

Nitric oxide is a versatile radical that fulfils many physiological functions in the human vasculature, in neuronal signal transduction and in the immune system. In the last decade, research received a fresh and powerful impulse from the discovery that NO acts as a modulator of gene expression and apoptosis.

Recent years have seen a further tremendous step forward: It was the discovery that endogenous compounds like nitrite, organic nitrates, S-nitrosothiols and dinitrosyl-iron complexes can fulfil one or more of the physiological roles of NO. These compounds are connected to the pool of NO via chemical reactions that proceed *in vivo* in cells and tissues.

The purpose of this book is to review the current status of knowledge about such compounds showing NO-like activity, and to collect the available information in a very compact form. Our aim was to make the book accessible and readable for clinicians, biochemists, biologists, and biomedical researchers from all disciplines. Up to date reference lists will help the readers to locate more specialized literature and consult the original sources.



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