



Free-Radicals: Chemistry and Biology

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<http://iscamap.chem.polimi.it/citterio/education/free-radical-chemistry/>



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Reactive Nitrogen Species (RNS) Nitric Oxide / NOS

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Reactive Nitrogen Species (RNS)

Radicals:

NO \cdot Nitric Oxide

NO $_2\cdot$ Nitrogen dioxide

Non-Radicals:

ONOO $^-$ Peroxynitrite

ROONO Alkyl peroxynitrites

N $_2$ O $_3$ Dinitrogen trioxide

N $_2$ O $_4$ Dinitrogen tetroxide

HNO $_2$ Nitrous acid

NO $_2^+$ Nitronium cation

NO $^-$ Nitroxyl anion

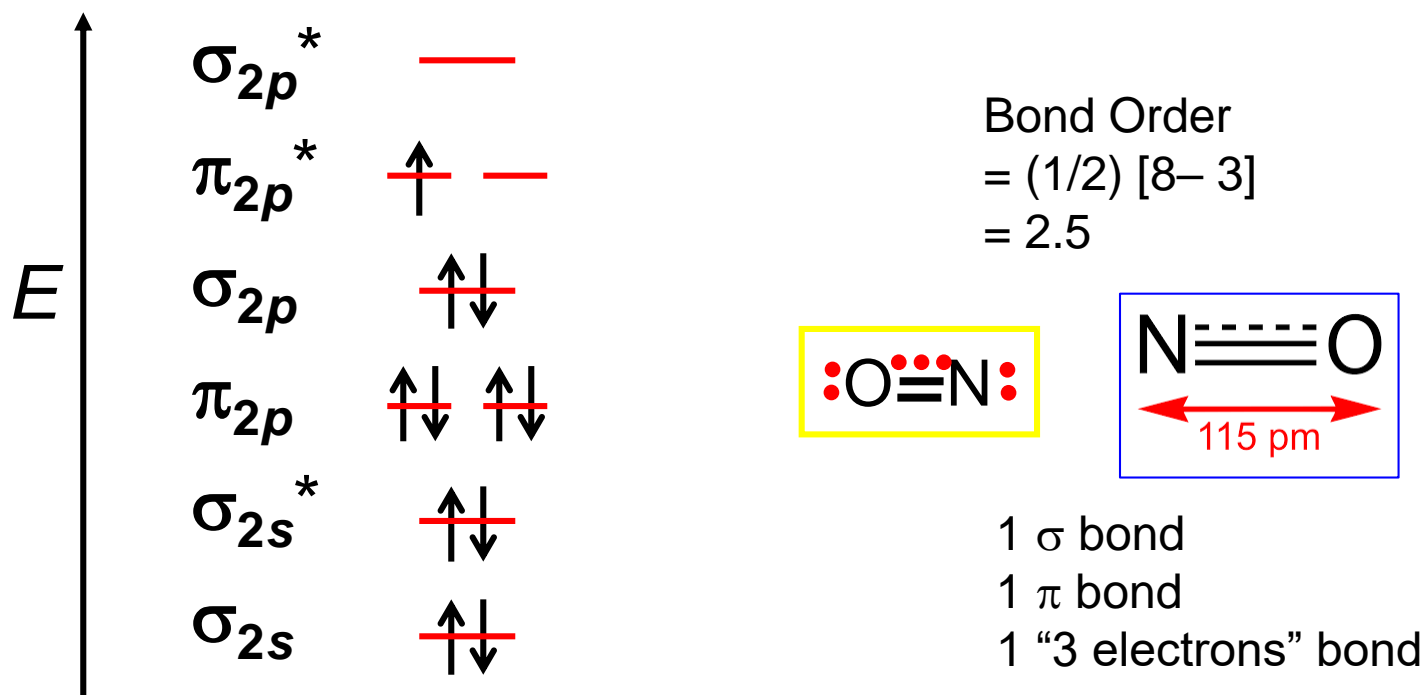
NO $^+$ Nitrosyl cation

NO $_2$ Cl Nitryl chloride



Nitric Oxide

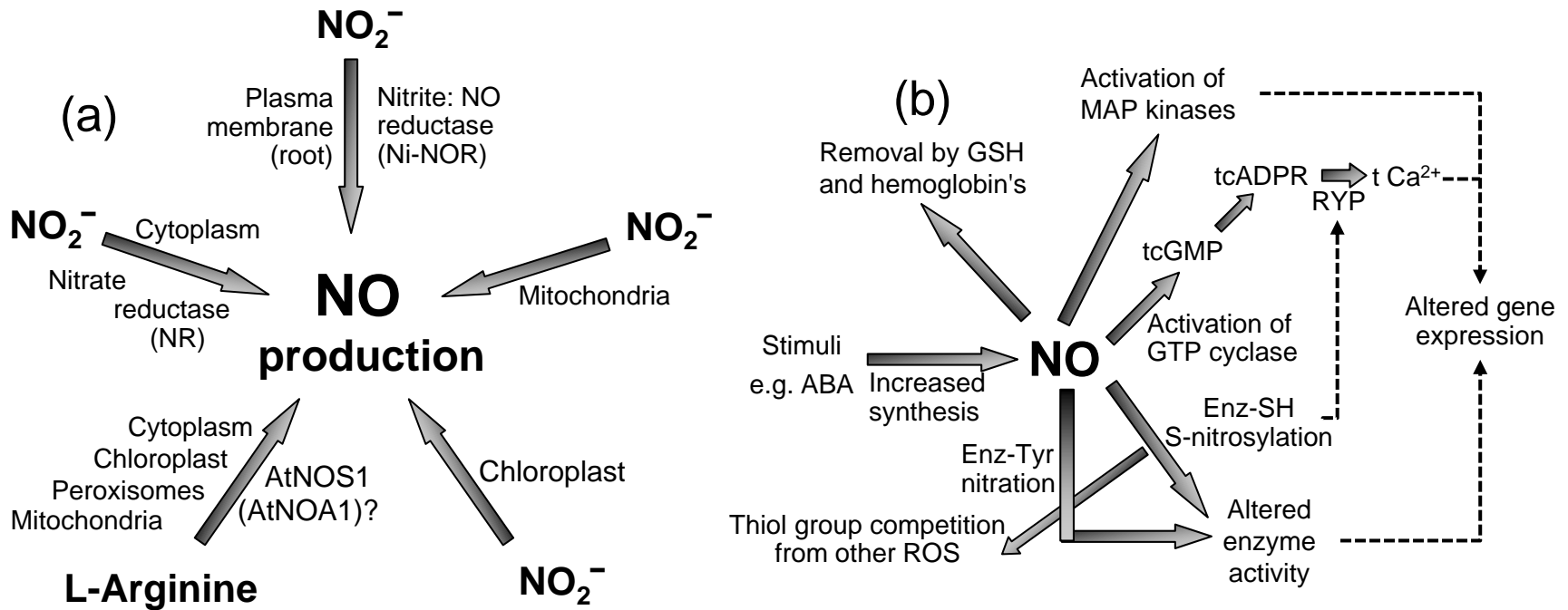
Persistent radical, until 1989 considered only a pollutant. Then, identified as a fundamental signaling agent in cells biochemistry with relevant physiological roles.



Nitric oxide: a molecule of millennium! *Circ Res* **2000**, 87, 85-7.

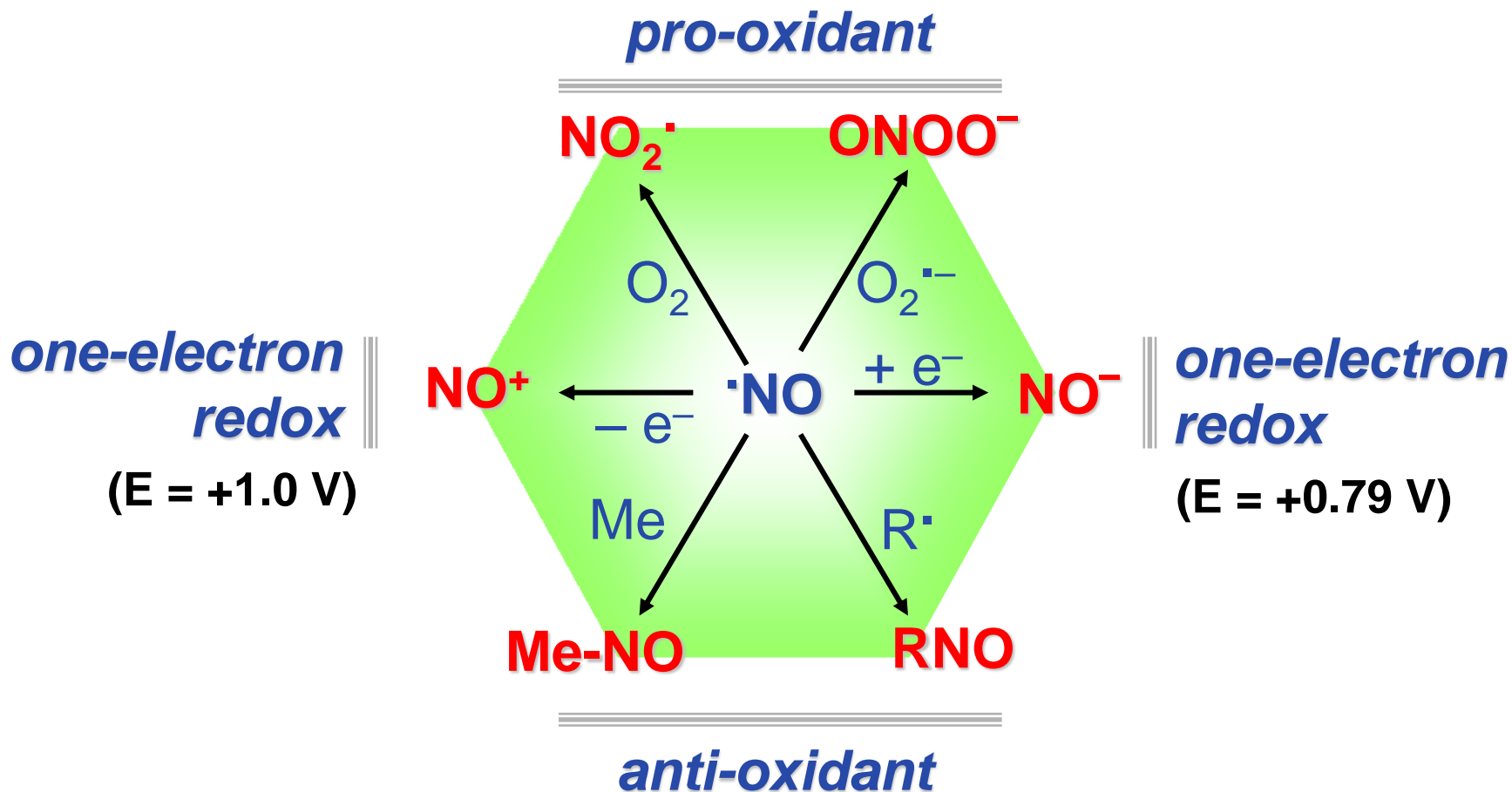


Synthesis and Fate of Nitric Oxide in Living Systems





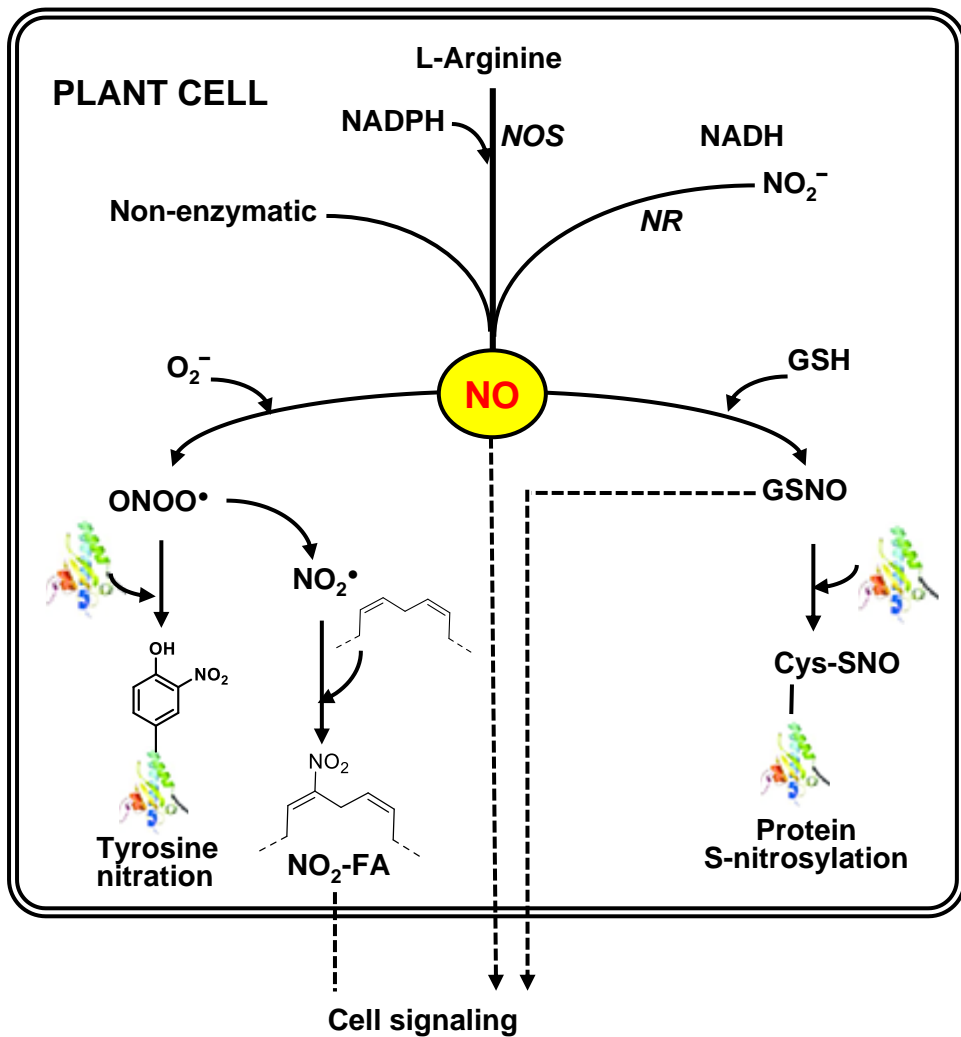
Brief Summary of Nitric Oxide Chemistry



H. Rubo & R. Radi In Handbook of Antioxidants Cadenas & Packer, Eds., pp. 689-707 (2001)



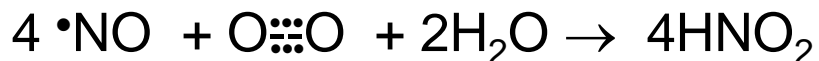
NO in Plant



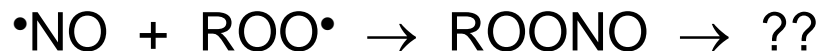


Reactions of •NO with Other Free Radicals

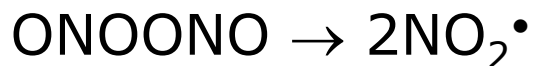
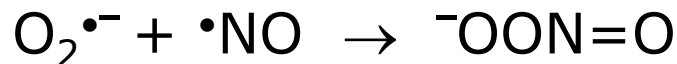
Oxidation of •NO to •NO₂ and nitrite:



Nitric oxide reaction with organic alkyl and peroxy radicals:



Reaction with superoxide ion and •NO₂:





Nitric Oxide Biological Functions

- Cell signaling/effector agent
- increases intracellular levels of cGMP in smooth muscle tissue
- vase-relaxant
- inhibits cell (platelet) adhesion and aggregation
- also made in brain and mitochondria

- Drugs sources of •NO: nitro-vasodilator (amyl-nitrite, nitroglycerine)
- Modification of biological molecules by •NO via reaction with R-SH
→ regulator of metal metabolism





Main Biological Chemistry of $\cdot\text{NO}$

- ***Binding of NO to ferrous heme iron of guanylate cyclase***

- The first major reaction is binding of NO to ferrous heme iron of guanylate cyclase or other proteins. This is important for the activation of signal transduction pathways



- ***Reaction with oxyhemoglobin***

- The second reaction and certainly the major route for the destruction of NO in vivo is the fast and irreversible reaction with oxyhemoglobin to nitrate:



- ***Reaction with superoxide anion***

- The third reaction is the fast (diffusion-controlled) and irreversible reaction of nitric oxide with superoxide anion to yield peroxynitrite (ONOO^-):

- ***Reaction with oxygen***



Reaction with Superoxide Anion



$$k = 1.9 \times 10^{10} \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$$

Peroxynitrite: $E^{\circ'} = +1.4 \text{ V}$

- Peroxynitrite is in rapid protonation equilibrium with peroxynitrous acid



- Peroxynitrous acid may decompose to HO^{\cdot} and NO_2^{\cdot}



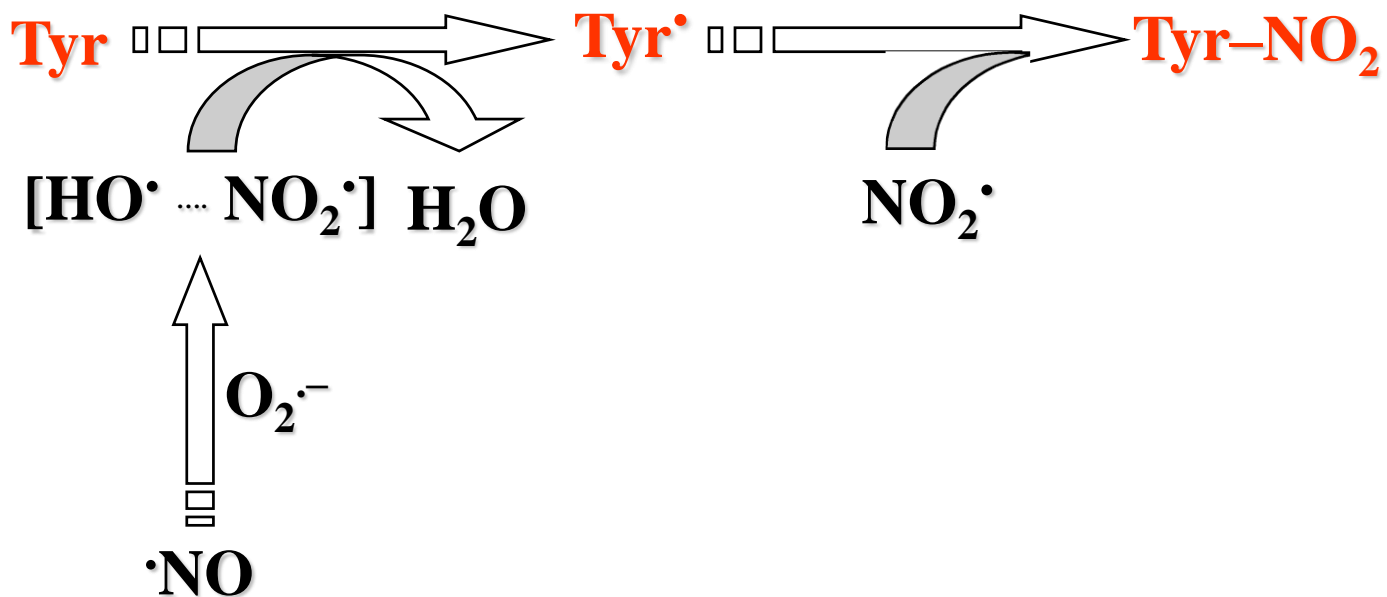
- Chemical reactivity includes oxidations and nitrations





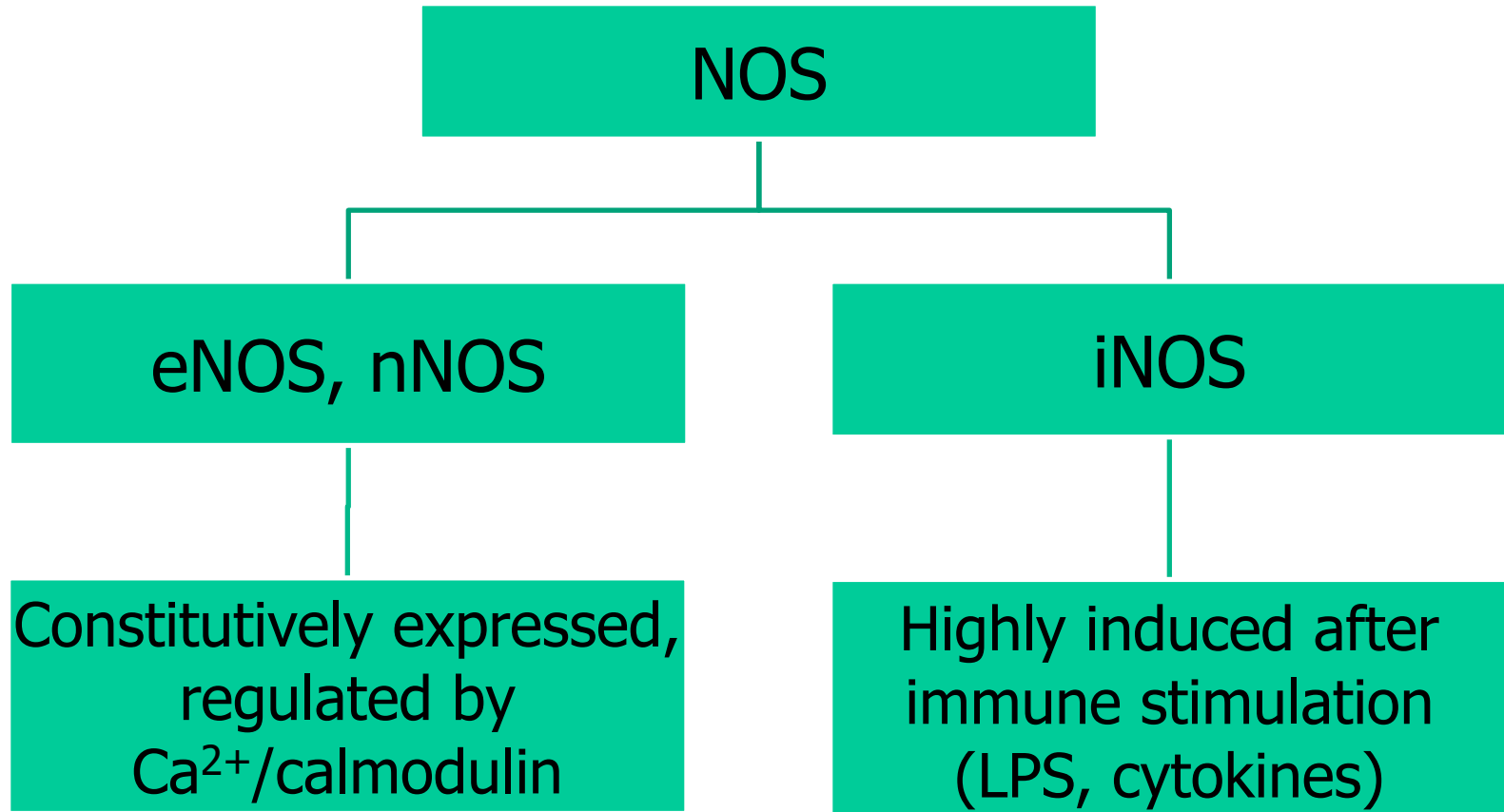
Pro-oxidant Properties of Nitric Oxide

- 3-Nitrotyrosine, a fingerprint of peroxynitrite reactivity



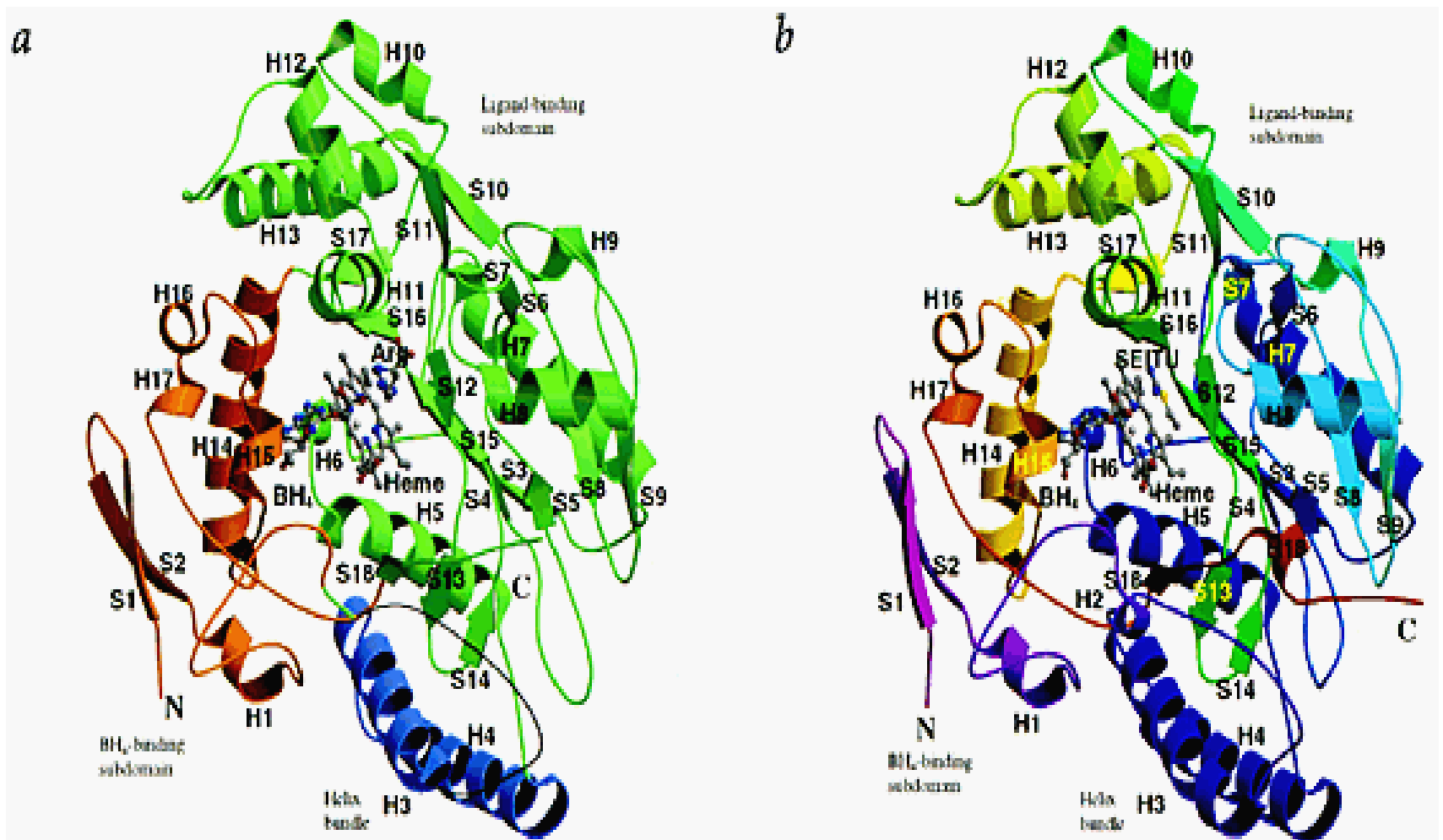


Nitric Oxide Synthases (NOS-family)





Nitric Oxide Synthase

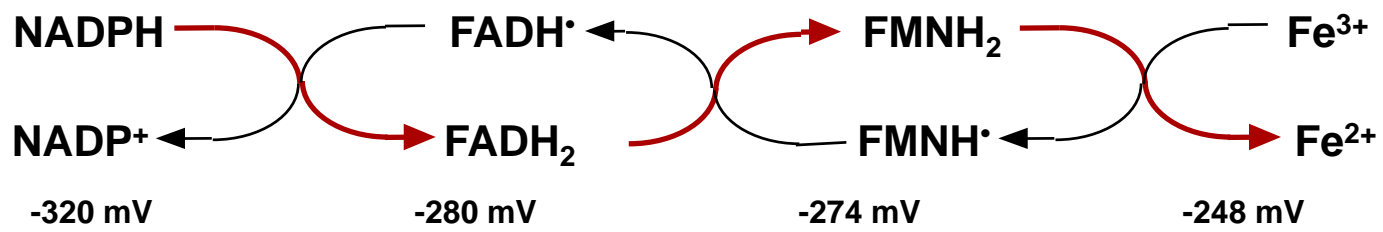
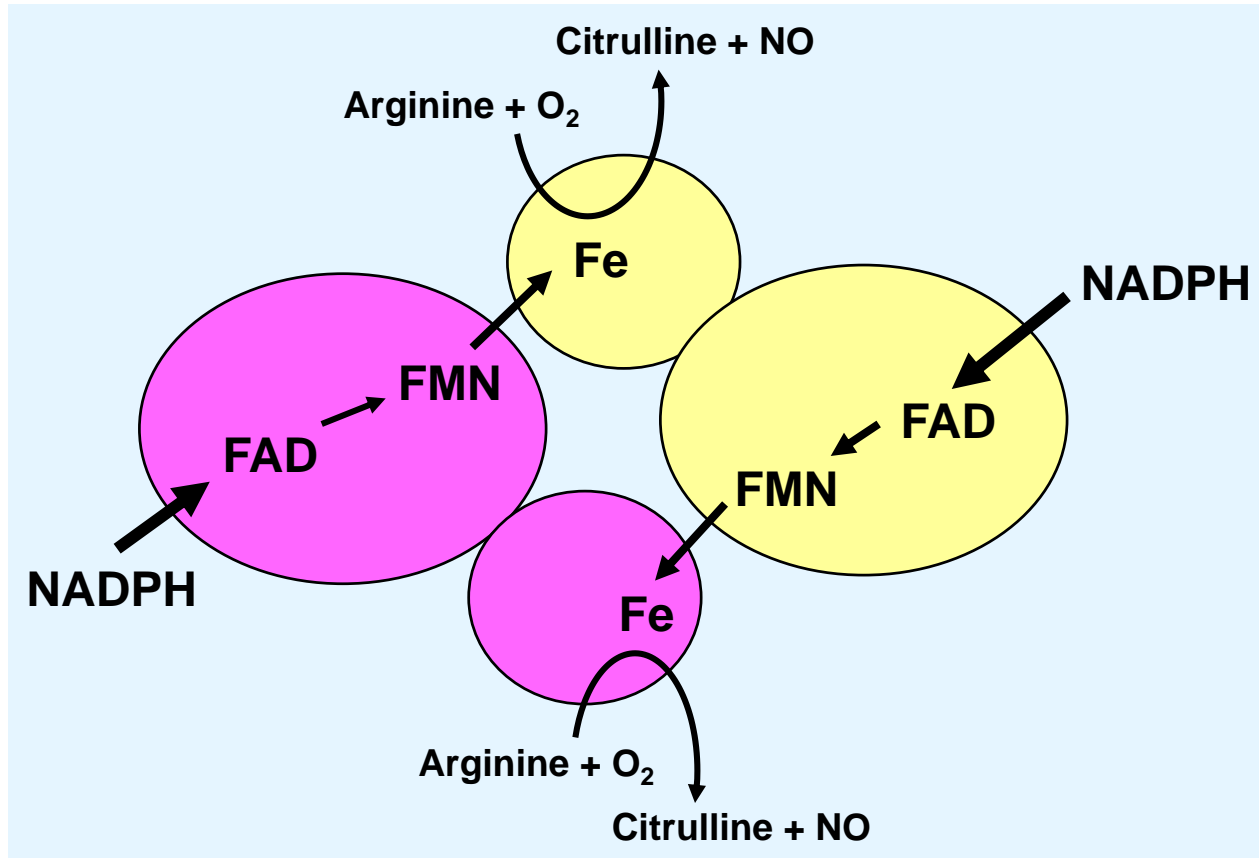


Biochemistry, 2002, 41, 11073

Nature Structural Biology 1999, 6, 233 – 242.



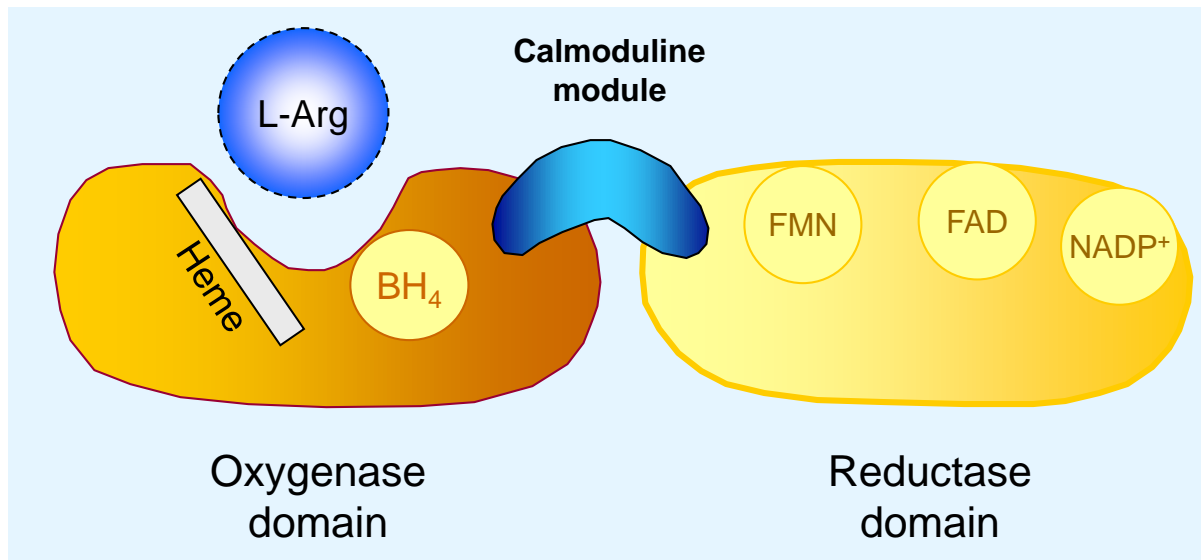
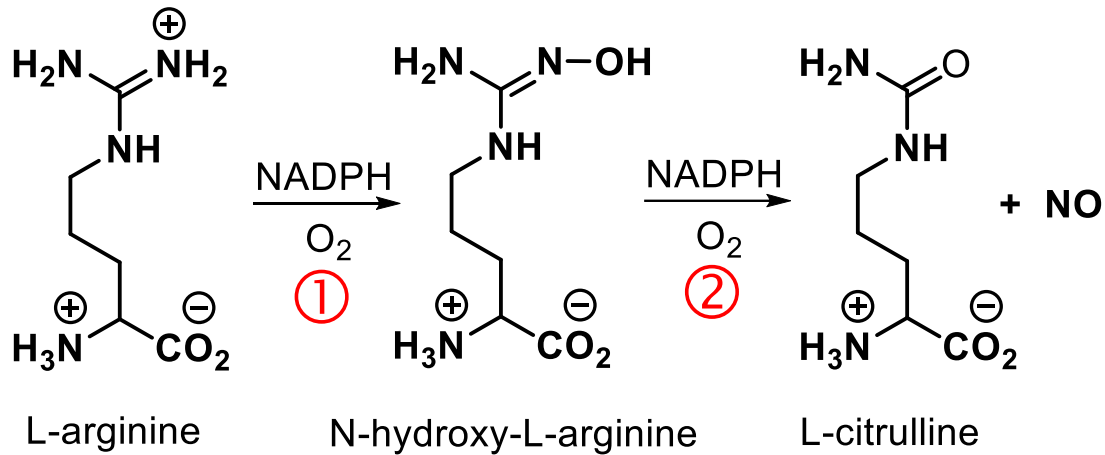
Redox Cascade to Fe²⁺/Fe³⁺





In vivo Generation of •NO: Nitric Oxide Synthase (NOS)

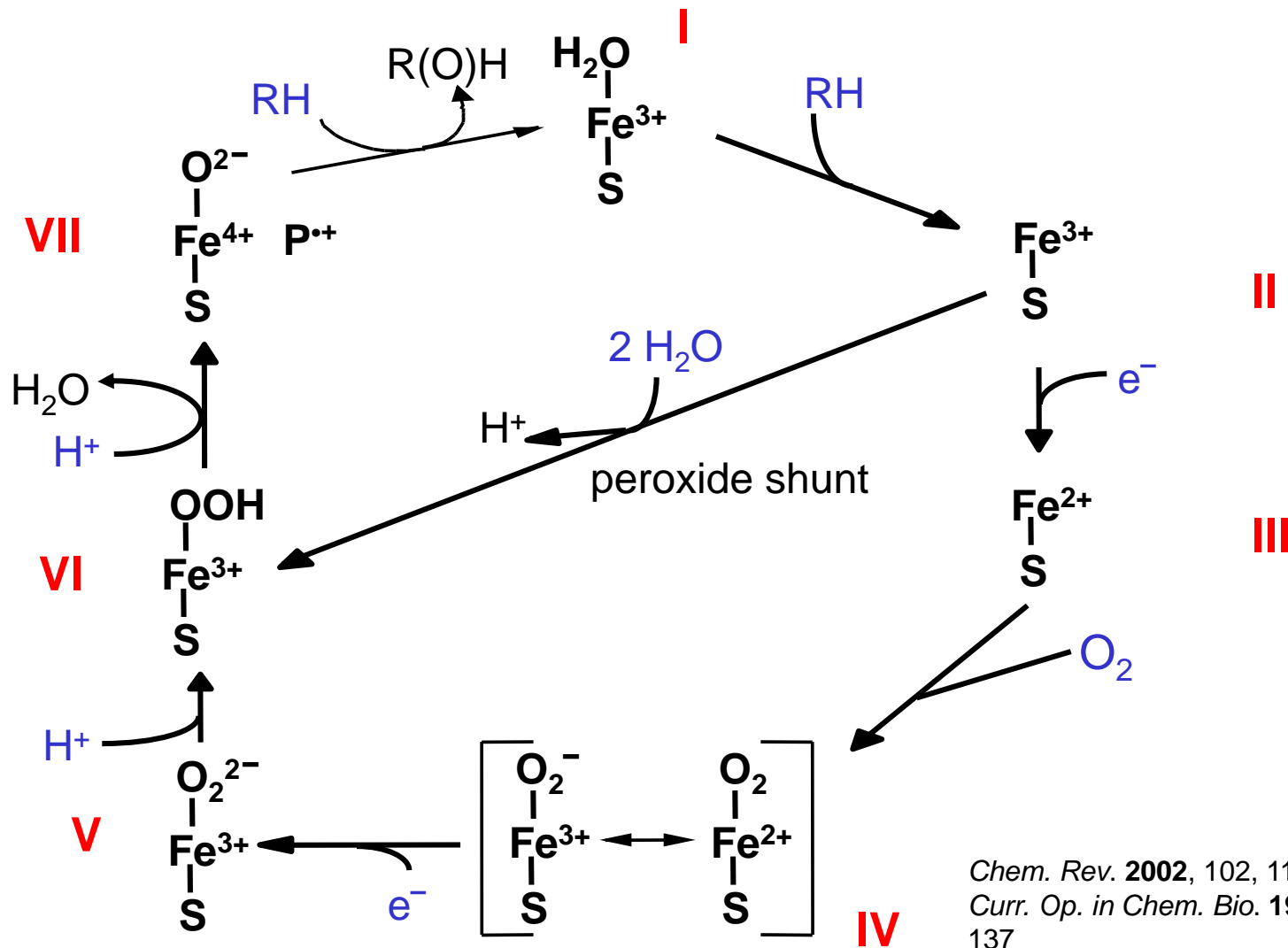
Two
cycles



Chem. Rev. **2002**, *102*, 1191-1199.



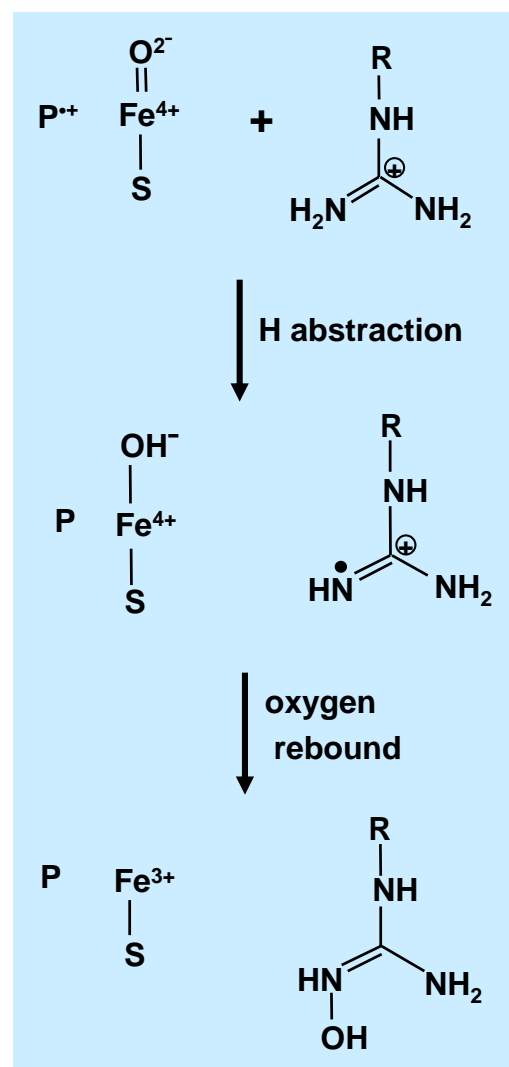
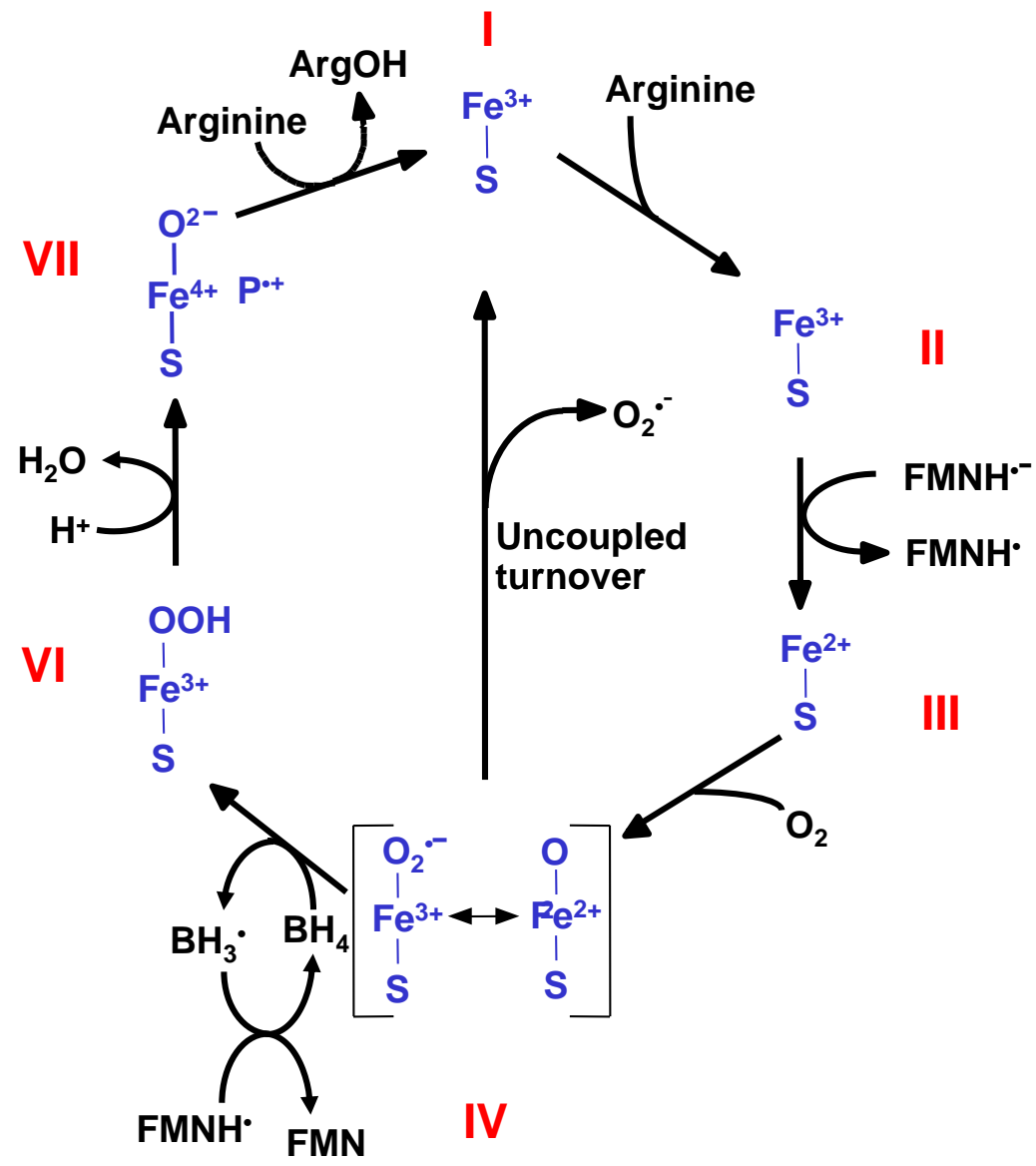
Reduction of Oxygen by Oxygenases



Chem. Rev. **2002**, 102, 1191-1199;
Curr. Op. in Chem. Bio. **1999**, 3:131-137

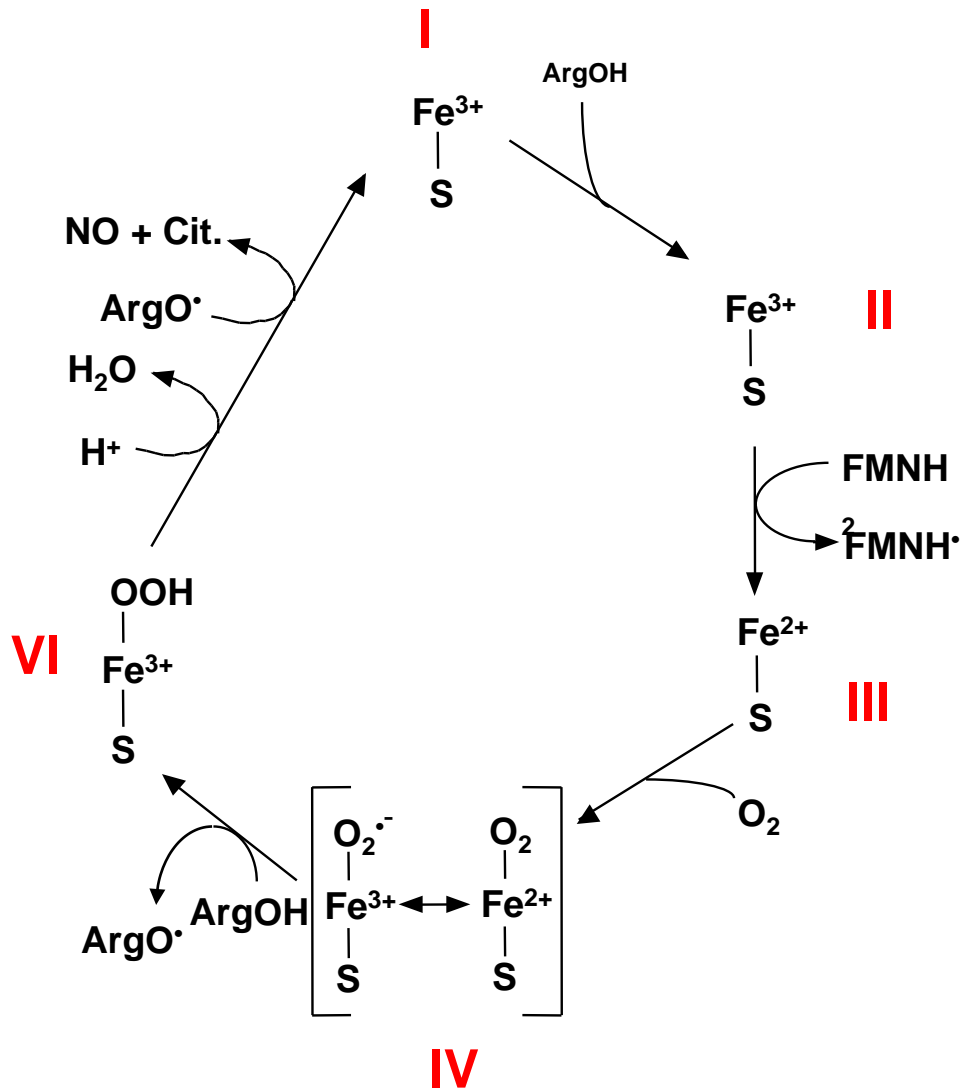


Oxygenation of Arginine by Iron Enzymes



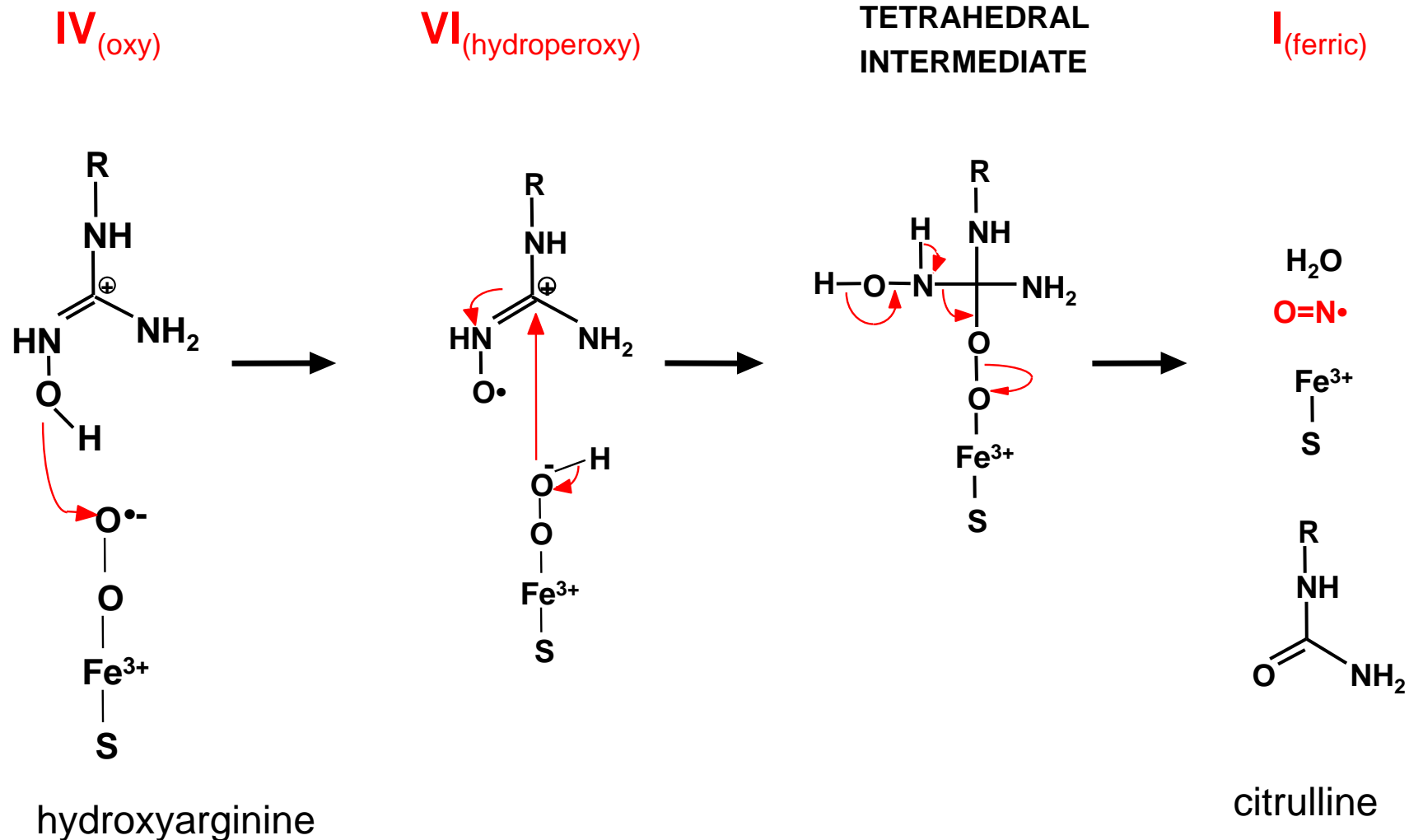


In the Absence of Donor Protein





•NO Generation Detail of Mechanism



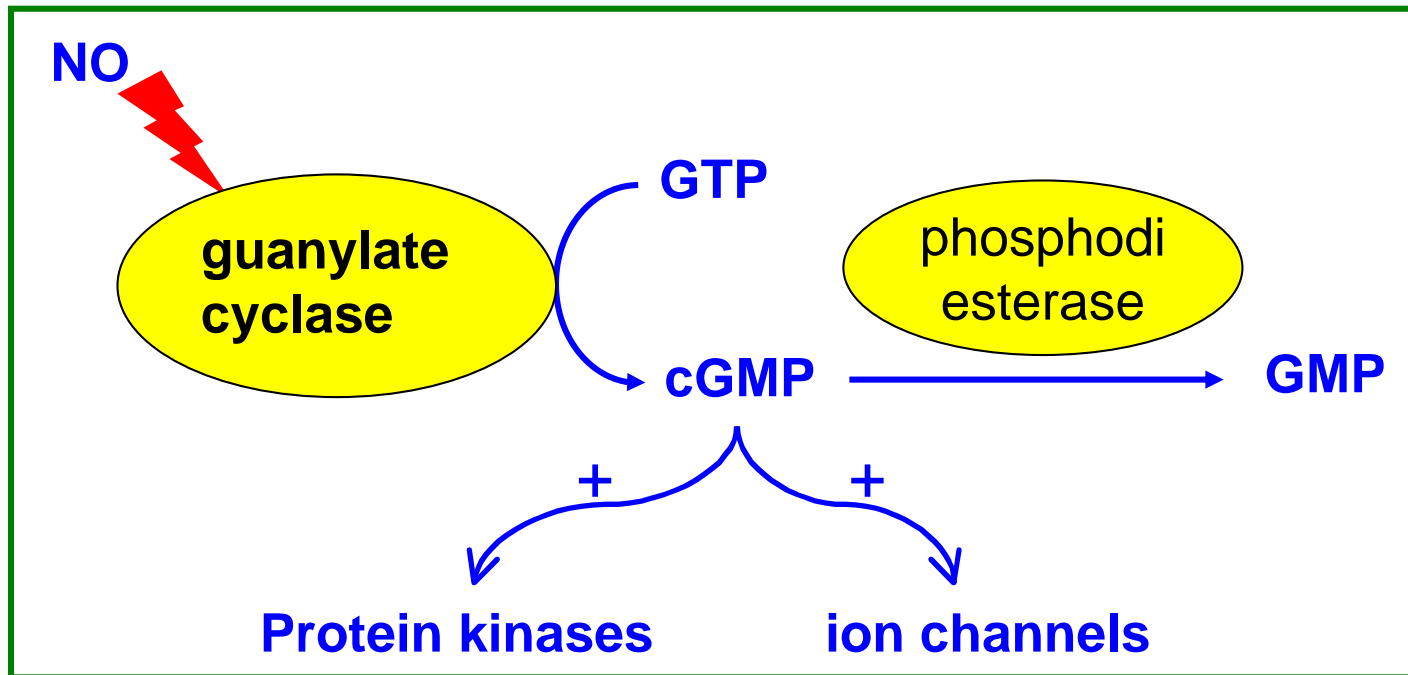


Peroxynitrite



Nitric oxide + superoxide \rightarrow peroxynitrite

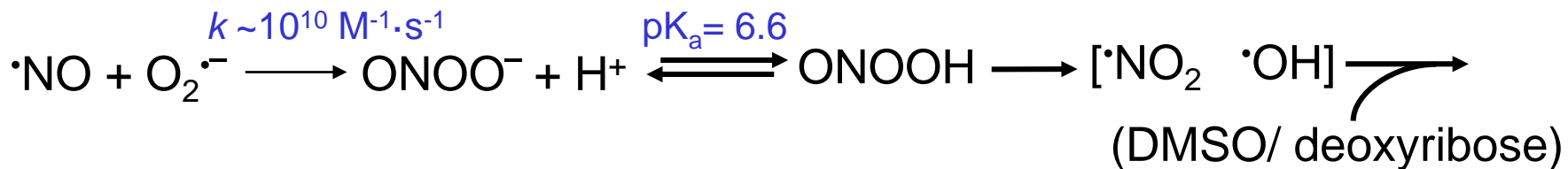
nitrate tyrosine
oxidise lipids, DNA





Peroxynitrite (PON) as a Free Radical Producer

Beckman and co-workers were the first to propose that when overproduced, $\bullet\text{NO}$ was likely to react with $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$ to form peroxynitrite (PON) (Beckman *et al.*, *Proc Natl Acad Sci. USA* **87**:1620, 1990). This seminal paper attracted much attention because based on scanty chemical literature and on the oxidation of DMSO and deoxyribose, it proposed that (PON) could be a transition metal ion-independent route for hydroxyl radical production *in vivo*.



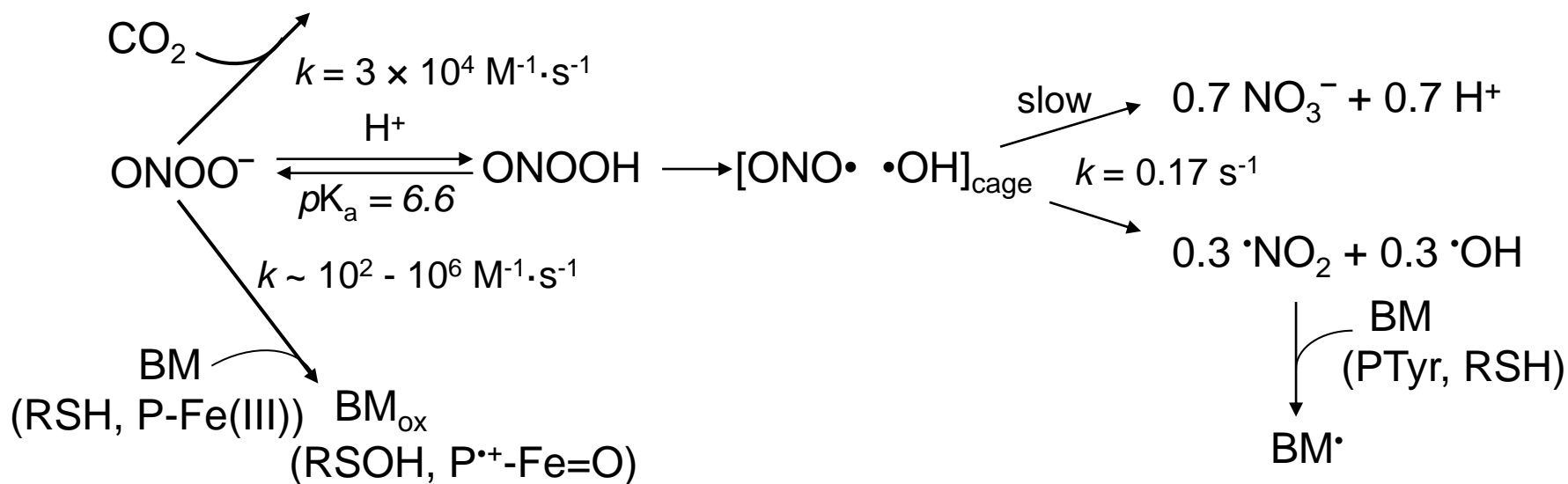
This led to many papers and to a huge controversy about the possibility of free radical production from (PON) *in vitro*. The controversy was resolved and the oxidant is likely to act as free radical producer *in vivo*. Relevant is the rapid reaction of (PON) with the biologically ubiquitous CO_2 that increases (PON)⁻ mediated one-electron oxidation and nitration of biomolecules. In some environments, reaction of (PON) with heme proteins may also become important for biomolecule--derived radical production.

(Augusto *et al.*, *Free Rad Biol Med.* **32**:849, 2002).



Proton-catalyzed Decomposition of Peroxynitrite

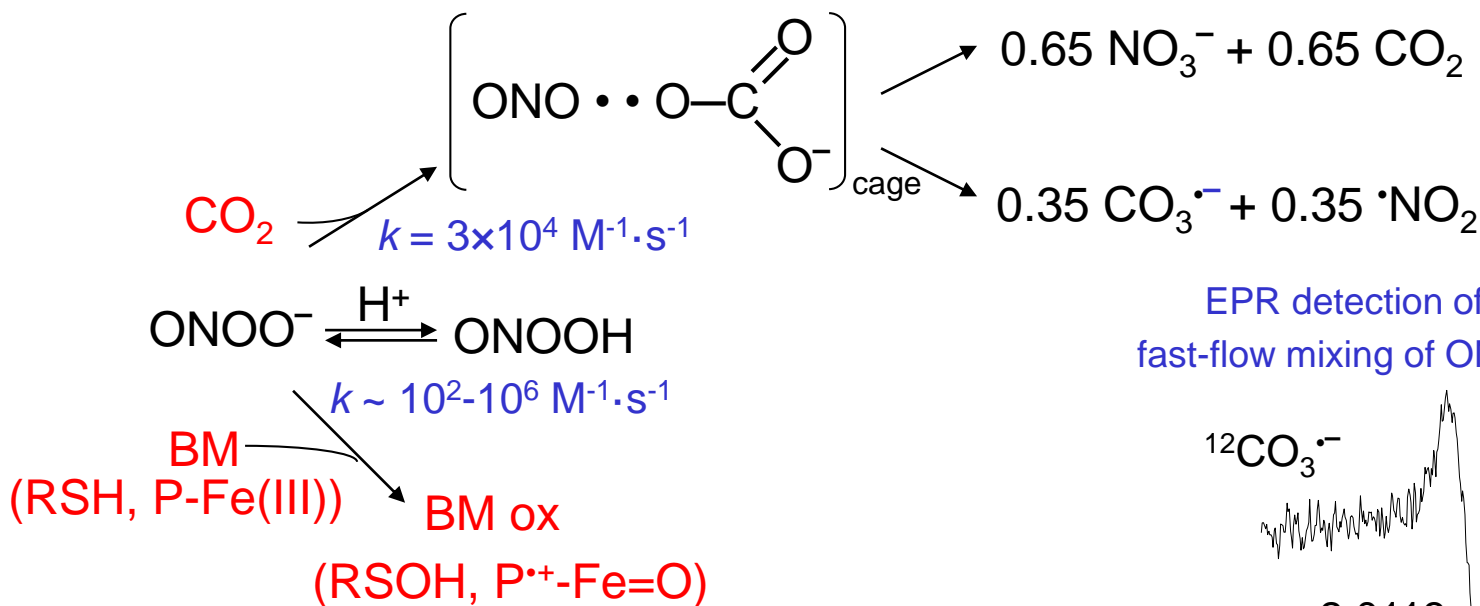
Peroxynitrite is stable at alkaline pH but upon protonation ($pK_a = 6.6$) it decomposes to yield 70% NO_3^- and 30% $\cdot\text{OH}$ and $\cdot\text{NO}_2$ that can oxidize biomolecules (BM) to the corresponding radicals. *In vivo*, however, these one-electron oxidations are likely to become relevant only at acid pH because at neutral pH the proton-catalyzed decay is too slow to compete with bio targets such as CO_2 , bio thiols (RSH) and hemoproteins P-Fe(III) that react directly with peroxynitrite



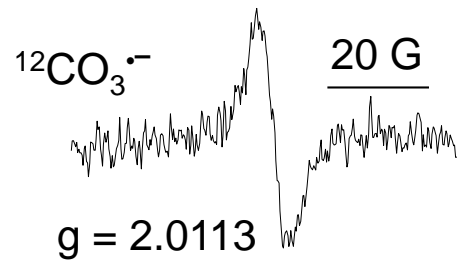


Peroxynitrite Reactions *in vitro*: Two- versus One-Electron Oxidations

RSH, P-Fe(III) and CO_2 are anticipated to be the most important peroxynitrite bio targets because of their high biological concentrations and rapid reaction rate with the oxidant ($k \sim 10^2\text{-}10^6 \text{ M}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$). These reactions greatly reduce the half-life of peroxynitrite (from s to ms) and the targets are usually oxidized by two-electron mechanisms. An important exception is the reaction with the biologically ubiquitous CO_2 that produces 65% NO_3^- and 35% $\text{CO}_3^{\cdot-}$ and $\cdot\text{NO}_2$ (Bonini *et al.*, *J Biol Chem.* **274**:10802, 1999).



EPR detection of $\text{CO}_3^{\cdot-}$ during fast-flow mixing of ONOO^- and HCO_3^-





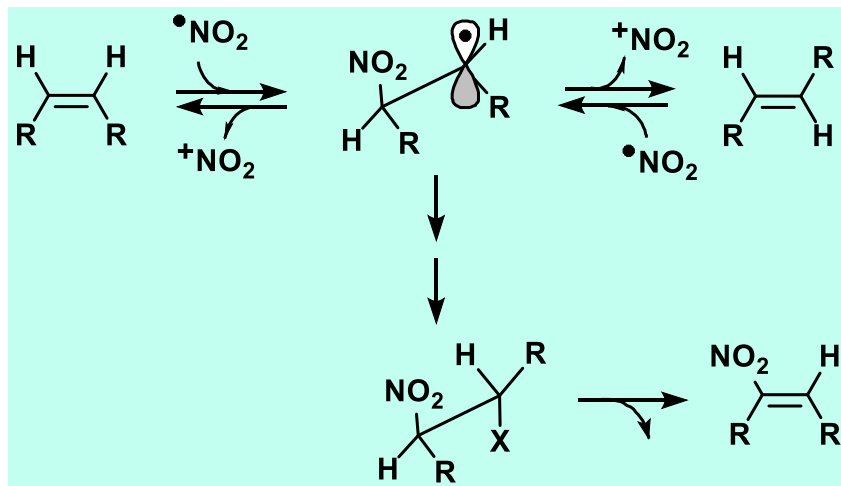
Peroxynitrite as a biomolecule-derived radical producer

- (i) Peroxynitrite is likely to act through its derived radicals ($\text{CO}_3^{\cdot-}$ and $\cdot\text{NO}_2$) *in vivo* due to the high concentration of CO_2 in equilibrium with HCO_3^- in most biological fluids. In low pH environments, the peroxynitrite-derived $\cdot\text{OH}$ radical can also become relevant.
- (ii) Both, $\text{CO}_3^{\cdot-}$ ($E^\circ = 1.8 \text{ V}$; pH 7.0) and $\cdot\text{NO}_2$ ($E^\circ = 0.9 \text{ V}$, pH = 7.0) are oxidizing radicals that can oxidize several bio targets to their corresponding radicals. A flux of both radicals (as produced from peroxynitrite) is very efficient in nitrating tyrosine and guanine residues by combining the oxidizing power of $\text{CO}_3^{\cdot-}$ with the radical recombination reactions of $\cdot\text{NO}_2$.
- (iii) The main biomolecules that are likely to be oxidized to their corresponding radicals by peroxynitrite-derived radicals *in vivo* are GSH, P-SH, P-Tyr, P-Trp, RNA-Gua and DNA-Gua.
- (iv) Oxidation of GSH to $\text{GS}\cdot$, occurs even in environments where peroxynitrite reacts preferentially with hemoproteins rather than with CO_2 . Then, oxidation of GSH to $\text{GS}\cdot$ is likely to be a consequence of peroxynitrite production *in vivo*.

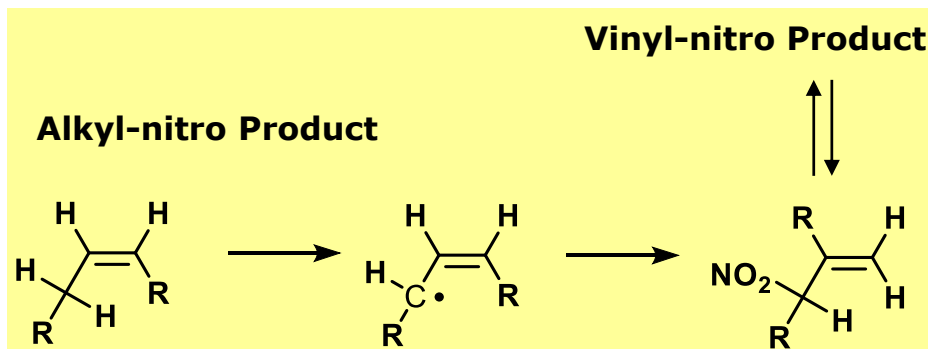


Cis-trans Isomerization

- $\bullet\text{NO}_2$ can induce *cis-trans* isomerization of *cis* double bonds in unsaturated fatty acids



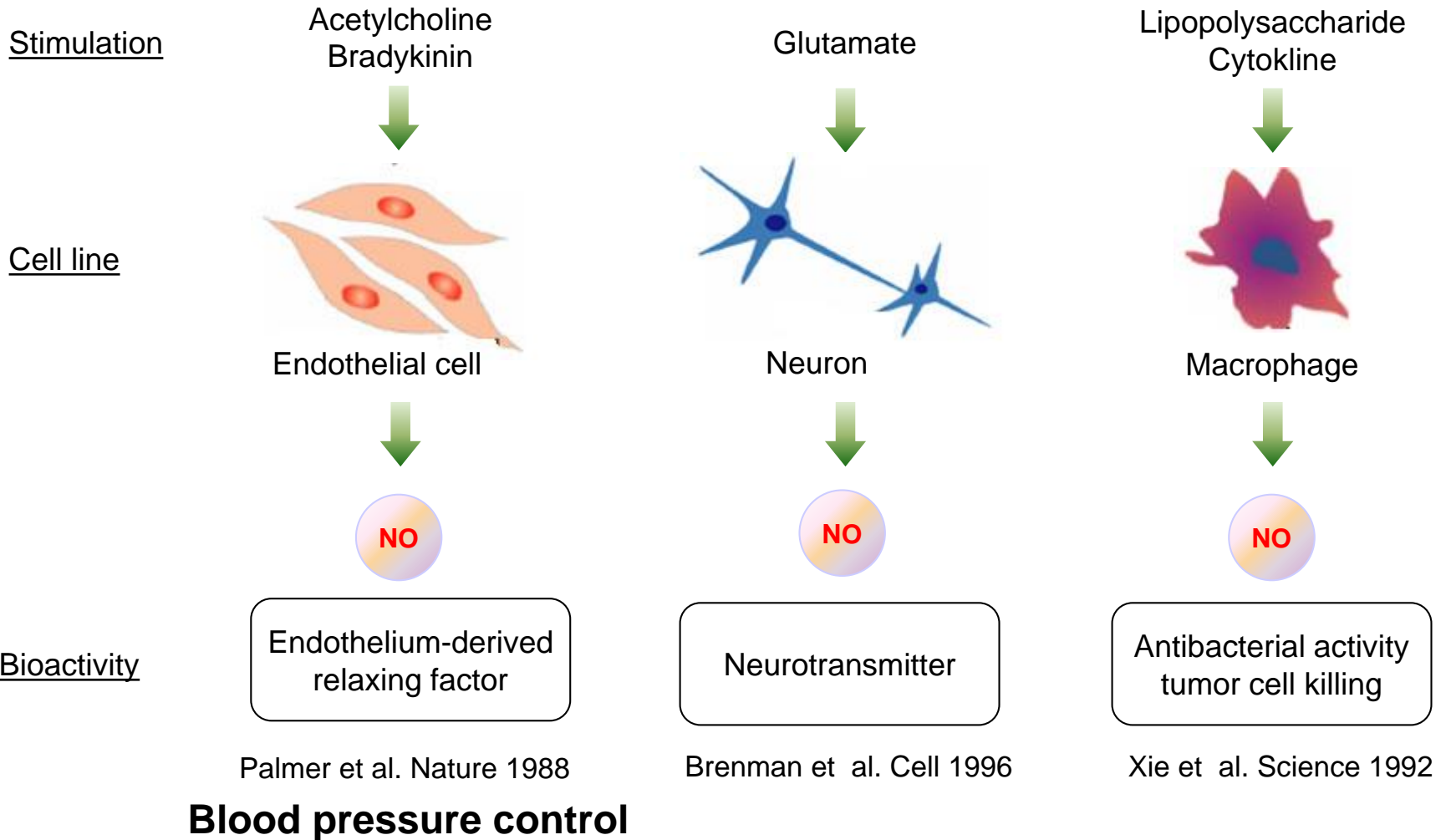
Cis-trans isomerization and vinyl-nitro products



LNO₂: Lipid derived signaling mediators?

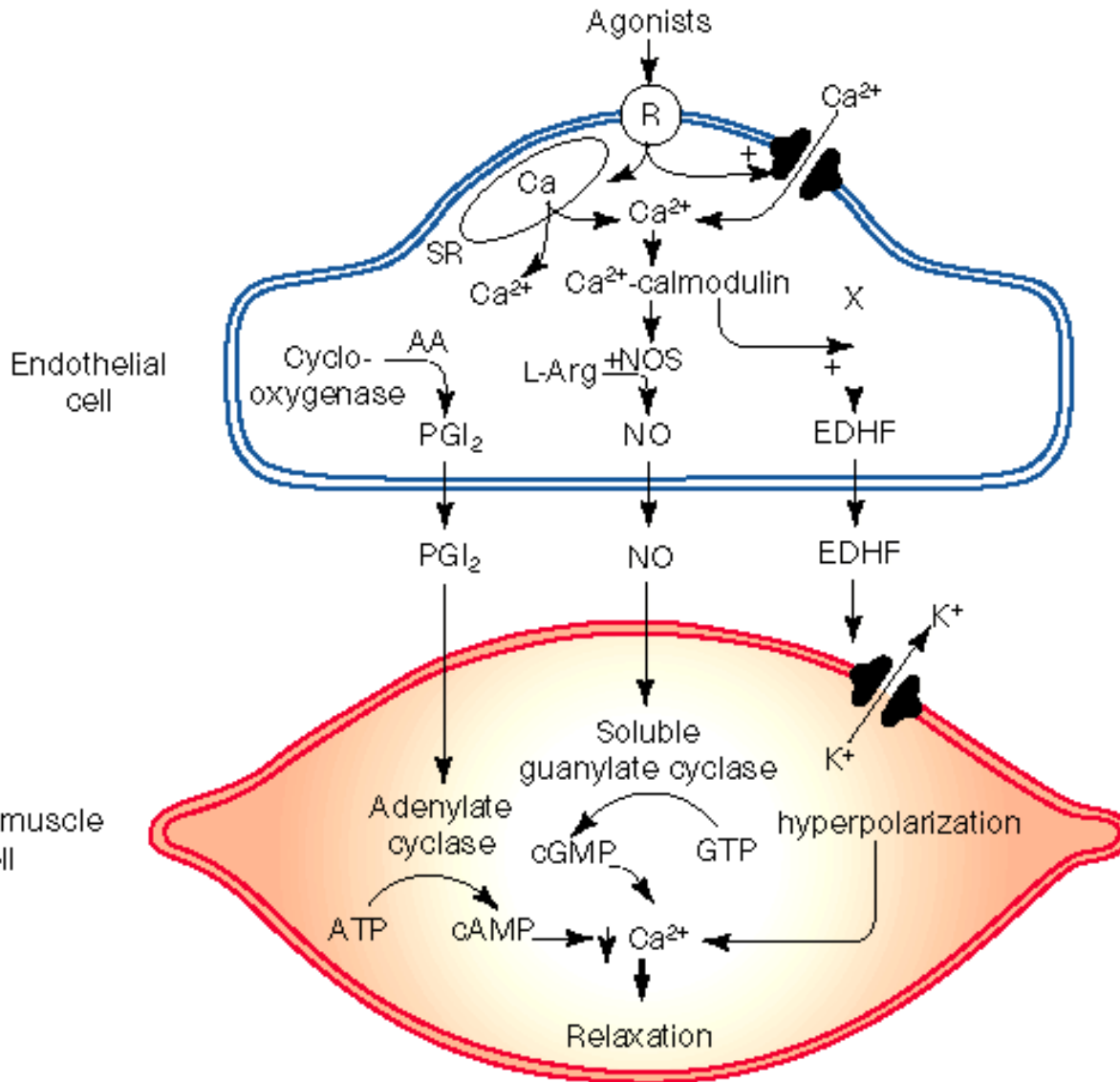


Nitric Oxide as Cellular Response Signal





NO[•] Signaling in Physiology



Nitric Oxide Synthase

$O_2^{\cdot-} \rightarrow NO^{\cdot} \rightarrow ONOO^-$

Binds to heme moiety of guanylate cyclase

Conformational change of the enzyme

Increased activity (production of cGMP)

Modulation of activity of other proteins (protein kinases, phosphodiesterases, ion channels)

Physiological response (relaxation of smooth muscles, inhibition of platelet aggregation, etc.)



Electrochemical Nitric Oxide Sensor

Metalloprotein



Haruyama *et al.*, *Biosensors & Bioelectronics* **13** 763-769 (1998)
Lisdat *et al.*, *Electroanalysis* **12** 946-951 (2000)
Fan *et al.*, *Analytica Chimica Acta* **523** 225-228 (2004)

Metal complex



Pontie *et al.*, *Sensors & Actuators B-Chem.*, **56** 1-5 (1999)
Kashevskii *et al.*, *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **531** 71-79 (2002)
Caro *et al.*, *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, **150** 95-103 (2003)

Spin-trap reagent



Haruyama *et al.*, *Biosensors & Bioelectronics* **13** 763-769 (1998)
Haruyama *et al.*, *Japanese Sensor Newsletter* **12**, 4-7 (1998)

It is difficult to apply the known sensor material to cellular biosensing.



Novel sensor material for cellular biosensing is required!



Advantages and Disadvantages of Chemiluminescence Compared to Other Methods of NO Detection

- *Advantages*

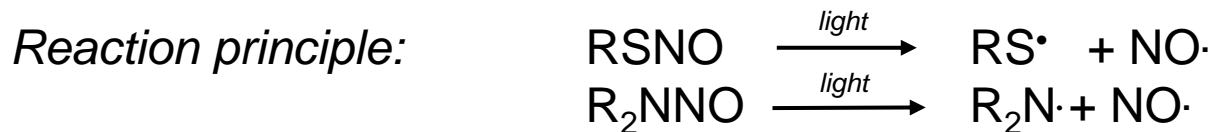
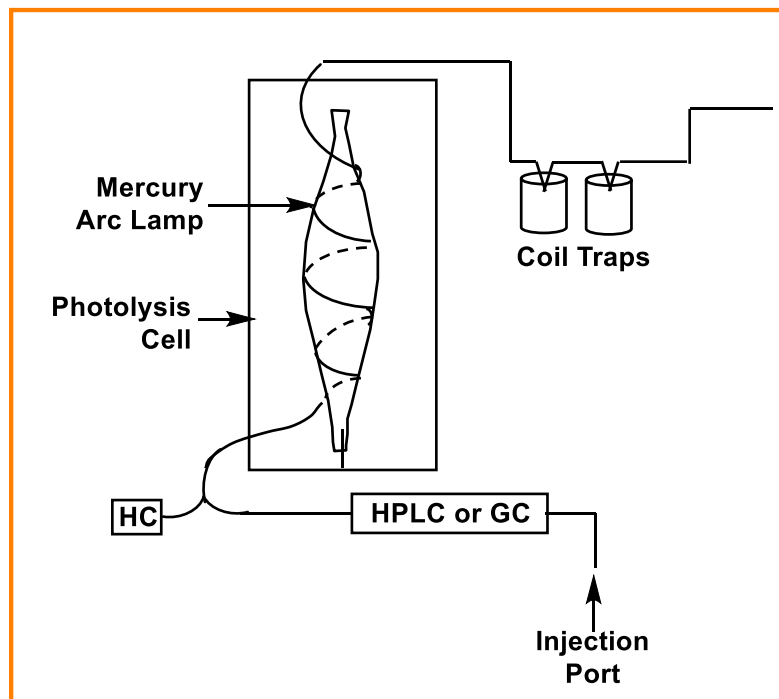
- High Sensitivity and Linearity over a Broad Concentration Range
- Good Reproducibility and High Specificity for NO (few other gaseous substances (DMSO, ethylene) react with ozone)
- Measurements Possible in Turbid or Colored Samples, Even at Extreme pH (in solution, in the headspace, in expired air)
- Besides Mass Spectrometry the Only Other Method that Allows Quantification of Absolute Amounts of Nitroso Species
- Moderate Running Costs

- *Disadvantages*

- With Some Biological Samples Difficult to Extract NO into Gas Phase
- Provides Limited Structural Information
- Limited Sample Throughput, High Purchase Price for Detector



Photolysis/Chemiluminescence Approach for Detection of Nitroso Species



Discrimination of RSNOs from other nitroso species and nitrite by measurement before and after HgCl_2 treatment, and with lamp ON and OFF

Stamler et al., 1992, Alpert et al., 1997



Sample Processing Using Redox-Active Reaction Mixtures - Many Choices, Many Pitfalls

Most techniques use Chemical Reactions to convert nitroso and nitrosyl species into NO, which is then detected by chemiluminescence

- **Reducing mixtures** differ largely in reducing strengths and reduction capacity

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Iodine/iodide (I_3^-) | 60 mM I ⁻ /6-20 mM I ₂ / 1M HCl, RT | Samouilov & Zweier, 1998 |
| | 56 mM I ⁻ / 2 mM I ₂ , 4mM CuCl, CH ₃ COOH, 68°C | Marley et al., 2000 |
| | 60 mM I ⁻ /10 mM I ₂ , CH ₃ COOH, 60°C | Feelisch et al., 2002 |
| Cysteine/CuCl | 1 mM L-cysteine, 0.1 mM CuCl | Fang et al., 1998 |
| Hydroquinone/Quinone | 0.1/0.01 mM | Samouilov & Zweier, 1998 |
| VCl ₃ /H ⁺ | 0.1 M in 2M HCl | Ewing et al., 1998 |

- **Oxidizing mixture** for determination of NO-hemes

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Ferricyanide | 0.2 M in PBS pH 7.5 | Gladwin et al., 2002 |
| | | Bryan et al, 2004 |

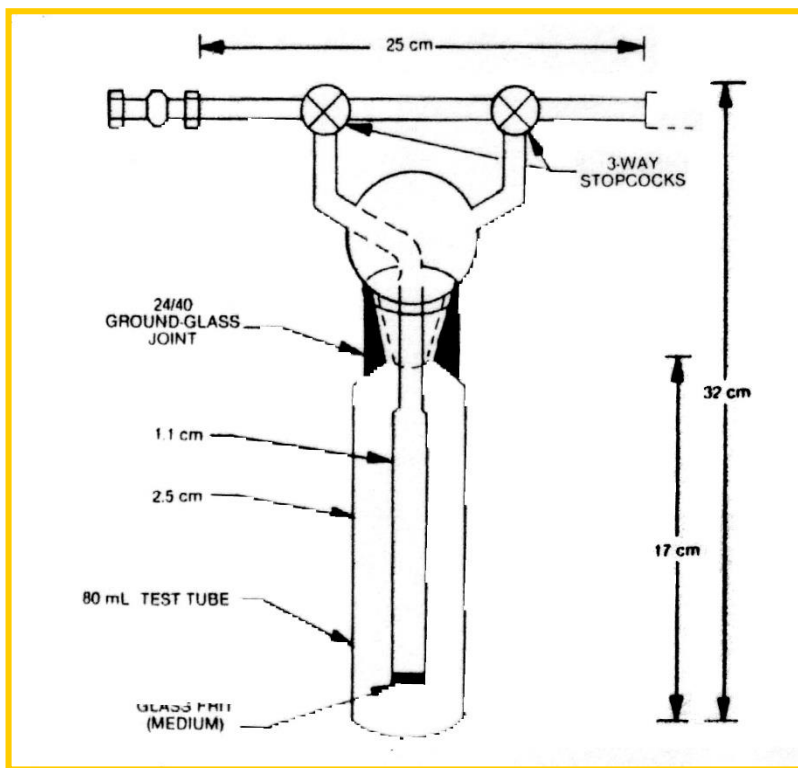
General Problem:

Neither method is absolutely specific and bears the potential to produce false positive (nitrate, L-NitroArg, ...) or negative signals

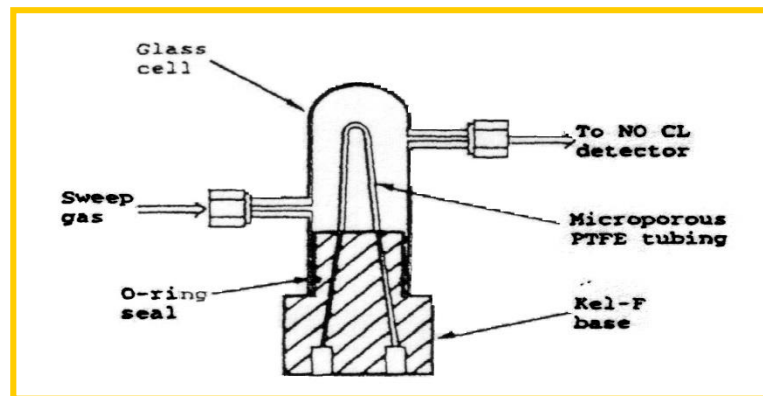
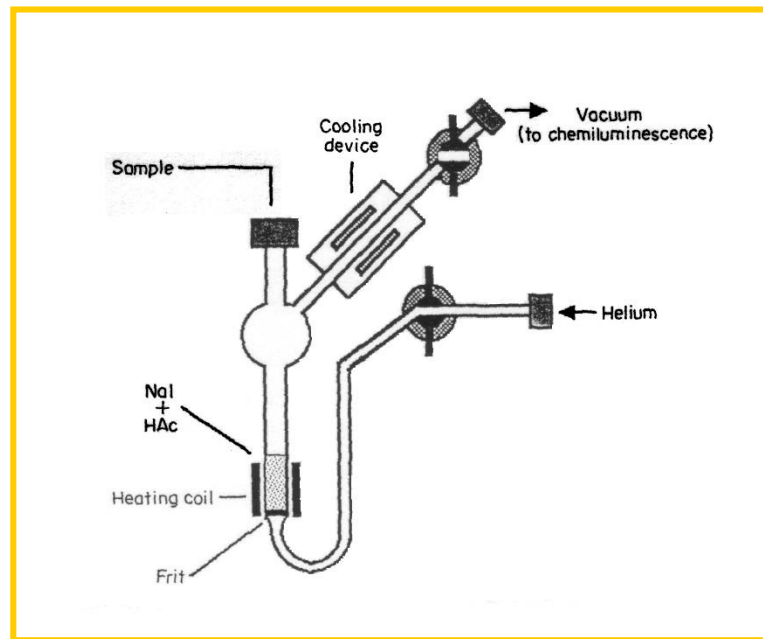


Reaction Chambers Come in Many Different Designs

Menon et al., 1991



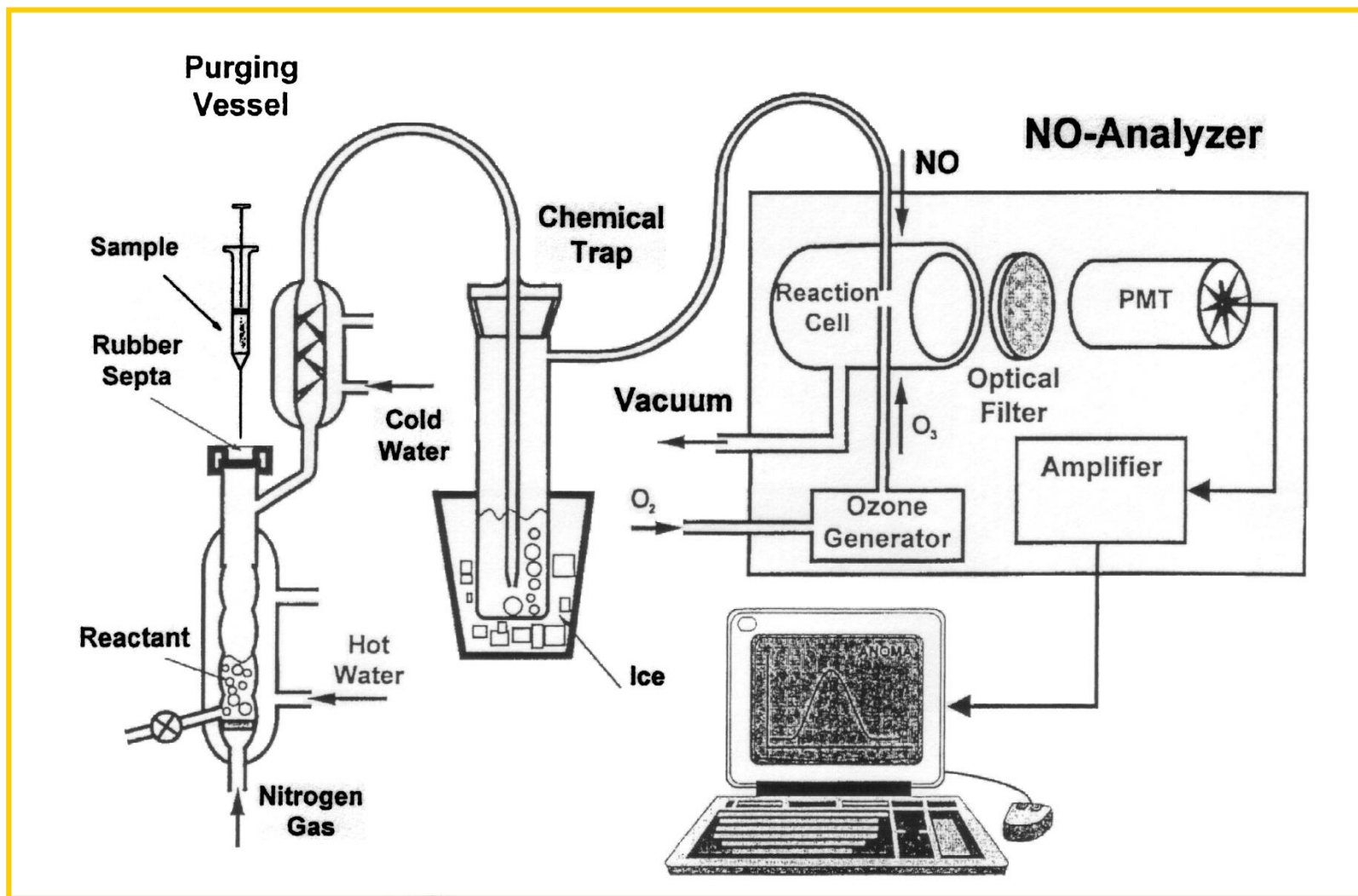
Cox & Frank, 1982



Dunham et al., 1995



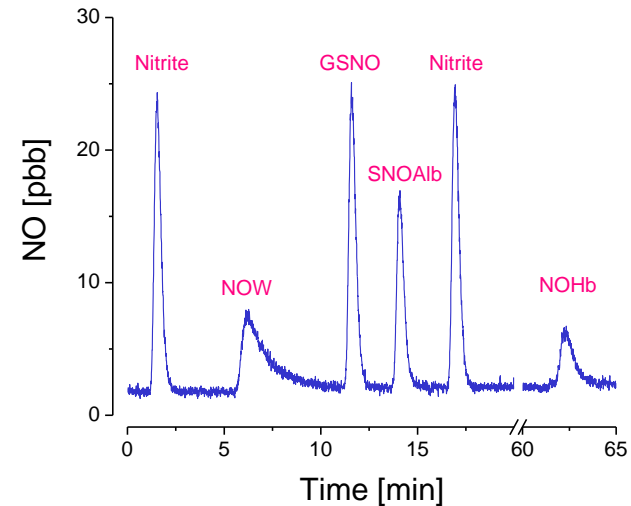
The Most Frequently Used Type of Chemiluminescence Set-up





Which NO-Related Species are Detected and How can they be Discriminated from One Another?

- Without Reduction Step:
 - NO (direct injection into buffer or water)
- Upon Acidification:
 - NO₂⁻ (disproportionation of HNO₂)
 - RONO (acid-catalyzed decomposition)
- With Sample Reduction:
 - NO₂⁻/NO₃⁻ (KI/CH₃COOH, RT for nitrite, VCl₃/H⁺, 90°C for nitrate)
 - RSNO } (I₃⁻/CH₃COOH, 60°C)
 - RNNO }
 - NO-Heme }



detection limit: 1-50 nM, depending on flow and inj. volume
250 fmoles NO (at 50 µL injection vol.)

- Discrimination between different species:

Selective NO₂⁻ removal

RSNOs from other Nitroso-Species

Nitroso from Nitrosyl Species

Sulfanilamide/H⁺

HgCl₂/sulfanilamide

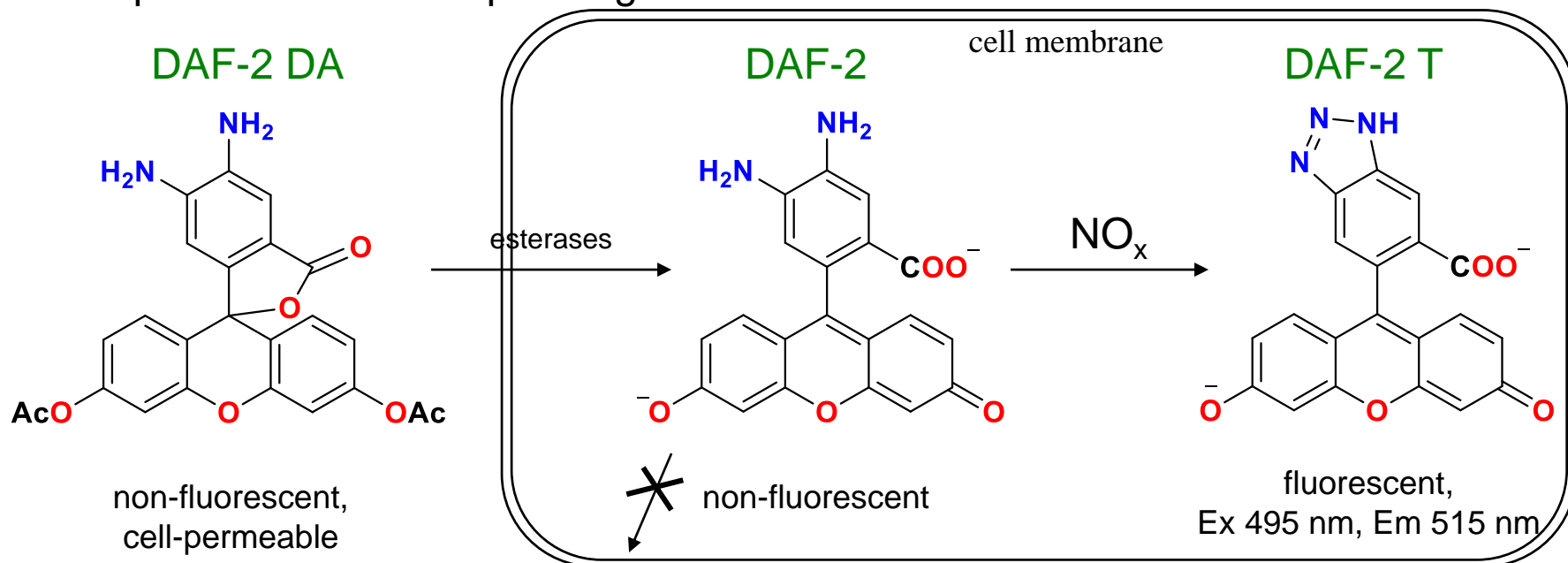
Reducing vs. Oxidizing Reaction Mix



Bio-imaging of Nitric Oxide Using DAF-2

Detection principle:

Reaction of aromatic vicinal diamines with NO in the presence of oxygen to produce the corresponding triazenes



Advantages:

Sensitivity for NO (5 nM *in vitro*) with high temporal and spatial resolution
No cross-reactivity to $\text{NO}_2^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ and ONOO^-

Assay limitations: Possible interference by reducing agents and divalent cations, pH sensitive, subject to photo bleaching, requiring standardized illumination conditions



Recent Developments

- **Development** and commercial availability of **red fluorescent chromophores** (diamino-rhodamine-based; DAR-4M) increases flexibility for combinations with other green-fluorescent probes and shows reduced interference with tissue auto fluorescence, but is otherwise very similar to DAF-2
- **Difluoroboradiaza-s-indacene** based fluorophore (similar chemistry)
- **Detection of nitroso peptides and proteins on diaminofluoresceine gels** (standard SDS-PAGE followed by UV photolysis in the presence of DAF-2 or DAF-FM for detection of C-, O-, N- and S-nitrosated compounds) *(Mannick et al, 2005)*
- **Near-Infrared fluorescent probes for „NO“ detection** in isolated organs (tricyanocyanine as NIR fluorochrome coupled to *o*-phenylenediamine as NO sensor; NIR is potentially very interesting for *in vivo* imaging approaches as it allows deeper penetration of light into tissues and shows no interference with tissue autofluorescence; promising novel approach *(Nagano et al, 2005)*
- **Amplifier-coupled fluorescent NO indicator** with nanomolar sensitivity in living cells (genetically encoded fluorescent indicator based on the binding of NO to soluble guanyl cyclase and detection of formed cGMP by FRET; interesting, but potentially problematic cross-talk with cGMP generated by particulate GC and modulation of sensitivity by PDE activity) *(Sato et al, 2005)*