It all started in the 1970's

NO activates cytosolic guanylate cyclase
Nitroglycerin and nitroprusside stimulate cyclic GMP production
Nitroglycerin and nitroprusside are NO donors in presence of cells
QUESTION: is NO a vasorelaxant?







Observation Made by Serendipity

• Nitroprusside was found to inhibit platelet aggregation



QUESTION

• Is the anti-platelet effect of nitroprusside also mediated by NO and cyclic GMP?





What is the mechanism of action of the so-called Direct-Acting Vascular Spasmolytic Drugs?

Nitroglycerin
Nitroprusside
Isoamyl Nitrite



Vascular Smooth Muscle Cell





8

The unpaired electron gives Nitric Oxide its chemical properties as a Biological Mediator









Cytosolic Guanylate Cyclase is a Hemoprotein Containing One Mole of Heme per Mole of Holoenzyme Dimer

• Enzyme-bound HEME is an absolute requirement for enzyme activation by NO



KNOWN: Nitroglycerin and **NO are very potent vasodilators**

QUESTIONS:

Why do we have receptors for nitroglycerin and NO?
Is there an endogenous nitro-vasodilator like NO?



QUESTION

• Does Endothelium-Dependent Vasorelaxation Involve the Actions of Cyclic GMP?





Do you know what EDRF is?









Activation of purified soluble guanylate cyclase by EDRF from Intrapulmonary artery and vein. Stimulation by acetylcholine and bradykinin

 Ignarro, L.J., Harbison, R.G., Wood, K.S. Kadowitz, P.J.
J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. 230: 602-610, 1986









Endothelial (eNOS) – constitutive
Neuronal (nNOS) – constitutive
Inflammatory (iNOS) – inducible











What is the Role of Neuronal NO Synthase?





Physiologic Neurotransmitter Actions of NO

Mediator of erectile function
Modulator of G.I. And G.U. functions
Modulator of airway function
Peripheral sensory transmission
Central mediator of learning, memory, nociception and olfaction



QUESTION

• Is NO responsible for neuronally-induced relaxation of corpus cavernosum smooth muscle and, therefore,

• penile erection?



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77

83

90

95

JANUARY 9, 1992

VOLUME 326

Original Articles

- Nitric Oxide as a Mediator of Relaxation of the Corpus Cavernosum in Response to Nonadrenergic, Noncholinergic Neurotransmission J. RAJFER, W.J. AROSSON, P.A. BUSH, F.J. DOREY, AND L.J. IGXARRO

Review Article

Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital

Editorial .

Abstracts in the

advertising

sections

NUMBER :

Causes of Iron Overload		126
B.R. BACON		
	104	

Sounding Board

Correspondence

Drug Promotion and Scientific Exchange	133				
Screening for Colorectal Cancer	134				
Absence of Birth Defects in Offspring of Women					
Treated with Dactinomycin	137				
Hazard of Lead in Infant Formula	137				
Sensitivity of Erythrocyte Protoporphyrin as a					
Screening Test for Lead Poisoning					
Balloon Aortic Valvuloplasty	138				
Prophylactic Immune Globulin in Chronic Lym-					
phocytic Leukemia	139				
Malpractice and Negligence	140				
Book Pavious	140				
DOOK REVIEWS	140				
*/ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Notices	143				

Correction Phenobarbital for Febrile Seizures - Effects on In

THE TROUGHT PATTERN	1.01	2.67	1110 110 100	GR. 8. ALL 19	WHERE CAR ONLY	
telligence	and	on	Seizure	Recur	rence	 144

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Molecule of the Year Science 1992



October 12, 1998





















42

Lou Ignarro as



















Drs. Sharon and Lou Ignarro with President Clinton







Dr. Sharon Williams Ignarro with President Clinton











With the portrait of Alfred Nobel at the Karolinska Institute





The Stockholm Concert Hall, venue for the Nobel Ceremony









The three Nobel Laureates in Medicine-1998













The Swedish Royal Family entering the banquet hall









The Nobel Banquet





Dr. Ignarro at the Nobel Banquet













At the dance following the Nobel Prize Ceremony and Banquet, Stockholm, December 10th, 1998



