

Pentose Phosphate  
Pathway (PPP) or  
Hexose  
Monophosphate  
Shunt



Dr. Diala Abu-Hassan

## Oxidative reactions (irreversible)

## Nonoxidative reactions (reversible)

PPP

Reductive anabolic pathways

Nucleic acid biosynthesis

NADPH,  
H<sup>+</sup>

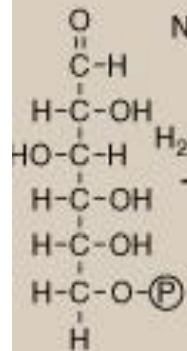
NADPH,  
H<sup>+</sup>

Ribose 5-phosphate

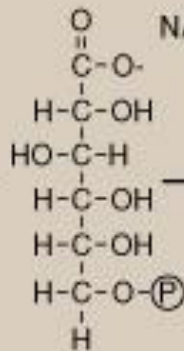
Sedoheptulose 7-phosphate

Erythrose 4-phosphate

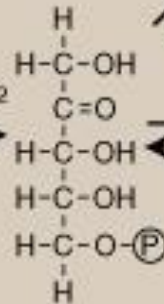
Xylulose 5-phosphate



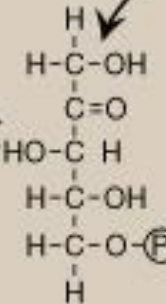
Glucose 6-phosphate



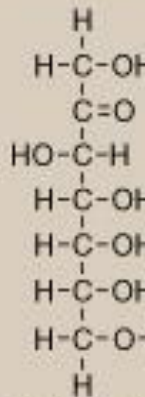
6-Phospho-gluconate



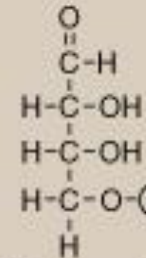
Ribulose 5-phosphate



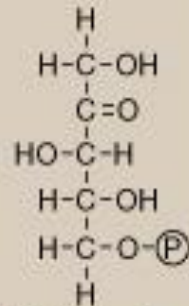
Xylulose 5-phosphate



Sedoheptulose 7-phosphate



Erythrose 4-phosphate



Xylulose 5-phosphate

Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate

Fructose 6-phosphate

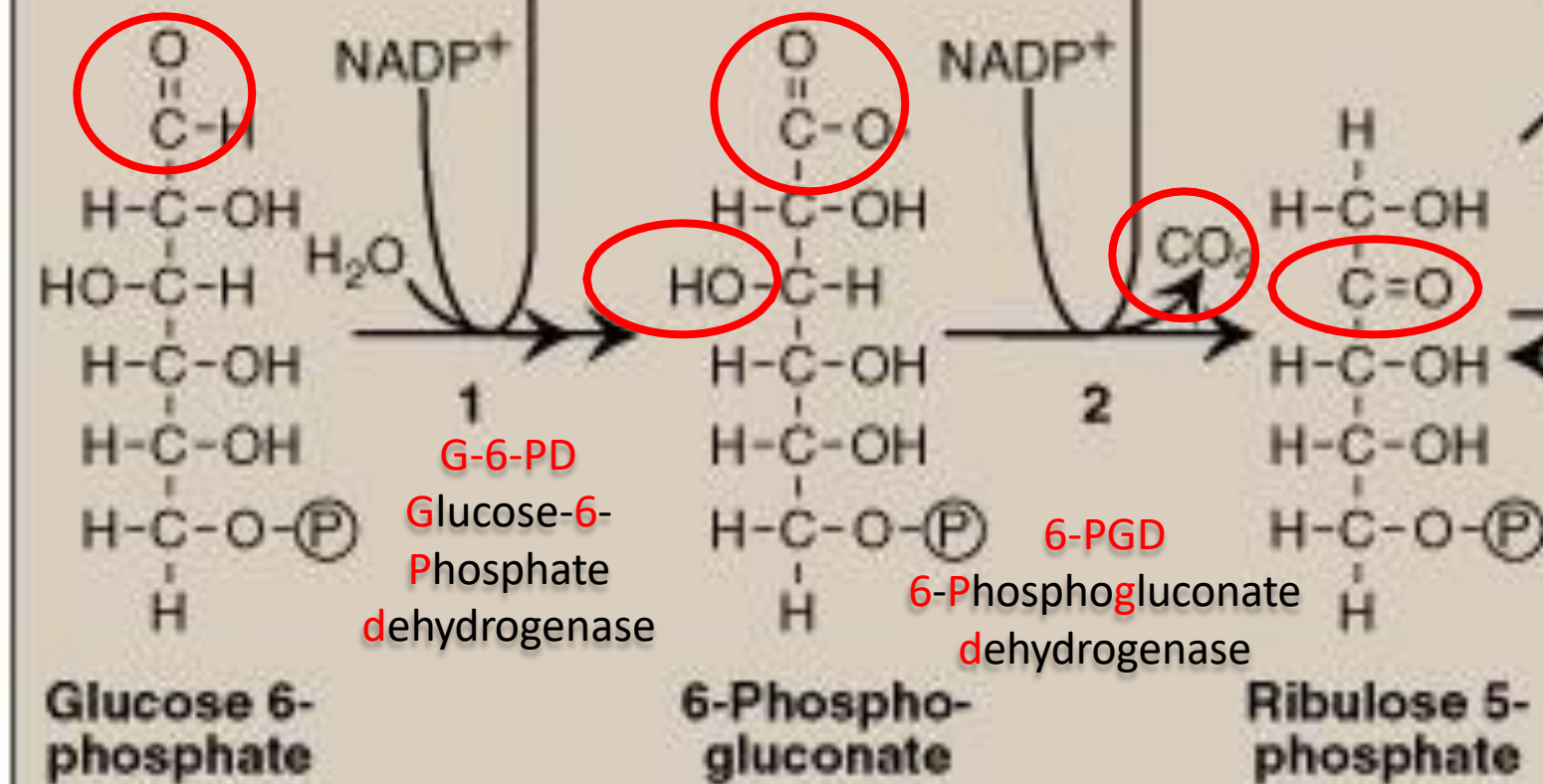
Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate

Glycolytic pathway

PPP

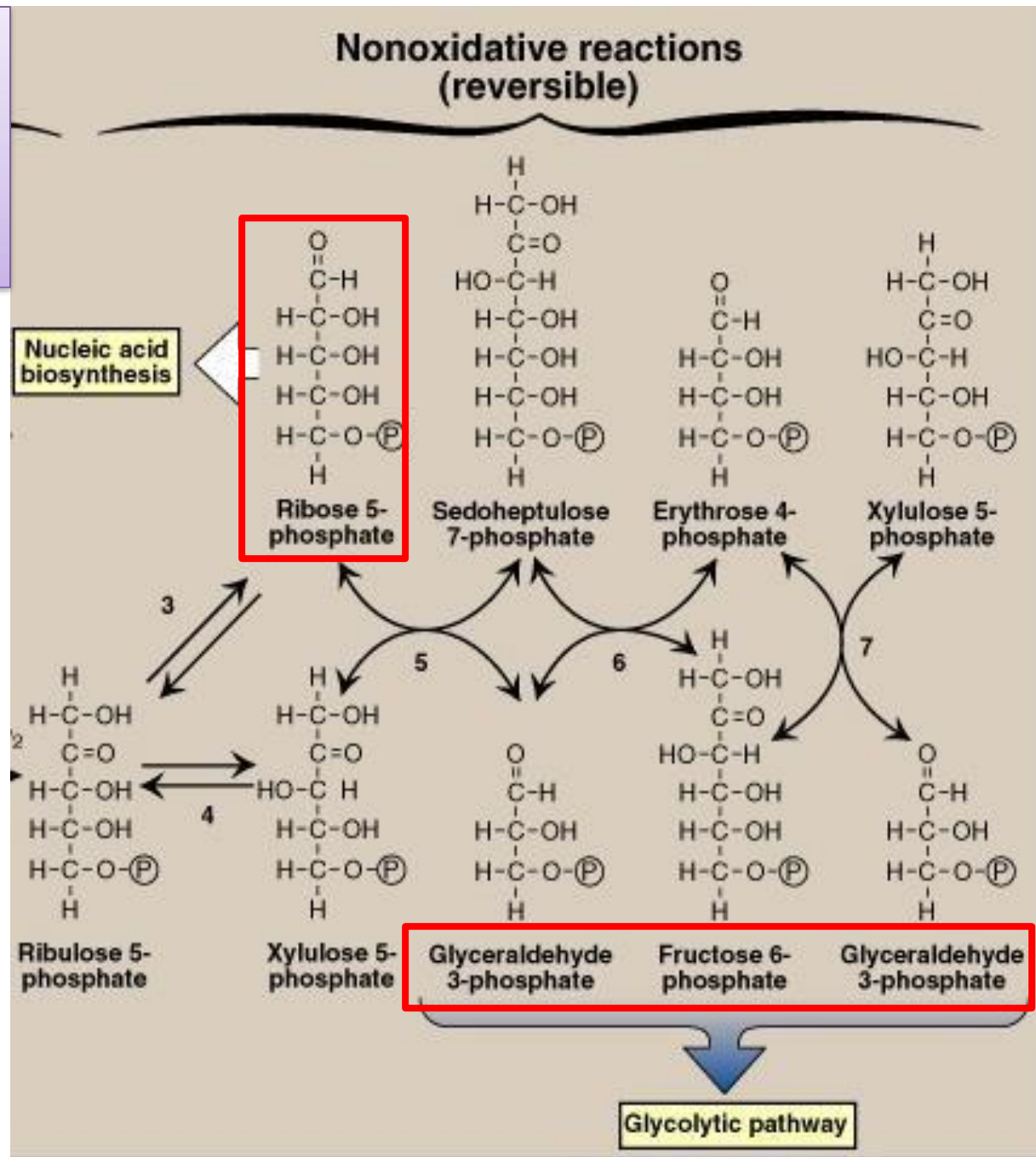
The oxidative  
irreversible  
phase

Insulin upregulates  
expression of the gene for  
G6PD, and flux through  
the pathway increases in  
the well fed state NADPH  
is an inhibitor

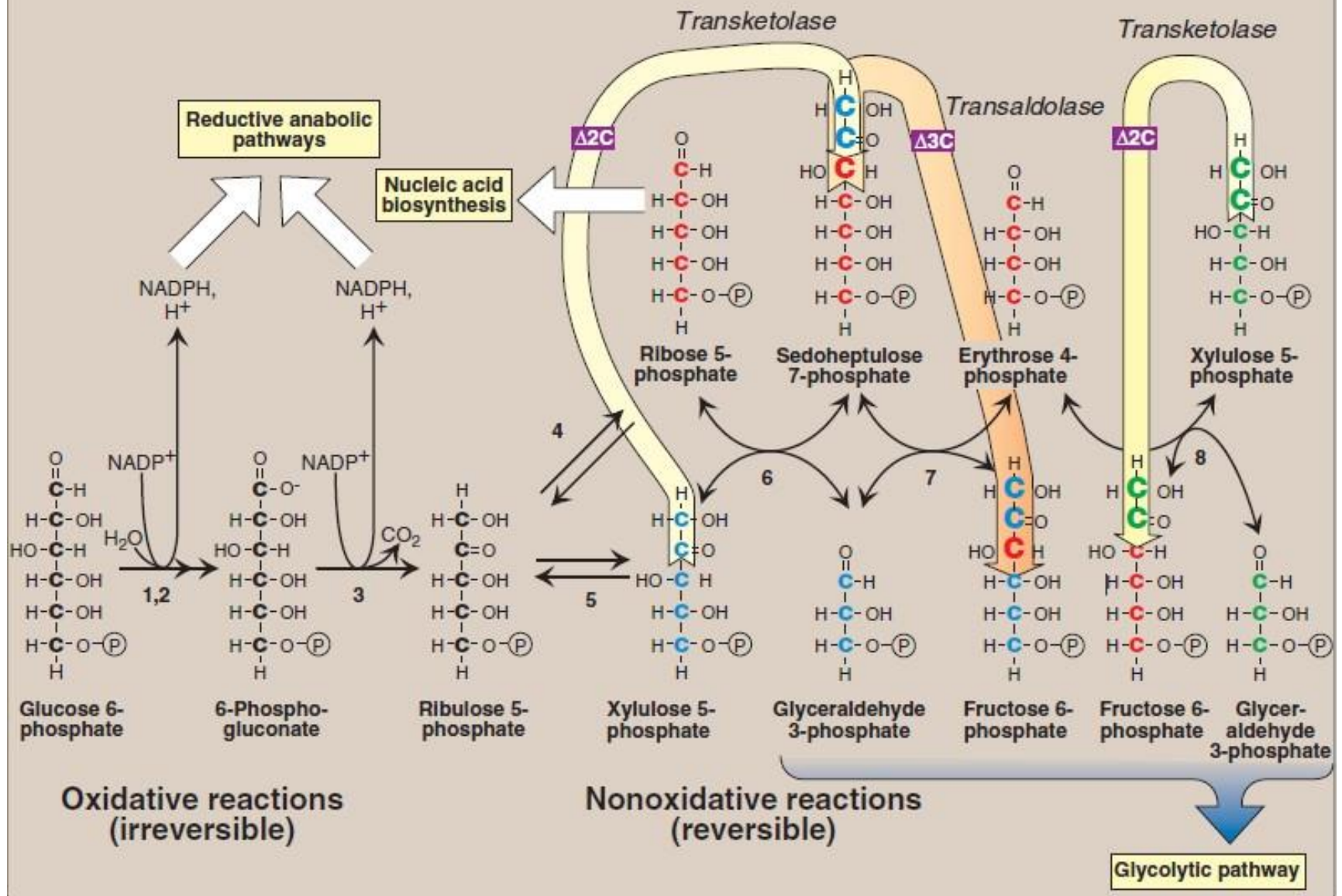


# PPP

## The non-oxidative reversible phase







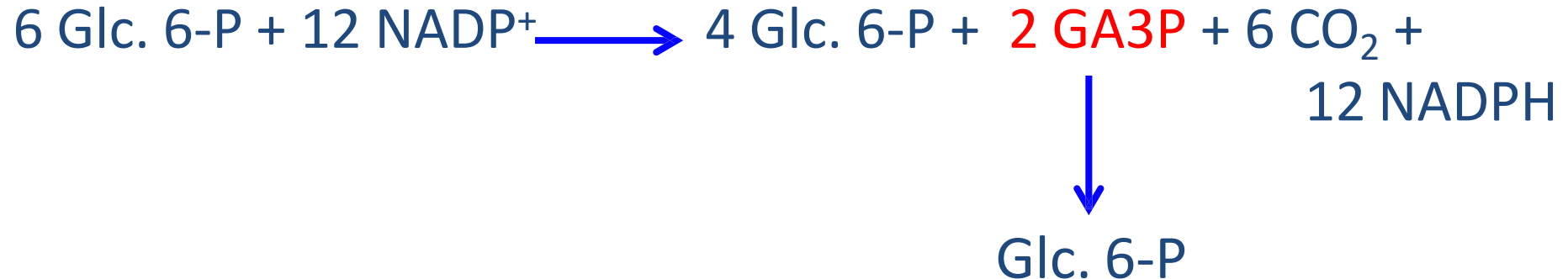
**Figure 13.2**

Reactions of the hexose monophosphate pathway. Enzymes numbered above are: 1,2) *glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase* and *6-phosphogluconolactone hydrolase*, 3) *6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase*, 4) *ribose 5-phosphate isomerase*, 5) *phosphopentose epimerase*, 6) and 8) *transketolase* (coenzyme: thiamine pyrophosphate), and 7) *transaldolase*.  $\Delta 2\text{C}$  = two carbons are transferred in *transketolase* reactions;  $\Delta 3\text{C}$  = three carbons are transferred in the *transaldolase* reaction.

# Summary of the non-oxidative reactions

- Reversible reactions
- Transfer of 2 or 3 carbon fragment
- Transketolase (2C), Transaldolase (3C)
- Ketose + aldose  $\rightleftharpoons$  ketose + aldose
- From ketose to aldose
- Rearrangement of sugars
- 3 pentose phosph.  $\rightleftharpoons$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ hexose phosph} + \\ 1 \text{ triose phosph.} \end{array} \right\}$

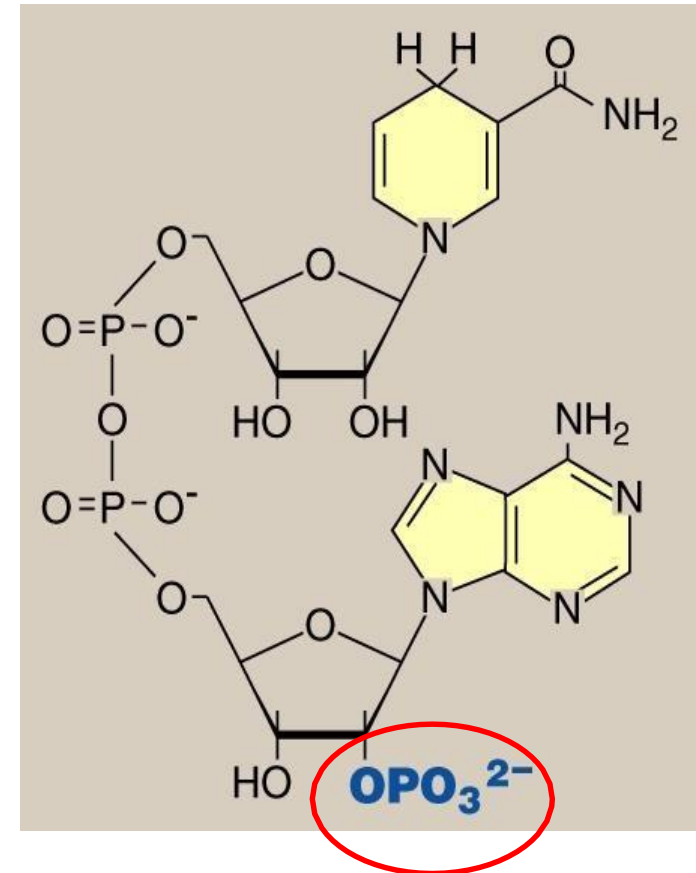
# Net Products of the 2 Phases



# Functions of the PPP

## 1. Production of NADPH

- NADPH dependent biosynthesis of fatty acids
  - Liver, lactating mammary glands, adipose tissue
- NADPH dependent biosynthesis of steroid hormones
  - Testes, ovaries, placenta, and adrenal cortex
- Maintenance of Glutathione (GSH) in the reduced form in the RBCs



OH in NADH

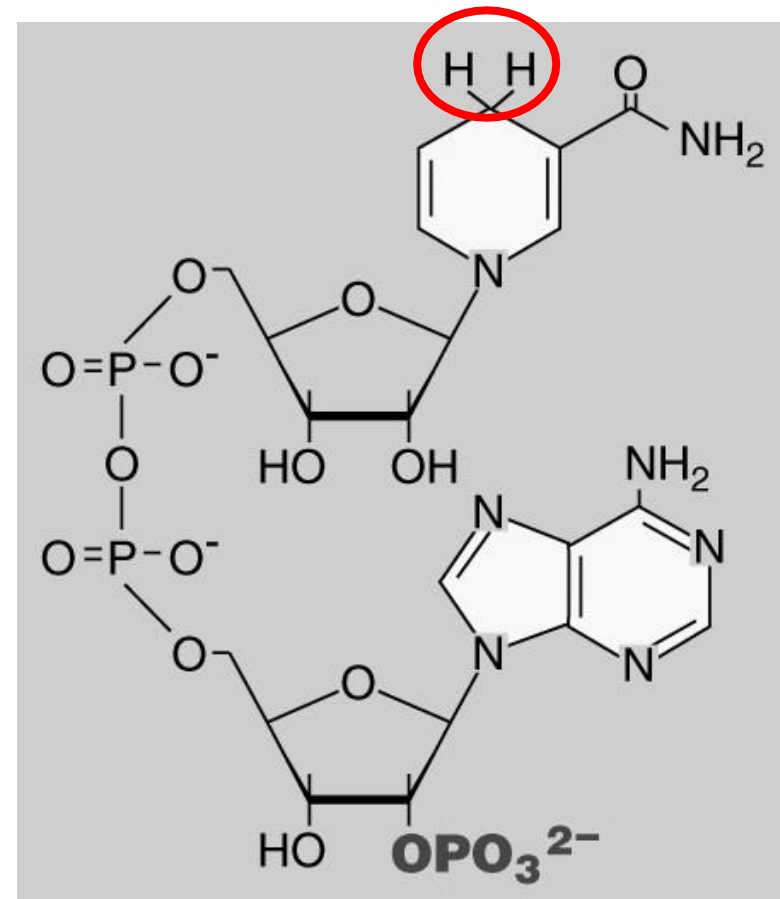
## 2. Metabolism of five-carbon sugars (Pentoses)

- Ribose 5-phosphate (nucleotide biosynthesis)
- Metabolism of pentoses



# NADPH vs NADH

- Enzymes can specifically use one NOT the other
- NADPH and NADH have different roles
- NADPH exists mainly in the reduced form (NADPH)
- NADH exists mainly in the oxidized form (NAD<sup>+</sup>)
- In the cytosol of hepatocyte
  - $\text{NADP}^+/\text{NADPH} \approx 1/10$
  - $\text{NAD}^+/\text{NADH} \approx 1000/1$



# What are the uses of NADPH?

## 1. Reductive Biosynthesis

- Some biosynthetic reactions require high energy electron donor to produce reduced product
- Examples: Fatty acids, Steroids ...

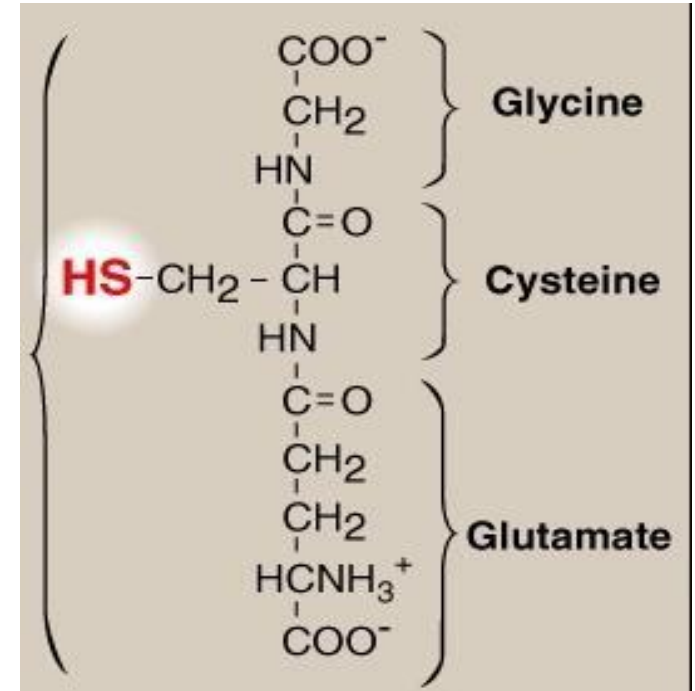
## 2. Reduction of Hydrogen Peroxide

- $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  one of a family of compounds known as Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)
- Other: Super oxide, hydroxyl radical,
- Formed continuously
  - As by products of aerobic metabolism
  - Interaction with drugs and environmental toxins
- Can cause chemical damage to proteins, lipids and DNA  
➔ cancer, inflammatory disease, cell death

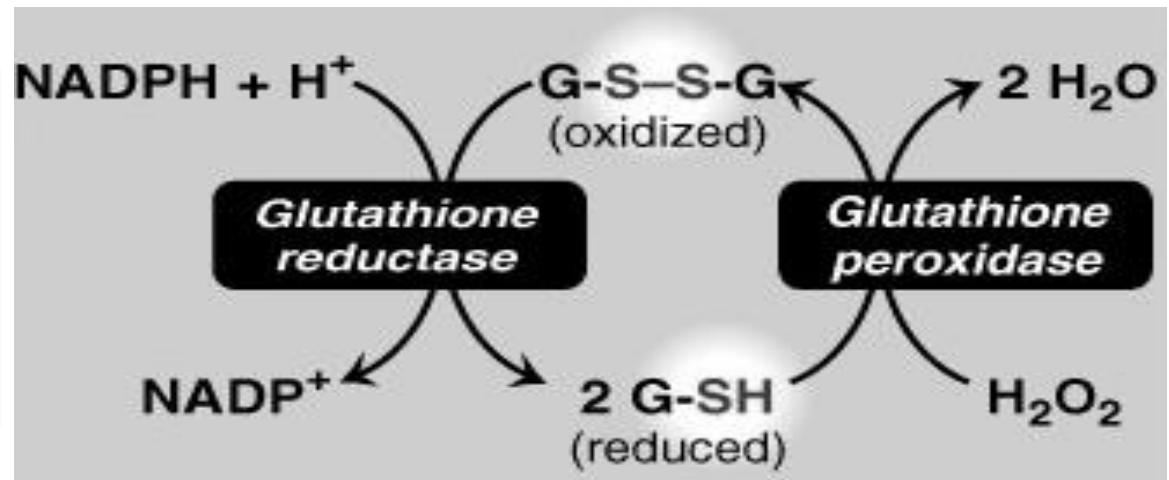
# Enzymes that catalyze antioxidant reactions

## 1. Glutathione peroxidase

- Glutathione is a reducing agent
- Tripeptide
- GSH is the reduced form
- Oxidation → two molecules joined by disulfide ( GSSG )
- $2 \text{ GSH} \longrightarrow \text{GSSG}$



Glutathione peroxidase is Selenium requiring Enzyme RBCs are totally dependent on PPP for NADPH production



# Enzymes that catalyze antioxidant reactions

## 2. Super oxide dismutase (**SOD**)



## 3. Catalase



## Anti oxidant chemicals

- Vitamin E, Vitamin C, Carotenoids

# Clinical Hint:

## G6PD Deficiency

- A common disease
- characterized by hemolytic anemia
- 200 – 400 millions individuals worldwide
- Highest prevalence in Middle East, S.E. Asia, Mediterranean
- X-linked inheritance
- > 400 different mutations
- Deficiency provides resistance to falciparum malaria



### Precipitating Factors

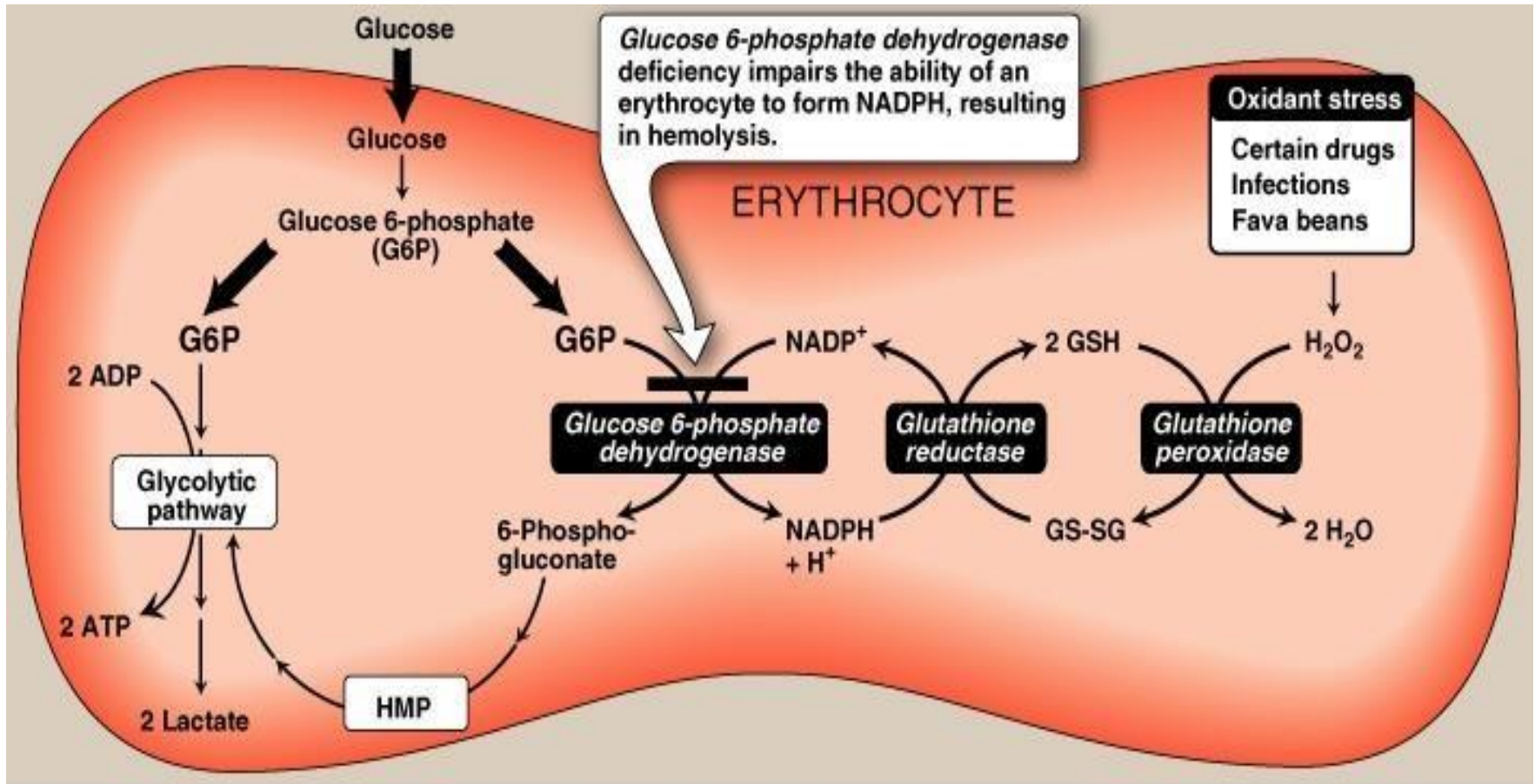
- Oxidant drugs
  - Antibiotics e.g. Sulfomethxazole
  - Antimalaria e.g. Primaquine
  - Antipyretics e.g. Acetanalid
- Favism due to vicine and covicine in fava beans in some G6PD deficient patients
- Infection
- Neonatal Jaundice



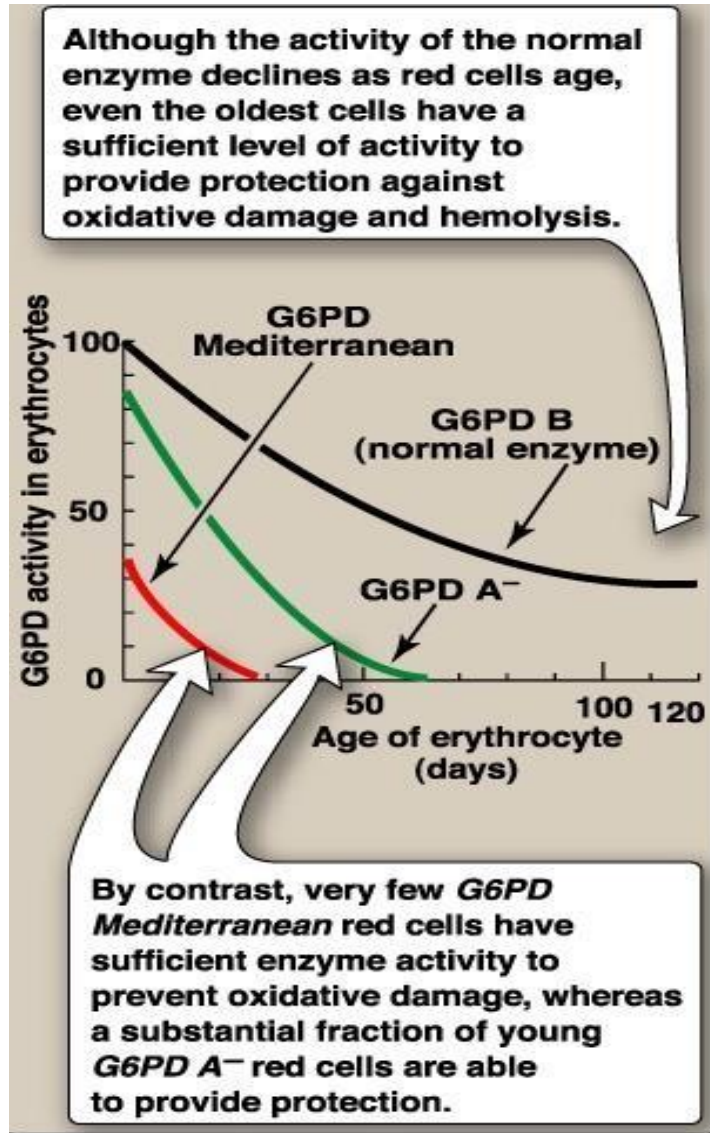
# Role of G6PD in red blood cells



GSH helps maintain the SH groups in proteins in the reduced state  
Oxidation → denaturation of proteins and rigidity of the cells



# Classification of G6PD Deficiency Variants



Class	Clinical symptoms	Residual enzyme activity
I	Very severe	<2%
II	Severe	<10%
III	Moderate	10–50%
IV	None	> 60%

- Wild type B
- Mediterranean Variant B<sup>-</sup> (Class II) : 563C→T
- African Variant A<sup>-</sup> (Class III); two point mutation
- Majority missense mutation, point mutation
- Large deletions or frame shift; Not Observed

# Sources of ROS in the cell

- Oxidases



Most oxidases produce  $H_2O_2$  (peroxidase)

Oxidases are confined to sites equipped with protective enzymes

- Oxygenases
  - Mono oxygenases (hydroxylases)
  - Dioxygenases in the synthesis of prostaglandins, thromboxanes, leukotrienes
- Coenzyme Q in Respiratory chain
- Respiratory Burst ( during phagocytosis)  $O_2^-$ ,  $OH^\bullet$ ,  $NO$ ,  $HOCl$ ,  $H_2O_2$
- Ionizing Radiation  $OH^\bullet$

# Cytochrome P450 Mono oxygenase

- Mixed function oxygenase
- Super family of structurally related enzymes



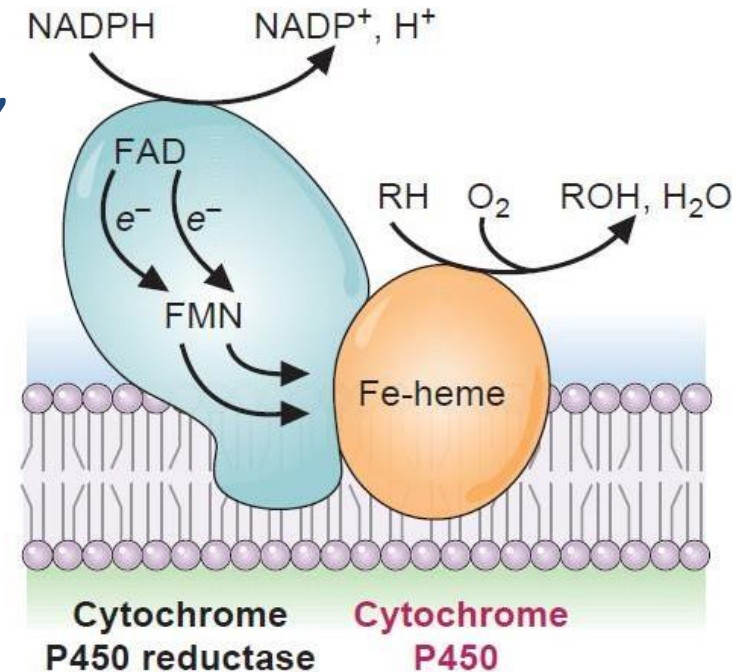
✓ Mitochondrial system

Synthesis by hydroxylation of steroids,  
bile acids, active form of Vit. D

✓ Microsomal system

Detoxification of foreign  
compounds Activation or  
inactivation of Drugs

Solubilization to facilitate excretion in  
urine or feces

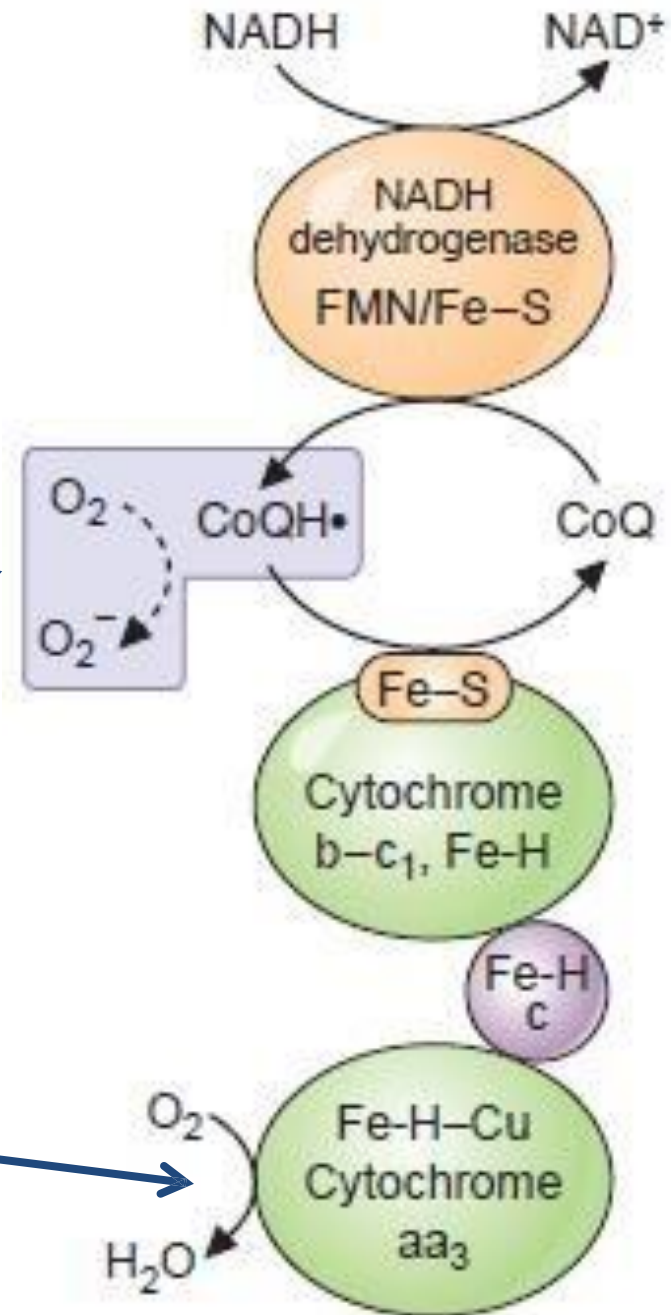


# Generation of $O_2^-$ by the respiratory chain

Accidental non-specific interaction

Major source of free radicals

Binuclear center prevents release of free  $O_2$  radicals





# Phagocytosis; the oxygen dependent pathway of microbial killing by WBCs

Rapid consumption of  $O_2$  that accompanies superoxide formation

**1** Attachment of the pathogen to a phagocytic cell

**2** Ingestion of the micro-organism

BACTERIUM

IgG

IgG receptor

Lysosome

Vacuole formation

Phagosome

Phagolysosome

**3** Destruction of the microorganism

$O_2$

NADPH

NADPH oxidase

NADP<sup>+</sup>

RESPIRATORY BURST

$O_2^-$

Spontaneously

$H_2O_2$

$Cl^-$

$Fe^{2+}$

$Fe^{3+}$

Myelo-peroxidase

Heme containing

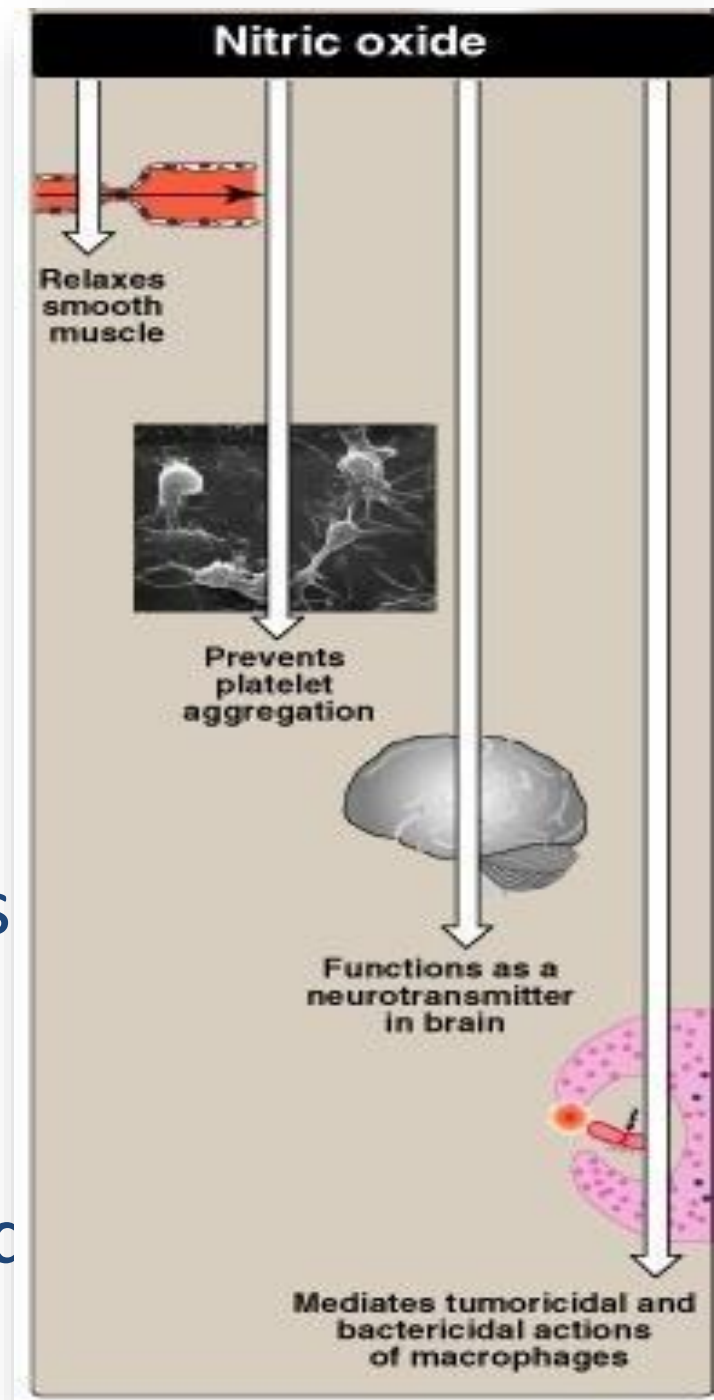
Hypochlorous acid



$H_2O_2$  can also be reduced to water by catalase or glutathione peroxidase

# NO and **R**eactive **N**itrogen **O**xygen **S**pecies (**RNOS**)

- Diffuses readily
- Essential for life and toxic
- Neurotransmitter , vasodilator
- ↓ Platelet aggregation
- At high concentration combines with  $O_2^{\bullet -}$  or  $O_2$  to form **RNOS**
- **RNOS** are involved in neurodegenerative diseases and inflammatory diseases



# NO Synthesis

## NO Synthase

Three isoforms

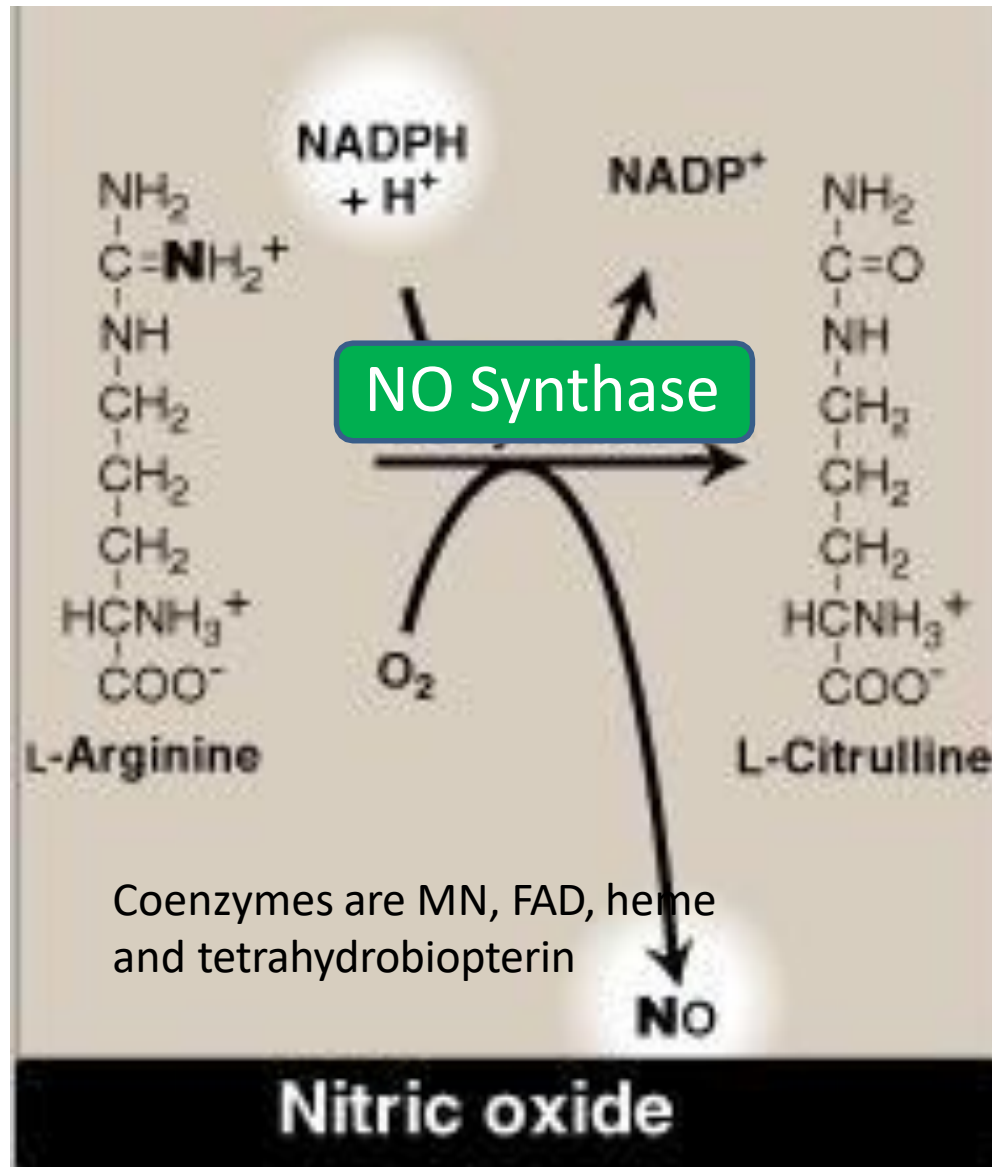
nNOS neural

eNOS endothelial

Both are constitutive

iNOS inducible  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
independent

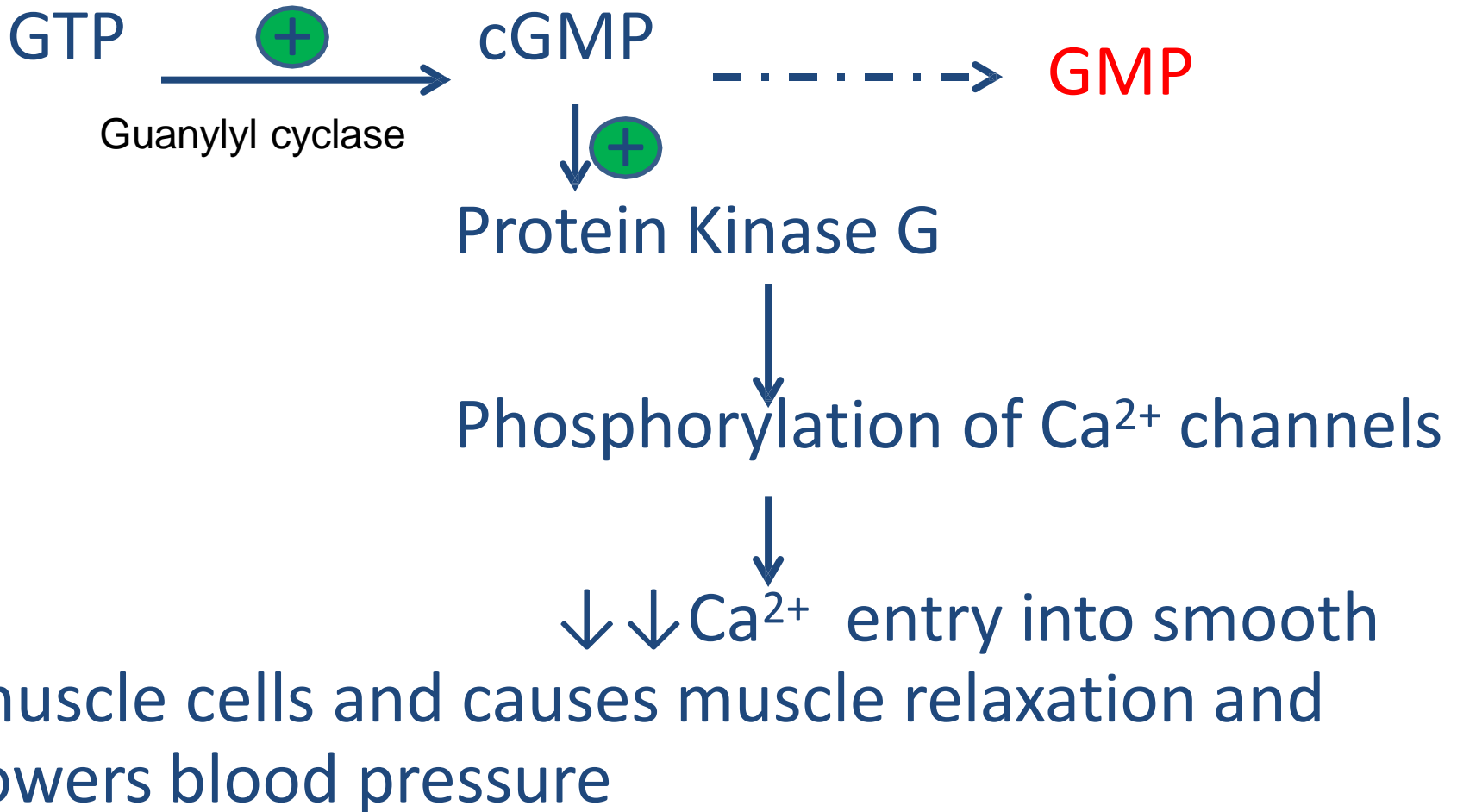
Induction of transcription  
in many cells of immune  
system  $\rightarrow \uparrow \uparrow \text{NO} \rightarrow$   
RNOS to kill invading  
bacteria



# Action of NO on vascular endothelium

Synthesis by endothelial cells  smooth muscle

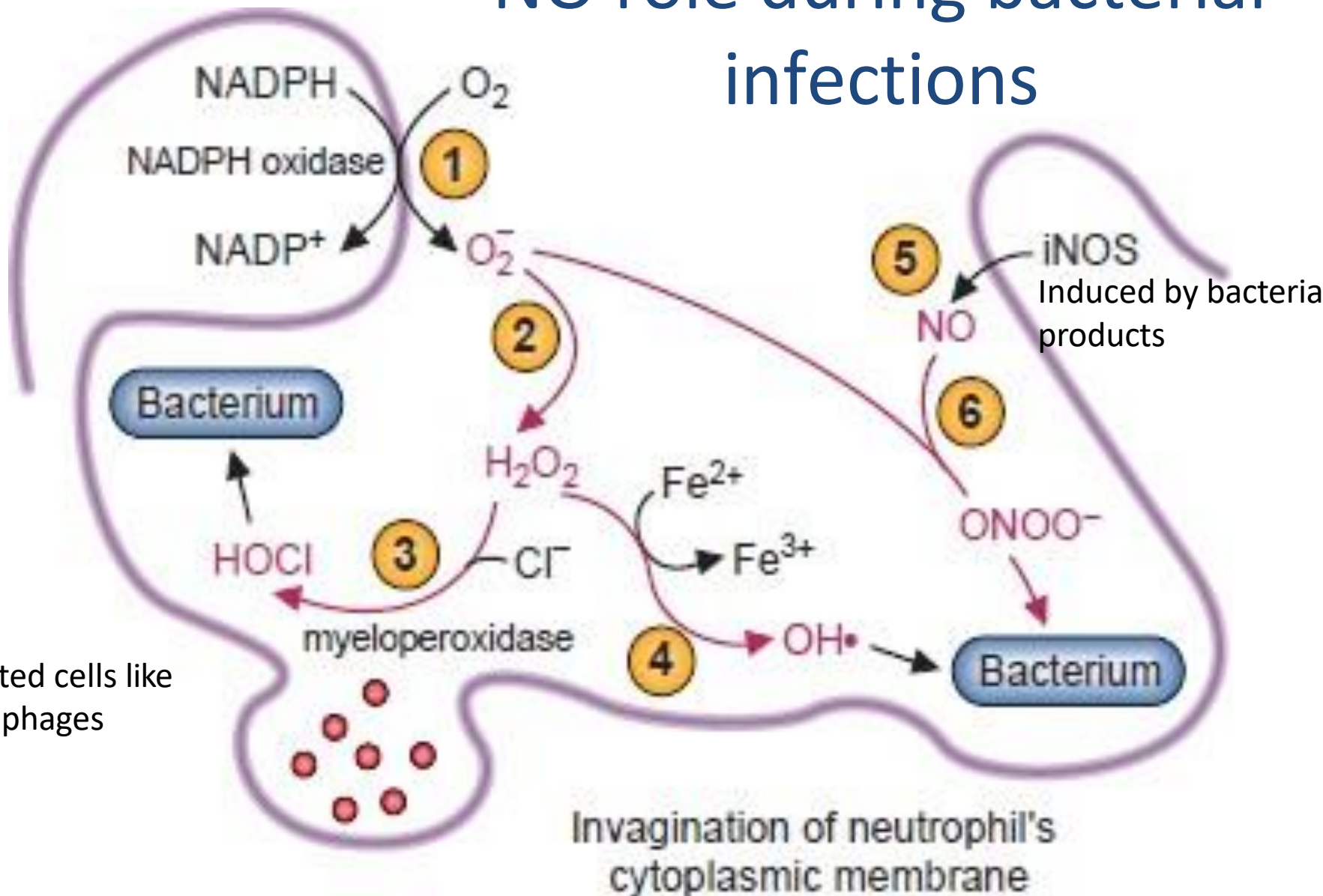
NO





# NO role during bacterial infections

Activated cells like  
macrophages



Hypochlorous acid