



Nitric Oxide: Physiology, Pharmacology, and Therapeutic Applications

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Message from the Guest Editor

Nitric oxide, a gaseous free radical, is one of the ten smallest molecules found in nature. NO regulates vascular relaxation, controls inflammation, and suppresses expression of pro-inflammatory mediators in mast cells, macrophages, and vascular smooth muscles. NO regulates blood flow and modulates platelet and leukocyte activation, adhesion, and aggregation. The role of NO in cancer biology has been perplexing, as both tumor promotion and inflammatory activities as well as anti-tumor and anti-inflammatory properties have been described. This paradox has been explained in terms of a dual effect that is dependent on the local flux. In 1992, the journal *Science* referred to NO as the “Molecule of the Year”. The important role that NO plays in human biology was recognized in 1998 when the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine was awarded to Robert F. Furchgott, Louis J. Ignarro, and Ferid Murad for establishing NO as a messenger molecule.

This Special Issue invites state-of-the-art reviews and original research articles to help advance our understanding of the role that NO plays in physiology and pharmacology, which may lead to applications against various diseases.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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