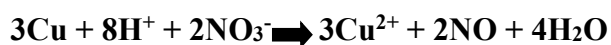


Introduction...

1. Discovery of nitric oxide:

Nitric oxide (NO) is a versatile gaseous molecule that relays some major roles in cell signaling, stress response as well as in immunity. This novel molecule was first reported by a Belgian scientist J. B. van Helmont, which was prepared in his lab in 1648. Later in 1671, one of the greatest physicists, Robert Boyle also reported nitric oxide as 'volatile nitre' in the air, which supports combustion. After a century, Sir Joseph Priestley first time characterized the chemical properties of nitric oxide in 1772. He generated the gas by the action of 'spirit of nitre' (now known as nitric acid) on copper and named as 'nitrous air' and reported its spontaneous reactivity with 'common air' to generate a soluble brown gas (now known as nitrogen dioxide).



2. Chemical and physical properties of nitric oxide:

Nitric oxide (nitrogen monoxide, NO) is a molecule of interest for physicists, chemists and biologists for over 200 years; thus, a huge database of information is already present. NO is an uncharged, small lipophilic molecule contains total odd number (8 bonding and 3 antibonding electrons, i.e. in total 11) of electrons, thus it contains an unpaired electron [1]. The oxidation state of nitrogen (N) atom in NO is +2 and it is second of the oxides in which the oxidation states of nitrogen ranges from +1 to +5 (N_2O^{+1} ; NO^{+2} ; $\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^{+3}$; NO_2 and $\text{N}_2\text{O}_4^{+4}$; $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^{+5}$). The bond order of NO is around 2.5 and the bond length of N-O is 1.15 Å. Though it is one of the smallest stable molecule, but the presence of the unpaired electron helps it to react only with those molecules which contain unpaired d electron/s [2]. Thus, it can easily react with oxygen (O_2) and reactive oxygen species like O_2^- . It can also react with transition metals containing *d* orbital like iron (Fe) present in different proteins e.g. NO can rapidly react with oxyferrohemoglobin and ferriheme can be formed [1].

3. Biosynthesis of nitric oxide:

Biosynthesis of NO is mainly dependent on the activity of nitric oxide synthases (NOSs) [3]. But NOS-independent NO synthesis also takes place *in vivo* [4]. Hence, biosynthesis of NO is mainly classified into two groups: NOS-dependent and NOS-independent NO synthesis.

3.1. Nitric oxide synthase-dependent nitric oxide synthesis:

Nitric oxide synthases [NOSs] (EC1.14.13.39) are member of cytochrome P450 enzyme family [5]. NOSs utilize L-arginine as the substrate [3-5]. NO is formed as the byproduct, during the conversion of L-arginine to L-citrulline. It is a two-step reaction. The first step is the formation of the intermediate N ω -hydroxy-L-arginine (NHA) from L-arginine and in the next step, NHA is converted to NO and citrulline. The reaction has a 1:1 L-citrulline/NO product stoichiometry [6].

3.1.1. Structure and mechanism of action of nitric oxide synthases:

Nitric oxide synthase is a homodimeric enzyme. Each of the monomers contain two domains: reductase and oxygenase domain [3, 7]. NOSs need cofactors like flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD), flavin mono-nucleotide (FMN), tetrahydrobiopterin (BH₄), calmodulin and haem for its activity [8, 9]. The carboxyl terminal reductase domain provides the binding sites for nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate hydrogen (NADPH) (providing reducing energy), FAD, FMN and calmodulin whereas amino terminal oxygenase domain provides binding site for BH₄ and cysteinyl thiolate-ligated haem group [3, 7]. This haem group contributes to the functional dimer formation [10]. The activity of NOS is dependent on the dimer formation. Zinc (Zn) is another factor that involves in the formation of functional dimeric NOSs [11]. The binding of calmodulin is regulated by the intracellular calcium (Ca²⁺) ion concentration [12, 13]. Each of the monomers of NOSs, are capable of transferring electrons from reduced NADPH to FAD and FMN but has a very limited capability to reduce molecular O₂ to superoxide [14]. Electrons transfer from reductase domain to oxygenase domain only becomes possible after the formation of the dimer. Monomers of NOSs are unable to bind BH₄ and L-arginine. Hence, NO production can't be catalyzed by monomers [15]. In the functional form of NOSs, electrons are transferred from the reductase domain of the one monomer to oxygenase domain of the another monomer and consecutively two oxidation reactions take place to form NO and L-citrulline from the L-arginine via the generation of NHA as the intermediate [16,17] **[Fig. 1]**.

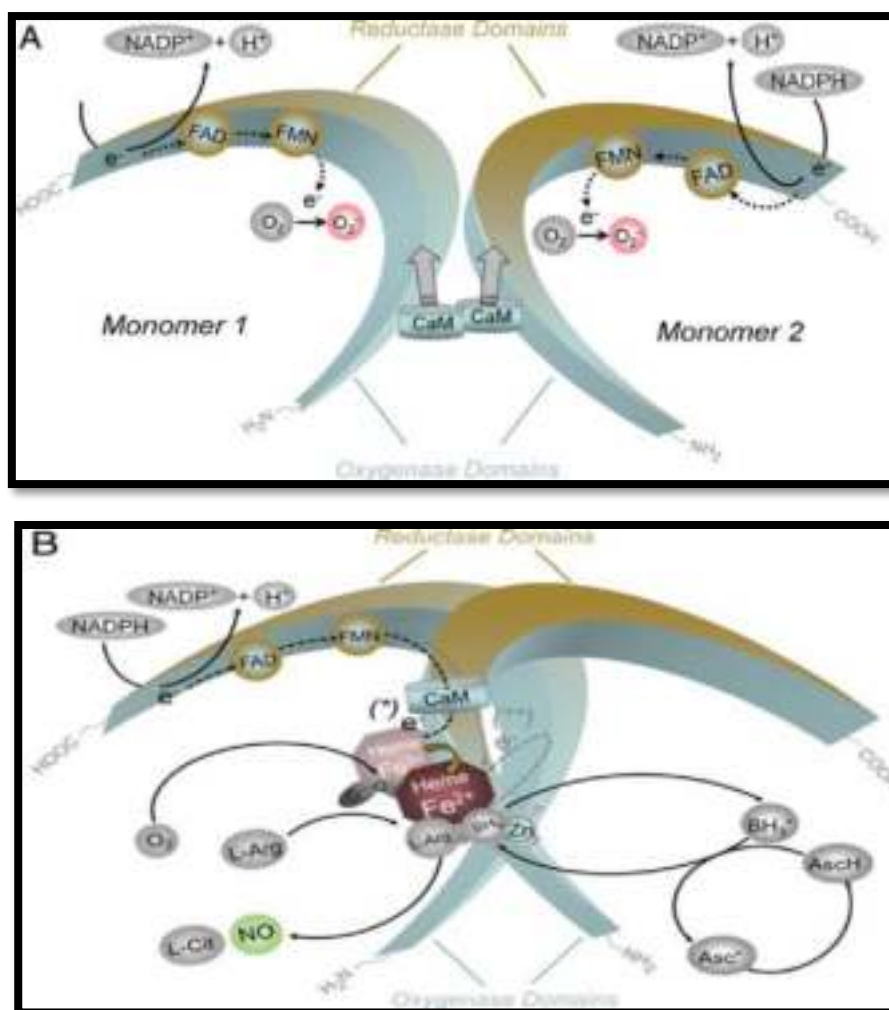


Fig. 1 Schematic representation of mechanism of action of nitric oxide synthases. (Adapted from Förstermann *et al.* 2012)

3.1.2. Mammalian nitric oxide synthases (NOSs):

Three isoforms of NOSs are present in mammals, referred to as neuronal ‘n’NOS (NOS1), inducible ‘i’NOS (NOS2) and endothelial ‘e’NOS (NOS3). These NOSs play important roles in different pathophysiological functions. On the basis of the gene expression, isoforms of NOSs can be classified into two groups: constitutive (NOS1, NOS3) and inducible (NOS2) [7]. Localization of the isoforms is varied and isoforms have diverse roles in the regulation of different cellular processes [18-20].

3.1.2.1. Nitric oxide synthase 1 (NOS1):

nNOS is constitutively expressed in both the immature and mature neurons of the brain tissue and its activity is tightly regulated by the concentration of Ca^{2+} and calmodulin [21-26]. Immunohistochemistry analysis has revealed that nNOS is mostly present in

the spinal cord, adrenal cells, ganglia cells and vascular smooth muscle [18]. The subcellular localization of nNOS may be associated with its diverse functions. Presence of post-synaptic density protein, discs-large, zona occludens -1 (PDZ) domain is one of the significant characteristics of nNOS [27]. The PDZ domain may interact directly with the PDZ domain of another protein which results in the formation of dimer [27, 28]. Proteins containing PDZ, are believed to participate in different signal transduction pathways. The interaction of nNOS with the membrane is facilitated by the PDZ domain that may result in the alteration of NO signaling. nNOS also plays an important role in the synaptic signaling events [29, 30], like participation in the regulation of the long-term synaptic transmission [31]. NO produced by the activity of nNOS in nitrergic nerves can act as an unorthodox neurotransmitter that may stimulate NO-sensitive guanylyl cyclase in its effector cells, causing reduction in the tone of the different smooth muscles like blood vessels [18]. Inhibition in the activity of nNOS in the hypothalamus and medulla, causes systemic hypertension [32].

3.1.2.2. Nitric oxide synthase 2 (NOS2):

The expression of NOS2 is induced by the cytokines, antigens like bacterial lipopolysaccharide and other agents. Although this enzyme was first identified in macrophages, but reports suggest that iNOS has been expressed in all cell types in the presence of the appropriate agent [18, 33]. Interestingly, the expression of NOS2 is not dependent on the concentration of the intracellular Ca^{2+} [7]. The activity of this enzyme persists for a long time (many hours) after the immunological stimulation [34]. The expression of iNOS is regulated by the mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) family of protein kinases [extracellular signal-regulated kinase, c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK), p38] and protein kinase B [35, 36]. NO, produced by the activity of iNOS in the cells, shows cytotoxic effect on the pathogens by interfering with the structure and function of the DNA and protein of the target cells [7, 37]. iNOS stimulated hepatocytes can use NO to eliminate malaria pathogens [37]. iNOS derived NO can also induce neuronal death due to inhibition of cytochrome oxidase, causing excitotoxicity [37, 38]. Large amount of NO produced by the iNOS play a significant role in the development of septic shock [39]. The fall in blood pressure is also indirectly mediated by excess production of NO by the iNOS in the vascular wall [40].

3.1.2.3. Nitric oxide Synthase 3 (NOS3):

NOS3 is mainly localized in the plasma membrane caveolae of the endothelial cells [41]. But this enzyme is also found in neurons of the brain, cardiac myocytes and platelets [18, 33]. Intracellular concentration of Ca^{2+} is very important for the activity of the eNOS. Ca^{2+} induces the binding affinity of the calmodulin (CaM) to the enzyme [42]. The bradykinin (BK) B2 receptor, a G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR), regulates the complex formation of Ca^{2+} /CaM [43]. The regulation of eNOS is also dependent on the protein-protein interactions. Heat shock protein 90 (hsp90) has a positive allosteric modulation effect on the activity of eNOS [44]. Translocation of eNOS from caveolae to other intracellular compartment like golgi bodies, is influenced by the activity of 'nitric oxide synthase interacting protein' (NOSIP) and 'nitric oxide synthase trafficking inducer' (NOSTRIN) [45]. Phosphorylation is another important factor for the stimulation of the eNOS. Specific tyrosine (Tyr), serine (Ser), threonine (Thr) residues of eNOS can be phosphorylated, activating the enzyme without depending on the concentration of Ca^{2+} [46, 47]. The best model to study such stimulation is fluid shear stress [47]. The inhibition of the activity of eNOS is mediated by the interaction of scaffolding domain of Cav-1(Caveolin-1) with the caveolin binding motif on eNOS [48]. eNOS stimulates soluble guanylyl cyclase and cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) in smooth muscle cells [49]. eNOS-derived NO decreases the expression of the genes involved in atherogenesis by inhibiting leucocyte adhesion to the vessel wall via interfering with the adhesion molecule CD11/CD18 (cluster of differentiation) [50]. NO, generated from eNOS, prevents cellular apoptosis and plays an important role in post-natal angiogenesis. Dysfunction of eNOS results in the development of cardiovascular disease [51].

3.1.3. Invertebrate nitric oxide synthase:

Like mammals, NOS-derived NO plays an important role in bio-signaling in invertebrates [52-54]. In 1991, Radomsky *et al.* gave a clear idea about the presence of NO-mediated signaling as well as NOS activity in invertebrates like horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) [52]. After this initial work, several studies reported the presence of NOS in invertebrates. In 1993, Elofsson *et al.* reported NADPH-diaphorase activity in osfradia, buccal ganglia, central nervous system (CNS) neurons, and in some peripheral organs [53]. In 1995, Jacklet *et al.* reported the cotransmitter activity of NO

in histaminergic synapses of *Aplysia* sp. [54]. In 1996, Moroz *et al.* reported the presence of Ca²⁺-independent but calmodulin dependent NOS activity in mollusk species [55]. Domenech and Muñoz-Chápuli hypothesized that all the three isoforms of mammalian NOS may be derived from a single invertebrate ancestral gene through double whole genomic duplication that happened at the origin of vertebrates [56]. NOS-derived NO is an important component in defending invertebrates against pathogens. NOS from *Anopheles stephensi* (AsNOS) can be expressed inducibly in *Plasmodium*-infected mosquitoes. Inducible NOS activity is also found in *Rhodnius prolixus* when infected by *T. rangeli*, a South American Stercoraria trypanosome, pathogenic for vectors [57, 58]. NOS activity in invertebrates is also upregulated against the bacterial infection in invertebrates. It has been found that the expression of NOS is upregulated in response to systemic infection with *Escherichia coli* and *Micrococcus luteus* in *Anopheles gambiae*. Inhibition of the activity of NOS or lower NO production results in higher mortality rate of mosquito when infected by pathogenic bacteria, suggesting defensive role of NO in invertebrates [59].

3.1.4. Bacterial nitric oxide synthase (bNOS):

NOS activity is also present in prokaryotes. NOS activity in bacteria was first reported in *Nocardia* species, designated as NOS_{noc} [60] but till now none of the *Nocardia* sp. genome showed similar NOS sequence to that of the animal NOSs. Genome sequencing analysis first brought the clear evidence for the presence of NOS-like protein in bacteria which revealed that the bacterial ORFs (Open reading frames) coding for that protein with maximum sequence similarity to mammalian NOS_{ox} [61]. Key catalytic residues of NOS, are highly conserved from prokaryotes to eukaryotes. drNOS (NOS from *Deinococcus radiodurans*, a radiation-resistant bacteria) is the first NOS-like protein which was cloned, expressed and purified using *E. coli* as the host. The existence of NOS_{ox}-like proteins are mainly found in gram positive bacteria (*Bacillus* sp., *Deinococcus* sp., *Rhodococcus* sp. etc.) but gram negative bacteria like cyanobacterium also contains NOS like sequence [62]. A ~100 kD protein, found in *Rhodococcus* sp., was recognized by a human anti-iNOS antibody. In addition to it, the activity of the protein was reduced by mammalian NOS inhibitor and increased by BH₄, indicating the presence of NOS-like protein [63]. Unlike mammalian NOS, most of the bacterial NOSs only have an oxygenase domain but they can form dimer, indicating presence of different mechanism of dimerization [64, 65]. However, both the oxygenase domain

and reductase domain are present in *Sorangium cellulosum*, indicating both eukaryotes and prokaryotes may have evolved from a common ancestor [66]. NADPH-utilizing proteins like flavodoxin reductase/flavodoxin, transfers electrons to the bacterial NOS and support the production of NO [67, 68]. Bacterial NOS has essential role in cell physiology. It was found that bNOS can regulate the electron transfer to maintain membrane bioenergetics in *Staphylococcus aureus*, a human pathogen. This process is very important for the nasal colonization and resistance from membrane-targeting antibiotics like daptomycin in *Staphylococcus aureus* [69]. Thus, bNOS becomes one of the important drug target to inhibit the growth of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*(MRSA). It was reported that potent bNOS inhibitors like NG-nitro-L-arginine (L-NNA), can enhance MRSA killing [70]. Aminoquinolines, another compound, was found to inhibit the activity of bNOS by binding with the unique hydrophobic patch of bNOS [71].

3.1.5. Fungal nitric oxide synthase:

Orthologue of mammalian NOS is not found in fungus or yeast till today. However, some reports suggest that NOS-like proteins are present in different yeasts and fungi. In 1998, Kanadia *et al.* reported the presence of a NOS-like activity protein of 60 kD in the crude extract of yeast extract, peptone dextrose (YPD) grown *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cells. The protein was detected by western blot using mouse monoclonal anti-neuronal NOS. That protein was activated by arginine and calmodulin whereas inhibited in the presence of NG-Nitro- L-Arginine Methyl Ester (L-NAME), a mammalian NOS inhibitor [72]. Another report suggests that the nitrite dependent-NO production can take place in mitochondria by the activity of cytochrome *c* under hypoxic condition in *S. cerevisiae* [73]. Calmodulin-dependent NOS-like activity was also found in *S. pombe*, a fission yeast [74]. In 2013, Nishimura *et al.* reported the Tah18-dependent NO production in *S. cerevisiae*. This Tah18-dependent NO production is positively regulated with generation of arginine via proline-arginine metabolic pathway, indicating NOS-like activity of Tah18. It is believed that Tah18 does not contain oxygenase domain. Tah18 may act as a reductase domain and transfer electrons from NADPH to an unknown oxygenase protein, which oxidizes arginine to citrulline and NO [75,76]. NOS-like activity has also been detected in *Blastocladiella emersonii*, an aquatic fungus. Vieira *et al.* reported that concentration of NO-derived products was increased at the sporulation stage and Ca²⁺-NO-cGMP signaling pathway

was required for biogenesis of zoospores in *Blastocladiella emersonii* [77]. *Aspergillus oryzae* also carries a sequence which shows similarity with the arginine binding site of mammalian NOS oxygenase domain but till now there is no definite evidence of fungal NOS has been reported [78].

3.2. Nitric oxide synthase-independent nitric oxide synthesis:

Although NOS is the main catalytic enzyme for NO synthesis, but several reports suggest that NOS-independent NO synthesis also takes place *in vivo*. The main source of the NOS-independent NO generation is nitrite. In the process of denitrification, NO is produced as an intermediate product by the activity of nitrate reductase and nitrite reductase among the other enzymes. After NOS, the most important enzyme in terms of NO synthesis is nitrite reductase which catalyzes the reaction from nitrite to NO. On the basis of the requirement of co-factors, nitrite reductase is classified into two distinct unrelated groups i.e. heme containing enzyme i.e. cytochrome *cd₁* and a copper containing enzyme. Soluble, dimeric Cytochrome *cd₁* is widely present in the periplasmic space of the gram negative bacteria like *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Thiobacillus denitrificans* etc. While the copper containing nitrite reductases are found in both the gram positive (*Bacillus* sp.) and gram negative bacteria (*Alcaligenes* sp.). The copper containing nitrite reductase is bound tightly to the cell membrane of the gram positive bacteria [79]. Miyamoto *et al.* showed that TRPV3, a heat-activated transient receptor potential (TRP) ion channel can induce the NOS-independent NO generation from nitrite in keratinocytes [80]. Deoxyhemoglobin in erythrocytes and deoxymyoglobin in myocardial cells can convert nitrite to NO and form methemoglobin and metmyoglobin during hypoxic condition [81, 82]. Different globin proteins show nitrite reductase-like activities in neuroglobin, cytoglobin, and plant hemoglobins [83-85]. Xanthine oxidoreductase (XOR) can also act as the nitrite reductase during hypoxic conditions. XOR uses xanthine as the electron donor. The nitrite reductase-like activity of XOR is dependent on the concentration of nitrite [86, 87]. It was reported that complex III and complex IV along with cytochrome *c* of mitochondria can reduce the nitrite to NO under hypoxic condition during electron transport chain in liposome [88].

Non-enzymatic NO synthesis has also been reported in mammalian systems. The non-enzymatic NO production has been observed in the stomach under the acidic

condition. In the acidic condition nitrite is converted to nitrous acid (HNO_2). The unstable nitrous acid oxidizes to dinitrogen trioxide (N_2O_3) that subsequently decomposes to NO and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). The conversion from HNO_2 to N_2O_3 is a second order reaction that indicates the process is comparatively slow [89, 90]. It has been also reported that ascorbate (AsA), an essential antioxidant, can induce non-enzymatic NO production by the reduction of nitrite to NO through the formation of monodehydroascorbate (MDA) radical [91, 92].

4. Beneficial role of nitric oxide:

The beneficial role of NO is associated with the regulatory activities in different biochemical processes in various organisms like mammals, plants, yeasts, bacteria [75]. In 1987, Ignarro *et al.* reported the role of NO as endothelium-derived relaxing factor (EDRF). After that researchers started to explore the NO-mediated signaling pathway and different roles of NO in complex biological processes like smooth muscle relaxation, platelet inhibition, anti-apoptosis etc. [93-96].

4.1. Nitric oxide and vascular tone:

Endothelium-derived NO stimulates soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) that induces the formation of cGMP. cGMP is a secondary messenger and it can activate protein kinase G which inhibits the voltage-dependent calcium channel (VDCC) mediated calcium influx. Protein kinase G can also act on the SERCA (Sarco/endoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase) to initiate reuptake of cytosolic calcium (Ca^{2+}) into the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR), resulting in the reduction of intracellular calcium concentration. Intracellular calcium concentration is very important for the activation of calmodulin. With the reduction in the intracellular calcium concentration, the activity of calmodulin was found to have decreased. Calcium depletion inactivates myosin light chain kinase (MLCK) and upregulates the activity of myosin light chain phosphatase (MLCP). Due to the inactivation of MLCK, myosin phosphorylation is inhibited and actin-myosin cross-bridge breaks down, resulting in the relaxation of smooth muscle cells [97-99]. GPCR (G protein coupled receptors) activity is also associated with the relaxation of smooth muscle cells. Reports suggest that NO inhibits the activity of GRK2 (GPCR kinase 2), the negative regulator of GPCR signaling [Fig. 2]. Thus, phosphorylation of β -adrenoceptors is inhibited, that results in the inactivation of the desensitization of the

signal. This mechanism is very important for the relaxation of smooth muscle cells [100,101]. Under hypoxic condition, NO can efficiently regulate the signaling pathway for smooth muscle relaxation without activating the classical NO-sGC-cGMP pathway. The concentration of cyclic inosine monophosphate (cIMP) increases in this signaling pathway [102,103].

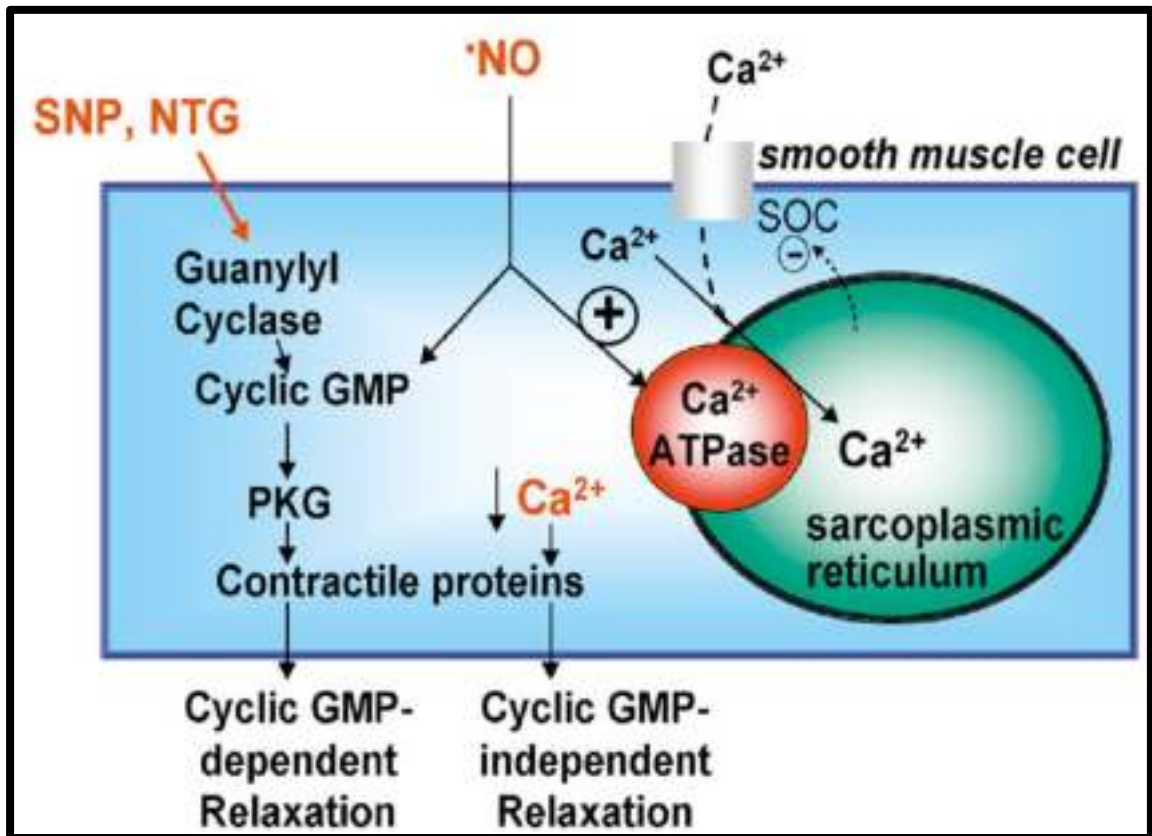


Fig. 2 Role of nitric oxide on relaxation of smooth muscle cell. (Adapted from Tong *et al.* 2010)

4.2. Nitric oxide and platelet inhibition:

Platelet inhibition is also mediated by NO-sGC-cGMP pathway. The key protein which is required for platelet inhibition is vasodilator sensitive phosphoprotein (VASP). This protein has been found in the platelets, endothelial and smooth muscle cells. Platelet activation is dependent on the interaction of the VASP with cytoskeleton proteins. The interaction leads to the polymerization of actin and the shape of the platelet changes, activating the aggregation. The interactive property of the VASP is negatively regulated by phosphorylation. Protein kinase G, the effector molecule of NO-sGC-cGMP pathway, can phosphorylate the Ser¹⁵⁷ residue of the VASP that leads to the

conformational change of the protein. Due to conformational changes in VASP, the interaction of VASP with cytoskeleton proteins gets completely prevented, that result in the inhibition of platelet activation [104-106]. Report also suggest that interaction of Inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate receptor associated cGMP kinase substrate (IRAG) with inositol-1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor type I (InsP3RI) is also required for NO/cGMP-dependent inhibition of platelet aggregation [107]. Platelets have a little amount of eNOS. It has also been reported that endogenous NO may reduce the platelets response, without hampering the activation occurring at the site of blood vessel injury [104]. Dangel *et al.* showed that NO-sGC mediated cascade signaling is the only mechanism of platelet inhibition, no other mechanism is present to provoke platelet inhibition [108].

4.3. Nitric oxide as an anti-apoptotic factor:

Several reports suggest that NO can interact with the caspase and other proteins to act as an anti-apoptotic factor. NO involved anti-apoptotic event is also mediated through cGMP or cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) signaling pathway in different cells like eosinophils, PC12 cells, ovarian follicles, embryonic motor neurons and B lymphocytes etc. [109]. In general, apoptosis is initiated by the death receptor and mitochondrial signaling pathway [110]. NO can negatively regulate the activation of the both death ligand-dependent and independent apoptosis. Interaction of NO with the caspase proteins, including caspase-8, an important pro-apoptotic factor, leads to its structural alteration. Caspase-8 can upregulate the activity of Bax and cytochrome *c* in the death signaling pathway. Structural alteration of caspase-8 leads to the inhibition, preventing the death signal pathway of apoptosis [111-113]. TNF-receptor associated death domain protein (TRADD) can be inhibited in the presence of NO, preventing the stimulation of the apoptotic pathway by blocking the ceramide generation [114]. NO can also interfere with the mitochondrial function to inhibit apoptosis. Report suggests that NO can inhibit the PTP (permeability transition pore) reopening by membrane depolarization and accumulation of Ca^{2+} , that can reduce the release of cytochrome *c*, a pro-apoptotic factor [115]. Regulation of the anti-apoptotic activity of NO is concentration-dependent. In lower concentration, NO can act as an anti-apoptotic factor but in higher concentration NO can modulate the ratio of bcl-2 and Bax protein that leads to the activation of the apoptotic pathway [109].

4.4. Cytoprotective role of nitric oxide in yeast:

The cytoprotective role of NO has been reported under environmental stress conditions like high temperature, hydrostatic pressure, heat shock, redox stress etc. in yeast [75]. Nishimura *et al.* showed that the production of NO increases via Pro-Arg metabolic pathway. This elevated NO may help to overcome the stress induced by high temperature [4]. Another report suggests that NO can induce the activity of Mac1 protein by post translational modification under high temperature in *S. cerevisiae*. The higher activity of Mac1 stimulates the expression of *ctr1* gene encoding high-affinity copper transporter, which in turn increases the intracellular copper concentration. This copper concentration stimulates the activity of Cu/Zn-SOD, an essential stress response enzyme [116]. NO can also activate the adaptive response by stimulating the peroxide scavenging activity and limiting the availability of iron in *S. pombe*, a fission yeast [117]. It has also been revealed that NO can act as an anti-aging agent. In yeast model, it has been observed that reduced NO production is one of the major cause of Batten disease [118]. Depletion of glucose concentration is one of the major nutrient stress for heterotrophs like yeast. Different cellular responses can be generated during glucose depletion condition by the activation of Rst2 protein in yeast. NO has been reported to induce the expression of the *rst2* gene. The activity of Rst2 protein upregulates the expression of the *fbp*¹⁺ gene, encoding a fructose-1,6-bis-phosphatase, via the STREP (stress-starvation response element of *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*) motif. This event leads to the activation of the stress response pathway to combat the hostile condition [119]. NO is also responsible for the metabolic shift in calorie restricted *S. cerevisiae* [120]. Overall, in presence of low concentration of NO, cytoprotective activities like stress resistance, fermentation, metabolism can be stimulated. In higher concentration, NO harms the cell directly or via the formation of reactive nitrogen species (RNS) [75].

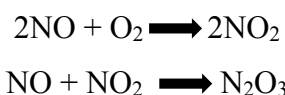
5. Reactive nitrogen species (RNS) formation:

Reactive nitrogen species (RNS) is a family of reactive molecules which are derived from NO. RNS is the product of the reaction between NO with molecular oxygen (O₂) or reactive oxygen species like superoxide (O₂⁻) [121]. The most common reactive nitrogen species are peroxynitrite (ONOO⁻) and dinitrogen trioxide (N₂O₃). The reactive nitrogen species formation is dependent on the concentration of the NO. The steady-state concentration of NO is expressed by the ratio between the rate of reaction

(consumption and synthesis) and rate of diffusion [122]. Thus, the imbalance in the steady-state concentration of NO may result in the generation of reactive nitrogen species via several mechanisms like autooxidation of NO, reaction with superoxide etc. [121, 122].

5.1. Auto-oxidation of nitric oxide:

Auto-oxidation of NO is the reaction between NO with molecular oxygen (O₂) to form dinitrogen trioxide (N₂O₃). Different nitrosating agents like nitrosonium ion (NO⁺), nitrous acidium ion (H₂ONO⁺), can influence the reaction. The reaction is also favored under acidic condition [123]. It is a non-enzymatic, two-steps reaction.



As it is a third order reaction (second order in NO concentration and first order in O₂ concentration) [124], thus the rate equation of the reaction is expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Rate} &= k[\text{NO}]^2[\text{O}_2] \\ [\text{Where, } k \text{ (rate constant)} &= 8.4 \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ at } 37^\circ\text{C}]\end{aligned}$$

N₂O₃ is also a reactive molecule and can react with the thiols like glutathione reduced, resulting in *S*-nitrosation ($k=1.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$) [125]. This is an important reaction for the generation of nitrite anion.



Some of the anions like bicarbonate, phosphate, and chloride have inhibitory effect on *S*-nitrosation under physiological pH. In acidic and physiological pH, nitrosyl halide is formed during the reaction between anions and N₂O₃ [126].



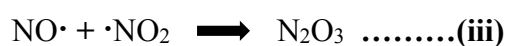
[X represents bicarbonate, phosphate, and chloride]

5.2. Reaction of nitric oxide with superoxide:

At the high concentration, NO can react with the superoxide (O_2^-) to form peroxynitrite ($ONOO^-$). The rate constant of the reaction is varied from 6.6×10^9 to $19 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$, with the concentration of NO [127-129]. The rate of formation of peroxynitrite is 3-8 times greater than decomposition of superoxide by SOD [130]. Hughes and Nicklin proposed that hemolysis of peroxo bond was not a thermodynamically favorable reaction. Thus, the decaying of peroxynitrite mainly occurs by two mechanisms: via the ion pairs or via intramolecular rearrangement, forming nitrate (NO_3^-) or nitrite (NO_2^-) respectively [131]. Proton catalyzed mediated decomposition of peroxynitrite is very rapid ($k=1.3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) [132]. In addition to it, carbondioxide (CO_2) mediated peroxynitrite decomposition is also very rapid and end product of the reaction is NO_3^- with a half-life of $\sim 50 \text{ ms}$ [133-135]. Peroxynitrite is highly cytotoxic and several studies have been done with peroxynitrite [136, 137].

5.3. Formation of *s*-nitrosothiols:

S-nitrosothiols (RSNO) are the product of the reaction between NO and thiol group containing organic compounds. They are also known as thionitrites. RSNO can act as a signaling molecule in living systems. It plays a major role in platelet inhibition [138]. *S*-nitrosothiols can be formed via autooxidation of NO to N_2O_3 , radical recombination between NO and a thiyl radical (RS^*), and transition metal mediated pathways. It can't be formed without the presence of an electron sink. Hydrophobicity of the thiol-containing organic compound can positively influence the *s*-nitrosothiol formation [139, 140]. Activation of NOS can also contribute to the *s*-nitrosothiols generation via the formation of peroxynitrite. The most common intracellular *s*-nitrosothiol is *s*-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO), formed via the reaction of GSH (reduced glutathione) and NO [141]. The presence of oxygen is also a key factor for the formation of GSNO. The reaction of O_2 , NO, and GSH is depicted below.



GSNO is not a stable molecule in the solution. It can be broken down to NO and GSSG. In the presence of acid, GSNO can release nitrosonium ion (NO^+). Thus, it is also referred to as a "NO donor" [141, 142]. Enzyme-dependent (GSNO reductase, Carbonyl reductase 1, Thioredoxin system) GSNO metabolism has also been found in different organisms [143].

6. Nitrosative stress:

When the ratio of nitrosants (NO and reactive nitrogen species) to antioxidants exceeds 1.0 inside the cell, in that situation, NO or reactive nitrogen species (RNS) interact with the biomolecules like DNA, lipid, proteins [109, 144]. Sometimes, this interaction is deleterious and may lead to the damage of DNA and DNA repair system, functional loss of proteins or enzymes, structural modification of lipids and also alter the redox homeostasis *in vivo* [109, 144-146]. This hostile condition is referred to as "**nitrosative stress**" – a term first coined by Prof. Jonnathan Stamler and his co-workers in analogy with the "oxidative stress" [147]. Thus, in short, nitrosative stress can be defined as the belligerent condition, provoked by the imbalance in the concentration of NO [148].

6.1. Effect of nitrosative stress on cellular components:

Several reports suggest that NO or RNS can interact with the cellular macromolecules like DNA, lipid, protein etc. that may lead to its inactivation and structural modifications. These interactions influence the cellular homeostasis as well as its survival [109, 149] [Fig. 3].

6.1.1. Nitrosative stress and DNA:

Nitrosative stress mediated DNA damage cannot be directly associated with NO but with RNS like HNO_2 /acidified NO_2^- , dinitrogen trioxide (N_2O_3), and peroxyntirite (ONOO^-) [150]. The RNS mediated DNA damage can be processed through three chemical mechanisms: 1. direct interaction with DNA structure, 2. inhibition of DNA repair system and 3. via the production of genotoxic compounds like alkylating agents, and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) [151]. N_2O_3 is a strong deaminating agent. It interacts with heterocyclic amines of DNA bases via the formation of diazonium ion and complete hydrolysis of diazonium ion leads to deamination. Hence, cytosine, adenine, and 5-methylcytosine are converted to uracil, inosine, and thymine respectively by the

action of N_2O_3 whereas guanine is converted to xanthine and oxanine. Deamination is the main reason for structural and characteristic alteration of the bases [152-154]. This deamination influences spontaneous depurination that leads to the break-down of DNA.

Peroxynitrite can interact with DNA during the replication and transcription process when DNA exists in the single-strand form [155]. It can damage both the sugar and bases of DNA. Guanine can be converted to 8-nitro-2'-deoxyguanosine (8-nitro-dG) and 8-Oxo-7,8-dihydro-2'-de-2 oxyguanosine by the treatment of peroxynitrite [156, 157]. These compounds are referred to as the marker of peroxynitrite mediated DNA damage [158]. Xanthine and hypoxanthine can also be formed by the treatment of peroxynitrite [159]. These changes decrease the integrity of DNA, promoting breakage of the strands. Peroxynitrite can also induce dG-dG and DNA-protein crosslinks that leads to DNA mutation [160, 150]. It can also induce fragmentation of the sugar moiety, generating strand breakage. It is believed that damage in sugar moiety involves hydrogen abstraction, generating highly reactive sugar radicals that participate in the radical mediated DNA strand breakage [158].

HNO_2 /acidified NO_2^- can also induce DNA damage *in vivo* and *in vitro* [150]. It induces the DNA cross linking at G and CpG islands [161]. The indirect mechanism of DNA damage is associated with the inhibition of DNA repair system [162]. HNO_2 /acidified NO_2^- can also interact with the components of DNA repair system. The Zn-finger motif of DNA repair enzymes can be affected by the NO released from acidified NO_2^- , resulting in the inhibition via losing the integrity [163]. DNA synthesis process can also be blocked by the action of NO via inhibiting ribonucleotide reductase [164, 165]. Furthermore, *in vivo* exposure of NO leads to the generation of genotoxic compounds, promoting apoptosis [109].

6.1.2. Nitrosative stress and lipid:

Nitrosative modification of lipids is associated with oxidation and nitration [166]. Lipid oxidation is a characteristic feature of inflammatory vascular diseases like atherosclerosis [167]. NO and its derivatives are usually involved in the modification of lipid and its biosynthesis [150]. But it has also been reported that at lower concentration, NO can inhibit the lipid oxidation by reacting with the lipid based radicals ($L\cdot$, $LO\cdot$, $LOO\cdot$). $LOO\cdot$ mediated propagation can be blocked by the NO [168].

It was apparent that copper induced oxidation of low density lipoprotein (LDL) can be inhibited by lower concentration of NO in activated macrophages and endothelial cells [169-171]. Oxidation of liposomal cholesterol and phosphatidylcholine can be reduced in the presence of lower concentration of NO [172, 173].

In the presence of O₂ and singlet oxygen (O₂•), NO derived reactive species rigorously oxidize lipids [174]. NO₂⁻ mediated oxidation and nitration have been shown in unsaturated fatty acids, LDL, cholesterol etc. [175-177]. The protonated form of NO₂⁻ i.e. HNO₂ can react with ethyl linoleate and hydroperoxy-octadecadienoic acid and different nitrated species like nitroalcohol, nitroalkanes etc. are formed, leading to the lipid bilayer damage [178]. Peroxynitrite and its protonated form i.e. ONOOH are also involved in lipid damage [179]. Peroxynitrite mediated lipid oxidation leads to the generation of different nitrated species along with secondary oxygen species like singlet oxygen (O₂•) due to the rearrangement of unstable reactive peroxynitrite intermediates (LOONO) [180]. LOONO can form comparatively stable LONO₂ or breaks down to LO• and NO₂⁻ via hemolytic cleavage [181]. In addition to it, peroxynitrite mediated lipid oxidation also leads to the formation of lipid-protein adduct in LDL, indicating excessive breakdown of polyunsaturated acid [182].

6.1.3. Nitrosative stress and protein:

Proteins are one of the most vulnerable macromolecule in the presence of RNS including NO. Hence, the protein modifications, like, *S*-nitrosylation, protein tyrosine nitration (PTN), are referred to as the biomarkers of nitrosative stress. Both these forms are specific, inhibitory/toxic post translational modifications and can also participate in regulation of different cellular processes [183].

S-nitrosylation is a very important regulatory mechanism *in vivo* [184-186]. *S*-nitrosylation is a reversible post translational modification in which NO moiety covalently binds with specific cysteine residue(s) of a protein, yielding *S*-nitrosothiol [187, 188]. This reaction can be mediated by different chemical species like NO, metal-NO complex, nitrosonium ion (NO⁺), *S*-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) etc. *S*-nitrosylation induces the conformational changes of protein that may lead to acetylation, ubiquitylation, palmitoylation of different cellular components [189]. Proteins like hemoglobin, caspase-3, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase are involved in

transnitrosylation i.e. catalyzing the transfer of NO group to the adjacent protein [190-192]. Denitrosylation i.e. reversible reaction of *S*-nitrosylation, is also associated with the activity of proteins, protein-protein interaction, cellular signaling etc. It has been reported that caspase-3 can be activated via denitrosylation [193]. Compared to denitrosylated forms of protein, *S*-nitrosylated forms have a lower pK_a that leads to its stabilization. The presence of the bulky amino acids [e.g., phenylalanine (Phe), tyrosine (Tyr), arginine (Arg), and leucine (Leu)] near the cysteine (Cys) residue creates steric hindrance that leads to the blocking of *S*-nitrosylation [194]. However, at the higher concentration of NO or GSNO, enzymes can be inhibited. Mitochondrial proteins are the primary targets of *S*-nitrosylation mediated protein inhibition. Proteins like NADH dehydrogenase, aldehyde dehydrogenase, 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase can be inactivated via *S*-nitrosylation [195-197]. The activity of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase can also be inhibited via *S*-nitrosylation. The inhibition of the different proteins via *S*-nitrosylation is mainly associated with the conformational change of the active site [198, 199]. Researchers believe that *S*-nitrosylation is associated with a good number of cellular events ranging from bacteria to mammals [194]. A database (dbSNO 2.0 <http://dbSNO.mbc.nctu.edu.tw>) is designed to collect the *S*-nitrosylated protein from literature reviews [200]. Hence, the research is going on to uncover the *S*-nitrosothiol mediated response *in vivo*.

Protein tyrosine nitration (PTN) is another covalent post translational modification where nitro (-NO₂) group is added at the *meta* position of the phenolic ring of specific tyrosine residue/s of a protein [201]. Peroxynitrite, sodium nitroprusside, acidified sodium nitrite (NaNO₂) can form PTN via generation of •NO₂ [202-204]. Professor Rafael Radi (Biochemist, Universidad de la República, Uruguay) and his co-workers have reported that PTN is a free radical process where not only •NO₂ but also tyrosyl radical (•Tyr) is required [205]. Though it is not an enzymatic process but the process is still very selective and the formation of PTN is not dependent on the abundance of the tyrosine residue. PTN formation is mainly dependent on the local environment of the tyrosine residue and the secondary structure of the protein [201, 204]. Hence, PTN is considered as one of the most important biomarkers of nitrosative stress [206]. Addition of •NO₂ radical at the tyrosine molecule, reduces the pK_a value from 10.1 to 7.2 of the hydroxyl group present in the phenolic ring of the nitrotyrosine residue [207]. Nitrotyrosine residues are hydrophobic whereas tyrosine residues are mildly hydrophilic [201]. Tyrosine nitration generally contributes to the

generation of additional negative charge and are also able to add comparatively bulky substituent (due to the hydrophobicity) to the protein. This may lead to the alteration of local charge distribution as well as the configuration that results in inhibition [206]. Cellular mitochondrial matrix is the primary locus for PTN formation [208]. Reports suggest that Fe-S cluster proteins like aconitase can be inactivated by PTN [209]. Published reports suggest that peroxynitrite can form PTN in HDAC2 (Histone Deacetylase 2) at Tyr253, ascorbate peroxidase at Tyr5 and Tyr235, MnSOD at Tyr34, that results in inactivation [210-212]. The effect of protein tyrosine nitration on cellular signaling is not clear. It was hypothesized that tyrosine nitration might affect the cellular signaling due to alteration of the local environment. It has also been reported that PTN interferes with the protein phosphorylation which cannot be possible when the target Tyr residue is nitrated [213, 214]. However, previous report suggests that peroxynitrite induces both the nitration and phosphorylation of Tyr residue of protein (e.g. T-lymphocyte) [215]. Hence, the biochemistry of PTN and its functioning is not fully understood till now.

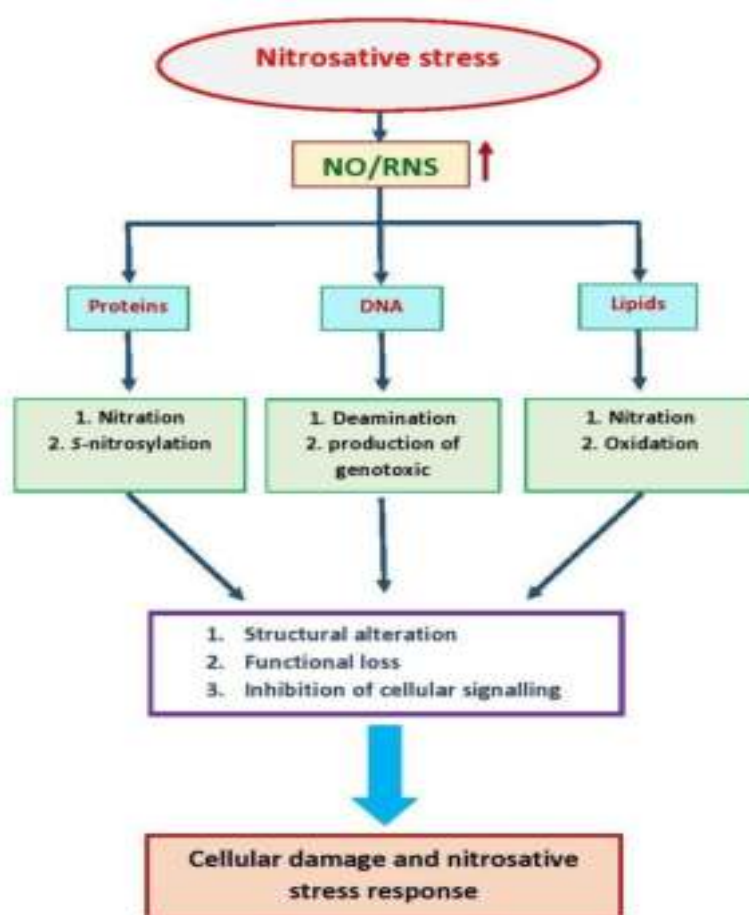


Fig. 3 Effect of nitrosative stress on protein, lipid and DNA.

6.2. Nitrosative stress and apoptosis:

At higher concentration, NO can act as a pro-apoptotic factor [109]. Intracellular higher concentration of NO can induce apoptosis in different cells like macrophage, neuroblastoma, smooth muscle cells etc. [216-219]. It has been reported that NO signaling is strongly associated with the apoptotic pathway in yeast, mammals etc. [109, 220]. It has also been mentioned that mitochondrial matrix proteins are vulnerable to nitrosative stress [201]. Higher concentration of NO can form more reactive peroxynitrite that can disrupt the mitochondrial transmembrane potential, resulting in release of cytochrome *c* due to transition in mitochondrial permeability [221-223]. The release of cytochrome *c* is the key event for the induction of apoptotic signaling pathway. This event can stimulate the downstream proteins (e.g. apaf-1, caspase-3 etc.) of the apoptotic signaling pathway [109, 224]. Caspases, a family of cysteine proteases, can induce DNase. The breakage of poly ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP), substrate of caspase-3, has been reported to increase in NO-mediated apoptosis, suggesting upregulation of caspase-3 during nitrosative stress [226]. Another important factor for apoptosis is the activity of p53, a tumor suppressor protein [224]. RNS induced DNA damage can stimulate the p53. Under nitrosative stress, induced p53 can stimulate the production of p21.

This event may lead to the blocking of cell cycle progression via inhibiting cyclin dependent kinases, an important factor for cell growth [226, 227]. In addition to it, report also suggests that activation of iNOS can induce the accumulation of p53, suggesting the role of NO as a pro-apoptotic factor [225]. NO induced p53 can also increase the expression of Bax, a pro-apoptotic protein and reduce the expression of Bcl-2, an anti-apoptotic protein [228]. The ratio of Bax to Bcl-2 is a very important factor for the induction of apoptotic pathway [109]. A recent publication by Almeida *et al.* (2020) has described the role of *S*-nitrosylation of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) in NO-mediated apoptotic signaling in yeast [220] suggest that the apoptosis rate in H₂O₂-treated yeast cells is induced with the level of *S*-nitrosylation of GAPDH. It has been reported that inhibition of GAPDH via *S*-nitrosylation leads to induction of DNase and apoptotic pathway. In addition to it, NO can stimulate cGMP pathway via binding with the heme-containing protein guanylyl cyclase, resulting in the production of cGMP, a secondary messenger that leads to the apoptosis [229, 230]. The reduced activity of protein kinase C (PKC), decrease in

extracellular signal-regulated kinases (ERK) phosphorylation, are also associated with NO-induced apoptosis [231, 232]. A schematic diagram of the role of NO on apoptosis is proposed in **Fig. 4**.

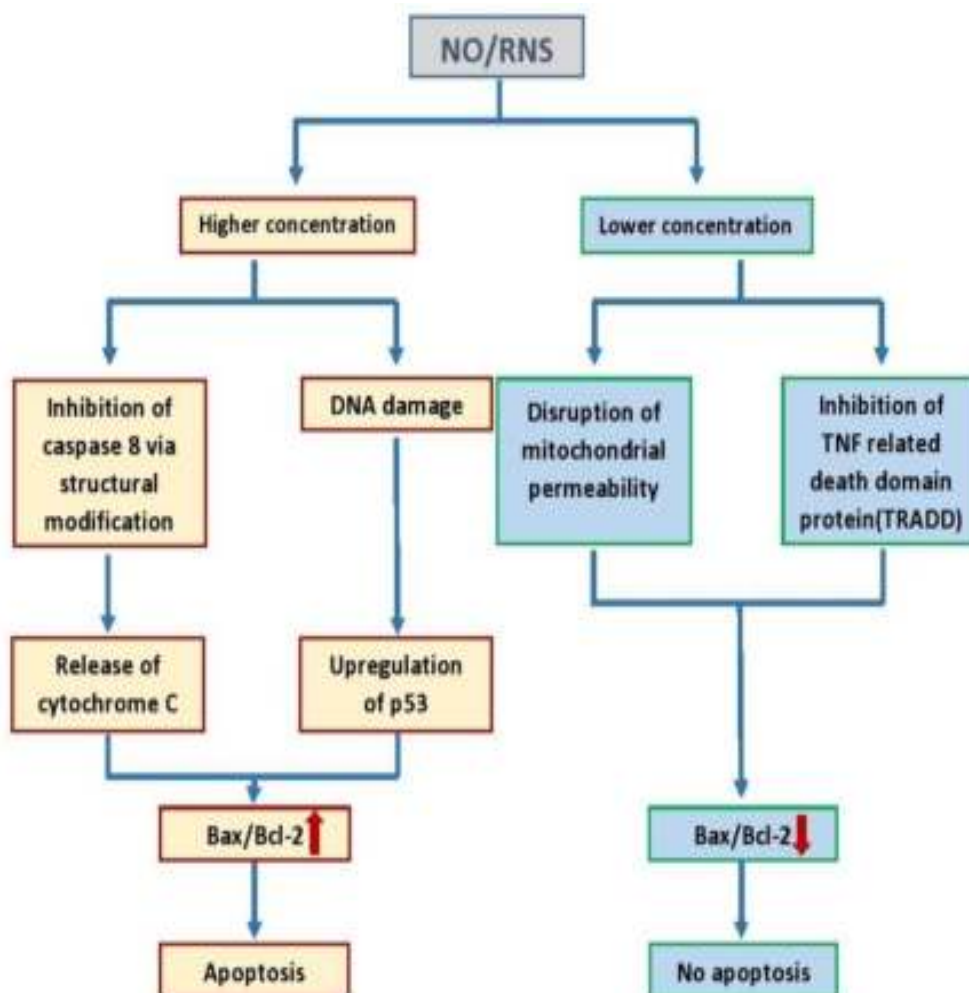


Fig. 4 Role of nitric oxide on apoptosis.

6.3. Nitrosative stress and aging:

“Aging” is a broad spectrum term, associated with chronological, replicative parameters [233, 234]. The study of aging is paradoxical, very complicated and associated with different factors like dietary restriction (DR), stress, genetic organization, environmental influences etc. [235]. To study the genetics and biochemistry of aging, *S. cerevisiae* has been the choice of organism since more than 50 years [234]. The aging of yeast, can be expressed by the two ways: replicative life span (RLS) and chronological life span (CLS). Replicative life span is defined as the number of daughter cells, generated from the mother cell before senescence, an

irreversible arrest of cell cycle. Whereas chronological life span is the length of survival time of a yeast cell in a non-dividing state [236]. These features give the opportunity to study the mechanism of aging of both the proliferating and non-proliferating cells using comparatively simple unicellular organism yeast [237]. Hence, it has become the choice of organism to characterize the underlying mechanism of aging [238].

It is well established that mitochondrial dysfunction and generation of ROS and RNS, are associated with aging [234, 239]. Though *S. cerevisiae* is petite positive (ability to survive without the mitochondrial DNA [240]) but still damaging of mtDNA, leads to aging [241]. Redox stress can lead to the accumulation of reactive species *in vivo* [236]. These reactive species can interfere with the macromolecules of the cell, resulting in the alteration of the cellular functions like metabolism, biogenesis etc. [242, 243]. The alteration in cellular metabolism (energy production, amino acid synthesis) as well as CLS is tightly associated with the TOR/Sch9 signaling and it is well established in dietary restriction mediated aging [244]. TOR/Sch9 signaling is an important factor for cell cycle progression. It also stimulates the translational process, but it represses the general stress response by restricting the localization of transcription factors Msn2 and Msn4 (important factor for redox stress response) in the cytoplasm [234, 245, 246]. Under the stress condition, the activity of TOR is reduced and cellular stress response is stimulated. It has been reported that TOR/Sch9 signaling is inhibited during redox stress due to the alteration in the localization of Sch9, increasing the CLS in yeast [247]. In addition to it, mitochondrial dysfunction also triggers retrograde signaling (a communication between mitochondria and the nucleus along with other cellular compartments [248]) which is also controlled by the TOR activity via regulating the expression of retrograde gene [249, 250]. Due to inhibition of the activity of TOR, the retrograde genes are expressed that may contribute to the extension of the chronological life span. Autophagy (recycling of the cellular macromolecules during stress condition [251]) also contributes to the extension of the CLS. It has been reported that TOR activity negatively regulates autophagy. Hence, the reduced activity of TOR increases autophagy which in turn leads to the expansion of CLS [252, 253]. The reduction in the activity of protein kinase A (PKA) is also associated with TOR/Sch9 signaling that contributes to the extension of CLS [245]. A schematic diagram of the role of NO on aging is proposed in **Fig. 5**.

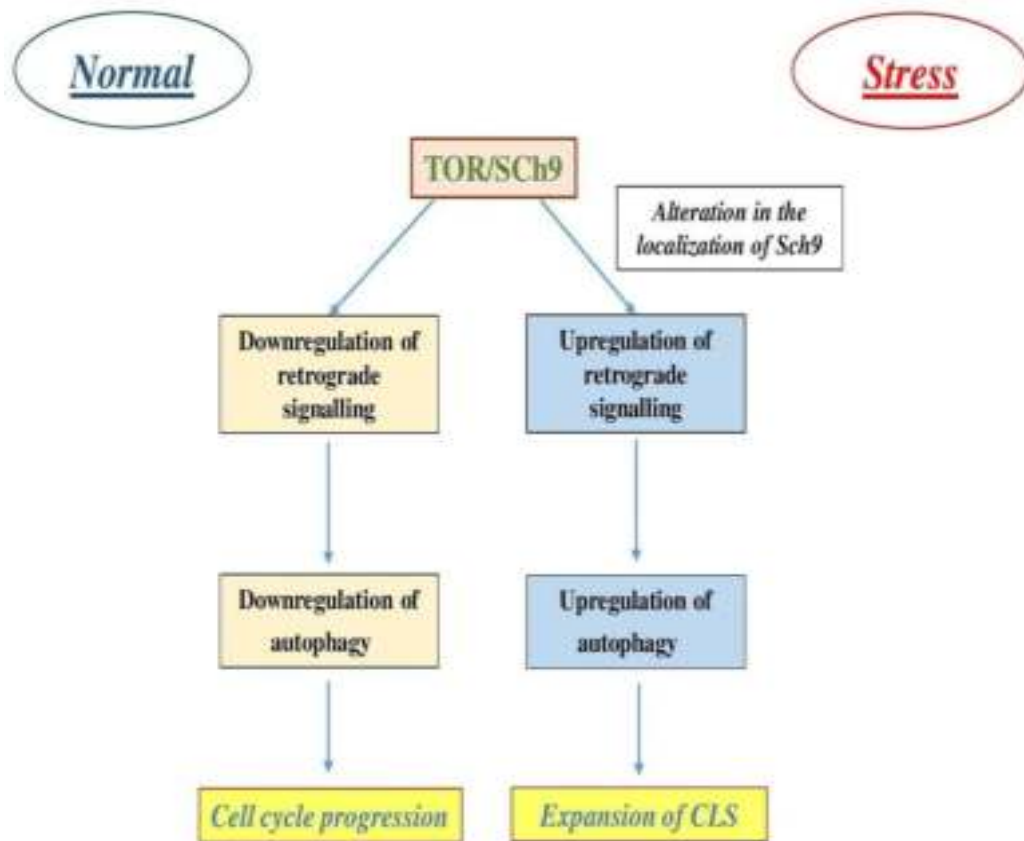


Fig. 5 Role of nitric oxide on aging.

Different studies have revealed the connection between the dysregulation of the biogenesis of ribosomes and aging. Enhanced ribosome biogenesis is one of the major characteristics feature of aging [254]. Under the stress condition, high rate of the ribosome biogenesis can promote aging through the excess translation. This event leads to the disruption of the global proteostasis, the process to maintain and regulate the proteins and their quality [255]. Loss of proteostasis is a hallmark of aging [256]. In addition to it, the accumulation of ribosomal DNA (rDNA) can also cause aging. The high rate of rDNA synthesis may lead to DNA damage that results in genetic instability, another vital cause of aging [257]. In addition to it, the inactivation of Fe-S cluster protein or the biogenesis of Fe-S may also contribute to the genetic instability [236, 258]. NO-signaling in aging is also a very complicated as well as self-contradictory subject. NO-signaling is very important for apoptosis but it can also act as an anti-aging component. Lewinska *et al.* showed that the level of NO was reduced rather than increased in dietary restriction mediated stress response. It indicates that NO-mediated pathways are involved in aging [259]. The elevated level of SOD is also associated with the extension of CLS, suggesting the hypothesis [260]. In mammals, different

neurodegenerative diseases like alzheimer's disease (AD), parkinson's disease (PD), huntington's disease (HD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) etc. are related with aging [261-263].

6.3.1. Alzheimer's disease:

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is one of the most common neurodegenerative disease that is associated with nitrosative stress [264-266]. It has been observed that protein tyrosine nitration of tau protein is tightly associated with AD [267]. Tau is an axon-enriched microtubule associated brain protein, encoded by chromosome 17 in human [268, 269]. Protein tyrosine nitration in tau protein is very specific. It has been found that tyrosine residues are at the position of 18, 29, 197, 310, and 394, (using longest isoform of tau as the reference) prone to be nitrated in the presence of RNS like peroxyntirite. The sensitivity of amino terminal tyrosine residues (Y18, Y29) of tau proteins are more for the PTN as compared to other residues. PTN formation in Y310 is the rarest due to its localization at the hydrophobic microtubules binding repeats [270]. Nitration of tyrosine residues of tau, induces intracellular neurofibrillary tangle formation (due to polymerization) that may lead to the dysfunction of the protein as well as damage and destruction of synapses [268,271]. Another important biomarker of nitrosative stress mediated AD is the formation of extracellular senile amyloid plaques [264, 268, 272]. This event may lead to the accumulation of iron and copper inside the brain, resulting in the loss of metal homeostasis [273, 274]. In addition to it, loss of mitochondrial metabolism or dysfunction of mitochondria is also a characteristic feature of AD. Damaging of DNA and RNA, proteolysis are also associated with the nitrosative stress mediated AD [264, 275]. Overall, redox imbalance, permanent alteration cell signaling, gene expressions are also associated with AD [276, 277].

6.3.2. Parkinson's disease:

Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most frequent neurodegenerative disorder after than AD. One of the characteristic feature of PD is the movement impairment due to the selective degeneration of dopaminergic neurons [278]. Though it is considered as a sporadic disease but evidences reveal that it can be family-linked [279]. This aging-related disease is tightly associated with nitrosative and oxidative stress [280]. Reports suggest that degeneration of dopaminergic neuron is primarily caused by the reactive oxygen species (ROS) and RNS mediated lipid peroxidation, protein modification etc

in the brain tissue [281]. Astrocytes, star-shaped glial cells in CNS, play major role in metabolism and detoxification of reactive species. One of the most important function of astrocytes is maintaining the redox homeostasis in brain [282]. Astrocytic generation of RNS involves in the dysfunction of neuronal mitochondria [283]. Characteristic features of PD includes presence of eosinophilic cytoplasmic inclusions of fibrillar, misfolded proteins known as the lewy bodies containing ubiquitinated α -synuclein, parkin, synphilin, neurofilaments and synaptic vesicle proteins [284].

α -synuclein is very prone to tyrosine nitration and considered as one of the most important cause of protein aggregation. It has been revealed that four tyrosine residues (Y39, Y125, Y133, Y136) are susceptible for nitration [285]. α -synuclein is very sensitive to the nitrating agents like peroxynitrite. Even a very low concentration of peroxynitrite is sufficient to cause PTN in α -synuclein [286]. Nitrated α -synuclein becomes resistance to proteolysis but prone for the aggregation that leads to the reduction in both lipid binding tendency and solubility in cell, suggesting the generation of toxicity due to misfolding of this protein [287]. The nitrated α -synuclein shows more immunogenicity that may leads to the stimulation of neuroinflammation by cytokines, NF- κ B and others intracellular components [278, 288, 289]. Another important protein of PD pathogenicity is parkin, an ubiquitin E3 ligase encoded by the *PARK2* gene. This protein is involved in the maintaining of mitochondrial integrity and regulates mitophagic degradation [290]. Report suggests that overproduction of NO may interfere with the structural modification as well as activity of the protein via S-nitrosylation. The cysteine residues of the catalytic RING domains of parkin are prone to S-nitrosylation. S-nitrosylation induces the inactivation of parkin protein that leads to the neurotoxicity [291, 292]. In addition, loss of activity of DJ-1 and PINK, have been also identified in the pathogenesis of PD. Loss of activity of these proteins under nitrosative stress which in turn causes apoptosis and neurotoxicity [278, 293].

6.3.3. Huntington's disease:

Huntington's disease (HD) is a fatal genetic neurodegenerative disorder, associated with the progressive loss of memory, mood, behavior and cognition [294]. This autosomal neurological disorder is caused by the unusual expansion of CAG repeats (>36 repeats) within IT15 gene located at chromosome 4, that code polyglutamine (polyQ) tract in N-terminal site of the huntingtin protein, a ubiquitous protein, [295-

297]. It has been established that imbalance of NO contributes to the development of HD. There are two major pathways that can link the imbalance of NO and development of HD i.e. htt/HAP-1/calmodulin/NOS link and the CREB binding protein/htt/NOS link [295]. Dysfunction of NO may contribute to the Progressive striatal damage and abnormal cerebral blood flow (CBF), important markers of HD [298, 299]. The dysfunction of nNOS may lead to the alteration in NO production, resulting in neurodegeneration [299]. RNS like peroxynitrite mediated damage has been characterized in HD. Peroxynitrite may lead to DNA damage, lipid peroxidation, induction of iNOS, depletion of NAD⁺ flux, that results in neurotoxicity [300]. This neurotoxicity inversely leads to the alteration of mitochondrial membrane permeability via pore formation, resulting in the release of cytochrome *c*, a proapoptotic factor [301]. Loss of activity of respiratory chain via inhibiting complex II, III, IV, has been well characterized in HD patients [302-304]. Report suggests that reduction in NO content in platelets, interferes with the eNOS phosphorylation at ser¹¹⁷⁷ during the advanced stages of HD [305].

6.3.4. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS):

One of the most dangerous neurological disorder is Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), most patient die less than 5 years after appearing the symptoms [306]. This neurodegenerative disease (also known as Charcot's disease or Lou Gehrig's disease) is marked by the selective loss of upper motor neurons of the motor cortex, and lower motor neurons of motor neurons of spinal cord and brain stem [307]. One of the major cause of ALS is mitochondrial dysfunction that leads to the death of the neurons [308, 309]. Mitochondrial dysfunction is associated with the lipid peroxidation, DNA damage and misfolding of important proteins [307]. Loss of activity of Cu, Zn superoxide dismutase (SOD1) via reactive species mediated misfolding was reported in the patient of ALS [310, 311]. SOD1 participates in the regulation of energy metabolism, cellular respiration, stress control etc. [312-314], thus the loss of activity of SOD1 leads to the suppression of the above processes along with the generation of superoxide or ROS, causative agents of mitochondrial dysfunction [315-318]. Elevated level of ROS has been reported in CNS of the patient with ALS [319]. Peroxynitrite, an important RNS, is also generated due to higher ROS production. Peroxynitrite mediated protein modification via formation of 3-nitrotyrosine in CNS is considered as the one of the important biomarker of ALS [320-324].

RNS-mediated lipid modification has also been found in the CNS of the patient with ALS [325]. One of the most abundant product of fatty acid peroxidation by RNS is 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal (HNE), act as ‘second cytotoxic messenger’, has been well characterized in the ALS patients [326]. It is a very toxic product that may stimulate cellular damage and apoptosis [327, 328]. It can move across the membrane and interacts with the different cellular components, leading to the cytotoxicity, one of the major reason for loss of activity of the motor neurons [306, 327]. Overall, due to the activity of reactive species, the structure of the membrane is affected that leads to the alteration in fluidity, permeability, transport and metabolic processes [306]. These alterations severely affect the neuronal function that causes ALS.

6.4. Nitrosative stress and metabolism:

It has been reported that RNS or NO can affect the cellular metabolic processes like tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, electron transport chain, fatty acid biosynthesis, β -oxidation of fatty acid etc. via interfering with the enzymes of the different metabolic pathways [329, 330]. Activities of aconitase, isocitrate dehydrogenase, α -ketoglutarate dehydrogenase have been found to be decreased under nitrosative stress due to the *S*-nitrosylation, resulting in the inhibition of TCA cycle [331-336]. RNS or NO mediated inactivation of aconitase has been characterized in chronological aging [337]. The nitration of the tyrosine residues of aconitase under nitrosative stress has also been reported [203]. Activity of glutamate dehydrogenase, catalyzes the conversion from glutamate to α -ketoglutarate has also been found to be nitrated in mice liver under nitrosative stress, that leads to the less generation of α -ketoglutarate for TCA cycle [338, 339]. Report also suggests that pyruvate dehydrogenase can be inactivated due to *S*-nitrosylation. Inactivation of pyruvate dehydrogenase directly affects the TCA cycle. Reduction in the TCA cycle via post translational modification under nitrosative stress contributes to the development of neurodegenerative disorders [301, 340-343]. In addition to it, enzymes of glycolytic pathway e.g. hexokinase, aldolase, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, enolase etc. are also very prone to *S*-nitrosylation [301, 329, 330]. Rate limiting enzyme of fatty acid biosynthesis i.e. very long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (VLCAD) has also been found to be *S*-nitrosylated in the presence of NO that leads to the generation of more acetyl-CoA, showing beneficial effect of *S*-nitrosylation [329]. In addition to it, metabolic reprogramming in *Pseudomonas fluorescens* under nitrosative stress has also been reported by Auger *et*

al. They hypothesized that metabolic reprogramming can act as bacterial defense strategy by coupling with antioxidant system to overcome the stress [344].

7. Cellular defense strategies against nitrosative stress:

Cells always try to overcome the hostile situation mediated by the different stress agents. These defense strategies include different enzymatic and non-enzymatic pathways. Though the defense strategies are not well characterized but still some of the components are found that play a major role to overcome the nefarious activity of RNS or NO inside the cell.

7.1. Non-enzymatic defense:

To combat the RNS or NO mediated stress, a good number of non-enzymatic components have been identified, among them γ -L-glutamyl-L-cysteinyl-glycine (GSH) or reduced glutathione has been found to be a potent candidate to protect the cell from RNS-mediated damage [345]. GSH is a very important component for maintaining the redox homeostasis *in vivo* that contributes to the cellular proliferation, differentiation and apoptosis. It can directly bind with NO to form GSNO, suggesting the role of GSH as NO scavenger [347]. It was reported that NO can stimulate DNA damage and protein modifications when the intracellular GSH level declines, indicating the protective role of GSH under nitrosative stress [348]. The alteration of mitochondrial GSH level is also associated with Ca^{2+} ion distribution, pyridine nucleotide oxidation status, mtDNA damage, and induction of membrane permeability transition [349-355]. *S*-glutathionylation (reversible binding of GSH with protein) helps to mask the proteins from irreversible oxidative damage. *S*-glutathionylation of proteins also contributes to the alteration of signal transduction that is required to respond against the reactive species mediated stress [356, 345]. Reports suggest that disruption of glutathione biosynthesis also contributes to the glutathione auxotrophy in *S. cerevisiae* and *S. pombe* [357, 358]. In addition to it, NADPH and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide hydrogen (NADH) are also two important factors that provide the non-enzymatic defense to the cell under nitrosative and oxidative stress. NADH is an important cofactor for the antioxidant [359, 360]. Vitamin C and vitamin E also provide protection against nitrosative stress. These two vitamins together contribute to increasing the intracellular flux of GSH [361]. Vitamin E also breaks the chain of lipid

peroxidation and vitamin C also gives protection against the ROS like hydrogen peroxides [362, 363]. Lipoic acid (LA), another important non-enzymatic compound which gets digested, absorbed and converted to dihydro lipoic acid (DHLA). DHLA can neutralize free radicals and contribute to the generation of vitamin C. LA also helps to stabilize lysosome under nitrosative and oxidative stress via termination of free radicals and chelating of transition metals [364, 365]. In addition to it, melatonin, β -carotenes, and flavonoids are also found to show protective roles against the free radical mediated damage [366-368]. Melatonin also induces different antioxidant enzymes like superoxide dismutase, glutathione reductase, catalase etc. [366]. It also inhibits prooxidant enzymes like NOS, xanthine oxidase and lipoxygenase etc. It has also been reported that melatonin helps to stabilize or protect the cellular membrane from oxidative damage and increase the rate of electron transport chain (ETC) without increasing generation of reactive species [366]. β -carotenes and flavonoids play an important role to inhibit lipid peroxidation via scavenging peroxy radicals [367, 368].

7.2. Enzymatic defense:

To overcome the reactive species mediated stress, activities of some enzymes have been found to be upregulated and detoxify the effect of NO or RNS, known as 'stress response enzyme' e.g. flavohemoglobin, Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione peroxidase, glutathione reductase (GR), catalase, GSNO reductase etc. [361, 369].

Flavohemoglobin (Yhb1) or nitric oxide dioxygenase (NOD) can detoxify the effect of NO by converting NO to NO_3^- , using NADPH as the reducing power [370]. Flavohemoglobin or NOD like activity is conserved from prokaryotes to higher eukaryotes [75]. In higher eukaryotes, hemoglobin shows NOD-like activity [371]. The amino acid sequence of flavohemoprotein (Hmp1) in *E. coli* shows high homological similarities with NOD of yeast [373]. In presence of NO, the overexpression of *YHBI* gene has been reported in *S. cerevisiae* and *C. albicans* [117, 372, 373]. Reduction or inhibition in the activity of Yhb1 increases the NO-mediated growth inhibition in the cells of *S. cerevisiae* and *C. albicans* [372, 374, 375]. It has also been observed that the loss of activity of Yhb1 increases the intracellular RSNO production that may result in the generation of nitrosative stress condition [376]. Under the stress condition, cytochrome *c* oxidase (CcO) activity in mitochondrial respiratory chain complex

(MRC) can be downregulated that leads to the generation of superoxides and then it is subsequently converted to peroxynitrite, a potent nitrating agent [377, 73]. Yhb1 also helps the pathogenic yeast to resist from the macrophage-induced NO, showing its role as a virulence factor [373, 378]. The anti-nitrosative or anti-oxidative role of Yhb1 has been determined by its cytosolic and mitochondrial localization. In absence of superoxide Yhb1 is mainly present in cytosol but in the hypoxic condition, Yhb1 is mainly localized in the mitochondrial matrix, suggesting the protective role of Yhb1 under nitrosative and oxidative stress [379].

Another important anti-nitrosative enzyme is GSNO reductase (GSNOR) that breaks down toxic GSNO into oxidized glutathione (GSSG) and ammonia. GSNOR is very similar to GSH-dependent formaldehyde dehydrogenase (GS-FDH) [380], member of the formyldehyde dehydrogenase III that contains NADH binding site like alcohol dehydrogenase [381, 382]. The GSNOR activity has been reported in eukaryotes like *S. pombe*, *S. cerevisiae*, plants, and mammals and most of bacteria [380, 381, 384, 385]. GSNOR or Fdh3 is considered as the marker of redox switch i.e. sensitive to the alteration of redox state of cell [386]. Earlier reports suggest that reduction in the activity of GSNOR can enhance nitrosative stress mediated damage [382, 387, 388]. It has also been reported that the loss of activity of GSNOR in *C. albicans* hampers the nitrosative stress response and virulent property. This suggests the role of GSNOR as the virulence factor that provides the protection from host immune response mediated by nitrosants like NO or its derivatives [382].

Catalase was the first characterized antioxidant enzyme that actively participates to combat the oxidative and nitrosative stress. Generally, the main function of catalase is the conversion of hydrogen peroxide to water and oxygen [389]. But the activity of catalase has been found to be upregulated to inhibit peroxynitrite mediated oxidation and nitration and also peroxynitrite catabolism in *S. cerevisiae* [390]. Report also suggests that catalase activity can be upregulated in *S. cerevisiae* in GSNO mediated nitrosative stress [391].

As mentioned earlier, GSH can act as the stress response component. Increase in the intracellular concentration of GSH is dependent on the activity of glutathione reductase (GR) that catalyzes the conversion from oxidized glutathione (GSSG) to reduced glutathione (GSH) using NADPH as the reducing equivalent [392]. Activity of

GR is required for mitochondrial activity. It has been reported that GR can reduce the oxidation and nitration of Fe-S cluster proteins of mitochondria [393]. In addition to it, thioredoxin system also acts as a disulfide reductase. It has been reported that thioredoxin system helps to maintain the intracellular GSH concentration in GR mutant *E. coli* [394, 395].

Superoxide dismutase also indirectly helps to overcome the nitrosative stress. SOD reduces superoxide to hydrogen peroxide and oxygen atom. In the presence of excessive NO, SOD can reduce the concentration of intracellular superoxide which in turn inhibits or reduces the production of toxic peroxynitrite [396]. Peroxynitrite mediated lipid oxidation/peroxidation can also be reduced by the activity of glutathione peroxidase (GPx). Gpx uses GSH as the reducing power [397]. It is also considered as a H₂O₂-stress response enzyme [361].

8. Yeast as a model organism to study nitrosative stress:

Budding yeast (mainly *S. cerevisiae*) is a robust model system for basic biological research [398]. This eukaryotic organism carries 6692 genes in 12 megabase pairs of DNA that is distributed in 16 linear chromosomes present in nucleus. The genomic stability of the organism makes it one of the best system to study gene manipulation. Its full genome was sequenced in 1996 as the first eukaryote [399]. The integrity of the genetic and molecular toolbox of the yeast, has placed it as the primary system to study and develop the different high-throughput technologies involved in transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics and so on [400-405]. Like the budding yeast, fission yeast (*S. pombe*) has also become a powerful system to study the cell growth and division [406-409]. The whole genome sequencing of *S. pombe* was also reported in 2002 [410]. *CDC2* gene, an important factor for cell division, was first discovered in *S. pombe* [409]. Different cell cycle check points have also been characterized by using *S. pombe* and *S. cerevisiae*. Spindle check point genes, DNA damage checkpoint genes *etc.* have first been characterized in *S. cerevisiae* [411, 412]. In addition to it, the growth rate of yeast is very fast (~90 min/generation) as compared to animal model and it is comparatively easy to handle.

Another important feature to use yeast as the model organism to study the genetic and biochemical characterization, is the similarity with the metabolic and

cellular pathways that occur in higher eukaryotes like humans. Thus, yeast system has become a good model to study cancer and neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease [413-415]. Different gene mutations related to human cancer have been characterized by using yeast as the model system [416]. Another important factor, that is associated with different physiological disorders, is nitrosative stress. Reports suggest that formation of 3-nitrotyrosine and S-nitrosylation are two major markers of cardiovascular disease cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes mellitus and so on [417, 418]. To characterize the physiochemical properties and biochemistry of 3-nitrotyrosine, S-nitrosylation under nitrosative stress, one of the best system is yeast.

In the last decade a good number of studies have been done to characterize the nitrosative stress response using yeast (*e.g. S. cerevisiae, S. pombe, C. albicans etc.*) as the model organism. Several critical issues have been addressed in this last decade regarding nitrosative stress response that encourages researchers to explore more mechanistic pathways of nitrosative stress response. In response to nitrosative stress transcriptional regulations mediated by different transcriptional factors (TFs) in yeast have been well characterized. Yap1, an important transcriptional factor has been reported to be upregulated under nitrosative stress. It is one of the most important factor for the higher activity of SOD and catalase. Deletion of the *YAP1* gene fails to activate SOD and catalase. In addition to it, the subcellular localization of the Yap1 protein has been found in the nucleus of *S. cerevisiae* under nitrosative stress, suggesting its role under nitrosative stress [419]. On the other hand, Yap7 plays the exact opposite role regarding nitrosative stress response. Reports suggest that Yap7 represses Yhb1, an important anti-nitrosative enzyme. Hence, the deletion of Yap7 contributes to the enhancement of NO resistance in yeast. Binding of Yap7 to the *YHB1* promoter leads to the recruitment of Tup1 repressor, resulting in the downregulation of *YHB1* [420, 421]. Cwt1p, another negative regulator of Yhb1 has been found in *C. albicans* [422]. Nitrosative stress tolerance is based on different strategies possessed by different organisms. Anam *et al.* identified a nitrosative stress tolerance gene *RIB1* which encodes GTP cyclohydrolase II that catalyzes the first step in riboflavin biosynthesis. The byproduct of the reaction of GTP cyclohydrolase II, can scavenge RNS. Thus, the author claimed that riboflavin indirectly helps to overcome nitrosative stress [423]. Kar *et al.* discovered that transcription factor Atf1 was localized in the nucleus under

nitrosative stress in *S. pombe*. Though the mechanism is not clear but authors hypothesized that Sty1-Atf1 mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathway may be required for the nitrosative stress response [424]. Till now different proteins have been identified that are sensitive under nitrosative stress. Redox homeostasis along with the antioxidant system, has also been characterized in the presence of different RNS. Using critical molecular biology tools, different transcription factors have been recognized as the nitrosative stress response element but there is a lacony regarding metabolic strategy under nitrosative stress.

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Objectives of the study...

Objectives of the study:

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) can be generated in the yeast cells due to the physiochemical activities of it and subsequently reactive nitrogen species (RNS) are formed. Nitric oxide (NO) reacts with ROS or molecular oxygen (O₂) and RNS like peroxynitrite (ONOO⁻), nitrogen trioxide (N₂O₃), nitrite (NO₂⁻) and nitrate (NO₃⁻) are formed. Accumulation of such RNS, may lead to damage of the important macromolecules like enzymes, proteins, lipids, DNA etc., this hostile condition is known as nitrosative stress, in analogy with the 'oxidative stress'. Due to the alteration of the structure of important macromolecules and redox homeostasis, electron transport chain as well as metabolism may be affected. Thus, the work was planned to characterize the effect of nitrosative stress on ethanol production using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, one of the best system to study the effect of nitrosative stress as its genome sequence has been well characterized and an excellent background on nitrosative stress studies. Hence, the work was performed with the following objectives:

- Determination of the cell viability and growth of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* under nitrosative stress.
- Characterization of physiochemical properties of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* under nitrosative stress.
- Quantification and analysis of the ethanol production by *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* under nitrosative stress.
- Optimization of ethanol production using immobilized stressed *Saccharomyces* cells.

Materials and methods...

1. Strain and media:

Sachharomyces cerevisiae Y190 (ATCC 96400) was used in this study. The strain was grown in YPD medium (2% W\V Yeast extract [HiMedia], 2% W\V peptone [HiMedia] and 2% W\V dextrose [Merck]), YPG medium (2% W\V yeast extract, 2% W\V peptone, and 3% V/V glycerol) and minimal media containing different concentration of molasses and ammonium sulphate was used for the experiment based on CCRD-RSM. Strains were grown at 30°C under shaking condition (80 RPM). The strain was preserved in 50% glycerol stocks at -20°C freezer. The glycerol stock was used for the preparation of preinoculum. 200 µL from the glycerol stock was inoculated in a fresh YPD broth and incubated overnight at 30°C. Then, streak plating was performed on YPD agar plate using the overnight grown culture and incubated overnight at 30°C to isolate single colonies. After that, the culture was checked for contamination by phase contrast microscopy. Following that, pre-inoculum was prepared by inoculating single isolated colony in YPD broth and again incubated overnight at 30°C. The overnight grown *S. cerevisiae* cells were then used as inoculum for further experiments and initial O.D.₆₀₀~0.05 was maintained for each of the samples.

2. Preparation of acidified sodium nitrite:

100 mM acidified sodium nitrite (ac. NaNO₂) stock solution was prepared by mixing dissolved NaNO₂ (Sigma-Aldrich) in double distilled (DdH₂O) with concentrated HCl in a 1:1 ratio (V/V) [1]. Effective concentrations (0.5 mM, 1 mM, and 3 mM) of acidified sodium nitrite was prepared from the stock solution for the experiments.

3. Preparation of S-nitrosoglutathione:

GSNO was prepared as per the method of Hart with slight modifications [2]. In brief, 0.5 M GSNO was obtained by mixing 1 M of NaNO₂ (Sigma-Aldrich) in DdH₂O and 1 M GSH (Himedia) in 1 N HCl in cold (1:1 V/V). The concentration of GSNO was determined spectrophotometrically (ThermoScientific MultiskanGO) at 335 nm ($\epsilon = 922 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$).

4. Cell viability assay:

S. cerevisiae cells were grown in YPD medium and treated with different concentrations of ac. NaNO₂ (0.5 mM, 1 mM, 3 mM) and GSNO (0.25 mM, 0.5 mM, 1 mM) at the early log phase (O.D.₆₀₀~0.3). Following an overnight incubation, 1 ml of culture from each sample was serially diluted and plated on YPD agar medium for viable cell count. As a control, a culture without GSNO or ac. NaNO₂ treatment was used. The growth curve was created by recording the O.D. at 600 nm for 11 hours at 60-min intervals [3]. The growth curve was used to calculate the specific growth rate using $Y=Ae^{BX}$ formula where Y= Final cell count, A= Initial cell count, B=growth rate, X= O.D. value.

5. Preparation of cell-free extracts (CFE) and estimation of total protein:

Cell-free extract (CFE) of treated and control or untreated cultures were prepared for different enzymatic assays. Overnight grown cultures of treated and untreated samples were centrifuged, and the supernatants were discarded. The cell pellets were lysed by using glass beads, 425-600 μM diameter (Sigma) and lysis buffer containing 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.6), 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM SDS, 2 mM EDTA, 0.1% protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich), and 1 mM PMSF [4]. CFEs were used for all the enzymatic assays. The concentration of protein was estimated as per the Bradford protocol. The standard curve for estimation of protein concentration was prepared by using BSA [5].

6. Estimation of reduced and oxidized glutathione:

The concentrations of GSH (reduced glutathione) and GSSG (oxidized glutathione) were determined using the method described by Akerboom *et al.* [6]. CFEs (from both treated and untreated samples) were first deproteinized with 2 M HClO₄ (Merck), 2 M EDTA (Himedia), and then neutralized with 2 M KOH (Himedia), 0.3 M HEPES (Himedia) to pH 7. After centrifuging one portion of the neutralized samples at 5000 g for 5 min, the supernatants were collected to determine the total *in vivo* thiol concentration (GSH+GSSG) using Glutathione Reductase (GR) dependent DTNB (Himedia) reduction. Another portion of the sample was treated with 2-vinylpyridine (50:1 V/V) for 60 min and used to mask GSH and determine the concentration of

GSSG. Time scan was done at 412 nm for 3 min using spectrophotometer. Both GSH and GSSG concentrations were expressed in nmol/mg of protein.

7. Detection of reactive nitrogen species (RNS) and reactive oxygen species (ROS):

Reactive nitrogen species (RNS) and reactive oxygen species (ROS) were detected by using confocal microscopy and FACS.

7.1. Confocal microscopy:

Confocal microscopy (Leica TCS SP8) was used to detect reactive nitrogen species (RNS) and reactive oxygen species (ROS). RNS and ROS were detected using the Invitrogen protocol, with some modifications. In brief, 2×10^6 cells were washed and resuspended in PBS pH 7.4 before being fixed with absolute ethanol. The dyes (H₂DCFDA [Invitrogen] specific for ROS and DAF-FM [Invitrogen] specific for RNS) were then added at a final concentration of 1.5 μ M and incubated in the dark for 20 minutes. Excitation was set to 495 nm and emission to 515 nm for confocal microscopy. Experiments for RNS and ROS were repeated independently at least three times, and micrographs (45X) were taken. The intensity of fluorescence was measured using the Leica LAS X software.

7.2. FACS:

FACS (BD LSRFortessa) analysis for ROS and RNS was done from IICB, Kolkata. Samples were prepared as mentioned for the confocal microscopy. Dye free cell preparation was used as the blank for FACS analysis. The photomultiplier tube voltage was kept at 190 mV for FITC channel and flow rate was set at 12 μ l/min for all the experiments. 10^4 events were recorded for each sample and histograms were prepared by plotting the cell count against fluorescence in the FITC channel. For the FACS analysis excitation was fixed at 495 nm and emission at 515 nm (as per the protocol of Invitrogen).

8. Estimation of ethanol production:

Ethanol was estimated by the modified potassium dichromate method [7] and potassium permanganate method [8] with slight modifications. In case of potassium

dichromate method, overnight grown untreated and treated *S. cerevisiae* broth cultures were centrifuged at 5000 g, and supernatants were collected. 1 ml supernatant of each sample was then mixed with a reaction mixture containing 0.25 M potassium dichromate (K₂Cr₂O₇) [Himedia], 0.1 M silver nitrate (AgNO₃) [Himedia], and 6 N sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) [Himedia] and incubated for 10 min. The samples were then diluted, and the O.D. was recorded at 560 nm. Reaction mixture without supernatant was taken as blank.

In case of potassium permanganate method, supernatants of overnight grown untreated and treated *S. cerevisiae* broth cultures were mixed with equal volume of 20% TCA at room temperature for 5 min and then centrifuged at 10000 g. The supernatants were then treated with 1/5 volume of 20% CTAB at 65°C for 10 min and again centrifuged at 10000 g. These pretreated samples were then diluted 100-fold for ethanol estimation. Pretreated samples were mixed with 10 mM KMnO₄ solution and incubated at 40°C for 90 min. Initial and final O.D. were recorded at 526 nm. The 10-fold diluted pretreated sample was mixed with DNS solution for the estimation of sugar concentration. The final ethanol concentration of the pretreated sample was determined by subtracting the concentration of reducing sugar contributing in A₅₂₆ from the concentration of the ethanol determined by using KMnO₄ method. Standard curves for the estimation of ethanol and reducing sugar concentration were prepared by using EMSURE absolute ethanol (Merck) and glucose (Merck) respectively. Further, ethanol yield and productivity were determined as mentioned by Mithra *et al.* with slight modification [9]. The volumetric productivity and yield were expressed as g/L/h and g/g of glucose. Percentage of the theoretical ethanol yield was calculated as follows:

Ethanol concentration X 100/ (Theoretical maximum ethanol yield/g of sugar i.e. 0.511 X concentration of consumed reducing sugar).

9. Enzymatic assay:

Enzymatic assays were done with the CFE or pure protein. 1 enzymatic unit (1 U) is defined as the 1 mg of protein that catalyzes the conversion of one micromole of substrate per minute under the specified conditions of the assay method.

9.1. *Glutathione reductase assay:*

The glutathione reductase assay was performed according to the protocol of Carlberg and Mannervik with slight modification [10]. In brief, 2 mM GSSG (Himedia), 3 mM DTNB, and 2 mM NADPH (Himedia) were mixed with an assay buffer containing 1 mM EDTA and CFE. Time scan was done at 412 nm for 3 min using spectrophotometer. Reaction mixture without CFE was taken as a blank. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.2. *Catalase assay:*

Catalase activity was assayed according to the method of Aebi with slight modification [11]. In brief, H₂O₂ degradation was measured at 240 nm for 2 min using spectrophotometer. The reaction mixture contained 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer at pH 7.5, 50 mM EDTA, H₂O₂ (Sigma-Aldrich), and CFE. Reaction mixture without CFE was taken as a blank. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.3. *S-nitrosoglutathione reductase (GSNOR) assay:*

GSNO Reductase assay was performed according to the protocol of Sahoo *et al.* with slight modifications [12]. In brief, 100 mM GSNO, 0.2 mM NADH (Himedia), and 0.5 mM EDTA were mixed in 20 mM Tris-Cl pH 8.0 with CFE. The conversion of NADH to NAD was recorded at 340 nm for 5 min. Reaction mixture without CFE was taken as a blank. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.4. *Alcohol dehydrogenase assay:*

Alcohol dehydrogenase activity was determined as per the protocol of Walker with some modifications [13]. In brief, the reaction mixture contained 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer at pH 8.8, 95% V/V acetaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich), 50 mM β -NADH, and diluted CFE. The O.D. was recorded at 340 nm for 6 min to determine the formation of β -NAD from β -NADH. Reaction mixture without CFE was taken as a blank. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

In a different set, the effect of GSNO or Ac. NaNO₂ was studied by directly adding the nitrosative stress agent to CFE. Cells were first grown under the previously mentioned conditions, and CFE was prepared. The CFE was then treated directly with

0.25 mM GSNO or ac. NaNO₂ for 60 min. Following that, the ADH activity of treated and untreated samples was determined, as previously stated [13]. The experiment was repeated with pure ADH (Sigma-Aldrich).

9.5. Aconitase assay:

Aconitase assay was performed according to the protocol of Castro *et al.* [14] with slight modifications. In brief, the formation of isocitrate (Sigma-Aldrich) from cis-aconitate was determined spectrophotometrically at 240 nm for 3 min. The reaction mixture contained 500 mM cis-aconitate, 100 mM Tris-Cl pH 8 with CFE. Reaction mixture without CFE was taken as a blank. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.6. Aldehyde dehydrogenase assay:

Aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH) activity was assayed spectrophotometrically by measuring the increase in NADH concentration at 340 nm for 3 min [15]. Reaction mixture contained final concentration of 1 M Tris-Cl buffer pH 8, 20 mM β -Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (β -NAD), 0.1 M acetaldehyde, 3 M potassium Chloride, 1 M 2-Mercaptoethanol and CFE was added to start the reaction. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.7. Pyruvate dehydrogenase assay:

Pyruvate dehydrogenase activity was assayed spectrophotometrically by measuring the decrease in NADH concentration at 340 nm for 5 min [16]. In short, reaction mixture contained 150 mM MOPS pH 7.4, 12 mM magnesium chloride, 0.6 mM calcium chloride, 18 mM TPP, 0.75 mM coenzyme A, 20 mM NAD⁺, 15.6 mM L-cysteine, 75 mM pyruvic acid as the final concentration along with CFE. Reaction mixture without CFE was taken as blank. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.8. Isocitrate dehydrogenase assay:

Isocitrate dehydrogenase assay was performed as per the protocol of Bergmeyer *et al.* with slight modification [16]. In short, the reaction mixture contained 70 mM glycylglycine pH 7.4, 0.5 mM isocitric acid, 1 mM β -nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate 0.5 mM manganese chloride as the final concentration. Assay reaction was

started with CFE. The conversion of NAD to NADH was measured spectrophotometrically at 340 nm for 3 min. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.9. *Pyruvate carboxylase assay:*

Pyruvate carboxylase activity was assayed spectrophotometrically by measuring the decrease in NADH concentration at 340 nm for 3 min as per the protocol of Payne and Morris with slight modification [17]. The reaction mixture contained 1 M Tris-Cl pH 8, 1 M magnesium sulfate, 0.1 M pyruvic acid, 0.1mM acetyl coenzyme A (Sigma), 0.1 M adenosine 5'-triphosphate, 0.5 M potassium bicarbonate as the final concentration. Assay reaction was started with CFE. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.10. *Pyruvate decarboxylase assay:*

Pyruvate decarboxylase assay was performed as per the protocol of Gounaris *et al.* with some modifications [18]. The reaction mixture contained 187 mM citric acid, 33 mM sodium pyruvate, 0.11 mM β -nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, reduced form, 10 unit of alcohol dehydrogenase (Sigma-Aldrich) as the final concentration. Reaction was started with CFE. The conversion of NADH to NAD was measured spectrophotometrically at 340 nm for 3 min. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.11. *Malate dehydrogenase assay:*

Malate dehydrogenase activity was assayed spectrophotometrically by measuring the decrease in NADH concentration at 340 nm for 3 min [16]. The reaction mixture contained 100 mM potassium phosphate, 0.13 mM β -nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, 0.25 mM oxaloacetic acid as the final concentration. Assay reaction was started with CFE. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.12. *Citrate synthase assay:*

Citrate synthase assay was performed as per the protocol of Srere [19]. The final concentrations of the reagents were 100 mM Tris-Cl pH 8, 0.3 mM 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoate), 0.2 mM acetyl coenzyme A, and 0.2 mM oxaloacetate. Assay reaction

was started with CFE and O.D. was recorded for 2 min at 412 nm. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.13. Malate dehydrogenase (Decarboxylating) assay:

Malate dehydrogenase (Decarboxylating) assay was performed as per the protocol of Geer *et al.* with some modifications [20]. The final concentrations of the reagents were 65 mM triethanolamine buffer (HiMedia), 3.3 mM L-malic acid, 0.3 mM β -nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, 5 mM manganese chloride. Assay reaction was started with CFE. The conversion of NADP to NADPH was measured spectrophotometrically at 340 nm for 3 min. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

9.14. Malate synthase assay:

Malate synthase assay was performed as per the protocol of Chell *et al.* with some modifications [21]. The reaction mixture contained 30 mM imidazole Buffer, pH 8.0, 10 mM magnesium chloride, 0.25 mM acetyl-CoA, 1 mM glyoxylic acid, 0.2 mM DTNB. Assay reaction was started with CFE and O.D. was recorded for 2 min at 412 nm. Specific activity was expressed in mU/mg of protein.

10. Estimation of the concentration of citrate:

Intracellular and extracellular citrate concentration was determined by using citrate assay kit (Sigma-Aldrich). concentration of citrate was expressed in ng/ μ L.

11. Gene expression analysis quantitative Real Time PCR:

11.1. RNA isolation:

RNA was isolated as per the protocol of Dr. KPC Life Sciences, India, using their developed RNA isolation kit. In brief, treated and untreated *S. cerevisiae* cells were centrifuged at 5000 g, and then pellets were washed with 1X PBS. Following the addition of buffers, the entire solution containing cell pellets were transferred to preim column and centrifuged at 10000 g. After that, isopropanol was added with cell pellet and then entire solution was transferred to a Chrome Column and centrifuged at 10000 g. Following a wash, RNA was extracted finally in nuclease-free water and then quantified using 1% agarose TAE gel.

11.2. cDNA preparation:

cDNA was prepared as per the protocol of Dr. KPC Life Sciences, India, using their developed cDNA synthesis kit. In brief, 500 ng of RNA was used as the template for cDNA synthesis for each sample. At first, RNA sample was mixed with 10 mM dNTP and 10 mM random hexamer and denatured at 65°C for 5 min, followed by chilling on ice. Then, diluted reverse transcriptase (RT) enzyme (Thermo Scientific) was then mixed with the chilled reaction mixture and incubated at 42°C for 60 min to synthesize cDNA. The reaction was inactivated by heating at 65°C for 15 min.

11.3. quantitative Real Time PCR set up:

SUPERZym qPCR mastermix, manufactured by Dr. KPC Life sciences, India was used to perform Quantitative Real-time PCR (Biorad CFX-96) Synthesized cDNA was used as the template for one reaction (+RT). To set up the (-RT) negative reaction, diluted RNA sample was used as the template. This set up was very important to check any DNA contamination. Negative control (NTC) reaction was set up without adding template. The qPCR set up was a two steps process including denaturation at 95°C for 15 sec, annealing and extension at 60°C for 30 sec. The number of cycle was repeated for 40 times and melt curve was created. All these reactions were performed in triplicate. The primers for the experimental and housekeeping genes were designed from NCBI and enlisted in **Table 1**.

Table 1: List of primers along with their sequences

Primers	Sequences (5'▼ 3')	~Amplicon lengths (bp)
<i>ADH3F</i>	GTTGCCATCTCTGGTGCTGC	
<i>ADH3R</i>	ACACCATGAGGGCCACCTTT	300
<i>ADH1F</i>	GTTACACCCACGACGGTTCT	
<i>ADH1R</i>	ACGGTGGTACCGTTAGCTCT	445
<i>ADH2F</i>	CTGTCCTCACGCTGACTTGT	
<i>ADH2R</i>	CAACAGTACCGTTCGCCCTA	440
<i>ACO1F</i>	AGACCGTAGCACCGTTGAAG	
<i>ACO1R</i>	ATGATAGCGAAACCGCCCAA	400
<i>ACO2F</i>	TCGCATCTTTGCGATCCTGA	
<i>ACO2R</i>	CGCCTGCATTTGGTGTATGG	400
<i>GAPDHF1</i>	CGGTAGATTGGTCATGAGAAT	
<i>GAPDHR1</i>	TGGTACAAGAAGCGTTGGAAA	400
<i>GAPDHF2</i>	AACTGTTTGGCTCCATTGGC	
<i>GAPDHR2</i>	CGTTGTCGTACCAGGAAACC	200

12. Functional annotation and network analysis:

The enzymes, with the altered activity in the presence of 0.5 mM acidified sodium nitrite, were subjected for functional enrichment analysis. Initially, the STRING database was used to screen out the interactions among those enzymes in yeast system followed by creating a functionally interacting network [22]. Few closely associated enzymes were added to the network to make more stable for reliable predictions. The networks were analyzed and visualized using Cytoscape (Version 3.7) [23]. Annotation of functionally activated and deactivated enzymes were analyzed using Gene Ontology (GO) analysis by DAVID (Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery) [24]. Gene sets were taken from respective networks, and their annotations classified into biological process (BP), cellular component (CC) and molecular function (MF). For the GO analyses, Bonferroni correction method was used to find out the significant terms associated with the genes and decrease the error rates by removing the false discovery outcomes from any prediction.

13. Condition of stress and assays with pure aconitase and alcohol dehydrogenase:

Pure proteins were subjected to treatment by different concentrations (0.1 mM, 0.3 mM, 0.5 mM) of acidified sodium nitrite and 0.1 mM peroxyxynitrite (positive control). 200 µg of pure proteins were exposed to acidified sodium nitrite or peroxyxynitrite treatment for 30 min at room temperature. 80 µg of these treated proteins were used for determining PTN by western blotting. The rest portion of the proteins were used for specific activity determination as mentioned earlier.

14. Western blotting for Protein tyrosine nitration (PTN):

Treated and untreated pure enzymes (Aconitase [Sigma-Aldrich], Alcohol dehydrogenase [Sigma-Aldrich]) were run in 10% SDS-PAGE as per the protocol of Laemmli [25] and then transferred to PVDF membranes using wet transfer apparatus (Biorad) and transfer buffer pH 8.3 containing 25 mM Tris, 190 mM glycine and 20% methanol at 50 V for 60 min in a cold condition. To observe the successful transfer of proteins, PVDF membrane was stained with ponceau-S (HiMedia). After that, PVDF membrane was blocked overnight by using blocking buffer (HiMedia) at 4°C. Then, membranes were washed by TBST buffer (0.019 M Tris, 0.136 M, 0.1% V/V Tween 20) and probed with anti 3-nitrotyrosine monoclonal antibody (Sigma-Aldrich) at 1:1000 dilution in TBST, for 60 min at room temperature. The membranes were then washed in TBST. Following that, membranes were probed with a HRP conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG secondary antibody (Sigma-Aldrich) at 1:10000 dilution in TBST, for 30 min at room temperature. After that membranes were again washed in TBST [26]. Then the immunopositive spots were visualized by using chemiluminiscent reagent (Abcam) as per the direction of the manufacturer. Photographic plates were captured by using DNR bio-imaging system miniBIS Pro (USA) with GelQuant Express Analysis Software.

15. Western blotting analysis for S-nitrosylation:

S-nitrosylation was detected using Pierce™ S-nitrosylation western blot kit (Thermo-Fisher). At first, pure proteins were subjected to treatment by different concentrations (0.1 mM and 0.25 mM) of GSNO. 200 µg of pure proteins were exposed to GSNO

treatment for 30 min at room temperature. 100 µg of these treated and untreated proteins were used for sample preparation as mentioned in the manual of Pierce™ S-nitrosylation western blot kit. In short, GSNO treated proteins were treated with MMTS to block free sulfhydryl group. Following that sodium ascorbate and iodoTMT were added to modify S-NO to S-TMT. After that, proteins were run in 10% SDS-PAGE and anti-TMT monoclonal antibody was used as the primary antibody at 1:1000 ratio. Remaining protocol was same as mentioned earlier. Rest of the proteins were used for specific activity determination as mentioned earlier.

16. Estimation of ethanol production by immobilization of nitrated yeast cells:

16.1. Immobilization of nitrated yeast cells:

For the immobilization assay *S. cerevisiae* cells were first grown overnight in specified media in presence of 0.5 mM sodium nitrite. Next, the culture was centrifuged and the cell pellet was resuspended in PBS buffer pH 7.0. Resuspended cells were then added slowly with 1% sodium alginate. After that cells were transferred to 0.5 M CaCl₂ solution drop wise with the help of a syringe with the formation of Ca-alginate beads having immobilized yeast cells [27].

16.2. Estimation of ethanol production:

To quantify the ethanol concentration produced by immobilized nitrated yeast cells, 20 such beads were inoculated in a broth medium. Ethanol concentration was determined as stated earlier [10].

17. Optimization of ethanol production by central composite rotatable design based (CCRD) response surface methodology (RSM):

Optimization of ethanol production was carried out using central composite rotatable design based (CCRD) response surface methodology (RSM) in order to study the interaction effect between three independent variables viz., molasses concentration (C-source) (A), ammonium sulphate concentration (N-source) (B) and incubation time of yeast (C) in the fermentation broth. Due to the presence of “axial points” around the centre point in the CCRD design curvature of the model is allowed. As suggested by Saha *et al.* [26]. Three independent variables molasses concentration (A), ammonium

sulphate concentration (B) and incubation time of yeast (C) were used in five different coded levels (- α , -1, 0, +1, + α). **Table 2** represents the relationship between the coded level and actual values of each variable used in this study to optimize ethanol production. The relation between the coded level of variables and actual values of the variables were explained by the following equation [28].

$$X_{\alpha}=(Z_{\alpha}-Z_0)/\Delta Z$$

Where, X_{α} is the coded value, Z_{α} is the actual value, Z_0 is the actual value at the centre point and ΔZ is the step change of the variables. Total 20 experimental runs were conducted and the ethanol produced by the yeast was analyzed by the second order polynomial regression equation.

$$Y=a_0+a_1X_1+a_2X_2+a_3X_3+a_{11}X_1^2+a_{22}X_2^2+a_{33}X_3^2+a_{12}X_1X_2+a_{13}X_1X_3+a_{23}X_2X_3$$

Table 2: Coded and actual levels of variables used to construct the model

Factor	Unit	Coded levels				
		- α	-1	0	+1	+ α
A(Carbon source)	%W/V	0	5	12.5	20	25.11
B(Nitrogen source)	%W/V	0	0.05	1.02	2	2.66
C(Incubation time)	Hours	0	6	15	24	30.14

18. Statistical analysis:

All individual results are expressed as mean \pm SD (Standard deviation) of at least three independent experiments for each biological sample, wherever applicable. To analyze the significant difference between control and treated samples, Student T-test, F-test were performed at 0.05 level of significance (p).

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Results and Discussion...