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Amino Acid Degradation Meets Fatty Acid Degradation

Complex Cobalt-Containing Compound: Coenzyme B₁₂

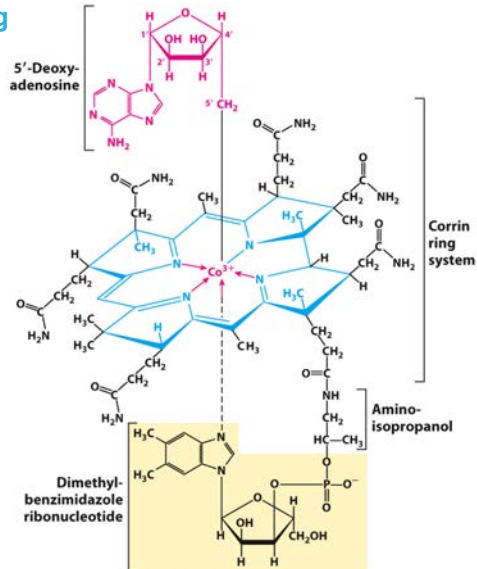
Nobel Prize



Alexander R. Todd
1957

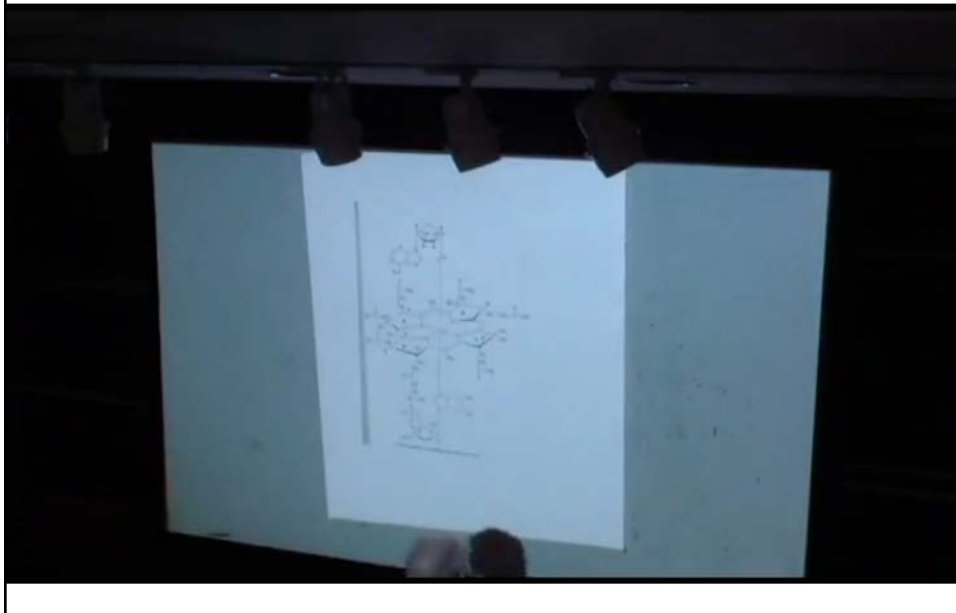


Dorothy Hodgkin
1964

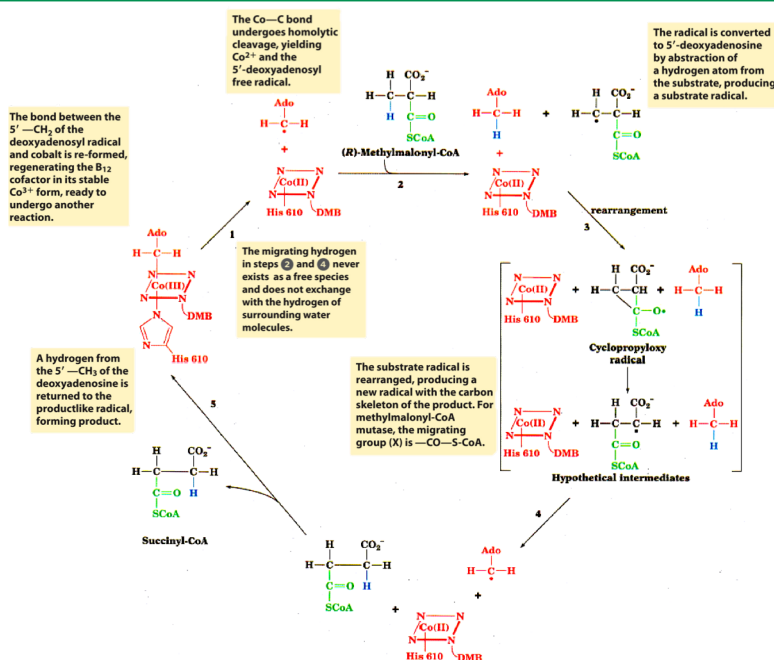


Amino Acid Degradation Meets Fatty Acid Degradation

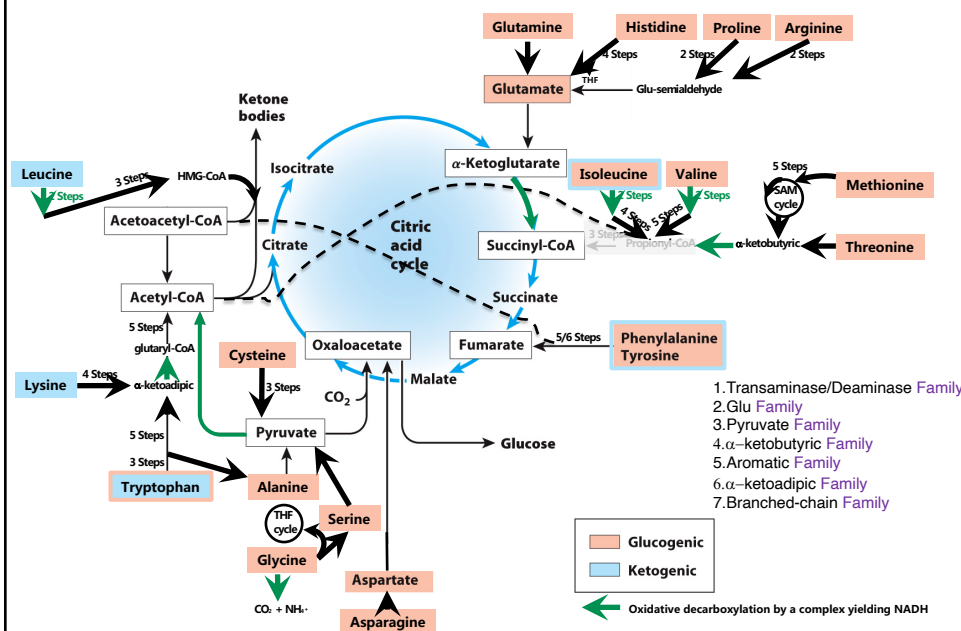
The Vitamin B₁₂ Story



Amino Acid Degradation Meets Fatty Acid Degradation



Amino Acid Degradation: Overview



Amino Acid Degradation: Overview

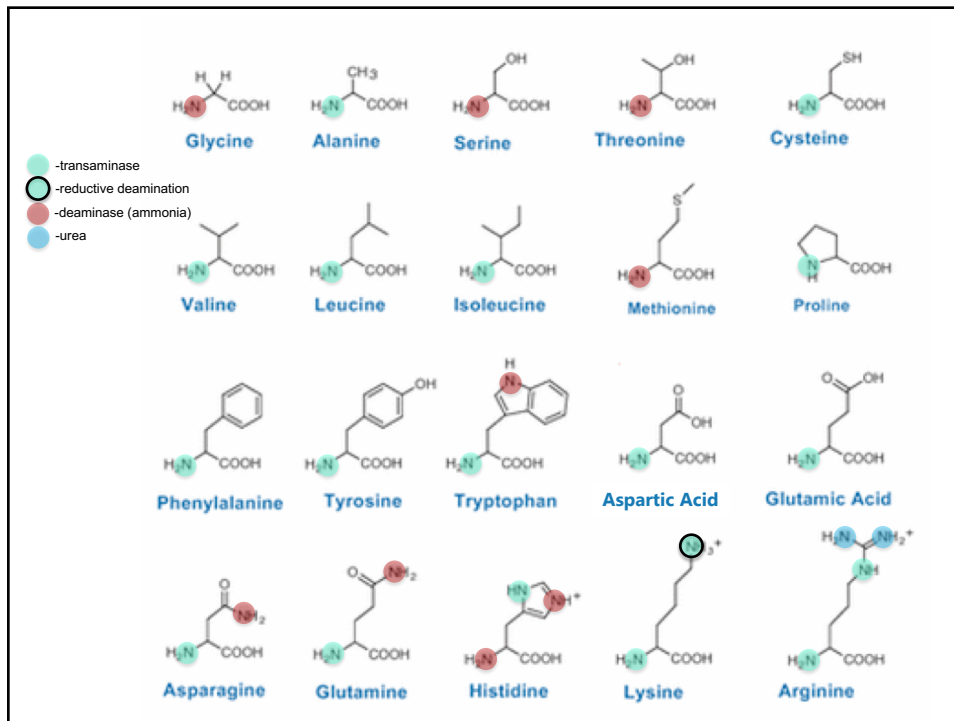
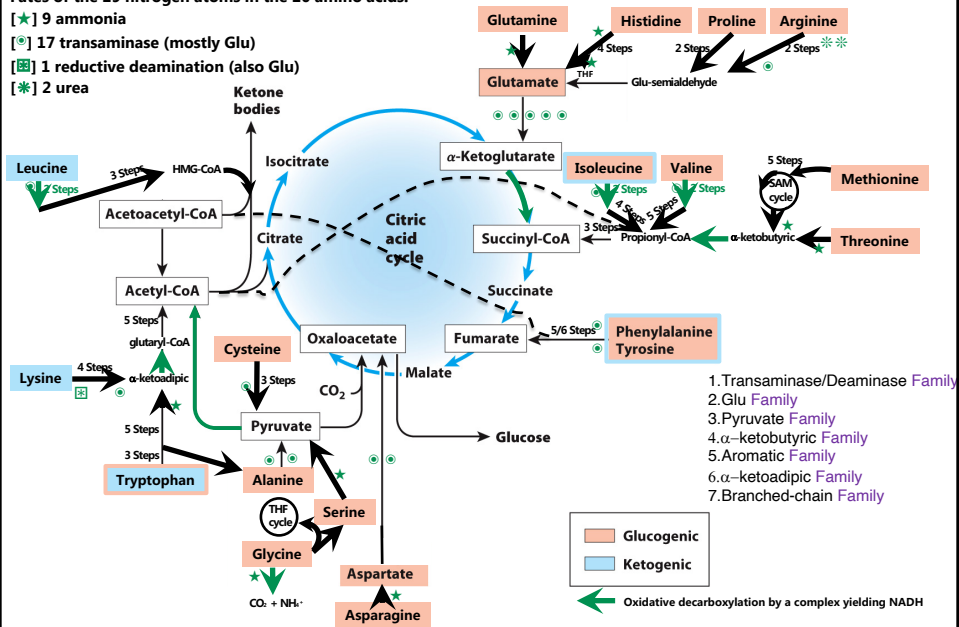
Fates of the 29 nitrogen atoms in the 20 amino acids:

[★] 9 ammonia

[⊙] 17 transaminase (mostly Glu)

[⊠] 1 reductive deamination (also Glu)

[✱] 2 urea



Amino Acid Degradation: Overview

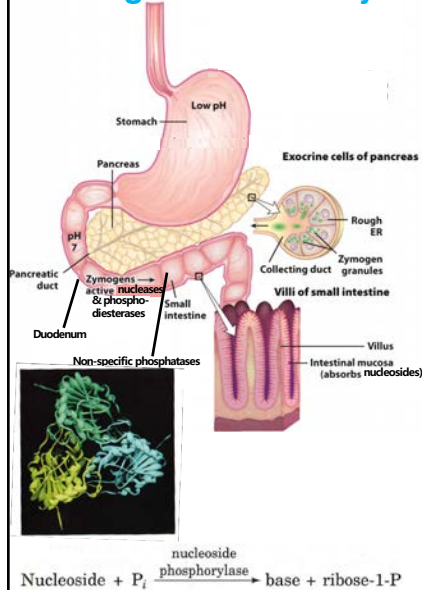
We learned that:

- amino acids from protein are an important **energy source** in carnivorous animals
- the first step of AA catabolism is often the transfer of the NH_3 via PLP-dependent aminotransferase usually to α -**ketoglutarate** to yield L-glutamate
- in most mammals, toxic ammonia is quickly recaptured into Gln or directly into carbamoyl phosphate for the **urea cycle**
- amino acids are degraded to pyruvate, acetyl-CoA, α -ketoglutarate, succinyl-CoA, and/or oxaloacetate
- amino acids yielding acetyl-CoA are ketogenic
- amino acids yielding other end products are glucogenic
- genetic defects in amino-acid degradation pathways result in a number of human diseases
- amino acid catabolism is dependent on a variety of cofactors, including THF, ado-Met (SAM), Cbl, biotin, and **PLP**

Nucleic-Acid Degradation

Nucleic-Acid Degradation

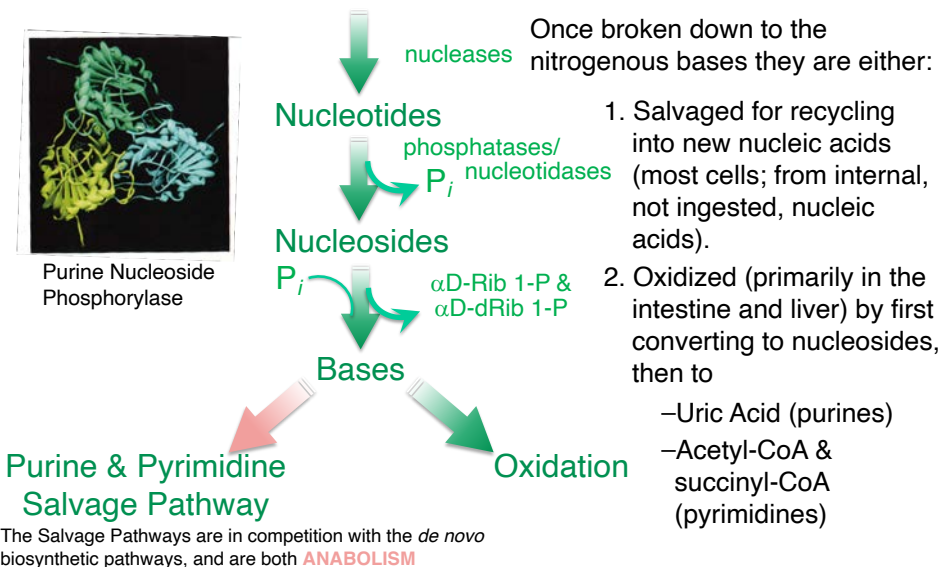
The Digestion Pathway



- Ingestion of food always includes nucleic acids.
- As you know from BI 421, the low pH of the stomach does not affect the polymer.
- In the duodenum, zymogens are converted to nucleases and the nucleotides are converted to nucleosides by non-specific phosphatases or nucleotidases.
- Only the non-ionic nucleosides are taken up in the villi of the small intestine.
- **In the cell**, the first step is the release of the ribose sugar, most effectively done by a non-specific **nucleoside phosphorylase** to give ribose 1-phosphate (Rib1P) and the free bases.
- **Most nucleic acids are degraded to Rib, Rib1P, purines, and pyrimidines.**

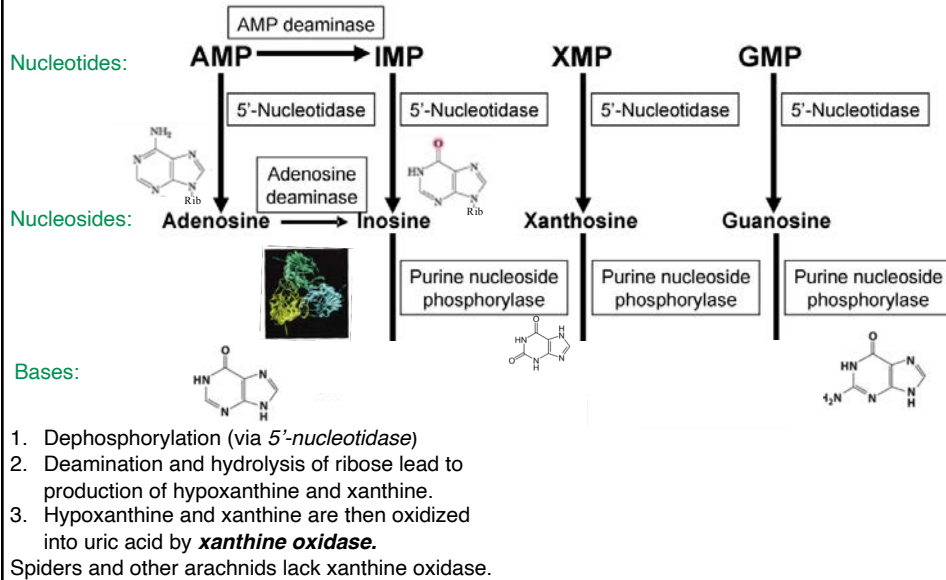
Nucleotide Degradation: Overview

Fate of Nucleic Acids:



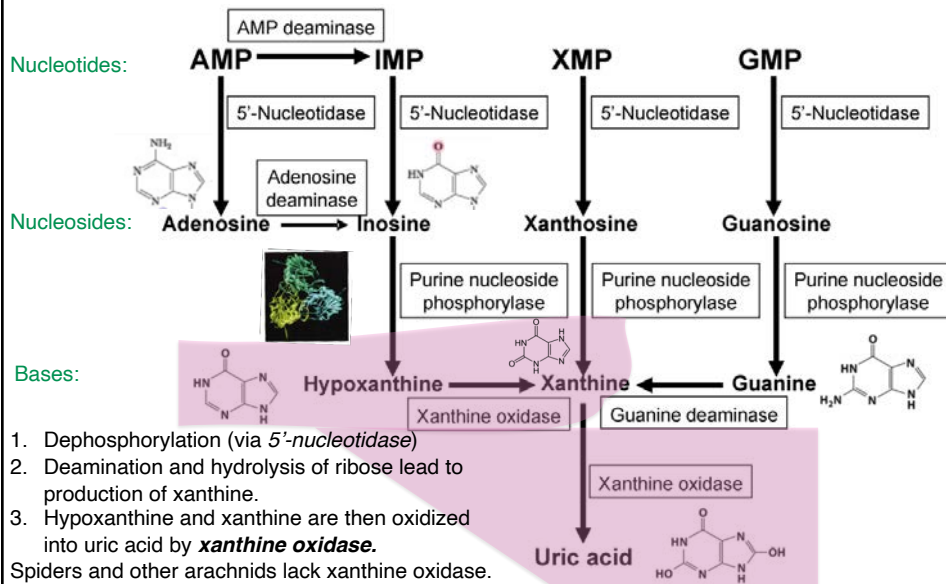
Nucleotide Degradation

Catabolism of Purines



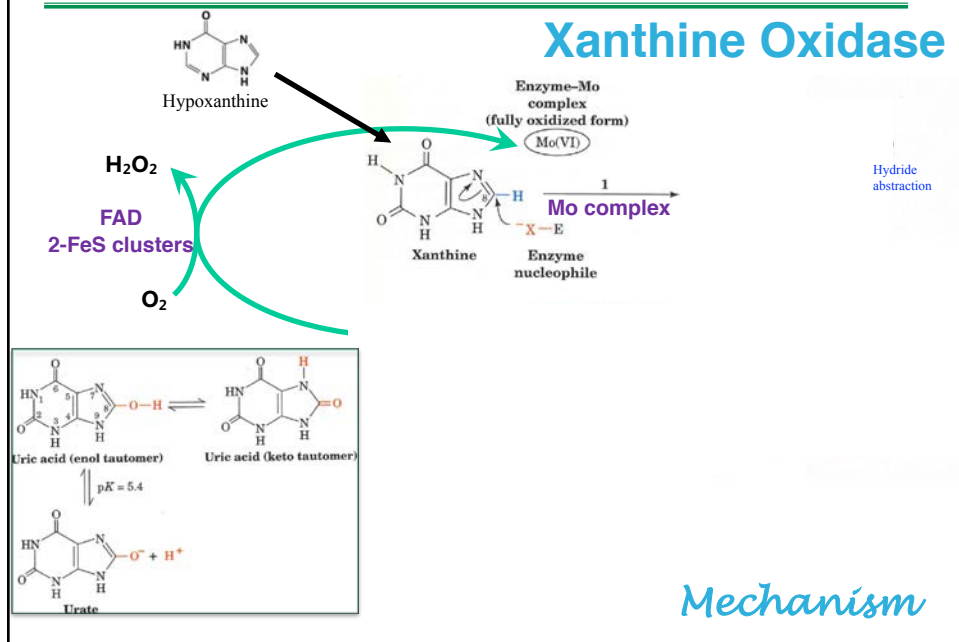
Nucleotide Degradation

Catabolism of Purines



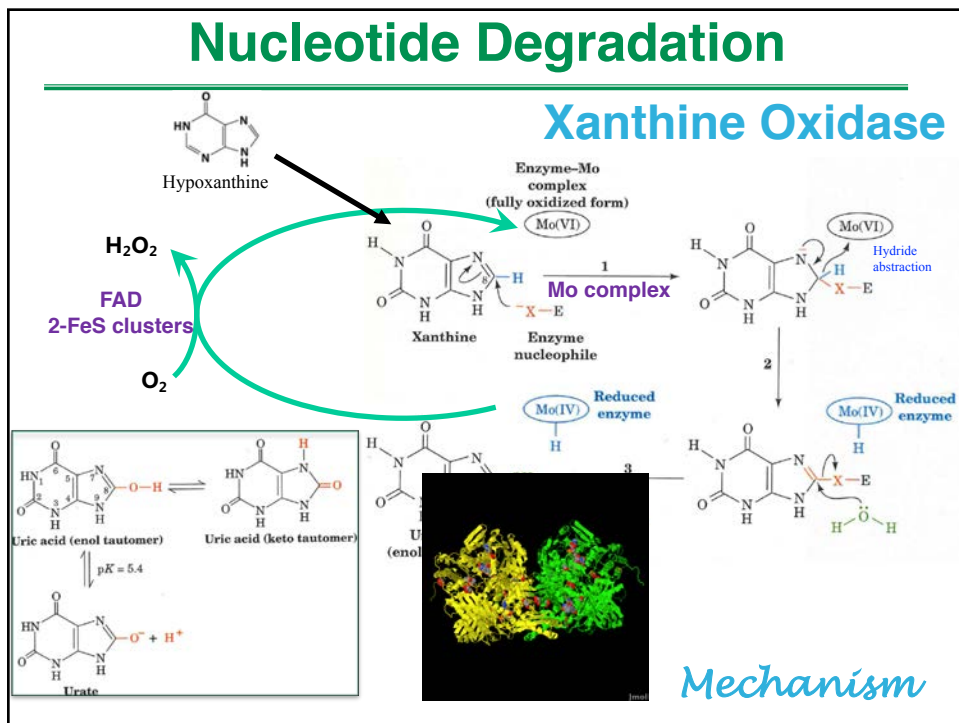
Nucleotide Degradation

Xanthine Oxidase



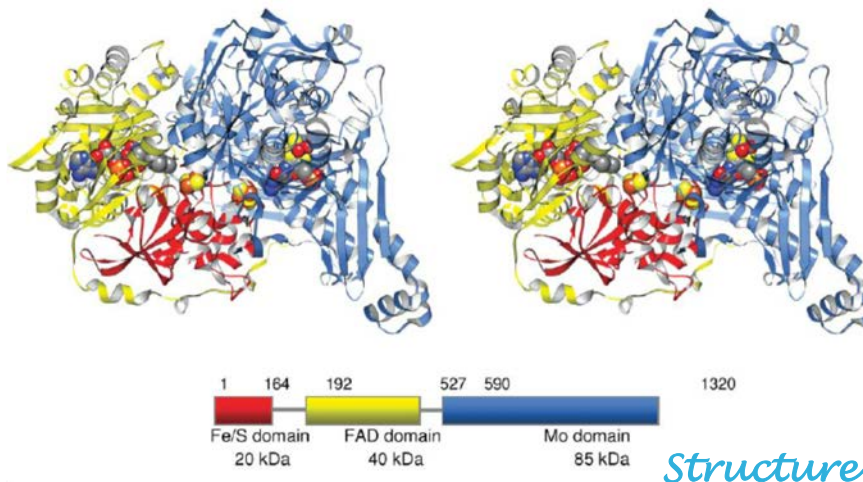
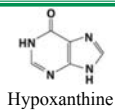
Nucleotide Degradation

Xanthine Oxidase

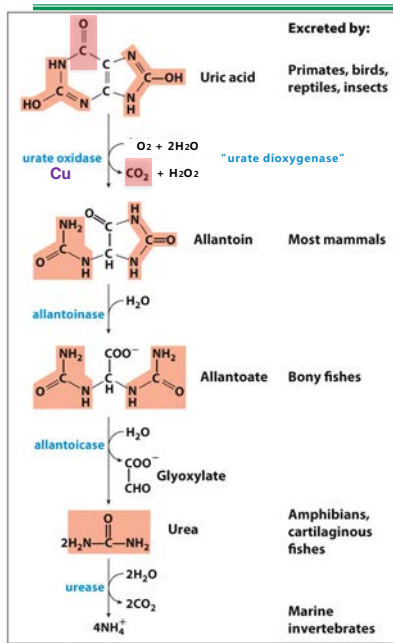


Nucleotide Degradation

Xanthine Oxidase



Nucleotide Degradation

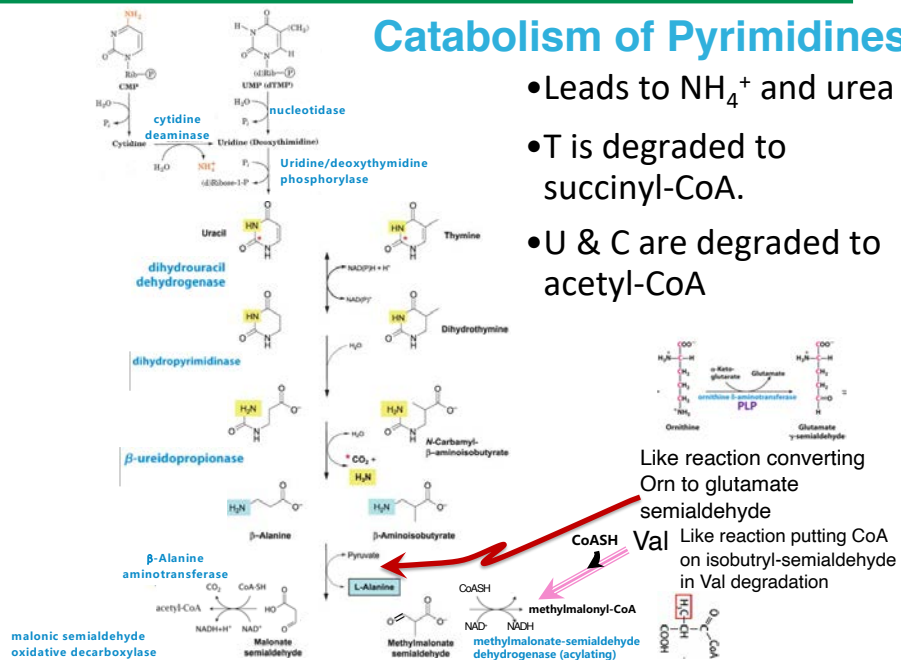


- Degree of further oxidation of uric acid is organism dependent.
- Birds and insects don't excrete amino-acid nitrogen as urea, but as uric acid to conserve water.

Conversion of Uric Acid to Allantoin, Allantoate, and Urea

Nucleotide Degradation

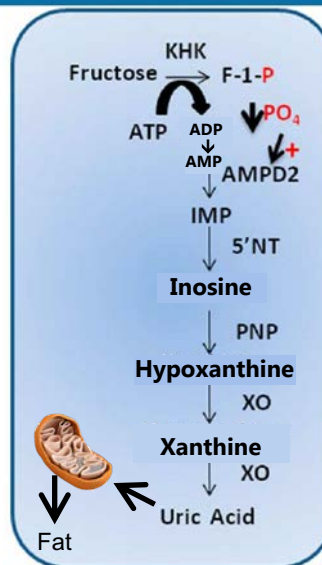
Catabolism of Pyrimidines



Nucleotide Degradation

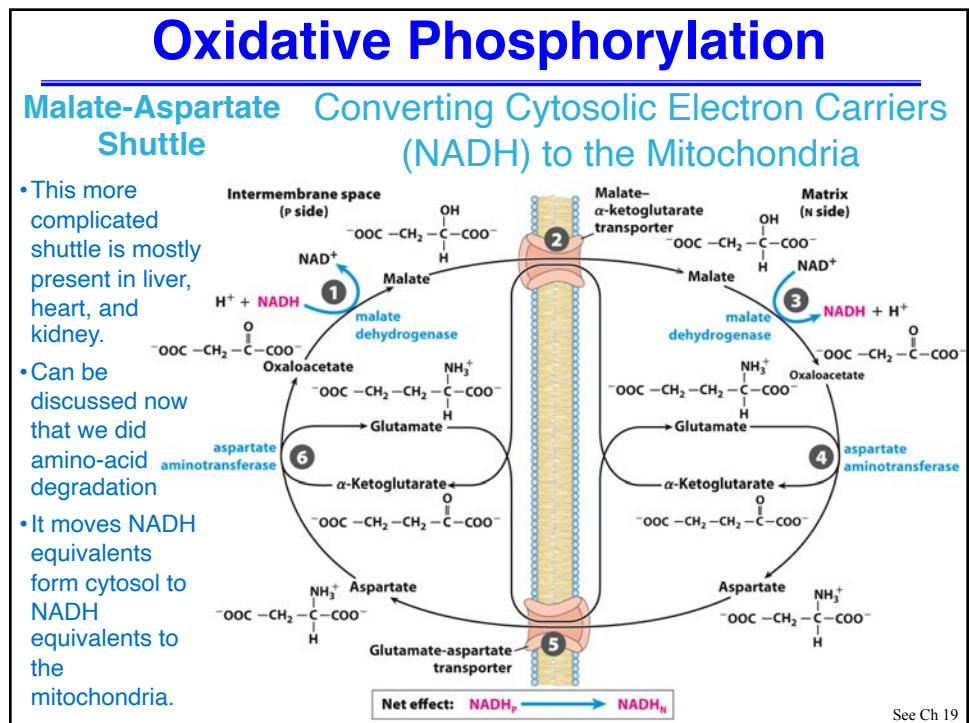
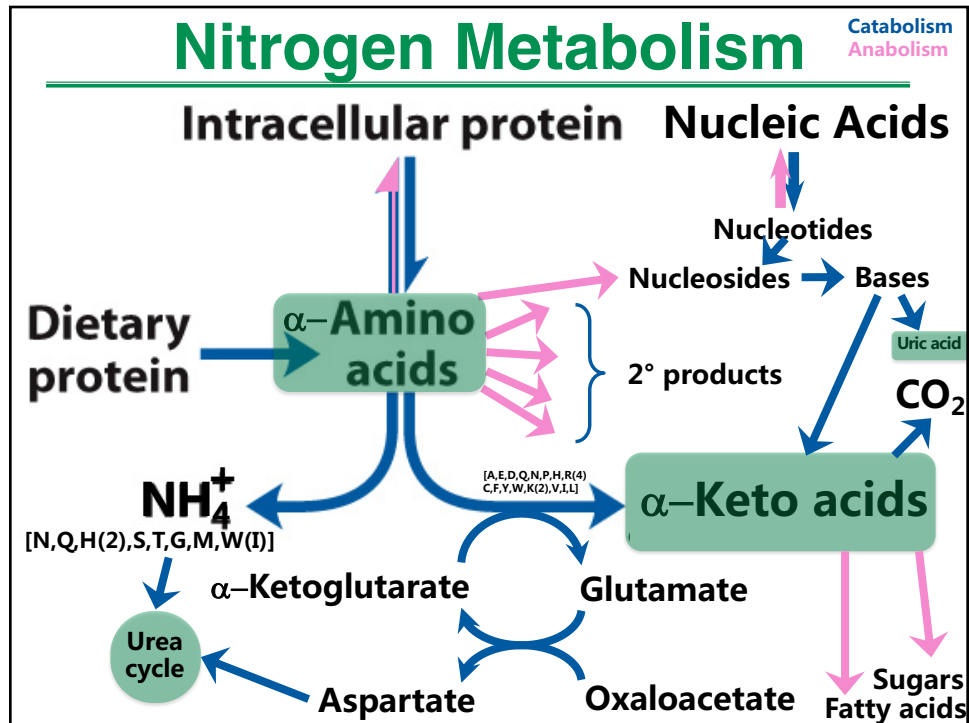
Hyperuricemia: how sugar “becomes” fat

- The interesting connection between sugar metabolism and nitrogen metabolism
- What is even more interesting is that this metabolism is connected to fat metabolism as well
- The production of Uric Acid converts liver mitochondria to fatty acid synthesis by unknown mechanisms.



Metabolic

Source: Diabetes 9, 2013 American Diabetes Association, Inc.



**End of Material for
Exam 3**