studies increased plasma PYY levels more than all but extremely large meals, suggesting that the effects of PYY(3–36) on postprandial satiety do not meet criterion 3 of **TABLE 2** for a physiological endocrine dose. This conclusion is consistent with the report (276) that the 3 h total PYY AUC after high-carbohydrate, low-fat breakfasts or low-carbohydrate, high-fat breakfasts were not significantly correlated with the sizes of the following lunches, even though ghrelin and GLP-1 AUC after each breakfast were significantly correlated with lunch sizes. In addition, although adverse effects were not reported when 0.8 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36) was infused following standard meals (62, 194, 423), when infused in fasting subjects, this dose elicited "severe malaise or nausea" in half the subjects in two studies (701, 768). These data suggest that criterion 5 of **TABLE 2**, that the effect of PYY(3–36) on satiety effect be selective, requires further testing. In addition, in all these studies the test meals were offered at fixed times; thus future tests in which subjects are asked to report when they wish to initiate meals may reveal effects of PYY(3–36) on the duration of the intermeal interval, which is hypothesized to be under the control of postprandial satiety processes (see sect. I*B1*).

Only one study of the satiating effect of intrameal PYY(3–36) infusions has been reported (198). This revealed *1*) the threshold dose for a significant reduction in meal size was between 0.2 and 0.4 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36); *2*) infusion of 0.2 and 0.4 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36) increased plasma total PYY from the fasting level of ~10 to ~25 and ~31 pM, respectively, which was more than the level of ~13 pM achieved after a 1500 kcal mixed-nutrient meal; and *3*) 0.4 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36) often led to nausea. These data suggest that the eating-inhibitory effects of intra-meal PYY(3–36) infusions in this experiment were pharmacological, rather than physiological, and were due in part to aversive effects, i.e., they failed to meet criteria 3 and 5 of **TABLE 2**. Furthermore, because only slightly supraphysiological intravenous doses of PYY(3–36) elicited illness and because such doses presumably elicit infraphysiological paracrine levels of PYY(3–36) in the lamina propria, it is difficult to see how PYY(3–36) could have a physiological paracrine action on eating. Perhaps, however, current methods either fail to mimic a crucial aspect of endogenous PYY(3–36) dynamics or fail to provide some aspect of normal meals that prevents endogenous PYY(3–36) from provoking illness.

Studies in animals do not strongly support a physiological role for PYY(3–36) in eating. Intramuscular injections of PYY(3–36) reduced eating in monkeys, but how the doses administered compared with endogenous levels was unclear

(517). In one study, hepatic-portal infusions of PYY(3–36) inhibited eating in rats without signs of illness (710), but systemic intravenous infusions of PYY(3–36) that inhibited eating in rats did produce illness (143, 144), as did intraperitoneal injections of PYY(3–36) in mice (306). Interestingly, however, intravenous infusions of a peripherally acting NPY2R antagonist reduced the eating-inhibitory effects of intravenous infusions of PYY(3–36) and of smaller, but not larger, intragastric loads of protein and fat in rats (614), suggesting that PYY(3–36) fulfills criterion 6 of **TABLE 2** under some conditions. Infusion of the NPY2R antagonist by itself failed to increase eating, however, which fails to provide support for criterion 6 of **TABLE 2**. Studies of mice with transgenic deletions of *Pyy* also provide only weak support for a role in eating (441). In one *Pyy*$^{-/-}$ mouse line, male mice were hyperphagic and females were not tested (64); in another, females but not males were hyperphagic (88); and in two others no eating phenotype was detected (669, 838). Ectopic *Pyy* overexpression in adult mice failed to affect body weight, but slightly decreased eating after a 24 h fast (686). As none of these transgenic methods discriminated between effects of PYY(1–36) and PYY(3–36), it is possible that more refined molecular genetic tools will provide more useful information. Finally, although knockout of peripheral NPY2R in mice increased eating under some conditions, it appeared that this was secondary to metabolic effects (687, 851).

Whether PYY(3–36) acts peripherally or centrally to inhibit eating is unclear. In support of peripheral action, *1*) subdiaphragmatic vagotomy reduced or abolished the eating-inhibitory effect of peripherally administered PYY(3–36) in rats (56, 395), *2*) conjugating PYY(3–36) to albumin to prevent it from crossing the blood-brain barrier reduced its eating-inhibitory potency (56), and *3*) an NPY2R antagonist that does not cross the blood-brain barrier blocked the eating-inhibitory effect of peripherally administered PYY(3–36) (614). In support of central action, *1*) injections of PYY(3–36) directly into the Arc reduced eating in rats (2), *2*) injections of an NPY2R antagonist into the Arc reduced the eating-inhibitory effect of peripherally administered PYY(3–36) in rats (2), *3*) PYY(3–36) inhibited eating in vagotomized mice (306), and *4*) PYY(3–36) inhibited eating in rats with capsaicin lesions of unmyelinated abdominal afferents (613).

In conclusion, present data fail to support the hypothesis that PYY(3–36) physiologically inhibits eating in humans or animals. Further efforts to determine whether PYY(3–36) infusions that better model the dynamics of human and animal PYY secretion around meals have physiological eating-inhibitory effects are required to determine whether PYY(3–36) is a plausible candidate physiological satiation or postprandial satiety signal. Studies of antagonism of PYY(3–36)-NPY2R signaling are also necessary, but specific antagonists for human use are not available. Furthermore, as described in section I*B*2, some PYY is apparently released from neuropods (92, 93), and analysis of the potential effects of this is beyond available physiological methods. Finally, Batterham and colleagues (64, 467) hypothesized that PYY is involved in protein-induced satiety and in exercise-induced anorexia, which have not been extensively tested, and in food reward, which has been tested in a number of human functional brain imaging studies that we do not review (63, 194, 818).

D. Glycemic Control

There is little evidence that PYY(3–36) affects insulin secretion in humans. Infusion of 1 or 5 pmol·kg^{-1}·min^{-1} PYY(3–36) failed to affect the insulin response to a bolus intravenous glucose infusion in fasting women (19), and PYY(3–36) infusions during meals failed to increase plasma insulin levels (61, 62), except when the doses elicited illness (701, 834).

In contrast, animal studies suggest that PYY affects glycemic regulation in two apparently opposing ways. *1*) PYY(3–36) may indirectly stimulate nutrient-induced insulin secretion in rodents. PYY(3–36) reduced postprandial glycemia without affecting fasting glycemia, an effect mimicked by a NPY2R agonist, and this was blocked by peripheral, but not central, administration of a NPY2R antagonist (140, 467). This effect of PYY(3–36) appeared to be mediated by GLP-1 because exendin(9–39) blocked the glucose-lowering effects of PYY(3–36) (140, 467). *2*) PYY(1–36) may directly inhibit insulin secretion via a paracrine mode of action. In mice, PYY is expressed in pancreatic α- and δ-cells, Npy1r and Npy4r, but not Npy2r, are expressed in β-cells, and PYY(1–36), but not PYY(3–36), dose-dependently reduced glucose-stimulated insulin release from β-cells in vitro (116, 140, 467, 573, 651, 790). Furthermore, this was absent in cells derived from *Pyy*$^{-/-}$ or *Npy1r*$^{-/-}$ mice, and both mutants were hyperinsulinemic (88, 116).

PYY may contribute to glycemic regulation via two further actions. *1*) Endocrine intestinal PYY(3–36) may improve insulin sensitivity, at least under some conditions, because intravenous infusion of PYY(3–36) increased glucose uptake in muscle and adipose tissue of high-fat fed mice during a hyperinsulinemic-euglycemic clamp (790). *2*) Paracrine pancreatic PYY(1–36) may tonically stimulate islet-cell proliferation and inhibit β-cell apoptosis in mice (573, 651). *3*) Any decrease in gastric emptying produced by PYY(3–36) may lead to reductions in glycemia.

Interestingly, oral fat loads and mixed-nutrient meals appear to stimulate less PYY secretion in patients with T2DM (238, 252, 856). To investigate whether this precedes T2DM, Viardot et al. (801) compared subjects with strong family histories of T2DM with subjects matched for insulin sensitivity, age, and BMI, but without family histories of

T2DM. PYY responses to high-carbohydrate meals were impaired in the subjects at risk for T2DM, suggesting that defective PYY secretion may be causally linked with T2DM.

E. Obesity

The relationship between obesity and PYY secretion is unclear. *1*) Although several studies detected decreases in fasting total PYY levels in obese patients (61, 64, 423, 633, 856), other similarly powered studies did not (333, 385, 576, 727, 794). *2*) Weight reduction was reported to increase fasting total PYY in obese children (633), but to decrease it in obese adults (576), although in both studies the weight and PYY changes were small. *3*) Postprandial PYY secretion was reduced in obese patients in six studies (61, 64, 422, 423, 497, 727, 856), but not in four others (103, 333, 385, 794). *4*) In the one comparison of PYY(3–36)'s eating-inhibitory effect in obese and healthy-weight subjects to date, no difference was detected (61).

F. RYGB

There are several reports that postprandial plasma PYY levels increase at various times after RYGB, with little or no change in fasting levels (39, 213, 310, 425, 846). As yet, however, there is a dearth of knowledge concerning the time courses or physiological consequences of these increases. For example, in one study (94), 3 h AUC of PYY after a 420 kcal mixed-nutrient meal was not significantly increased until 3 mo after RYGB, whereas in another (574), both maximum postprandial PYY levels and 3 h PYY AUC after 424 kcal mixed-nutrient meals were increased more 1 wk postoperatively than 3 or 12 mo postoperatively.

We know of only one test of the eating-inhibitory effect of PYY(3–36) in RYGB patients, in which inhibition of PYY(3–36) synthesis with sitagliptin failed to increase test meal size (737). But somatostatin treatment (191, 425) and simultaneous exendin(9–39) and sitagliptin treatment (737) both increased test meal size in RYGB patients, suggesting that GLP-1 and PYY(3–36) synergize to decrease eating after RYGB (these data were reviewed in sect. V*F*). Because neither test included unoperated control subjects, whether RYGB increased the effects is uncertain.

Two additional rodent studies of PYY(3–36)'s involvement in RYGB produced mixed results: *1*) chronic infusions of a NPY2R antagonist into the lateral cerebral ventricle failed to affect food intake or weight gain in either RYGB or sham-operated rats (848). Although this fails to support a role for central NPY2R signaling in the effects of RYGB, it should be noted that the test was done 5 mo after surgery, when RYGB and sham-operated animals were eating similar amounts. It is possible that the outcome may have been

different if tested when RYGB reduced eating. *2*) *Pyy*$^{-/-}$ mice lost less weight than wild-type mice during the initial 10 days after surgical bypass of the duodenum and proximal jejunum; unfortunately, food intakes were not reported (141). Finally, as noted in section VI*F*, increases in PYY(3–36) secretion in patients bearing the *MC4R* variant I251L (469) could explain their better weight-loss outcomes after RYGB (502).

G. Summary

PYY(3–36) is secreted in response to the products of carbohydrate, lipid, and protein digestion during and after meals. As summarized in **FIGURE 11,** PYY(3–36) may contribute to
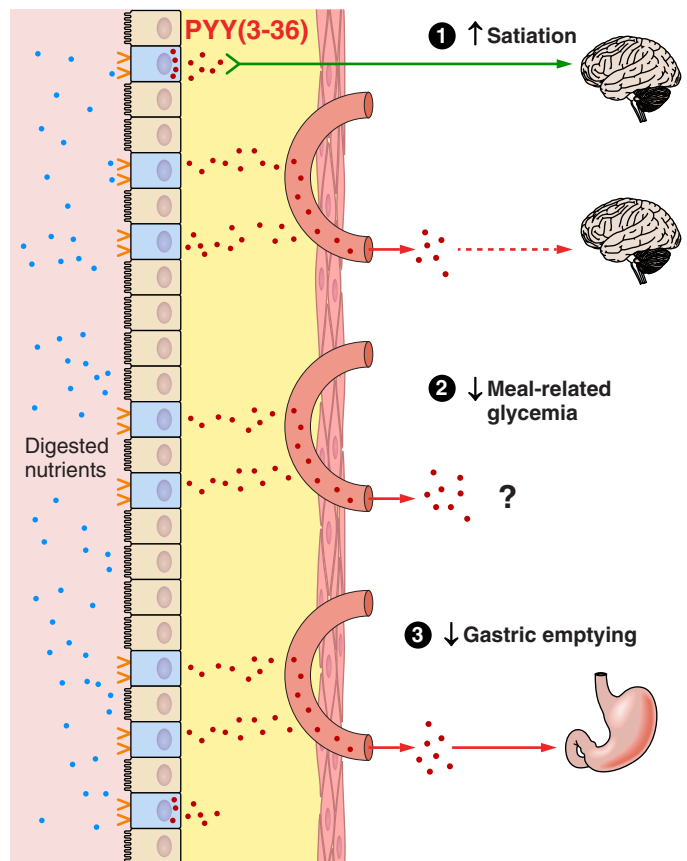

FIGURE 11. Some features of PYY(3–36) physiology. PYY secretion is stimulated by the digestive products of all three macronutrients acting on nutrient receptors on the apical aspects of enteroendocrine PYY cells (blue) dispersed in the epithelial layer (tan) of the small-intestinal mucosa. PYY is transformed into PYY(3–36) beginning in the lamina propria. PYY(3–36) acts in an endocrine mode by diffusing through the lamina propria (yellow) and into intestinal capillaries (salmon) to reach distant target organs (red arrows), or acts locally. *1*) The role of PYY(3–36) in eating is uncertain. It may inhibit eating via a local action on vagal afferents (green arrow) in the lamina propria or by acting directly in the brain. *2*) Whether PYY(3–36) improves meal-related glycemic control is uncertain. *3*) PYY(3–36) appears to slow gastric emptying via a direct endocrine effect on the stomach; whether vagal-vagal reflexes contribute is unknown. Solid lines indicate well established effects, and dashed lines indicate less well established effects.

gastric emptying via the ileal brake mechanism, to the inhibition of eating, and to the control of meal-related glycemia, but the evidence that these are physiological actions remains thin. Similarly, PYY(3–36)'s role in RYGB remains unclear. This modest progress may be due in part to the difficulties of PYY(3–36) research, including the low threshold for eliciting illness with PYY(3–36) infusions, the lack of NPY2R antagonists for human use, and the possibility of neuropod PYY signaling.

VII. DISCUSSION

The act of eating sets in motion an intricately coordinated series of GI responses that, via central and peripheral influences, contribute importantly to the control of eating and meal-related glycemia. The control of secretion of GI hormones by small-intestinal nutrient sensing is a cornerstone of these functions. The hormones control exposure of the small intestine to nutrients via their effects on GI motility, especially gastric emptying, and thereby modulate their own secretion. Here we reviewed the nutrient-secretory controls and contributions to eating, meal-related glycemia, and GI motility of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36), in healthy-weight and obese humans as well as in RYGB patients. The primary focus was on normal endogenous or "physiological" endocrine function in humans because currently available methods make its determination feasible (TABLE 2).

As TABLE 5 indicates, despite considerable research effort, at present there are many more questions than answers regarding ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) as physiological endocrine signals in humans in the functions reviewed. Indeed, only CCK has been fully established as a physiological endocrine control of eating and only GLP-1 as a physiological endocrine control of meal-related glycemia in healthy-weight individuals. There is incomplete support for endocrine roles of CCK in meal-related glycemia and gastric emptying, for GLP-1 in eating and gastric emptying, and for PYY(3–36) in gastric emptying in humans. Moreover, animal research fills only a few of the gaps indicated in TABLE 5 (an important exception is that GLP-1R antagonism does increase eating in rats under many conditions; see sect. VD).

In view of this decidedly modest estimation of the state of proof of physiological endocrine function for ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36), one may question whether the criteria for physiological function (TABLE 2) are overly rigorous or whether the criterion-based approach is misguided. The answer to each question is no. As reflected in TABLE 1, criteria for endocrine function have evolved in step with advances in understanding and methodology during the century-plus history of endocrinology and have shaped the logical and programmatic course of endocrinology and its contributions to medical diagnosis and treatment (59, 292, 449, 489, 610, 833). That knowledge at each stage is hard

won is not a criticism of the strategy. Rather, criteria for physiological function should continue to guide GI hormone research. Identifying truly physiological endocrine functions of GI hormones can only facilitate understanding of eating, GI motor function, and meal-related glycemic control and development of therapies for their disorders.

Perhaps the most pressing issue facing ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) physiology is the need to determine the roles of non-endocrine, i.e., local, signaling, which has been implicated in several of the effects reviewed. The need to develop methods enabling tests of local-signaling hypotheses against the criteria of TABLE 2 is especially urgent. As mentioned in section IVD, intraintestinal hormone infusions might selectively target the lamina propria (147), and hormone concentrations in the lamina propria can be estimated from assays of lymph. The temporal resolution of lymph assays, however, is poor due to its slow flow. Nor have the results of tests of meal-related hormone changes in the lymph been straightforward. For example, post-meal concentrations of GLP-1 were reported to be ~6-fold higher in lymph than in hepatic portal-vein plasma in rats (178) and ~8-fold higher in lymph than in orbital-plexus plasma in mice (553), but ~10-fold lower in lymph in hepatic portal-vein plasma in swine (308).

An additional, related challenge for GI-hormonal physiology is to encompass the emerging picture of integrated hormonal and electric signaling in the GI tract. Electrically excitable GI cells form what Bohórquez and Liddle (91) call the gut connectome, comprised of enteroendocrine cells, neurons and glia of the enteric nervous system, intrinsic GI neurons, and peripheral ganglia innervating the GI tract. Finally, a third challenge is to better link GI-hormonal physiology to the study of information processing in the brain,

Table 5. *Physiological status of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) in the endocrine control of eating, GI motility, and meal-related glycemic control in healthy humans*

	Eating PD/A	GI Motility* PD/A	Meal-Related Glycemic Control PD/A
Ghrelin	?/?	?/?	?/?
CCK	YES/YES	Yes/Yes†	YES/No
GLP-1	YES/No‡	Yes/Yes	YES/YES
PYY(3–36)	No/?	Yes/?	?/?

Experimental support for the two cardinal criteria of physiological endocrine function, i.e., the "physiological-dose" criterion (PD) and "antagonism" criterion (A), is rated as convincing (YES), partial (Yes), negative (No), or unknown (?) for each hormone and function. See text for details and references. *GI motility refers to gastric emptying and small-intestinal motor function. †Cholecystokinin (CCK) antagonism slowed gastric emptying of liquid food, but not solid food. ‡In two studies (489, 714), premeal administration of the GLP-1 receptor antagonist exendin-9 failed to increase eating, although in one study (714) subjective ratings of appetite increased.

as understood using functional imaging methods in humans and neuropharmacological and molecular-genetic methods in animals. Present progress in humans is limited largely to studies of the telencephalic mechanisms of food hedonics, which have been reviewed elsewhere (references are given in sect. I*A*). Advances in the spatial resolution of functional imaging methods should allow this kind of work to address the diencephalic and brain-stem mechanisms that are clearly crucial for the effects of GI hormones on other aspects of eating as well as for the control of GI motility and metabolic function. Increased back-and-forth translation between human and animal studies should also accelerate progress in unraveling central mechanisms mediating the functions of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36).

Future research should also widen the range of designs used in GI hormone physiology. Studies of meal size and timing in particular have used remarkably similar experimental approaches, which may contribute to some of the negative data reviewed. As discussed in section I*B2*, few GI hormone-infusion studies have interrogated parameters other than peak plasma levels. Studies of rate ascent of plasma hormone concentration, the timing of the infusion in relation to the course of the meal or intermeal interval, or other parameters may unveil physiological effects or explain some apparent paradoxes, such as why apparently physiological doses of PYY(3–36) elicit illness (see sect. VI*D*). Similarly, few studies address synergistic effects (268). Gastric volume may synergize with pharmacological doses of CCK or GLP-1 to elicit satiation (see sect. II*D*), but whether this reflects a physiological synergy has not been studied. Synergy analyses may also illuminate some failures of antagonist effects. For example, failures of GLP-1R antagonism to increase eating in humans may be due to increases in glucagon or PYY(3–36) rather than the absence of a satiating effect of GLP-1 (see sect. V*D*), and multi-antagonist approaches may provide useful tests of this hypothesis. Adaptation to consumption of particular food types can affect gastric emptying (see sect. II*A*) and, presumably, other GI hormone-mediated responses. Finally, experience eating leads to learning of several types (e.g., Refs. 68, 80, 111, 155, 188, 321, 602, 675, 723, 813). Such learning may overshadow unconditioned GI-hormonal effects, despite the fact that these were probably the basis for the learning in the first place. A hypothetical example is shown in **FIGURE 12**. In sum, both improved methods and more varied experimental approaches are likely to enlarge the current restricted view of the contributions of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) to eating and meal-related glycemic control.

We find little evidence that pathophysiology of ghrelin, CCK, GLP-1, or PYY(3–36) function contributes to obesity, with the exception of rare individuals bearing genetic polymorphisms. But the extremely heterogeneous nature of human obesity should caution against a strong interpretation of these negative data. The participants in obesity studies often have wide ranges in several variables that may
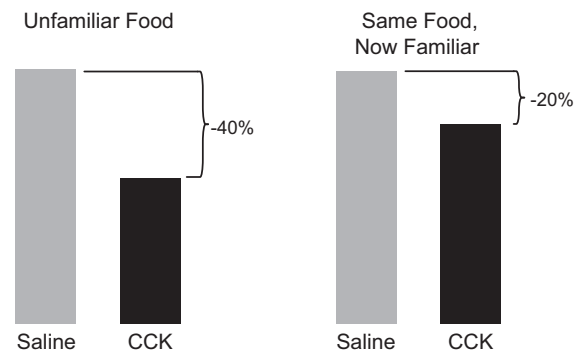

FIGURE 12. A thought experiment depicting how learning may influence the control of eating by GI hormones. *Left*: when an individual is served a palatable but unfamiliar food, meal size is determined mainly by unconditioned satiation signals related to gastric volume, CCK and GLP-1 secretion, etc., as discussed in the review. Under these conditions, CCK infusion during the meal might exert its full unconditioned effect, indicated by the 40% reduction in meal size. *Right*: if the same individual is tested after extensive experience eating the test food, meal size might be the same as initially, but will now be under the control of conditioned responses such as expected satiation (111), portion-size estimation (629), etc., that override unconditioned signals, and because conditioned eating controls are resistant to physiological feedback, the same CCK infusion might now reduce meal size less, indicated by the 20% effect.

influence the GI responses under study, including BMI range, sex, age, race, duration of obesity, age of obesity onset, pattern of adipose-tissue distribution (intra-abdominal, abdominal subcutaneous, gluteo-femoral subcutaneous, etc.), gustatory capacity, dietary habits (large meals, snacking, habitual levels of sugar and fat intake, etc.), eating traits (dietary restraint, binge-eating propensity, etc.), and a host of additional psychological traits (in addition to the discussion of these in the preceding sections, see Refs. 32, 38, 40, 60, 498, 522, 706, 729, 817). Although studies with sufficient power to resolve the influence of such a farrago of factors are rare, positive results (e.g., Ref. 5) encourage the view that the issues are tractable. Alternatively, one may isolate and study specific subsets of individuals. One approach to this is exemplified by the study of de Krom et al. (192) of obese individuals who habitually took unusually large meals or unusually frequent snacks. A number of multivariate subgroup-analysis methods also can be used to search for reliable variation in the absence of a phenotypic or genetic starting point (384). One may also search directly for consistent individual differences in responses to GI hormones. This can be done using the repeated-randomization design, in which trials are repeated in the same individuals to identify subgroups with consistently larger or smaller responses (455), which then can be used in mechanistic follow-up studies. Although not a focus here, synergistic interactions involving GI hormones, such as those among CCK, GLP-1, amylin, and leptin (775, 776), are promising platforms for development of obesity therapies. Similarly, the expanding roster of molecular nutrient sensors that control secretion of multiple GI hormones **(TABLE 4)** seems to present especially attractive targets. Finally, as mentioned

in several sections, the potential of GI hormones in obesity pharmacotherapy does not depend on whether or not they contribute to obesity pathophysiology.

RYGB and related bariatric-surgery procedures substantially decrease ghrelin secretion and increase CCK, GLP-1, and PYY(3–36) secretion, especially in the first months after surgery. But whether these changes mediate the procedures' therapeutic effects remains uncertain, with the exception of the contribution of increased GLP-1 secretion to improved meal-related glycemia after RYGB (see sect. V*F*) or vertical-sleeve gastrectomy (678). In particular, extensive tests of GLP-1's role in reduced eating after RYGB in animals have failed to produce positive evidence. Some promising effects (see sect. V*F*) suggest that several hormones may contribute synergistically to the reduction in eating after RYGB, but this remains to be tested.

In conclusion, although research aimed at understanding the physiological effects of GI hormones in humans is expensive, technically demanding, and labor-intensive, it should remain a high priority. Animal research indicates that local signaling plays a key role in the effects of GI hormones. Although there are presently few methods to study the physiology of such effects, emerging technologies for miniaturization, telemetry, and molecular-genetic methods applicable to humans (209, 416, 428, 559, 816) may soon create new opportunities. These, as well as more sophisticated testing designs, should be exploited to expand basic physiological knowledge and to help meet the continuing challenges of the epidemics of obesity and T2DM.

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GRANTS

DISCLOSURES

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