

Nobel Prize in Medicine/Physiology 1998

"....for their discoveries concerning

nitric oxide as a signalling molecule

in the cardiovascular system."

Background

- Mechanism of action of nitroglycerin unknown until 1970s
- Acetylcholine as vasodilatator *in vivo*, but vasoconstrictor *in vitro*

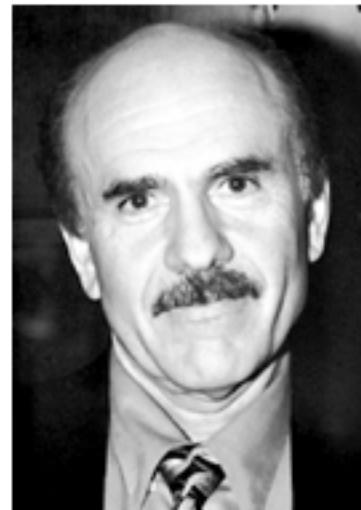


Robert F. Furchtgott

Born: 4 June 1916,
Charleston, SC, USA

Died: 19 May 2009,
Seattle, WA, USA

**Affiliation at the time of
the award:** SUNY Health
Science Center, Brooklyn,
NY, USA



Louis J. Ignarro

Born: 31 May 1941,
Brooklyn, NY, USA

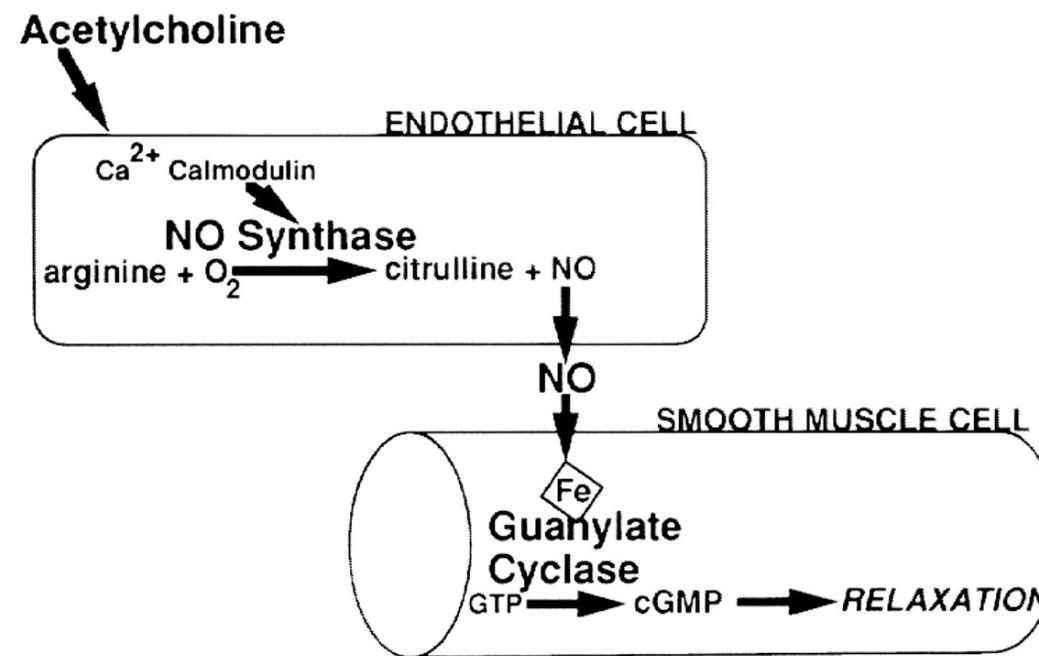
**Affiliation at the time of
the award:** University of
California School of
Medicine, Los Angeles,
CA, USA



Ferid Murad

Born: 14 September
1936, Whiting, IN, USA

**Affiliation at the time of
the award:** University of
Texas Medical School at
Houston, Houston, TX,
USA

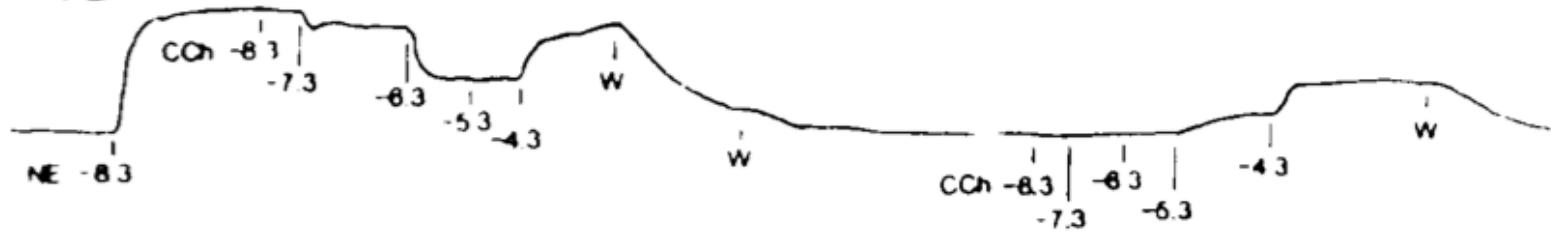




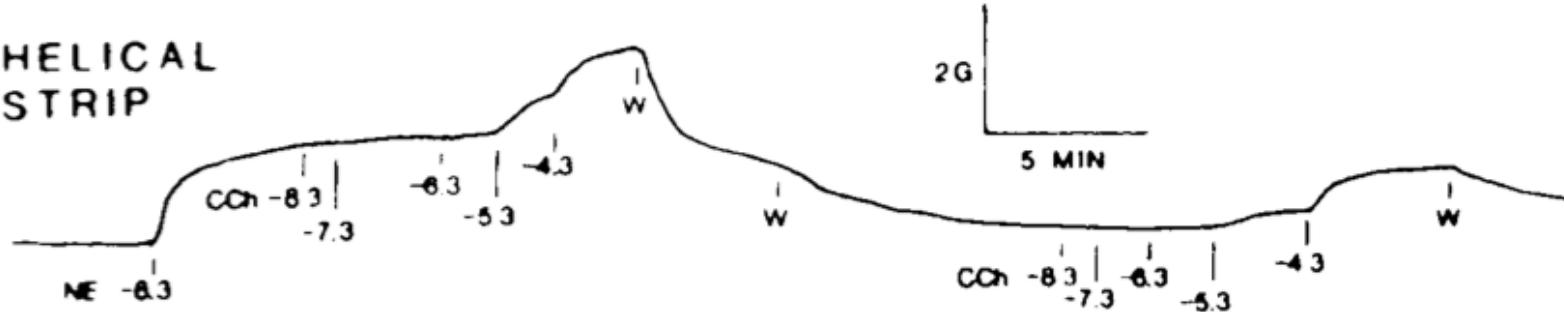
Robert F. Furchtgott

Key findings

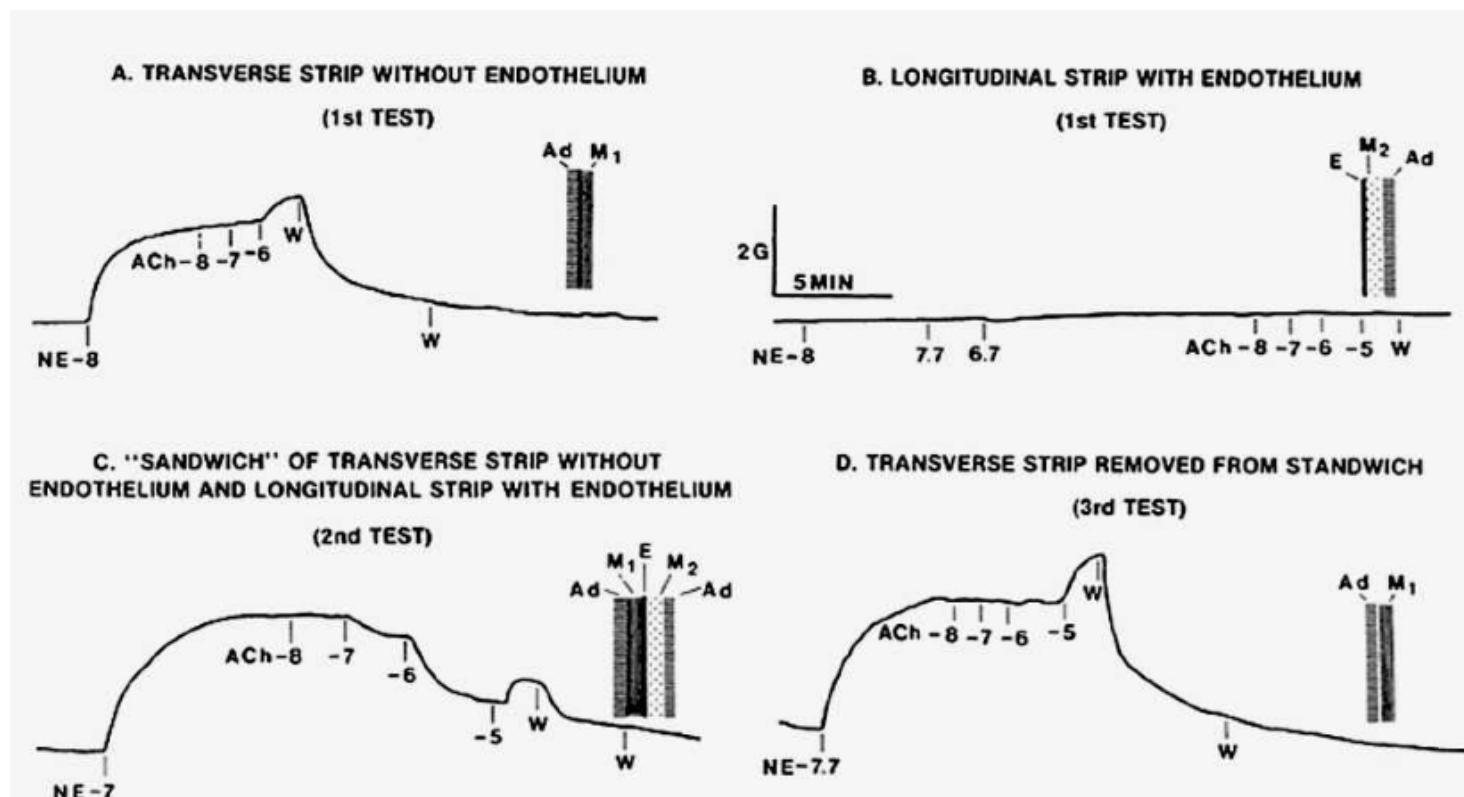
RING



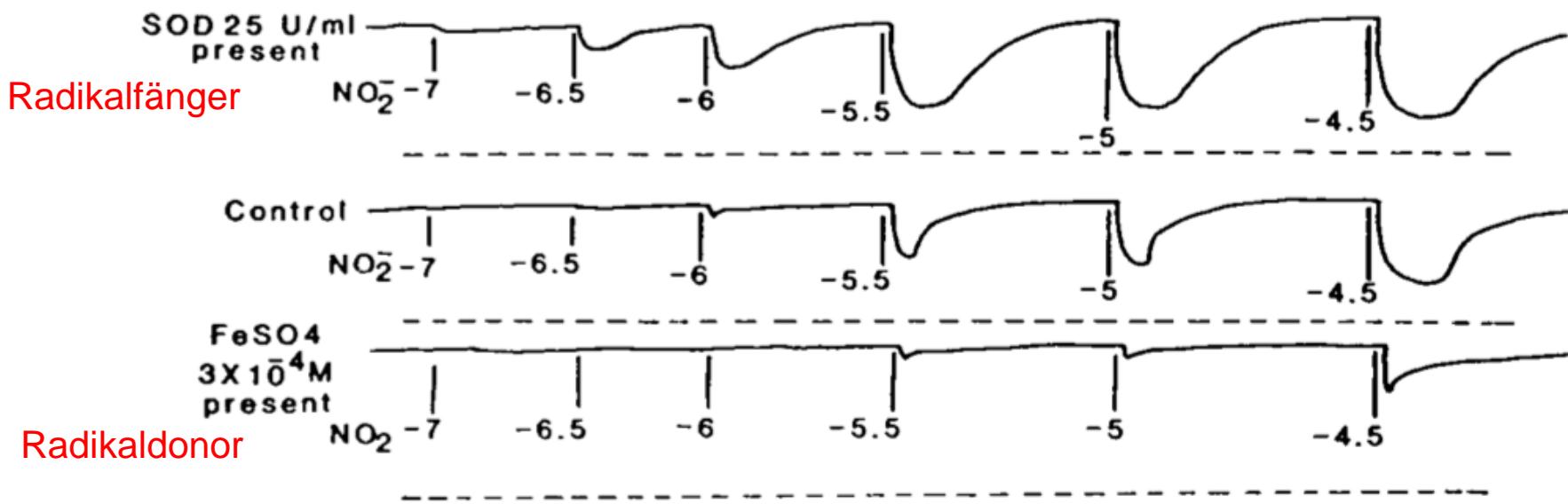
HELICAL
STRIP

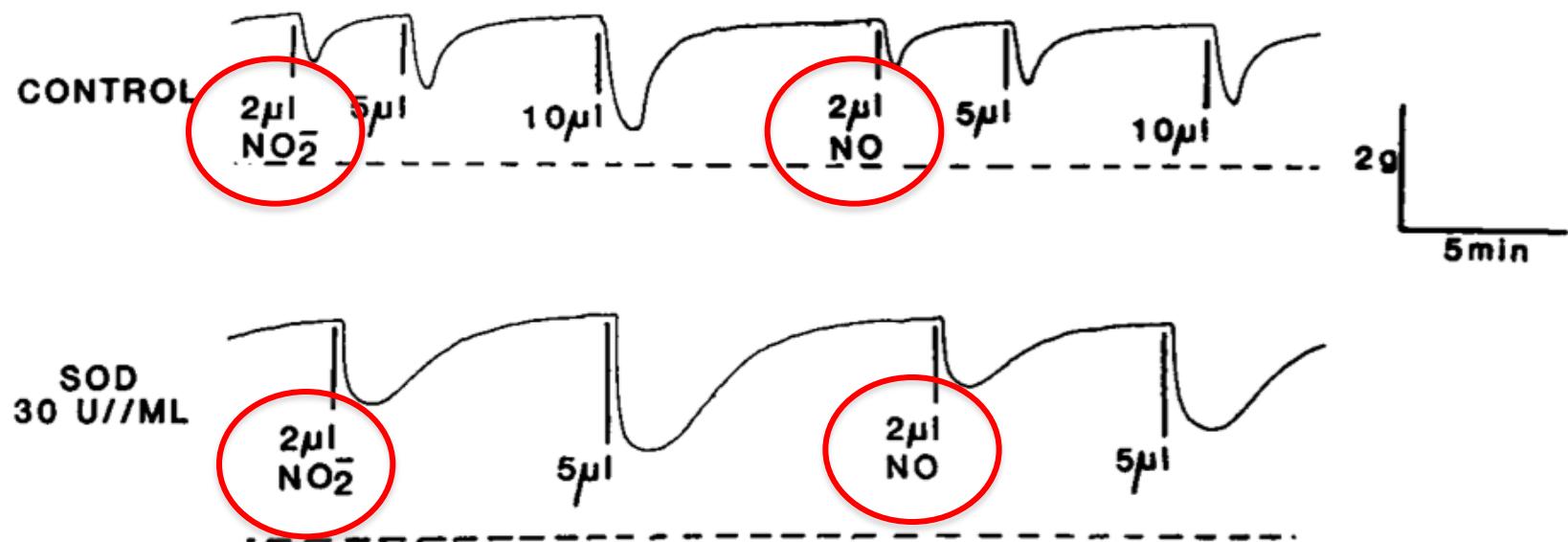


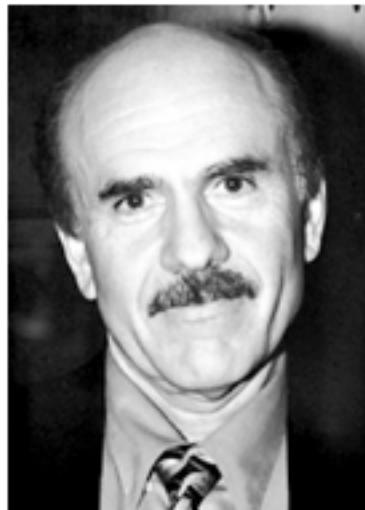
CCh = Carbachol (similar to Ach)



-> „endothelium-derived relaxing factor“ (EDRF)

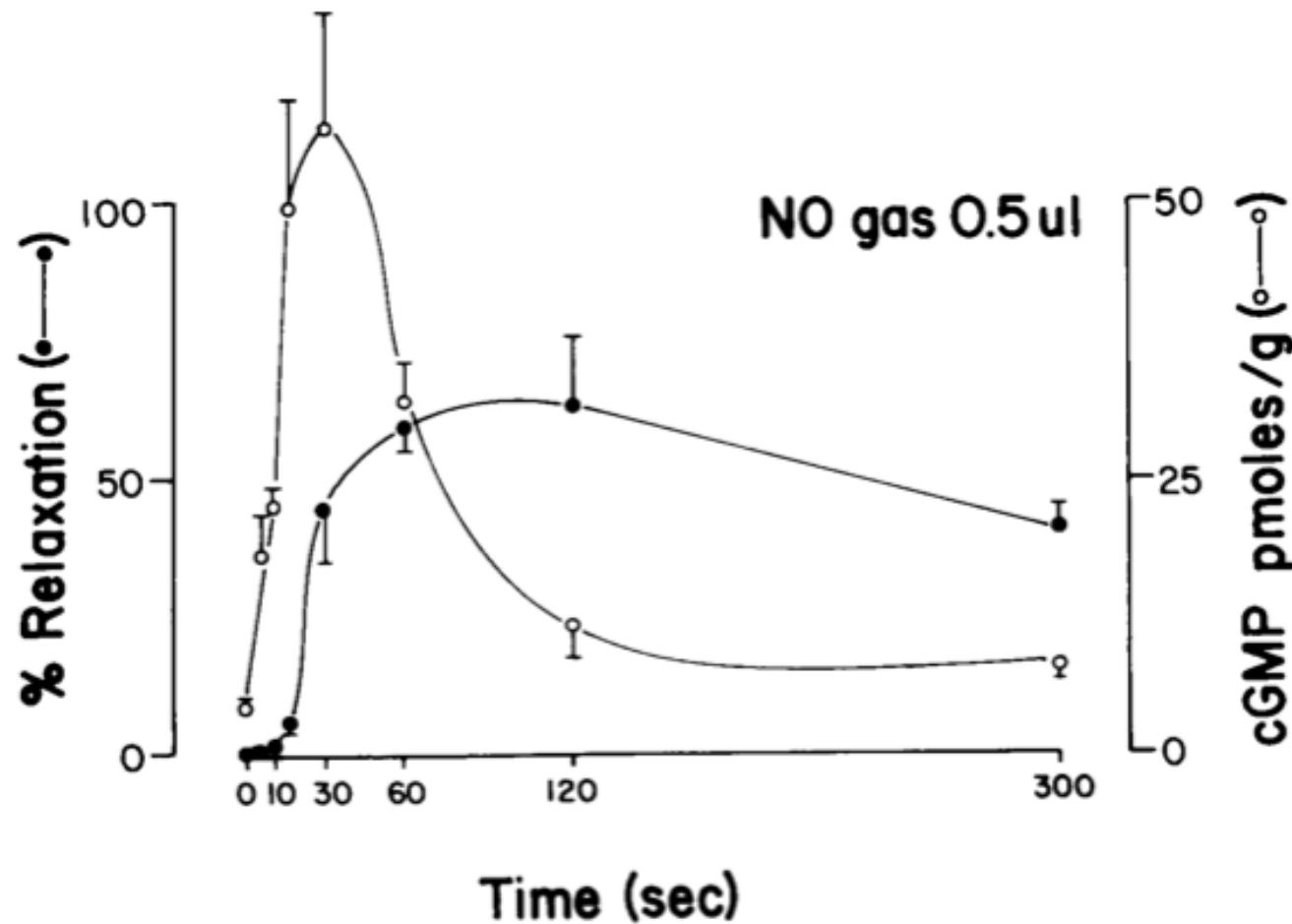


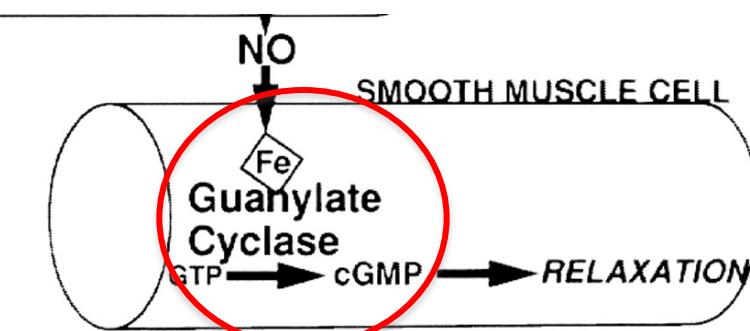




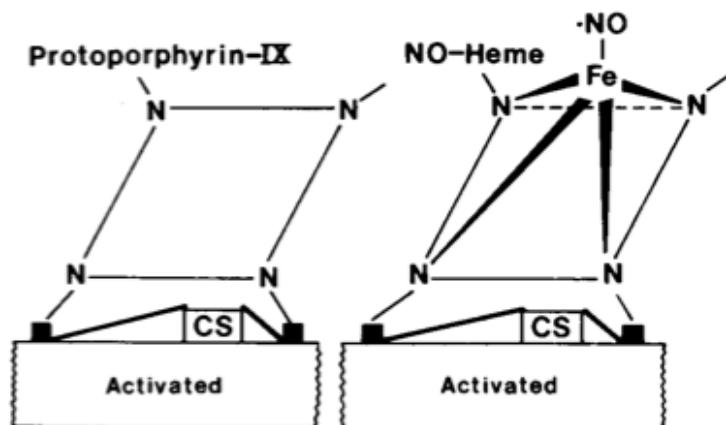
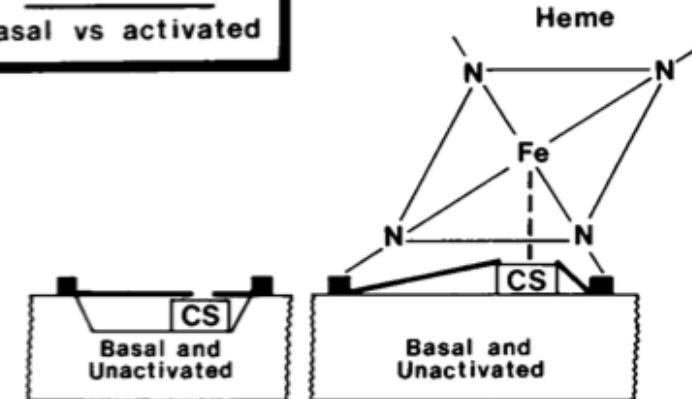
Louis J. Ignarro

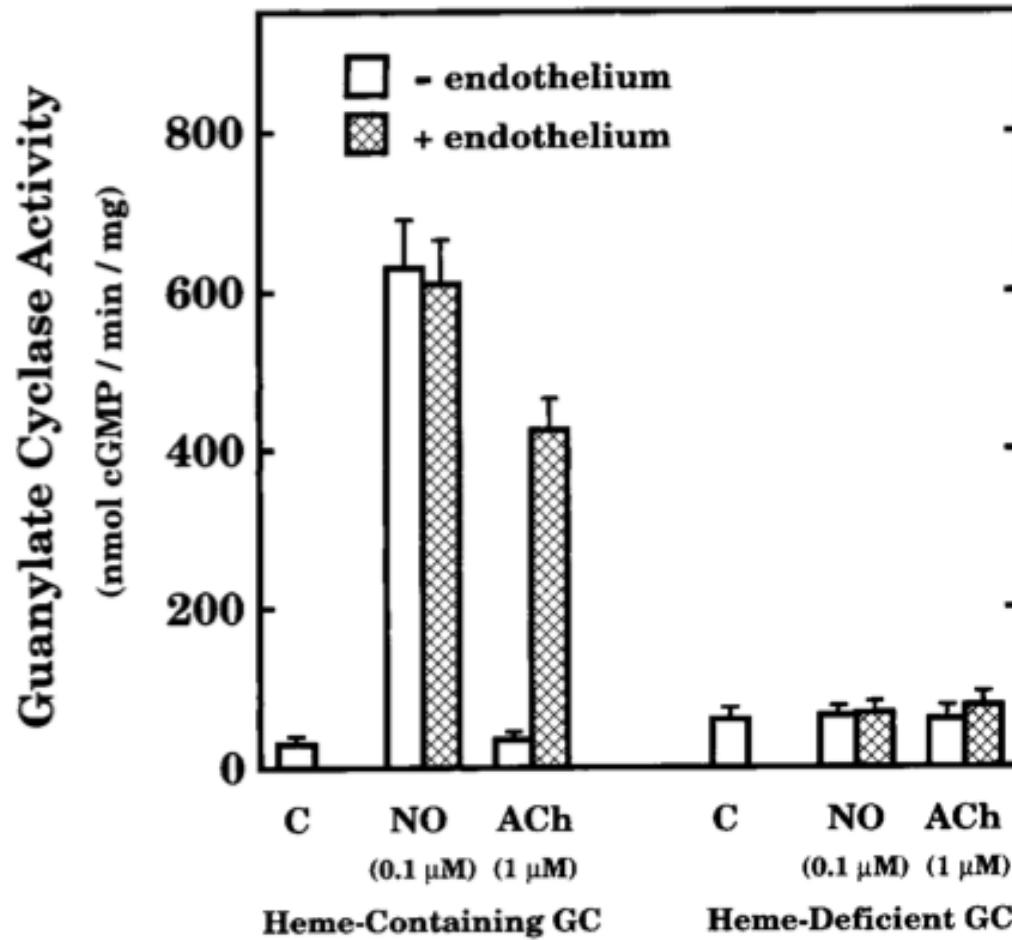
Key findings

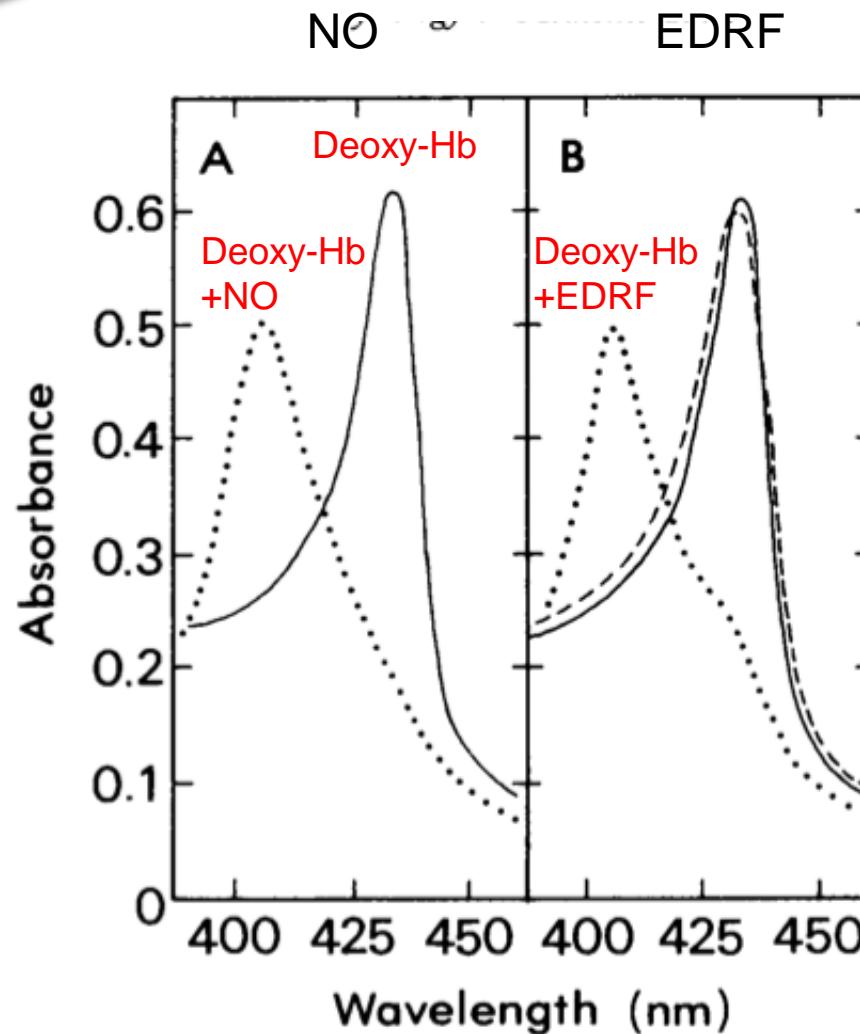




Guanylate Cyclase
basal vs activated



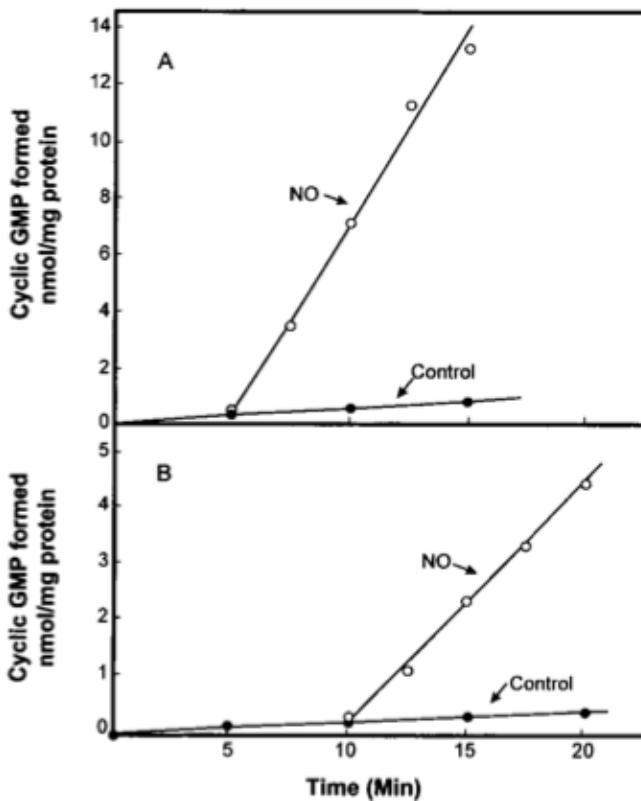






Ferid Murad

Key findings



NOS-1
(155kD)

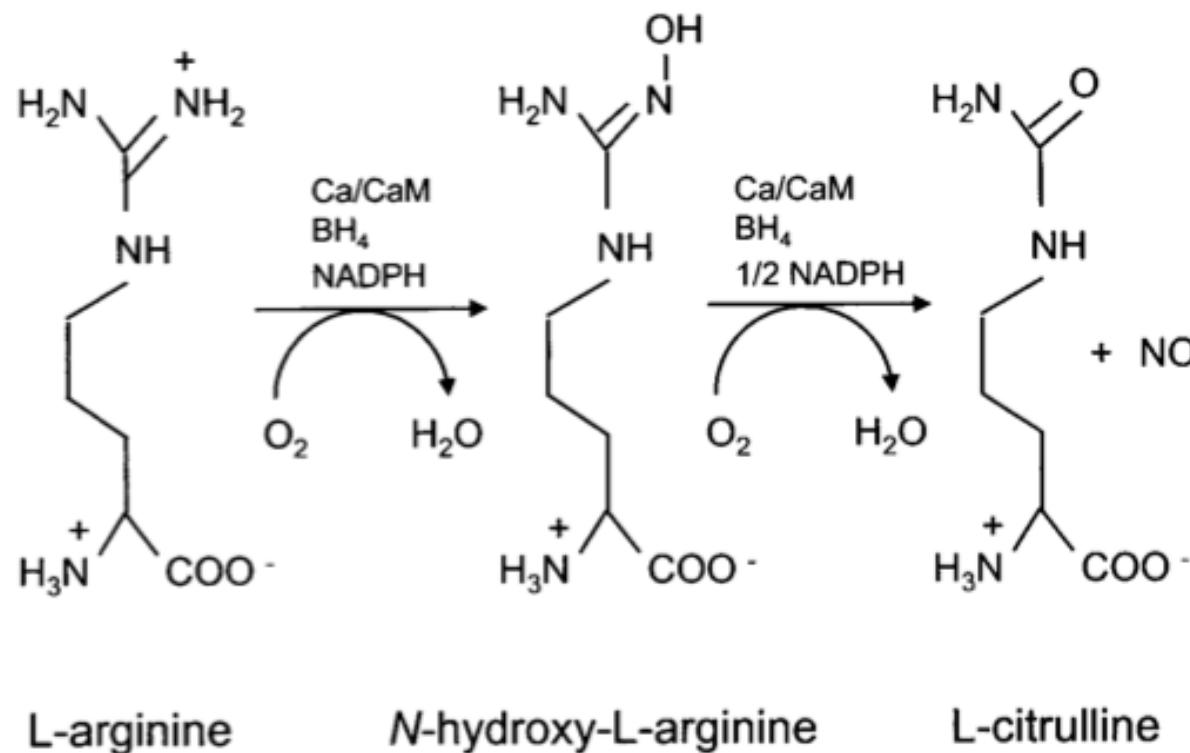
NOS-2
(125kD)

NOS-3
(135kD)

neuronal, brain, Type I-NOS; central and peripheral neurons, NANC neurons, islets, endometrium, skeletal muscle, etc.

inducible, Type II-NOS; macrophage, liver, smooth muscle, endothelium, heart, etc; effects of LPS, cytokines and glucocorticoids

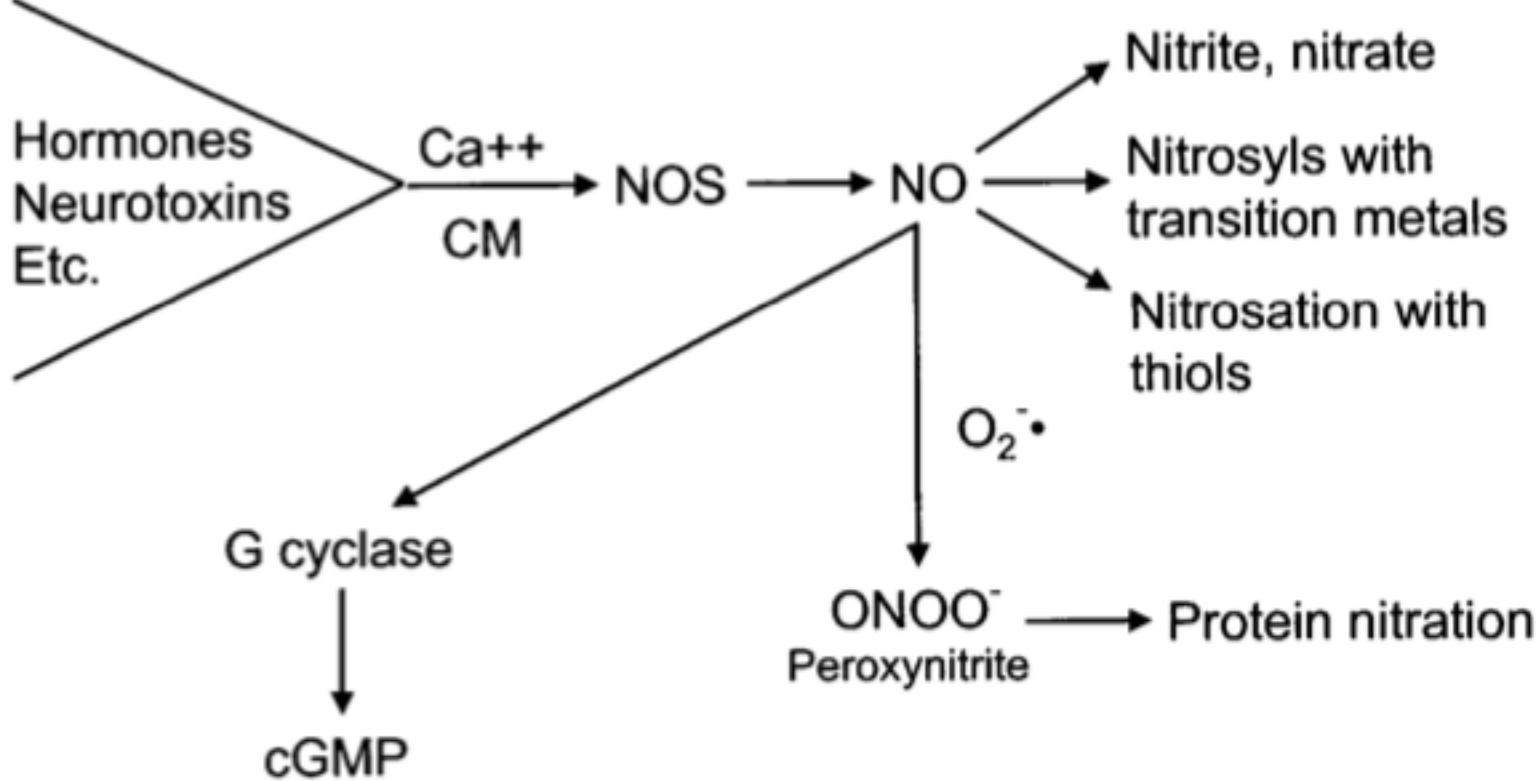
endothelial, Type III-NOS; endothelium, brain, heart, etc.; acylation, phosphorylation



L-arginine

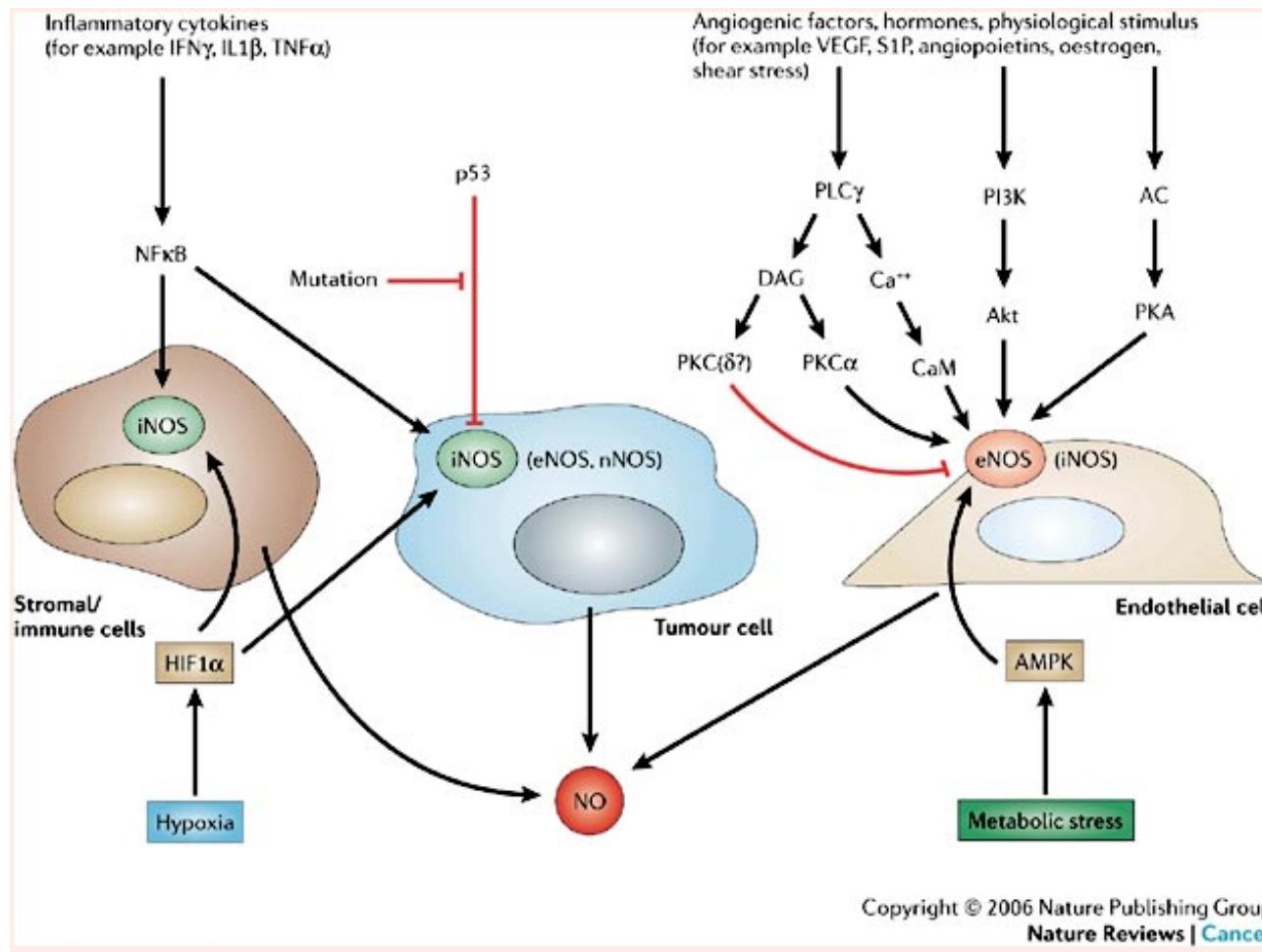
N-hydroxy-L-arginine

L-citrulline

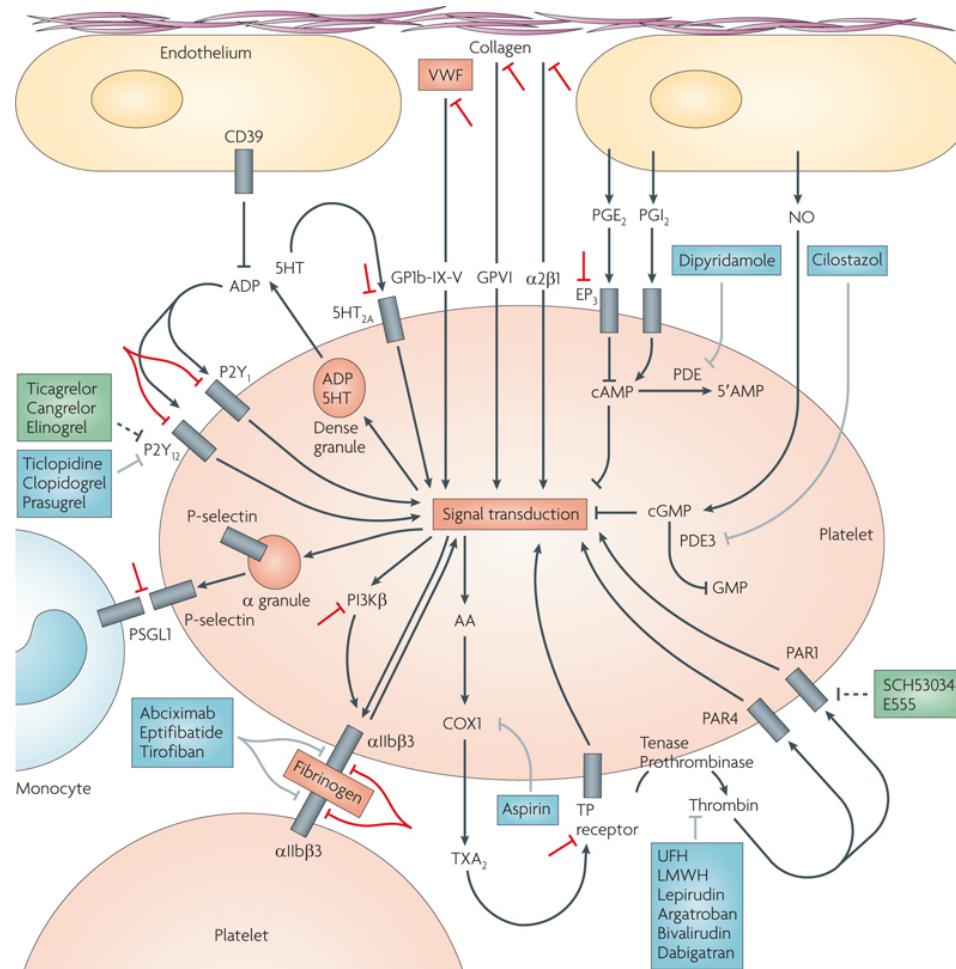


Relevance

Oncology



Platelet function



Erectile dysfunction/Pulmonary hypertension

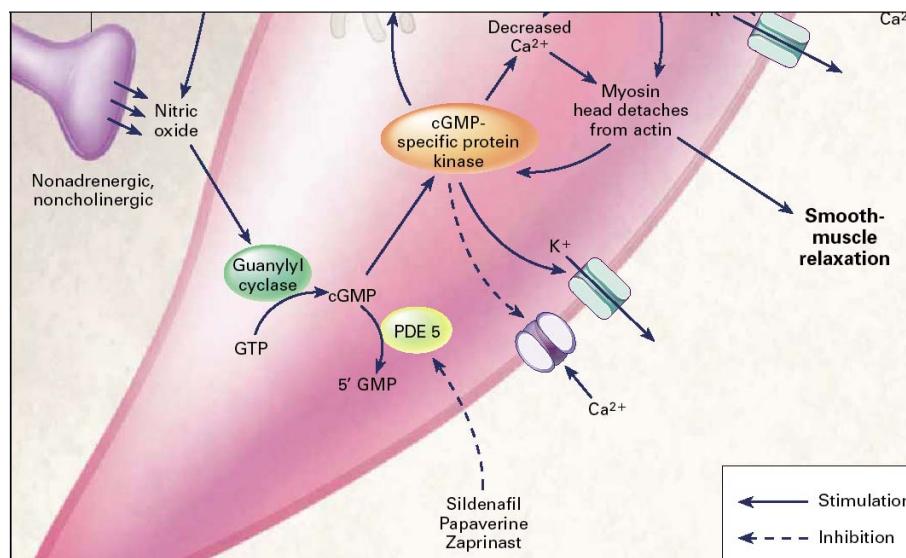
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THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

Jan. 9, 1992

NITRIC OXIDE AS A MEDIATOR OF RELAXATION OF THE CORPUS CAVERNOSUM IN RESPONSE TO NONADRENERGIC, NONCHOLINERGIC NEUROTRANSMISSION

JACOB RAJFER, M.D., WILLIAM J. ARONSON, M.D., PEGGY A. BUSH, B.S., FREDERICK J. DOREY, PH.D., AND LOUIS J. IGNARRO, PH.D.



T.Lue, NEJM 342:1802, 2000

