



A bit of history

Free radicals, known in chemistry since the beginning of the 20th century, were initially used to describe intermediate compounds in organic and inorganic chemistry

early 18th century - Since the discovery of oxygen_by Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, the necessity of controlling oxygen levels has been recognized

1775 - Priestly described the toxicity of the oxygen molecule to the organism and compared its effect on the body as similar to that of "burning a candle" 1954 - Daniel Gilbert and Rebecca Gersham (1) suggested free radicals as important players in biological environments and responsible for deleterious processes in the cell

1956- Herman Denham (2) suggested that these species might play a role in physiological events

1969- McCord and Fridovich discovered the role of the protein hemocuprein in the dismutation of superoxide radicals and described the existence of

superoxide dismutase (SOD) in almost all aerobic cells (3). This discovery led to the description of the superoxide theory of oxygen toxicity

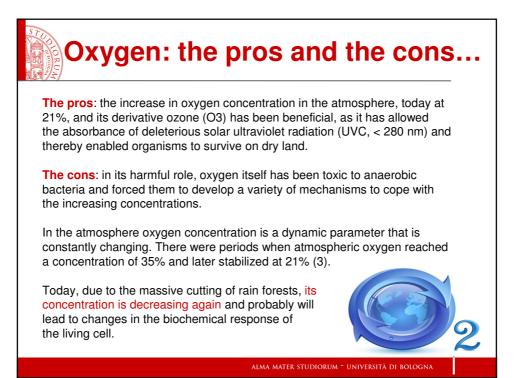
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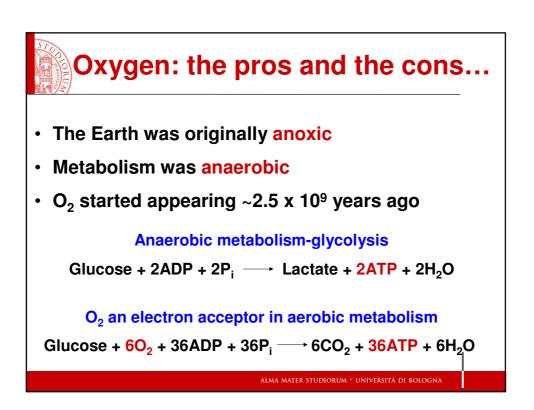
2,500 millions years ago...

In the Precambrian era, oxygen began to accumulate in the atmosphere as a result of evolution of the photosynthetic blu-green algae and the enormous benefits derived from its use for energy purposes led to the rapid growth of aerobic organisms.

The high reactivity of oxygen soon determined the onset of oxidative damage to important cellular structure. To combat the action of reactive oxygen species (ROS) an integrated system of both enzymatic both non-enzymatic antioxidants has been soon developed

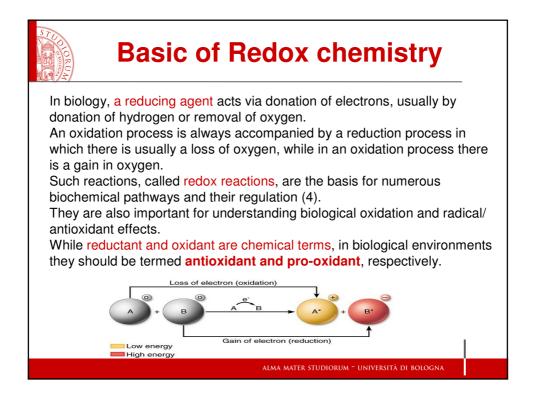


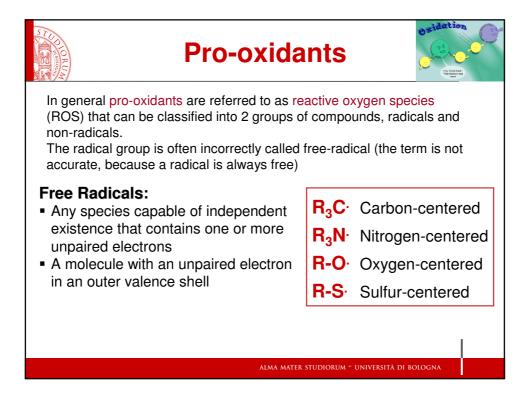


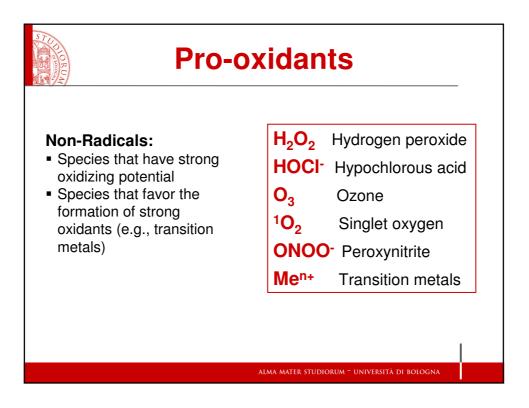


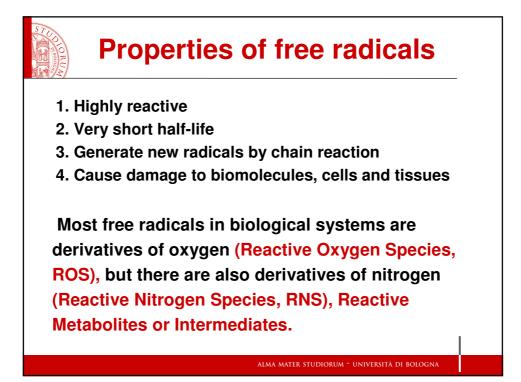
σ*2p π* 2p		Oxygen chemistry
π 2p σ 2p		Ground-state oxygen has 2-unpaired electrons
σ*2s	H	The unpaired electrons have parallel spins
σ 2s σ*ls		Oxygen is a paramagnetic molecule
σls		The oxygen can not simultaneously acquire the 4 electrons for its reduction to
NOME:	FORMA	water
	STABILE DELL'O ₂	Oxygen molecule is minimally reactive due to spin restrictions which does not allow the
SIMBOLO CHIMICO:	O ₂	donation or acceptance of another electron before rearrangement of the spin directions
RADICALE:	SI	around the atom
OSSIDANT	E: NO	Alma mater studiorum ~ università di Bologna

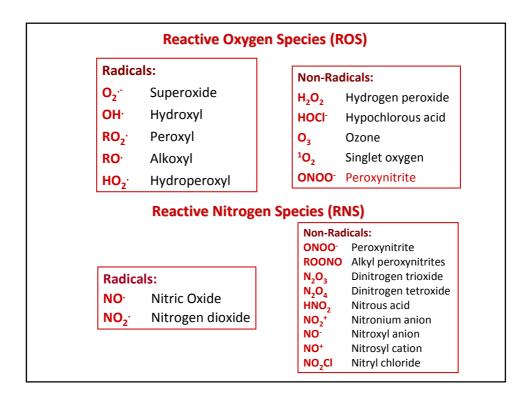
Basic of Redox chemistry			
Term	Definition		
Oxidation	Gain in oxygen Loss of hydrogen Loss of electrons		
Reduction	Loss of oxygen Gain of hydrogen Gain of electrons		
Oxidant	Oxidizes another chemical by taking electrons, hydrogen, or by adding oxygen		
Reductant	Reduces another chemical by supplying electrons, hydrogen, or by removing oxygen		
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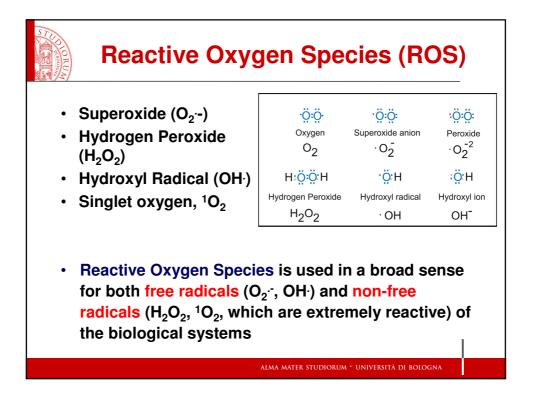


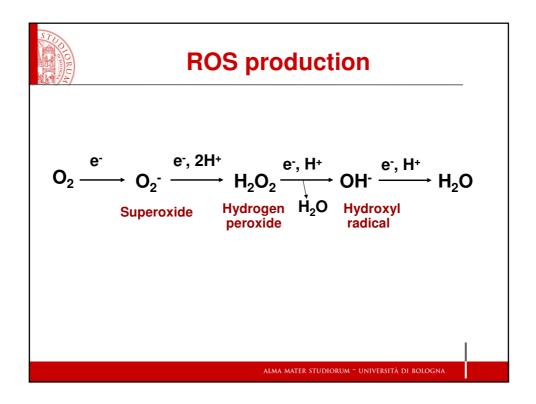


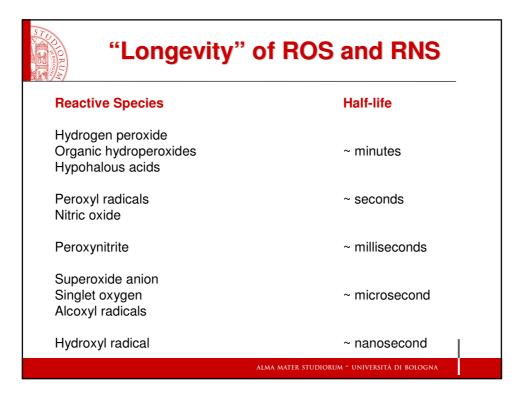


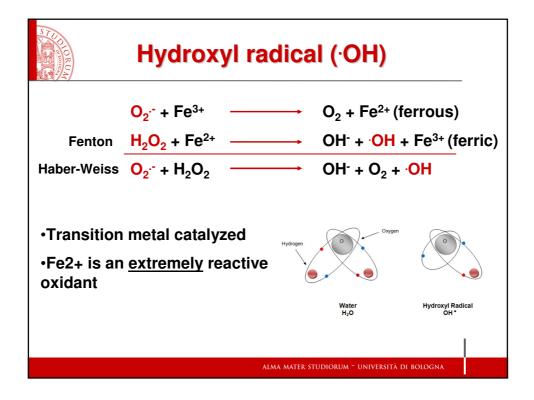


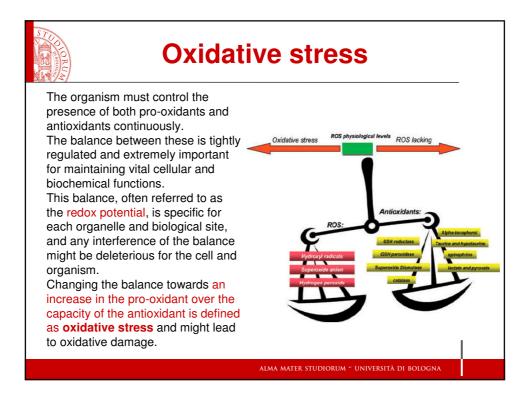


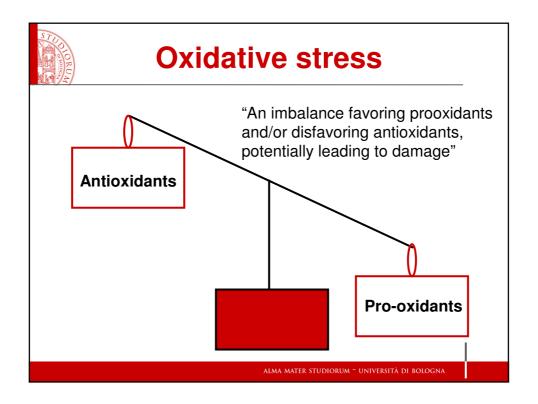


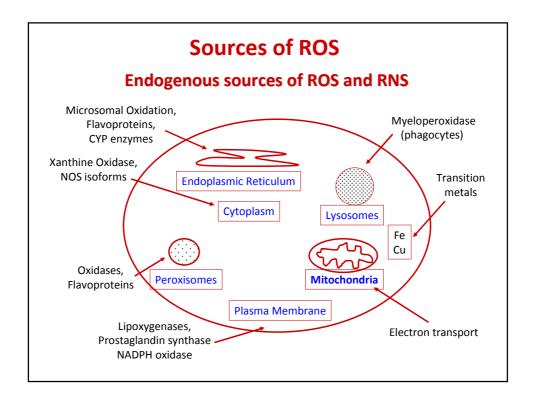












Mitochondria as Sources of ROS

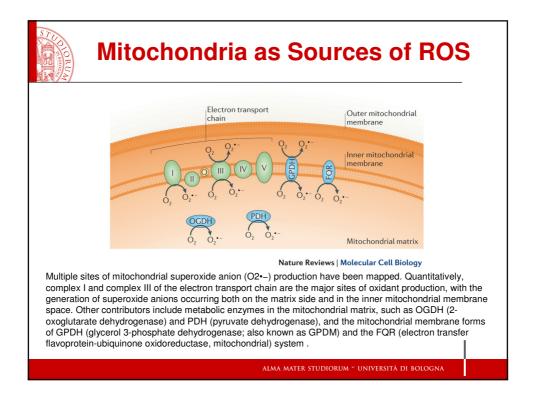
Mitochondria are the largest contributors to intracellular oxidant production. Mitochondria generate ATP in an oxygen-dependent manner, during which the flow of electrons down the respiratory chain culminates at complex IV with the reduction of molecular oxygen to water.

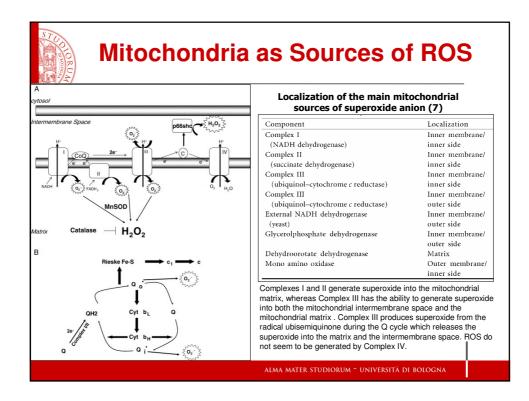
Throughout this process, molecular oxygen can also undergo a one-electron reduction to generate a superoxide anion (5).

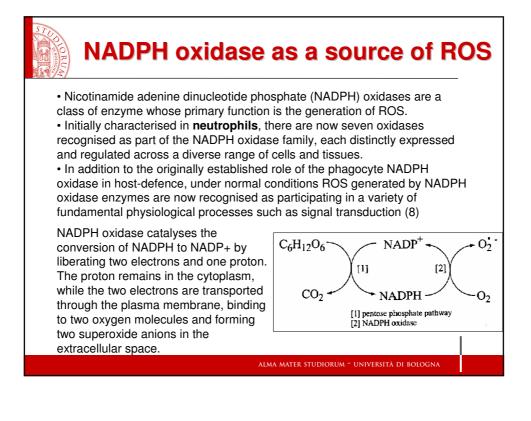
There are distinct molecular sites of superoxide production within the mitochondria (6)

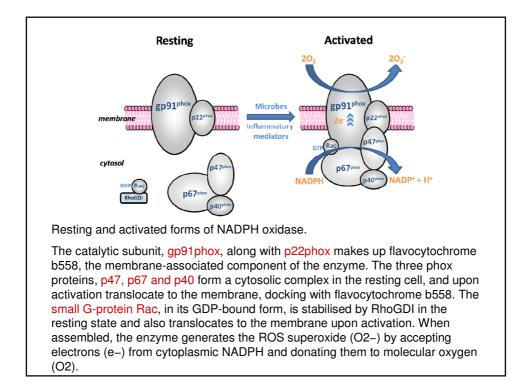
Hitochondria Structural Features

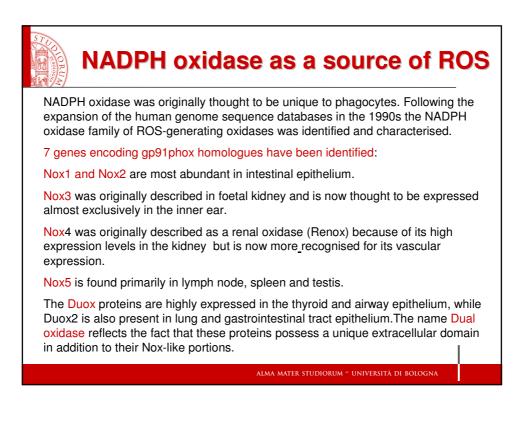
Image: Construction of the structure of the

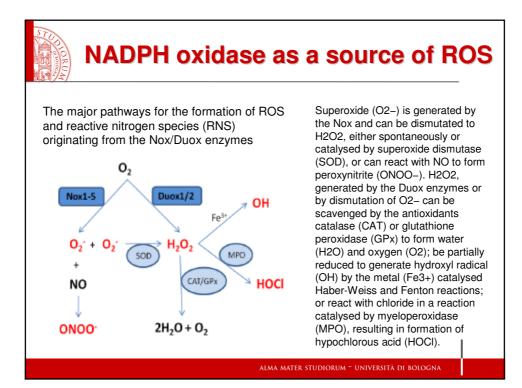


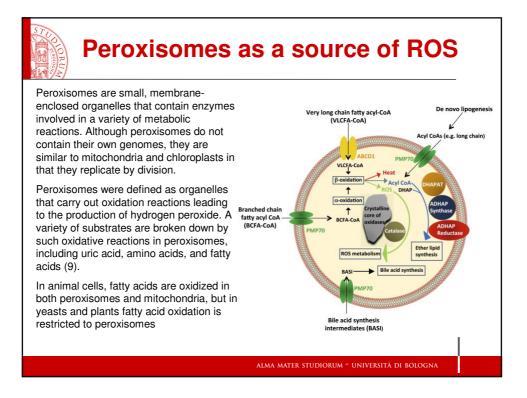


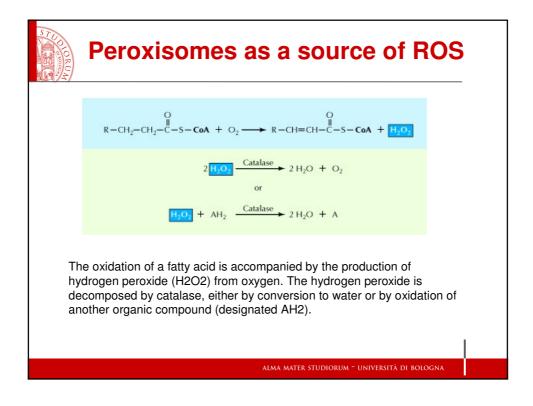


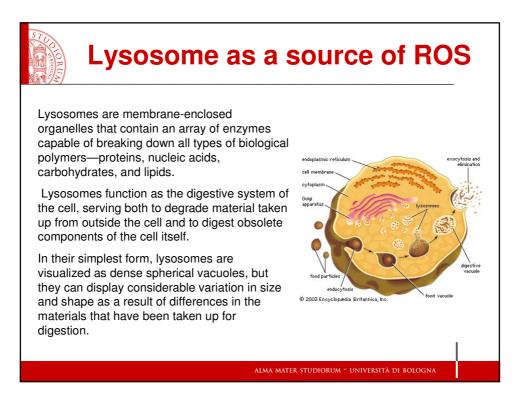


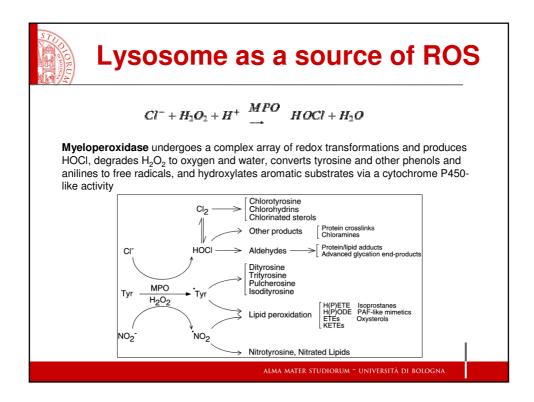


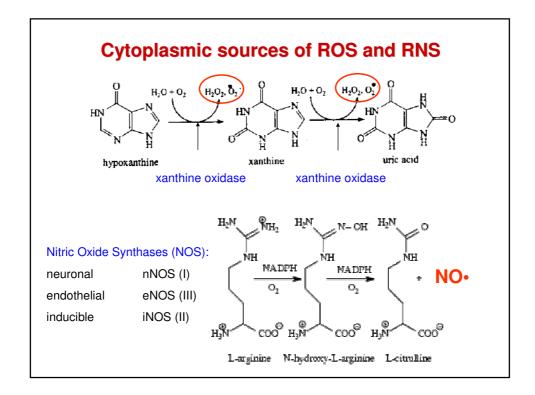












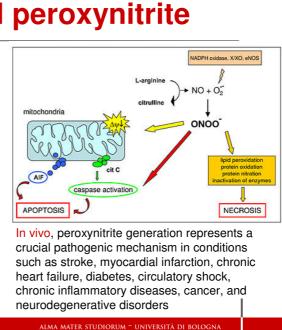


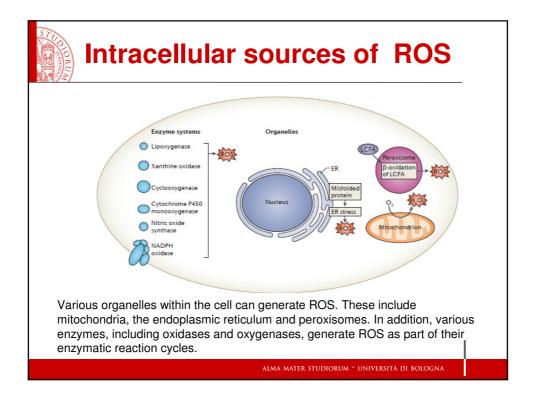
NO and peroxynitrite

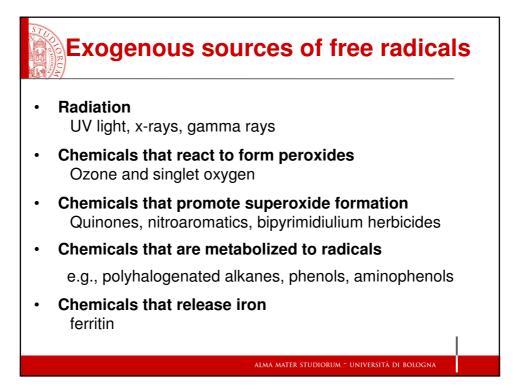
Formation of peroxynitrite in vivo has been ascribed to the reaction of the free radical superoxide with the free radical nitric oxide.

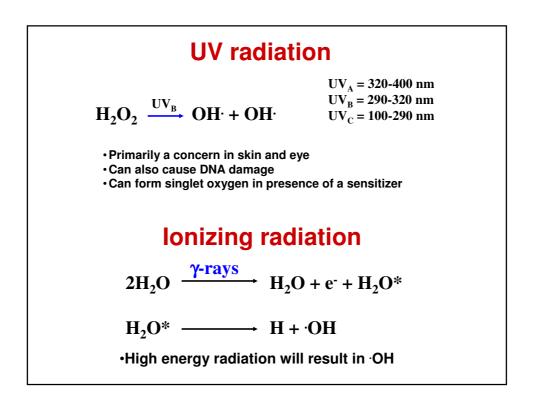
The resultant pairing of these two free radicals results in peroxynitrite, a molecule that is itself not a free radical, but that is a powerful oxidant.

Peroxynitrite interacts with lipids, DNA, and proteins via direct oxidative reactions or via indirect, radical-mediated mechanisms. These reactions trigger cellular responses, committing cells to necrosis or apoptosis.

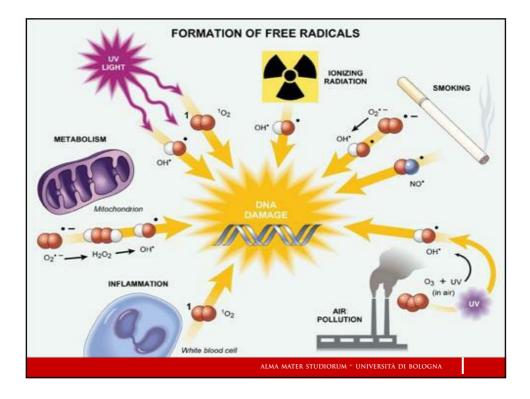














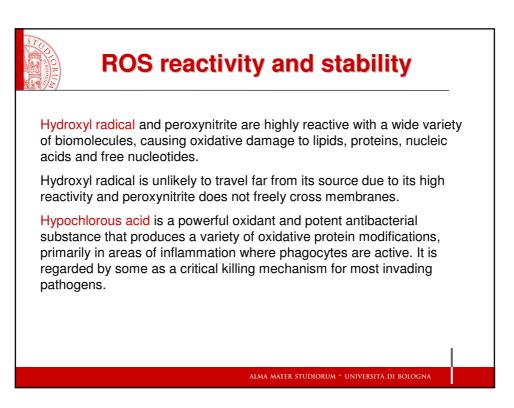
ROS reactivity and stability

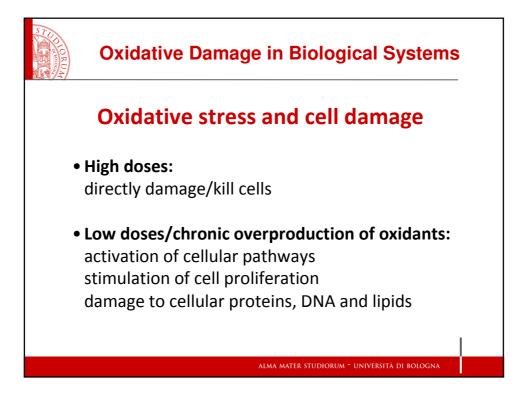
The reactivity of these various reactive species differs and is influenced by their ability to cross lipid membranes or diffuse in solution.

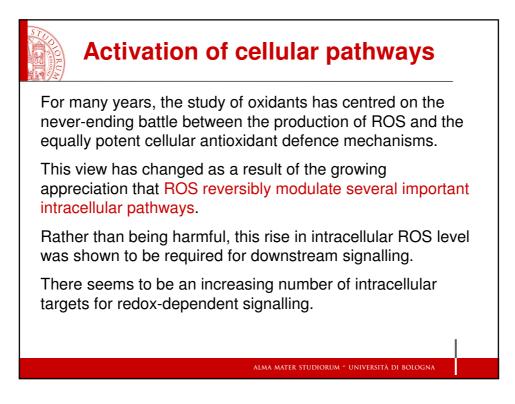
Superoxide is a short-lived, charged molecule that is believed to be only weakly toxic, as it reacts relatively slowly with different biomolecules. It modifies certain small molecules which may result in disruption of oxidative phosphorylation and cellular energy production and does not readily cross phospholipid membranes, acting primarily in proximity to its generation site.

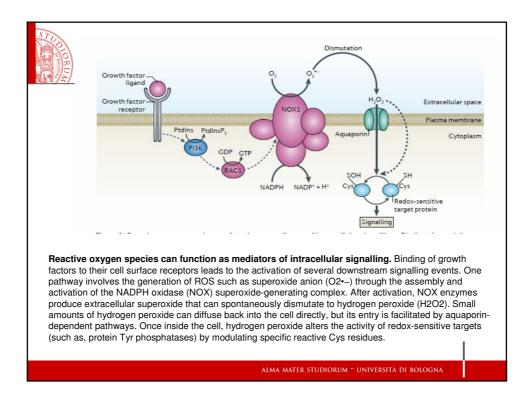
Hydrogen peroxide is relatively stable under physiological conditions and reacts with a wide range of biologically important compounds. It is readily diffusible within solution and across membranes and can therefore react locally or at a distance from its site of synthesis, depending on numerous factors including the presence of endogenous antioxidants or other ROS.

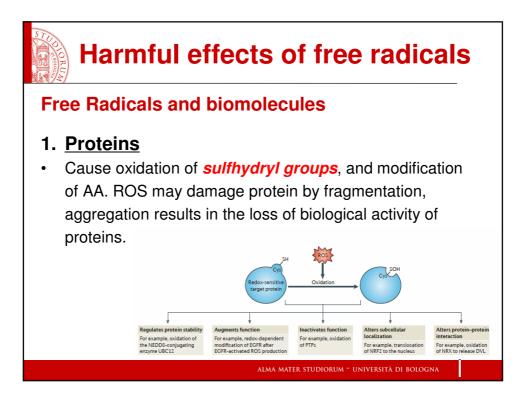
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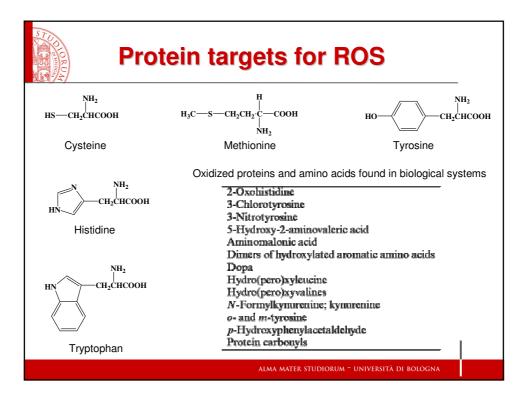


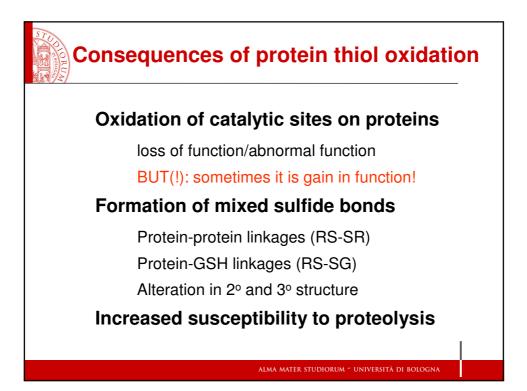


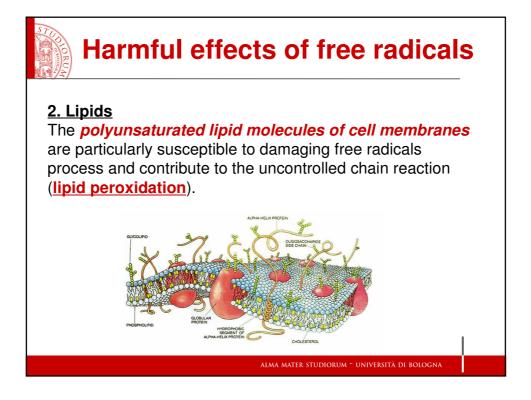


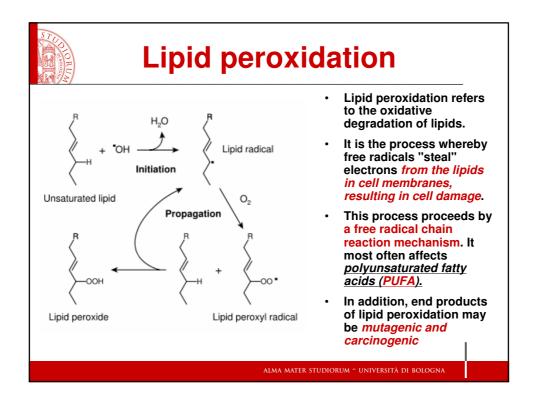


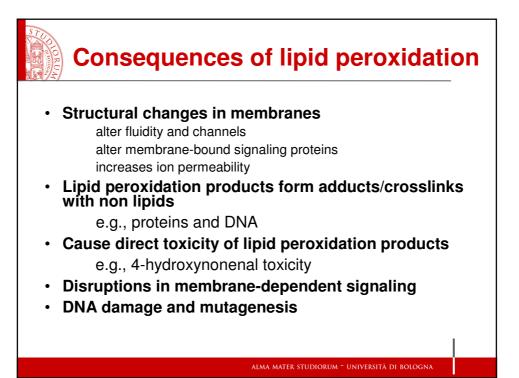


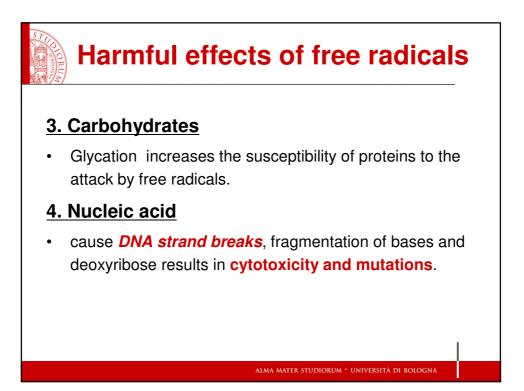


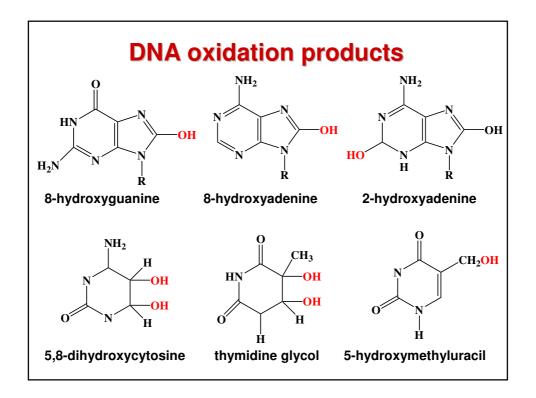


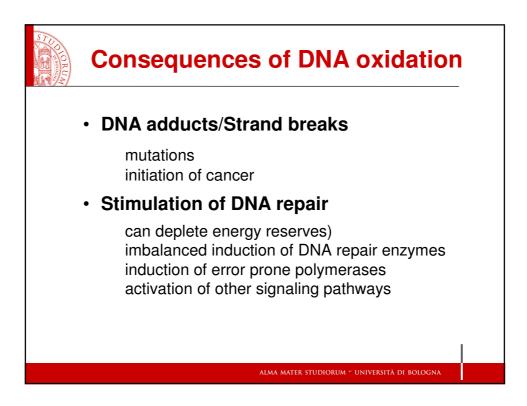


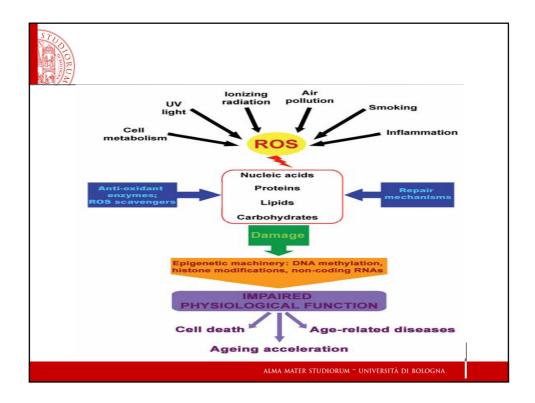


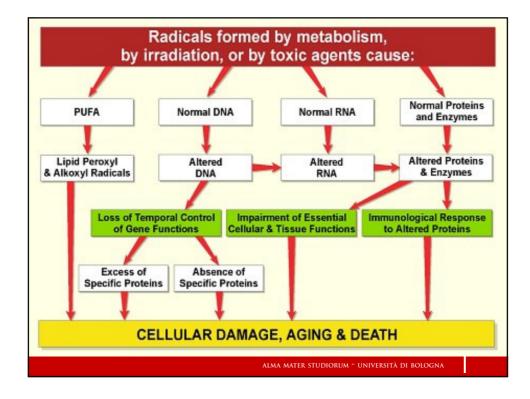












ROS mediated diseases

- 1. Cardiovascular diseases (CHD): ox-LDL, formed by the action of free radicals, promote CHD and atherosclerosis
- **2. Cancers: damage DNA** and cause mutation and cytotoxicity, play a key role in carcinogenesis.
- **3. Inflammatory diseases:** damage on the extracellular components such as collagen and hyaluronic acid, promote glomerulonephritis and ulcerative colitis.
- **4. Respiratory diseases:** destroy endothelium. Cigarette smoke contains free radicals and promotes the production of more free radicals.

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