Nitric oxide (NOS) signaling

- Nitric oxide (NO) is synthesized by nitric oxide synthase (NOS), which oxidizes a guanidine nitrogen of L-arginine releasing NO in the form of a free radical and citrulline.
- Three isoforms of NOS have been identified: endothelial (eNOS or NOS3), neuronal (nNOS or NOS1), and inducible (iNOS or NOS2), each with separate functions.
- NO acts as a messenger in diverse functions including vasodilation, neurotransmission, anti-tumor and antipathogenic activities, but sustained levels of NO production result in direct tissue toxicity, septic shock, carcinomas and inflammatory conditions.







