Cortisol (corticosterone in rodents): Often called the stress hormone, cortisol is secreted by a part of the adrenal glands when the ACTH is produced by the pituitary gland. Produced when the body is under stress, cortisol modifies various parameters (blood sugar levels, blood pressure, etc.), which enables the body to react to the situation (fight or flight).

Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development, Glossary-Brain, June 9, 2009 ©2009 Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development