



# Ch 22

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Biosynthesis of  
amino acids,  
nucleotides and  
related molecules

# Essential amino acids

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- A.A. can not be synthesized by human body.
  - ✓ Must be provided in the diet

Table 18-1

<i>Nonessential</i>	<i>Conditionally essential*</i>	<i>Essential</i>
Alanine	Arginine	Histidine
Asparagine	Cysteine	Isoleucine
Aspartate	Glutamine	Leucine
Glutamate	Glycine	Lysine
Serine	Proline	Methionine
	Tyrosine	Phenylalanine
		Threonine
		Tryptophan
		Valine

# Biosynthesis of A.A.

- All C derived from intermediates in

- ✓ Glycolysis

- 3-Phosphoglycerate (3PG)
- Phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP)
- Pyruvate

- ✓ The citric acid cycle

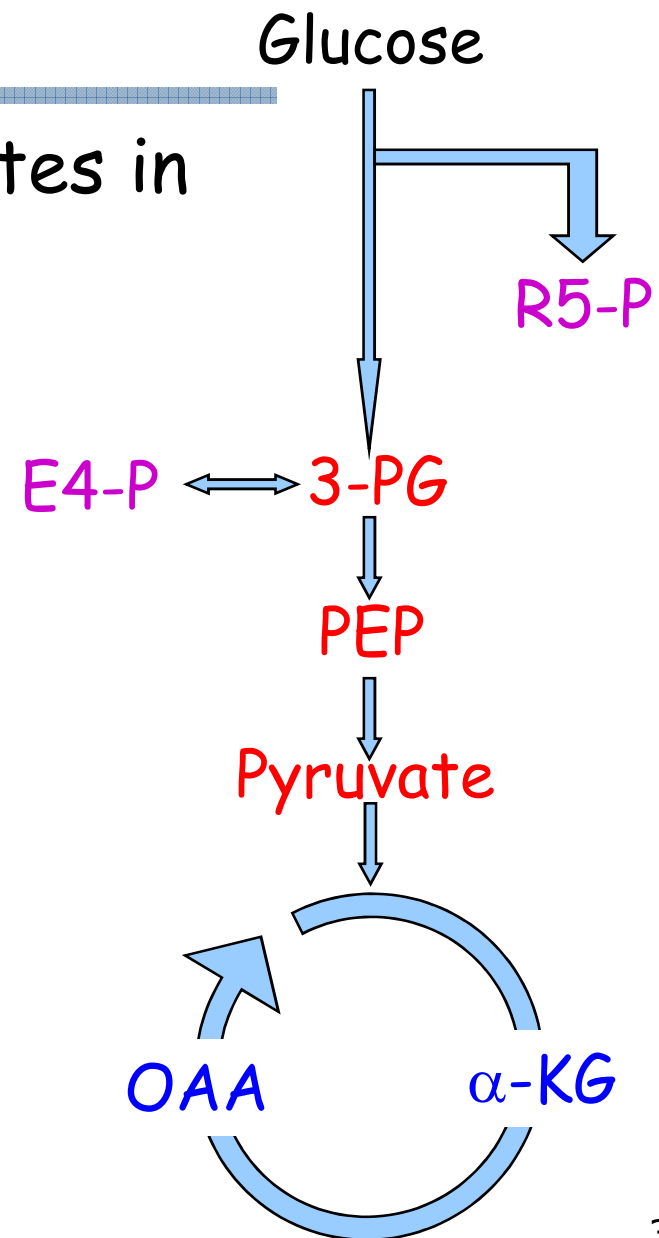
- $\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate
- Oxaloacetate

- ✓ The pentose phosphate pathway

- Ribose 5-phosphate
- Erythrose 4-phosphate

- N enters these pathways as

- ✓ Glu (aminotransferase)
- ✓ Gln (amidotransferase, p. 859)



# Precursors of amino acids

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- Table 22-1

**TABLE 22-1** Amino Acid Biosynthetic Families, Grouped by Metabolic Precursor

**$\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate**

Glutamate  
Glutamine  
Proline  
Arginine

**3-Phosphoglycerate**

Serine  
Glycine  
Cysteine

**Oxaloacetate**

Aspartate  
Asparagine  
Methionine\*  
Threonine\*  
Lysine\*

**Pyruvate**

Alanine  
Valine\*  
Leucine\*  
Isoleucine\*

**Phosphoenolpyruvate and erythrose 4-phosphate**

Tryptophan\*  
Phenylalanine\*  
Tyrosine<sup>†</sup>

**Ribose 5-phosphate**

Histidine\*

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\*Essential amino acids.

<sup>†</sup>Derived from phenylalanine in mammals.



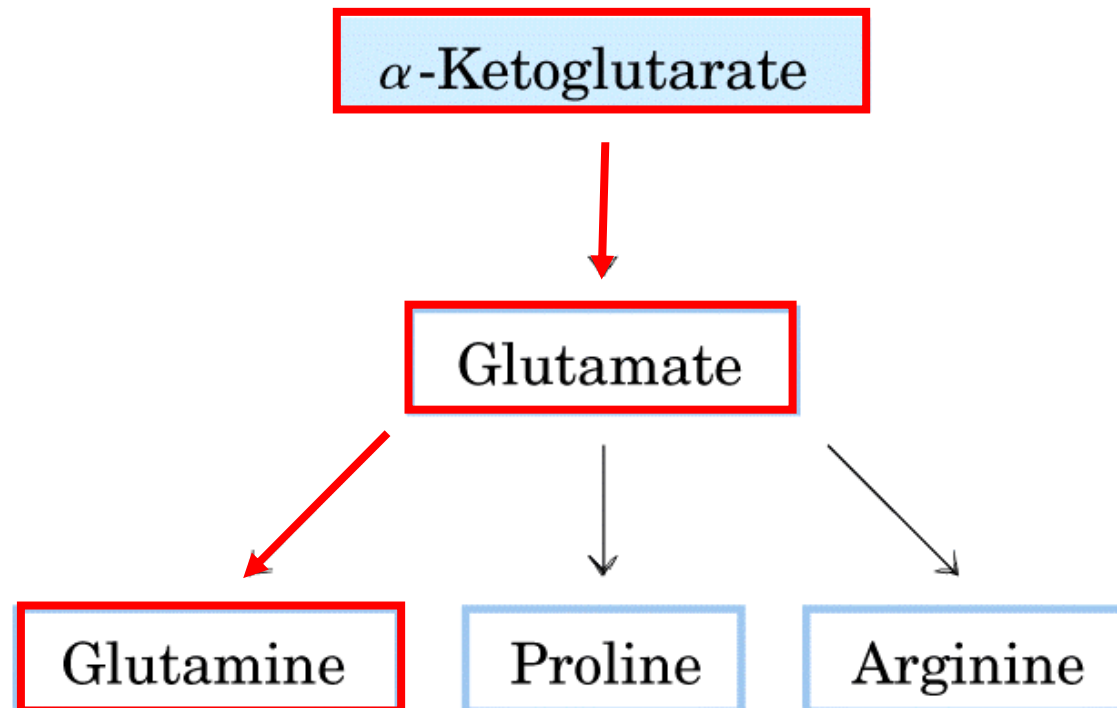
# $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate

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p. 842, left column:

“We have already described the biosynthesis of **Glutamate** and **Glutamine**.”

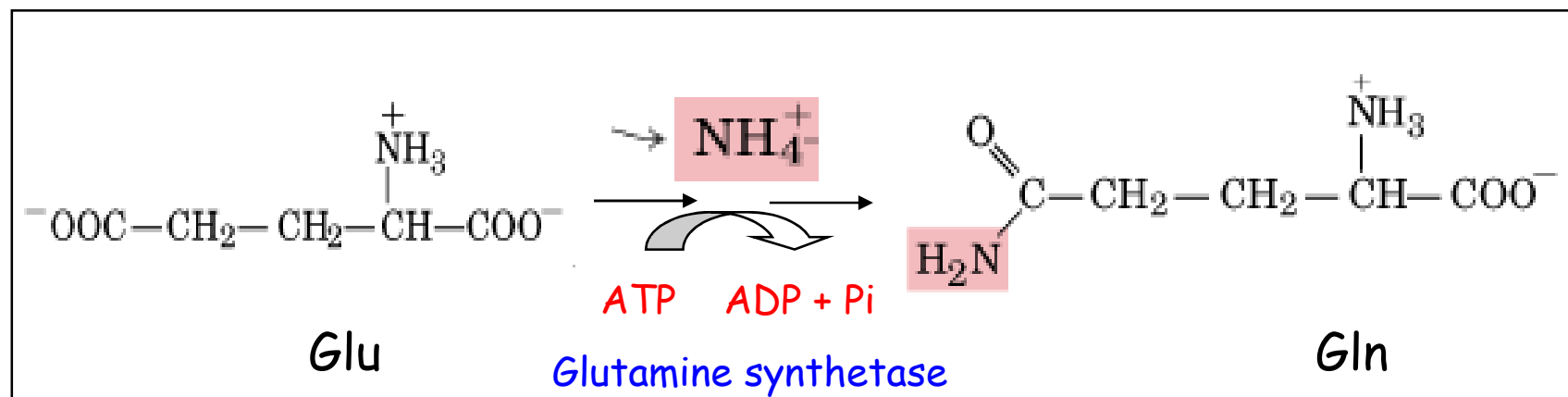
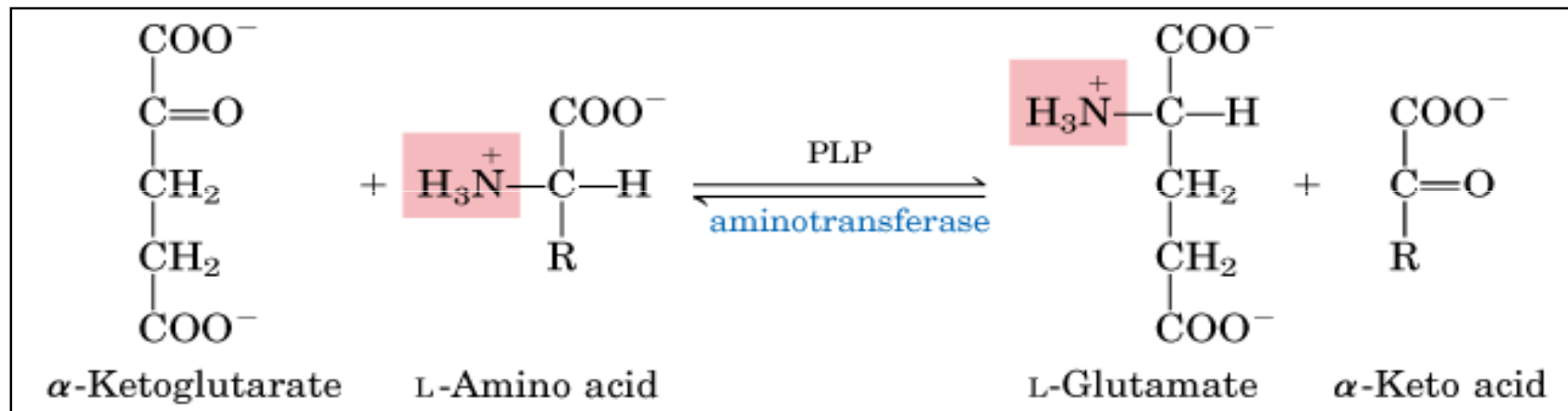
p. 861



# $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate $\rightarrow$ Glu $\rightarrow$ Gln

- Glu

- ✓ By aminotransferase (transamination) (Fig 18-4)
- ✓ By glutamine synthetase (Fig 18-8)



# $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate $\rightarrow$ Arg

- Arg (in mammals)

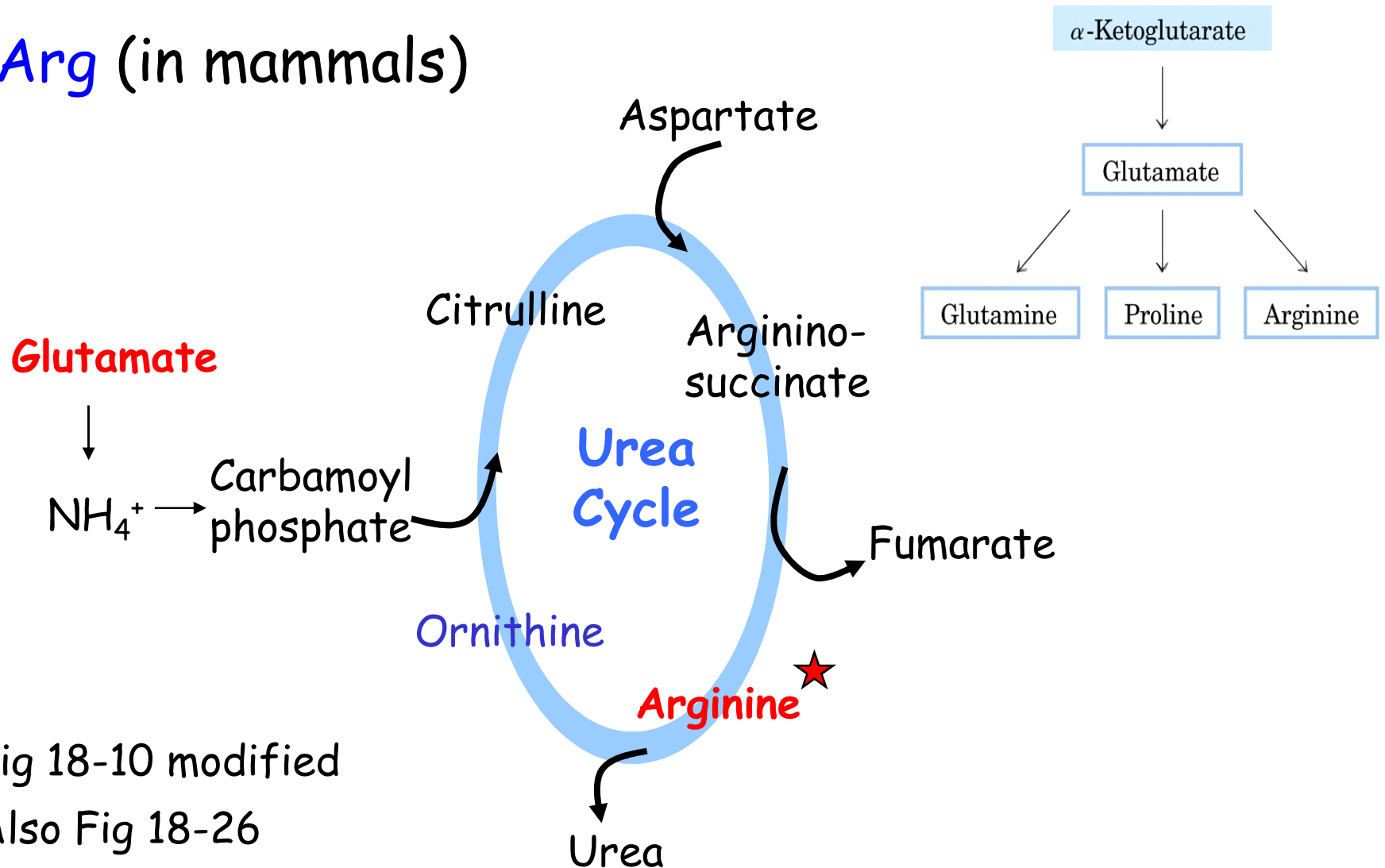
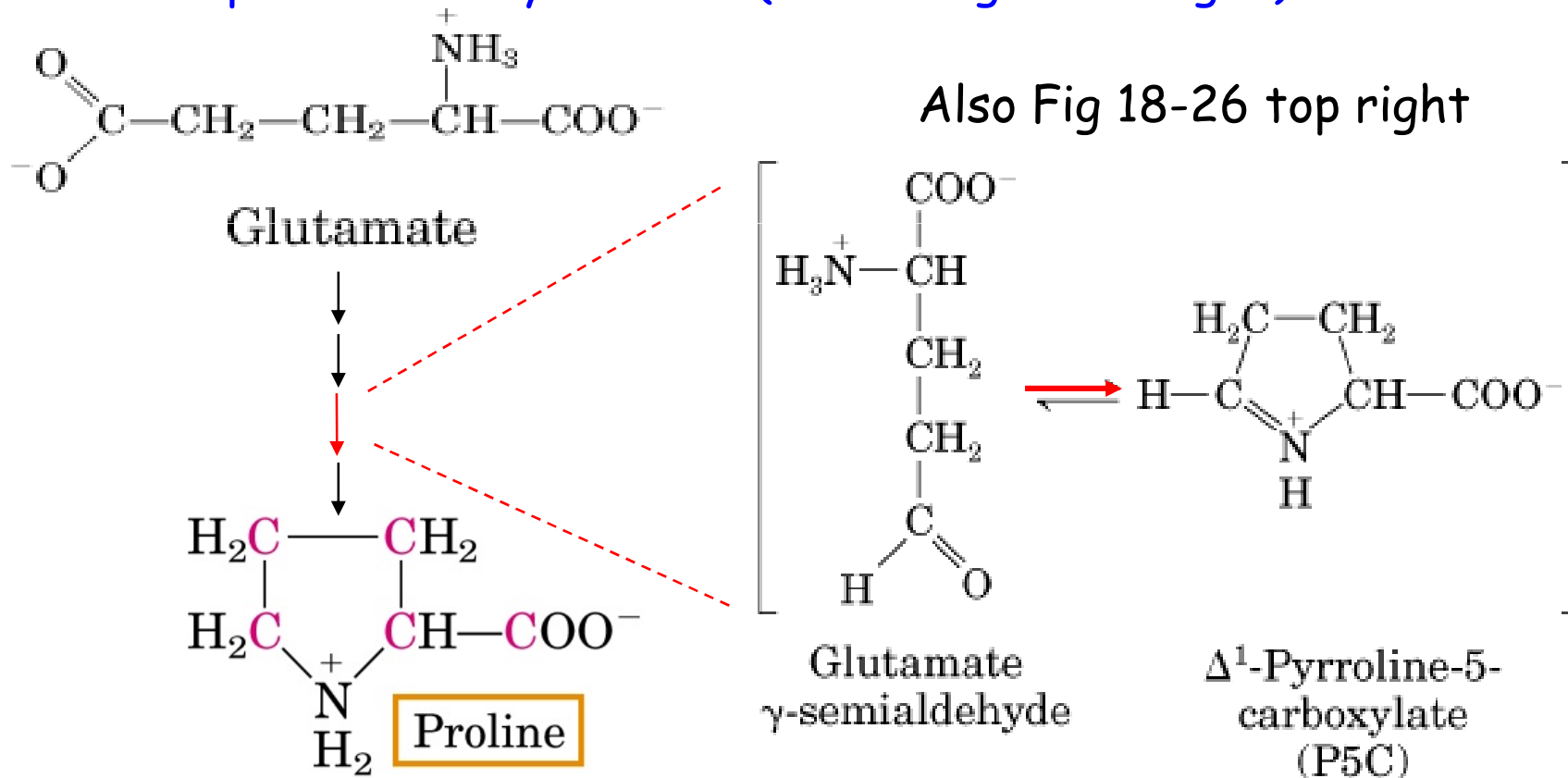


Fig 18-10 modified  
Also Fig 18-26

# $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate $\rightarrow$ Pro

- Pro (I) (In mammals)
  - ✓ Fig 22-10 left (as in bacteria)
  - ✓ Spontaneous cyclization (also in Fig 22-11 right)

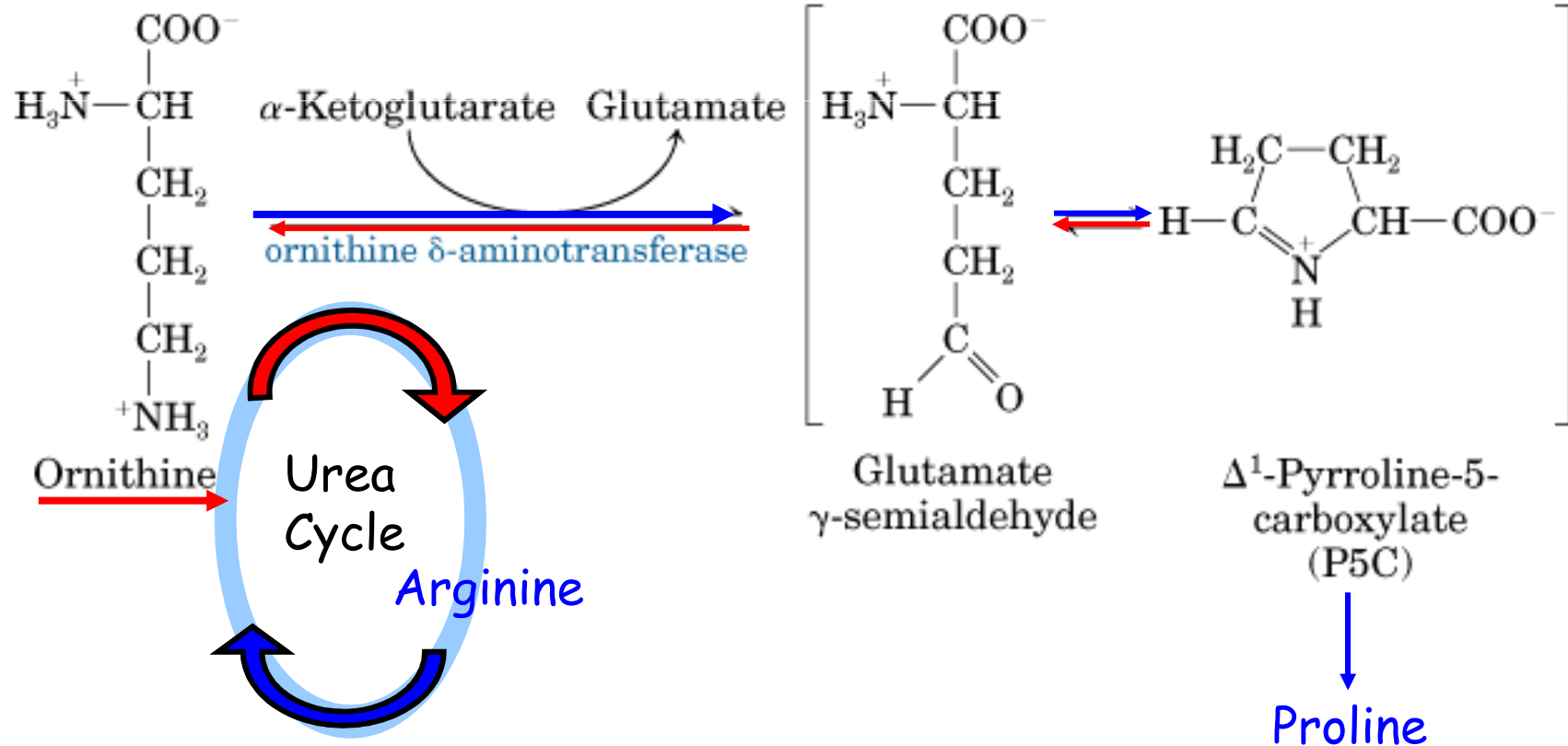


# Arg $\leftrightarrow$ Pro

- In mammals

- ✓ Pro - (I) Fig 22-10 left or (II) Fig 22-11 forward
- ✓ Arg - Fig 22-11 backward

Fig 22-11

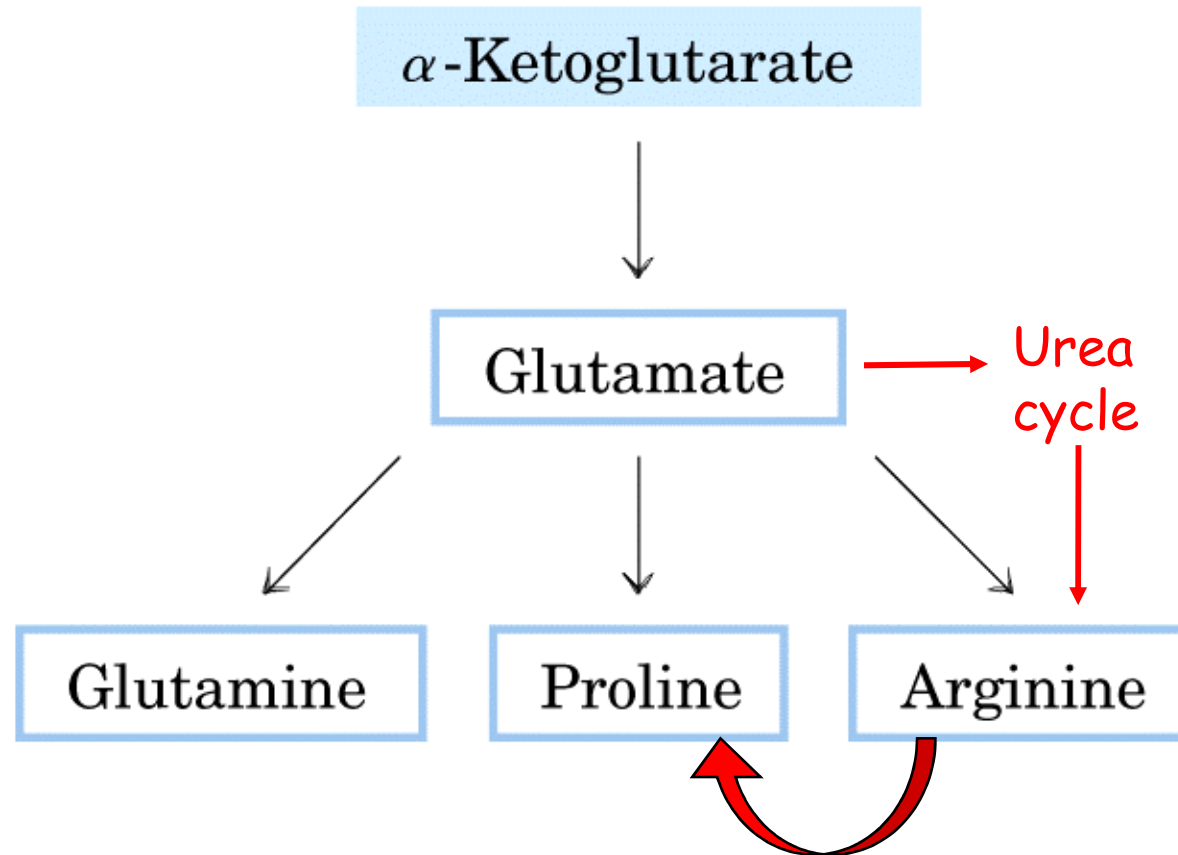


# $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate

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- Bacteria (Fig 22-10)
- **In mammals**

p. 861

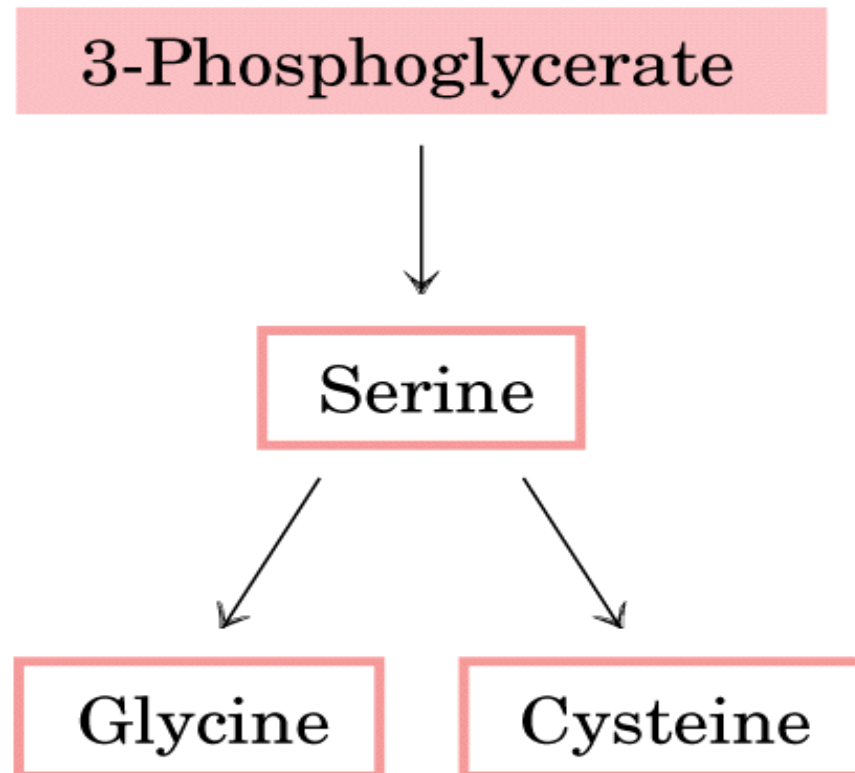


# 3-phosphoglycerate

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- In bacterial, plants
- In mammals

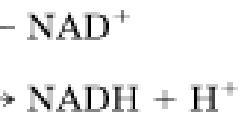
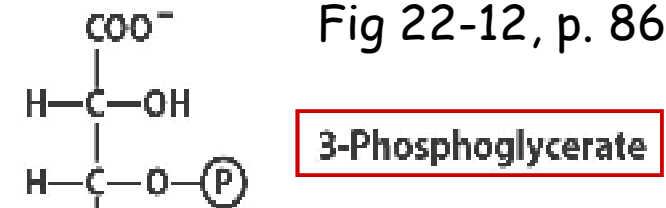
p. 863



# 3-PG → Ser → Gly

- **Ser**
  - ✓ The synthetic pathway is the same in all organisms (Fig 22-12)
- **Gly**
  - ✓ Derived from Ser (3C→2C, Fig 22-12)
  - ✓ From  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , and 1 C-transfer (Fig 18-19)

Fig 22-12, p. 863



Glutamate

$\alpha$ -ketoglutarate

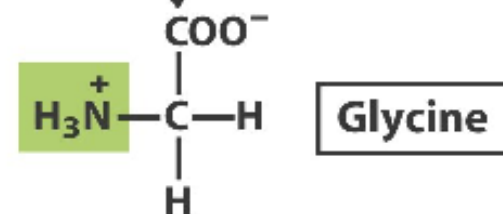
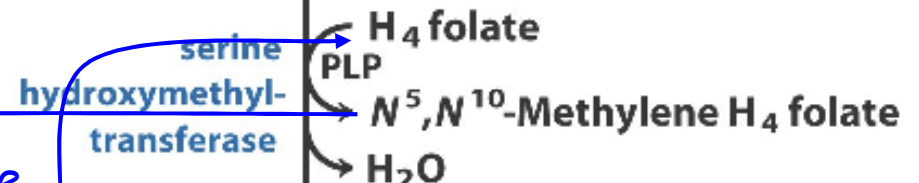
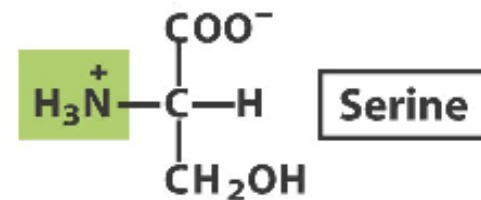
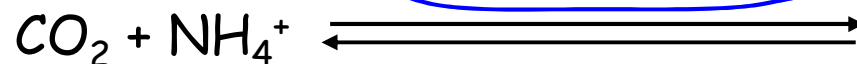


Fig 18-19, p. 692



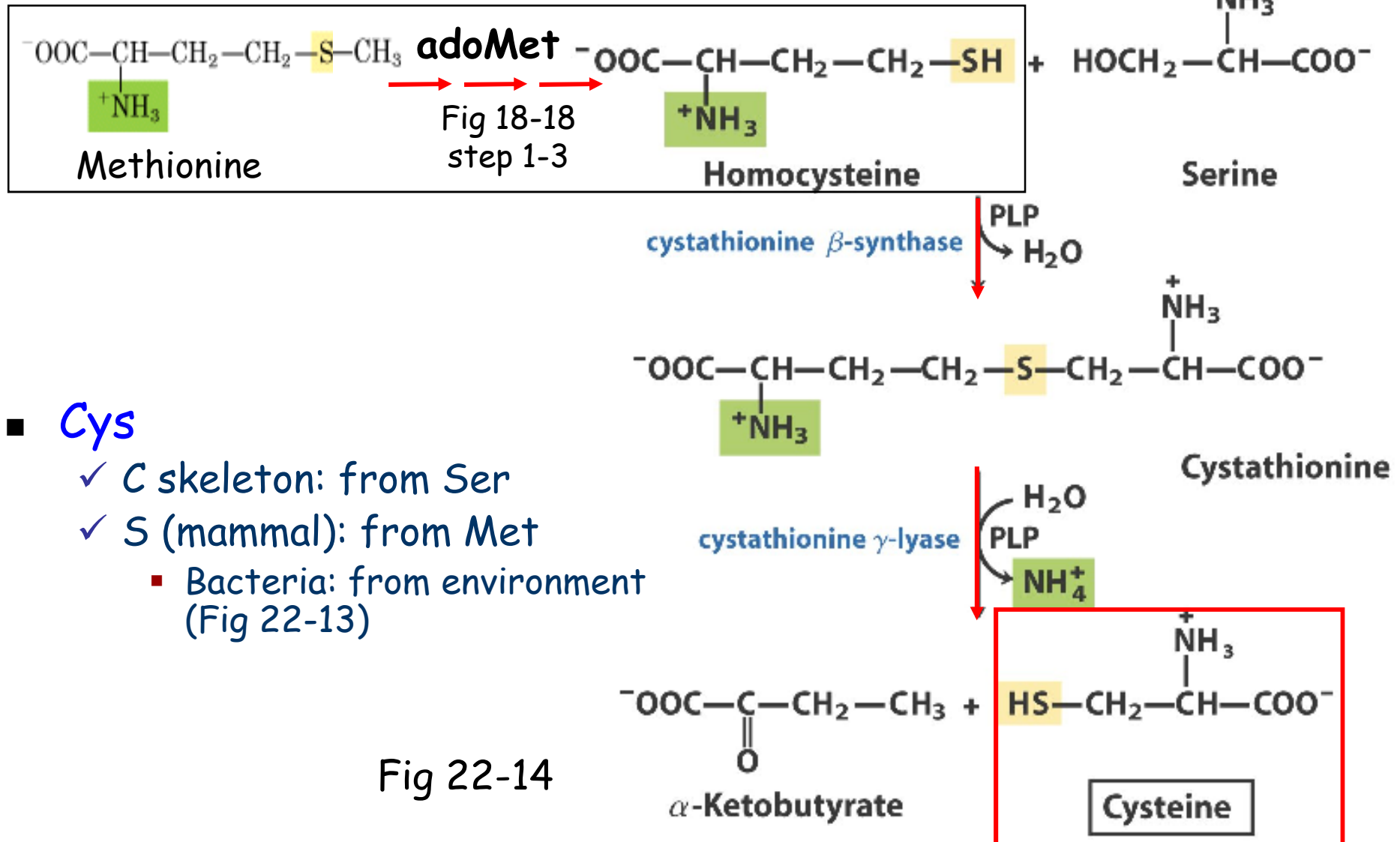
Glycine synthase  
(cleavage enzyme)

serine  
hydroxymethyl-  
transferase



# 3-Phosphoglycerate → Cys

3-PG  
↓



- **Cys**
  - ✓ C skeleton: from Ser
  - ✓ S (mammal): from Met
    - Bacteria: from environment (Fig 22-13)

Fig 22-14

# Met(S) + Ser(C) → Cys

- **Cys**

- ✓ By-product in C-skeleton degradation of Met

- ✓ Fig 18-27 (top)

- Met → Succinyl-CoA

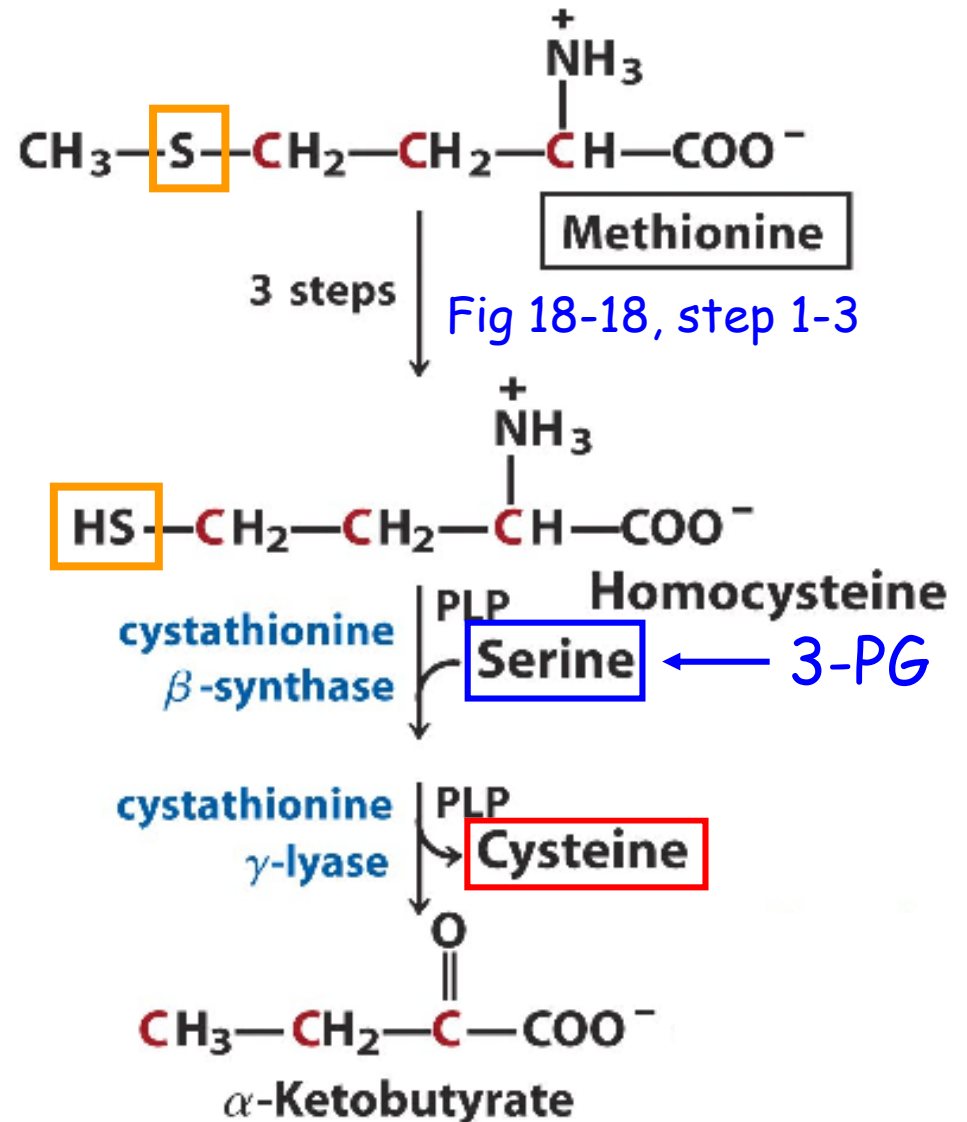
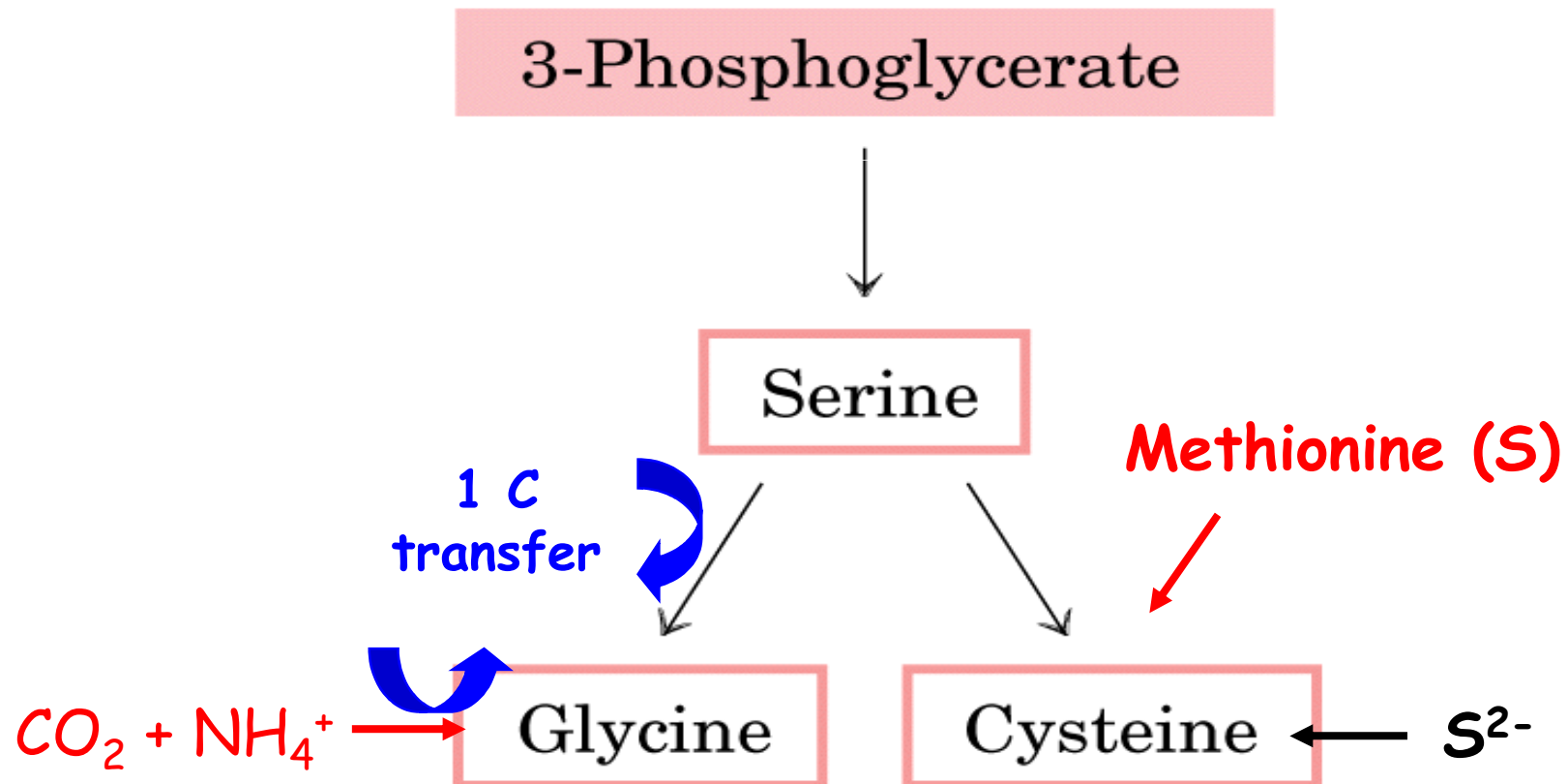


Fig 18-27 top  
p. 699

# 3-phosphoglycerate

- Plants and bacteria
- **Mammals**

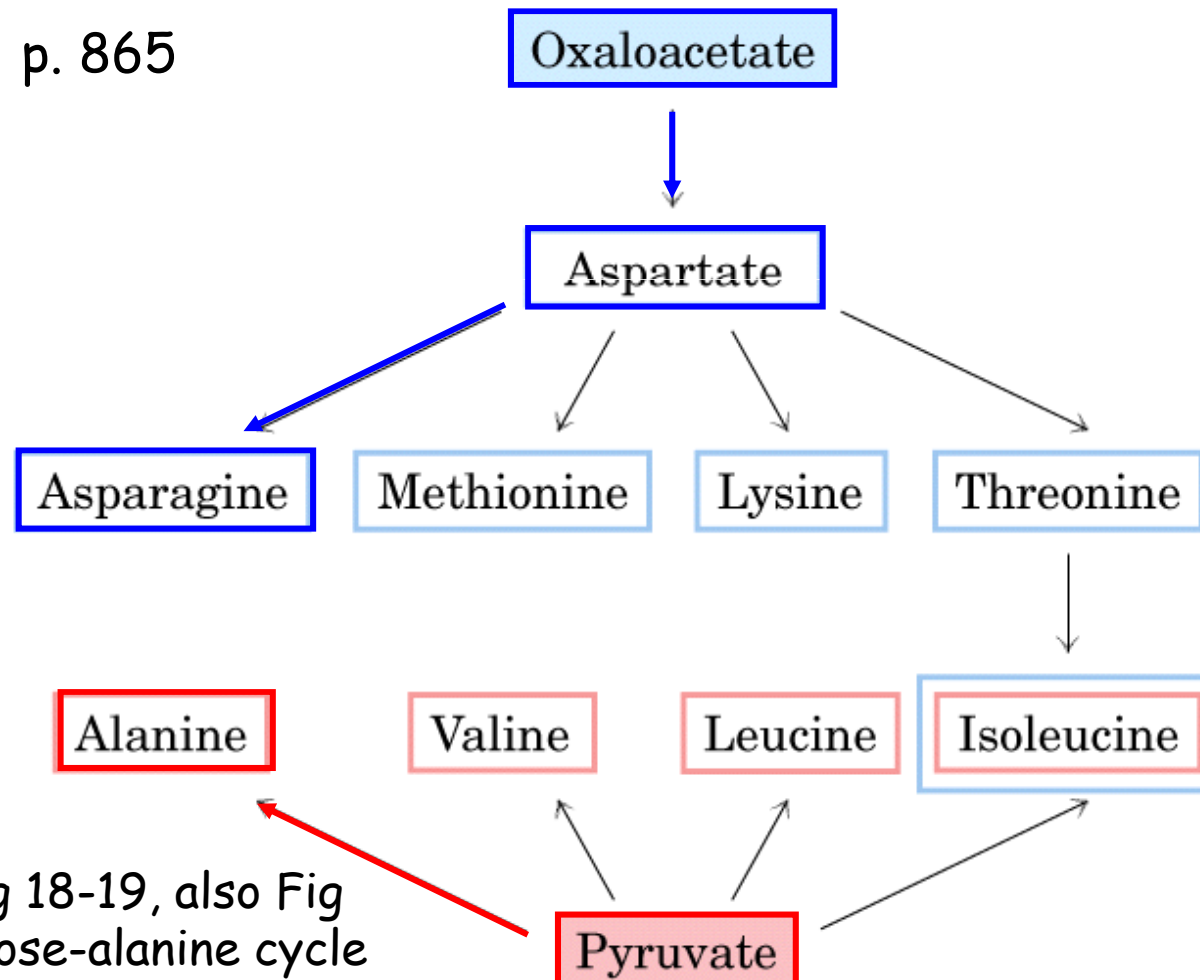
p. 863



# Next:

- From **oxaloacetate** and **pyruvate**
  - ✓ 3 nonessential a.a. (same pathway in all organisms)

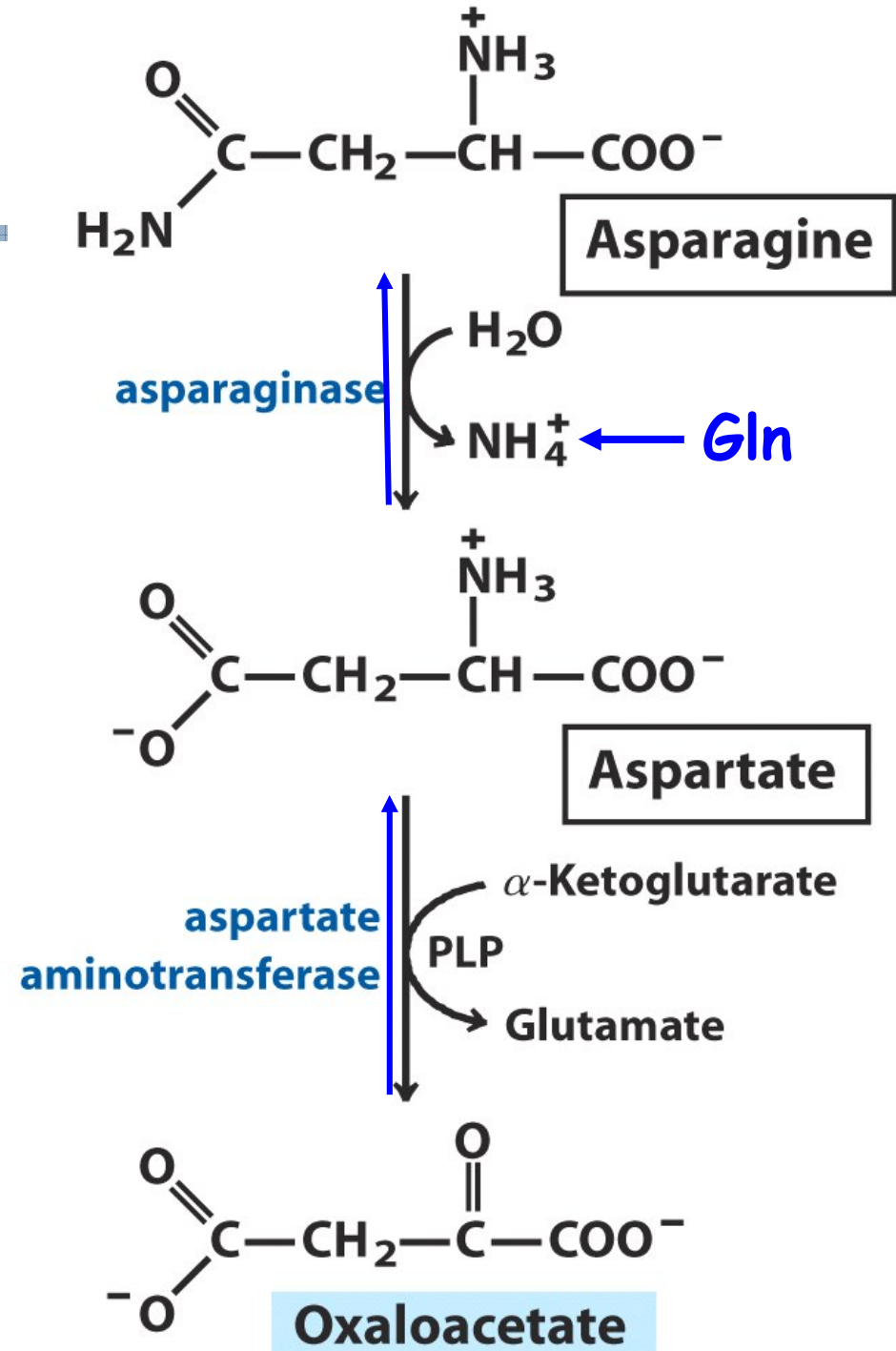
p. 865



Review Fig 18-19, also Fig 18-9, glucose-alanine cycle

# Review:

- Oxaloacetate
  - ✓ Asp (transamination)
  - ✓ Asn (transamidation)



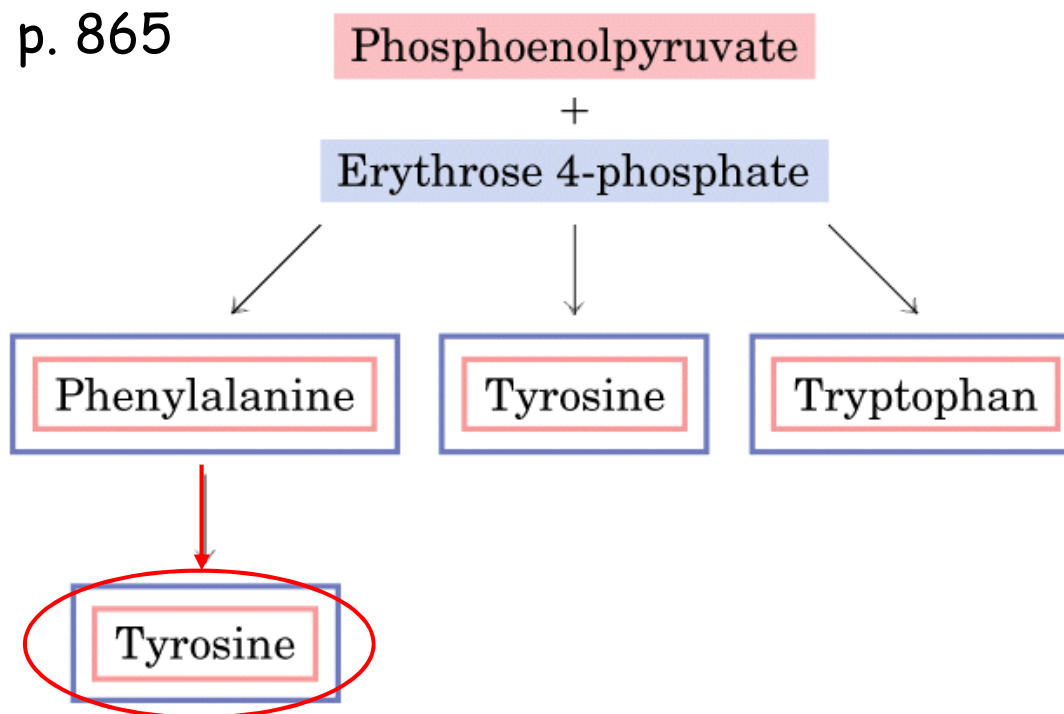
Also Fig 18-10,  
in mitochondria

Review  
Fig 18-29

# Aromatic a.a.:

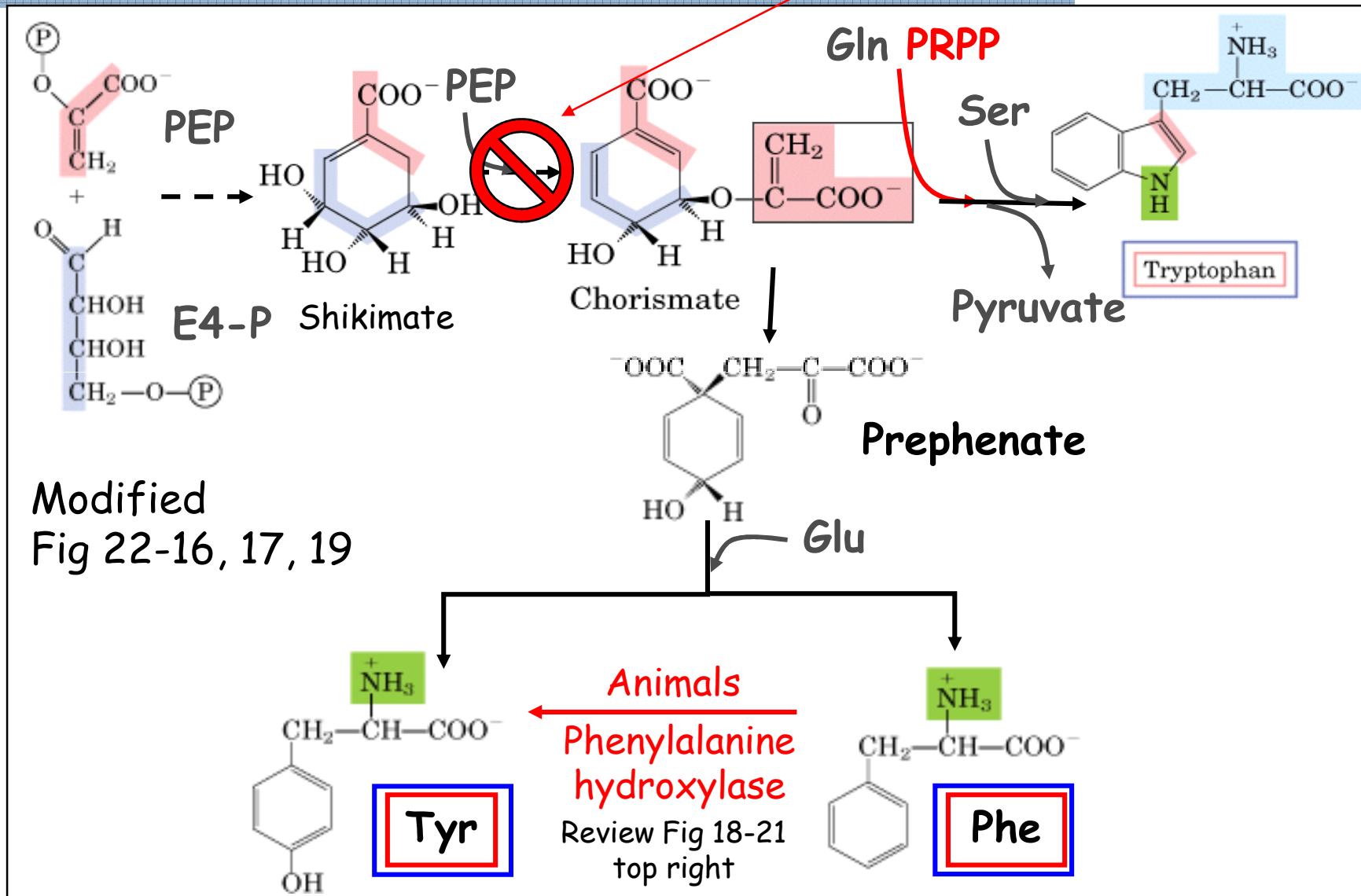
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- Phe, Tyr, Trp
  - ✓ From **PEP** and **E4-P** in bacteria and plants
  - ✓ Key intermediates: **shikimate** and **chorismate**:

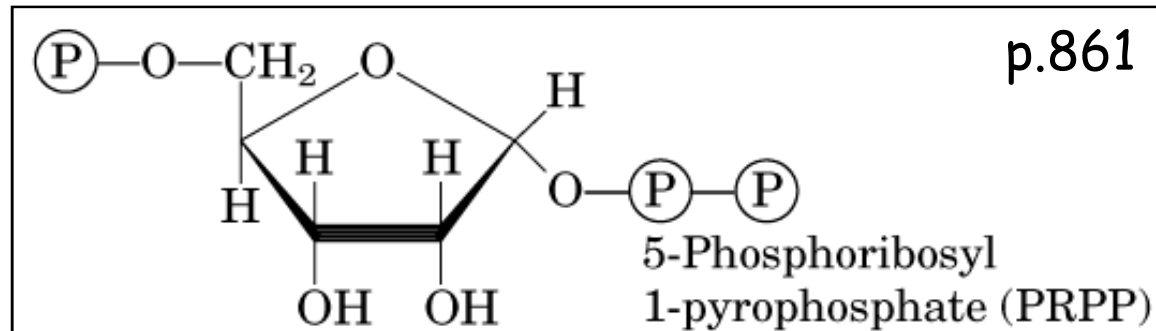


# Trp, Phe, and Tyr

Herbicide  
"Roundup"



# PRPP



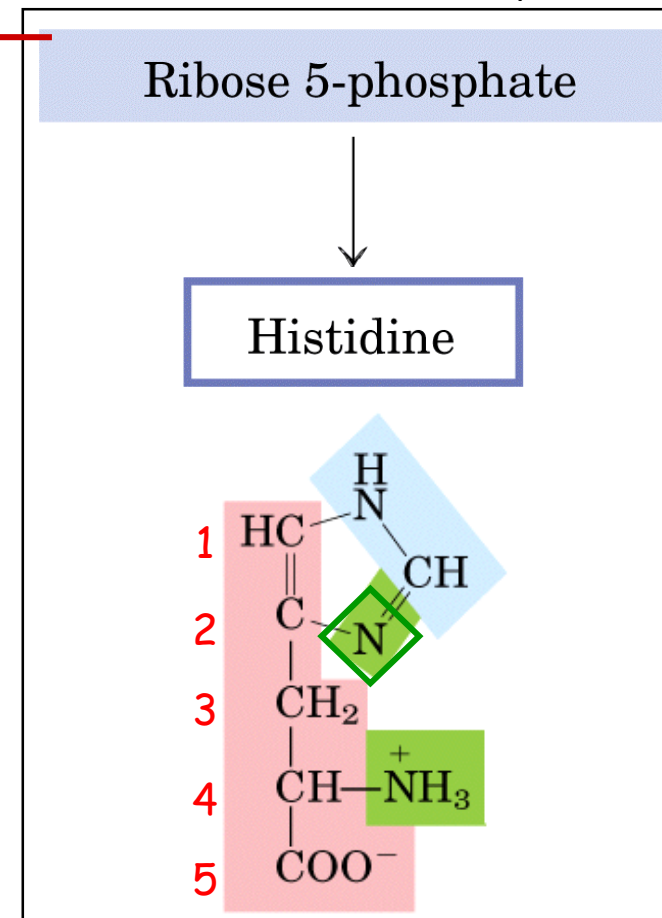
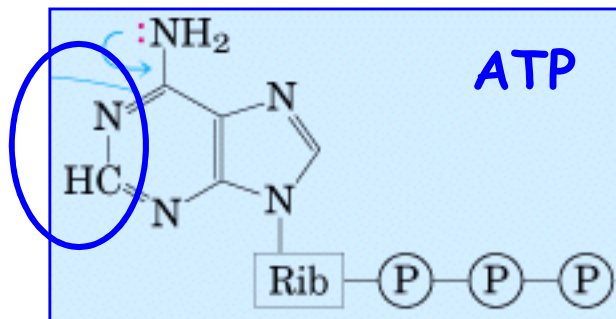
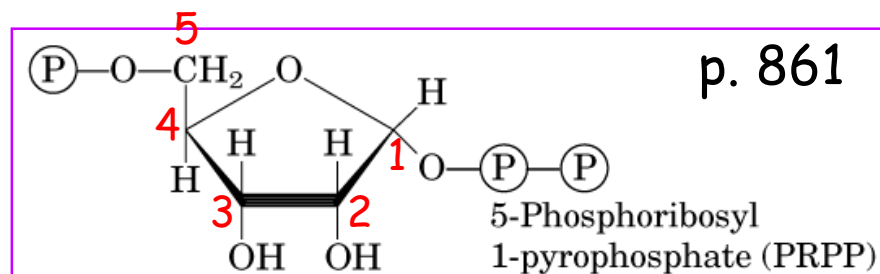
- $\textcircled{\text{P}} = \text{PO}_4^{3-}$
- **PRPP = 5-phosphoribosyl-1-pyrophosphate**
- Ribose 5-phosphate (from pentose phosphate pathway)
- $\text{R5-P} + \text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{PRPP} + \text{AMP}$
- An important intermediate in several a.a. (**Trp** and **His**) and nucleotide synthesis.



# His biosynthesis

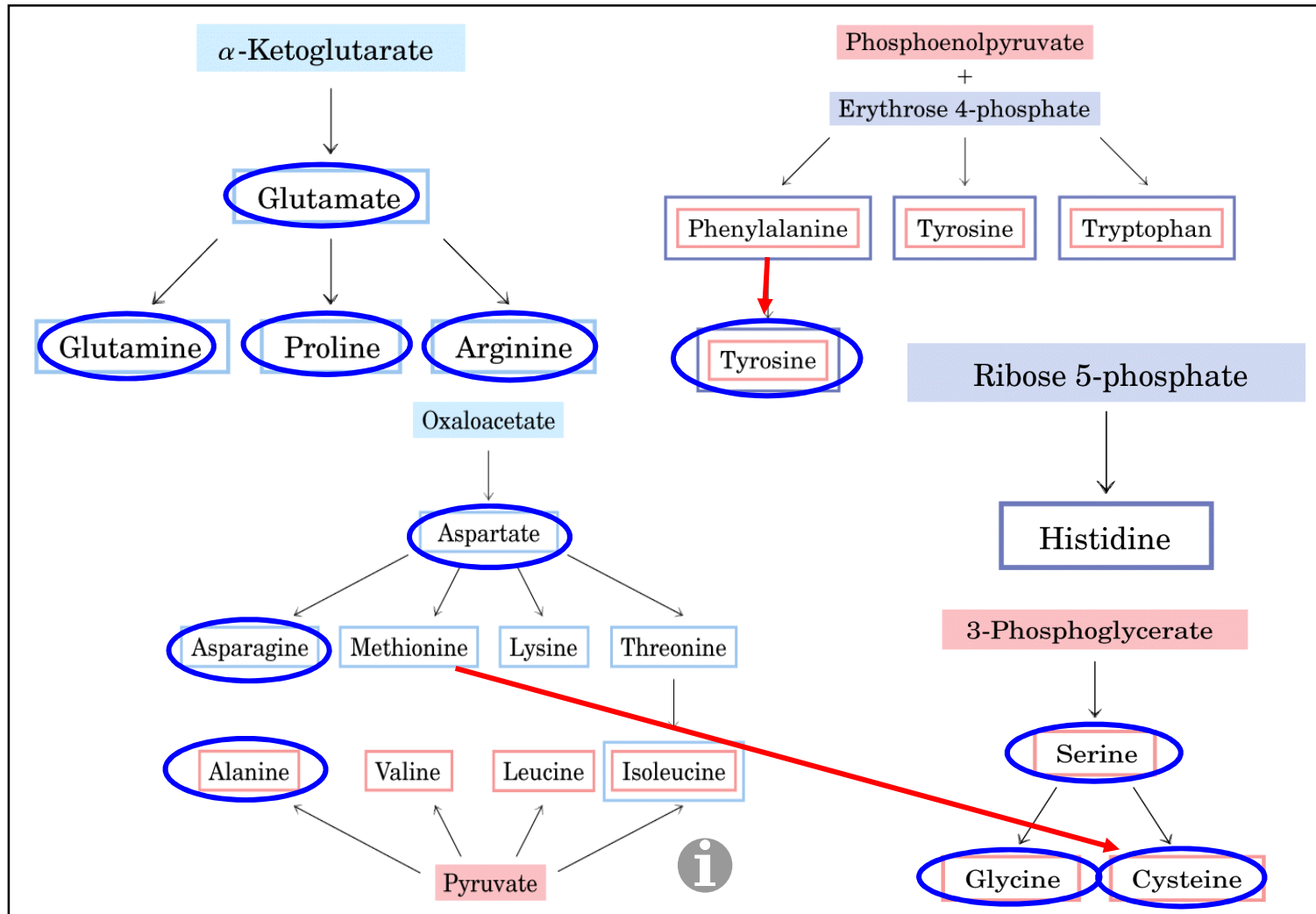
- In plants and bacteria (Fig 22-20)
- Derived from 3 precursors:
  - ✓ PRPP (5 C) ←
  - ✓ Purine ring of ATP (1 N, 1 C)
    - ATP as a metabolite, not as fuel
  - ✓ Gln, Glu (2 N)

p. 871



# A.A. biosynthesis

- 11 nonessential a.a. in human





# Regulation of a.a. synthesis

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Allosteric regulation  
Covalent modification

See also p.220-227  
Regulatory Enzymes

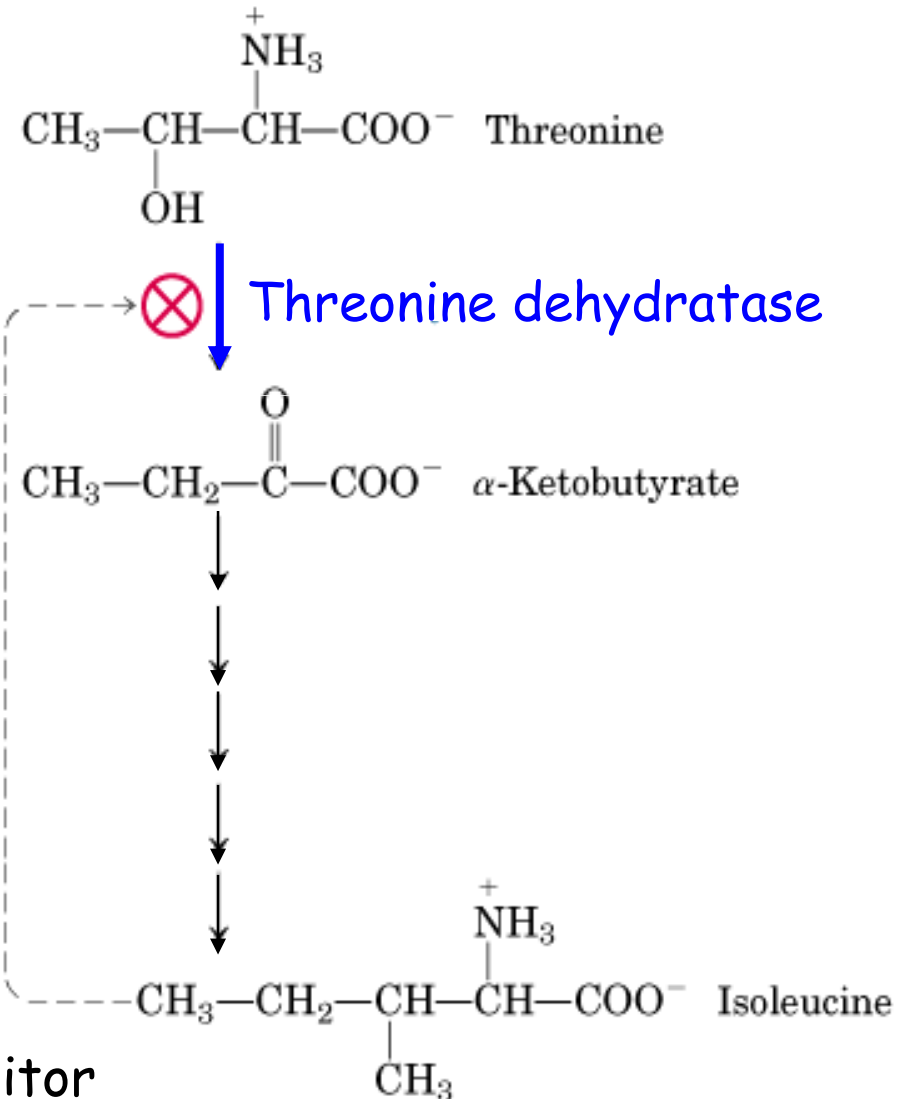
# Regulation (I)

p. 872,  
Fig 22-21  
or 6-33

- Feedback inhibition  
✓ e.g. Ile biosynthesis

1<sup>st</sup> reaction  
(irreversible)  
catalyzed by an  
allosteric enz.

End product  
= Modulator (-)  
= Allosteric inhibitor



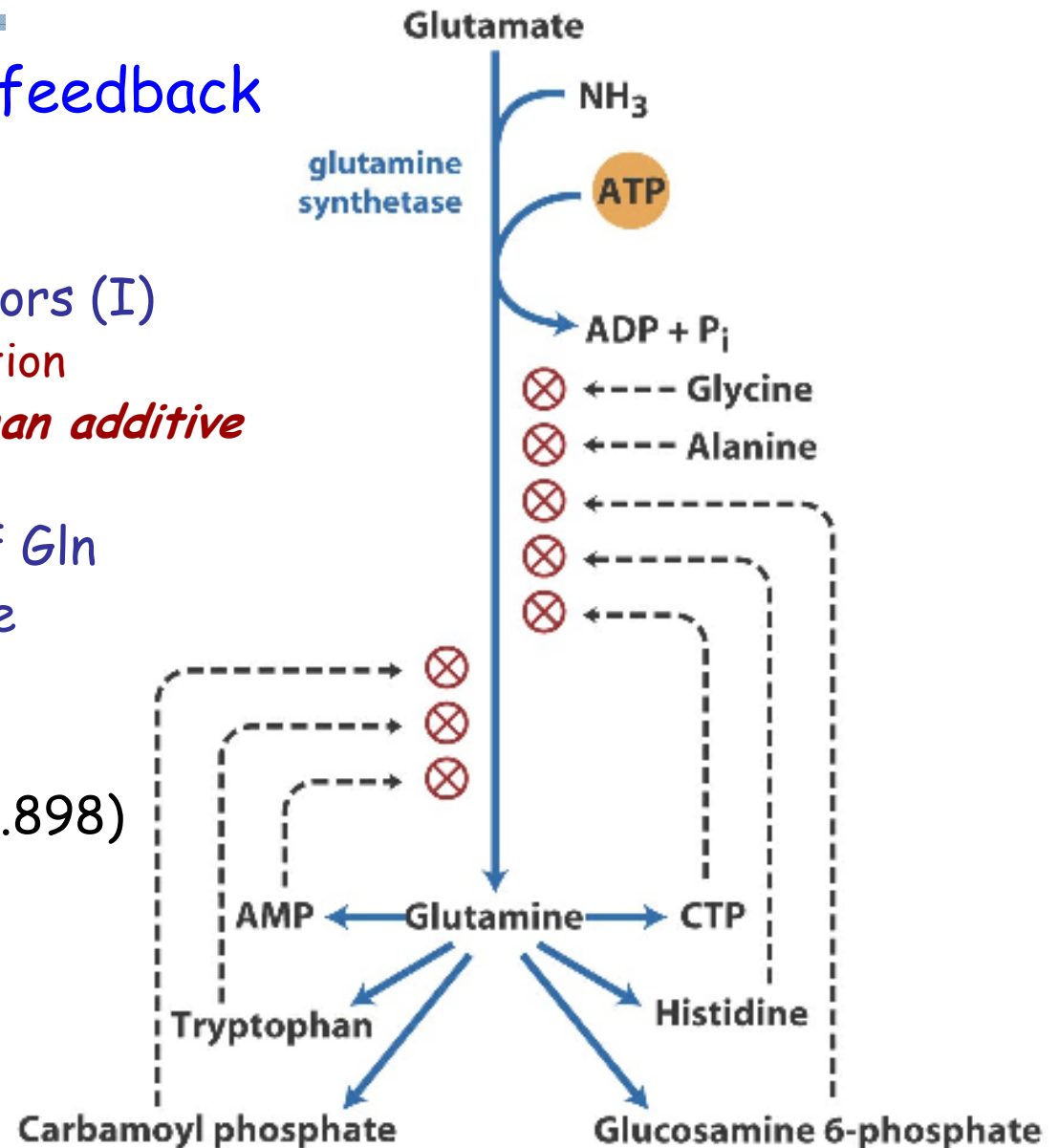
# Regulation (II)

- Concerted (cumulative) feedback inhibition

- ✓ e.g. glutamine synthetase
- ✓ Multiple allosteric inhibitors (I)
  - One I → partial inhibition
  - Multiple Is → *more than additive*
  - All (8) → shut down
- ✓ Continuous adjustment of Gln levels to match immediate metabolic requirements

p. 857-8, and exercise 9 (p.898)

Fig 22-6  
p. 858



# Regulation (III)

- e.g. Asp derived a.a. in *E. coli*
  - ✓ Enz. multiplicity ( $A_{1-3}, B_{1,2}, C_{1,2}$ )
    - Isozyme (Box 15-2, p.577)
  - ✓ Concerted inhibition ( $A_1, B_2$ )
- Sequential feedback inhibition
  - ✓ Multiple + overlapping negative feedback inhibition
    - Rate of each a.a. synthesis
    - Coordinated synthesis

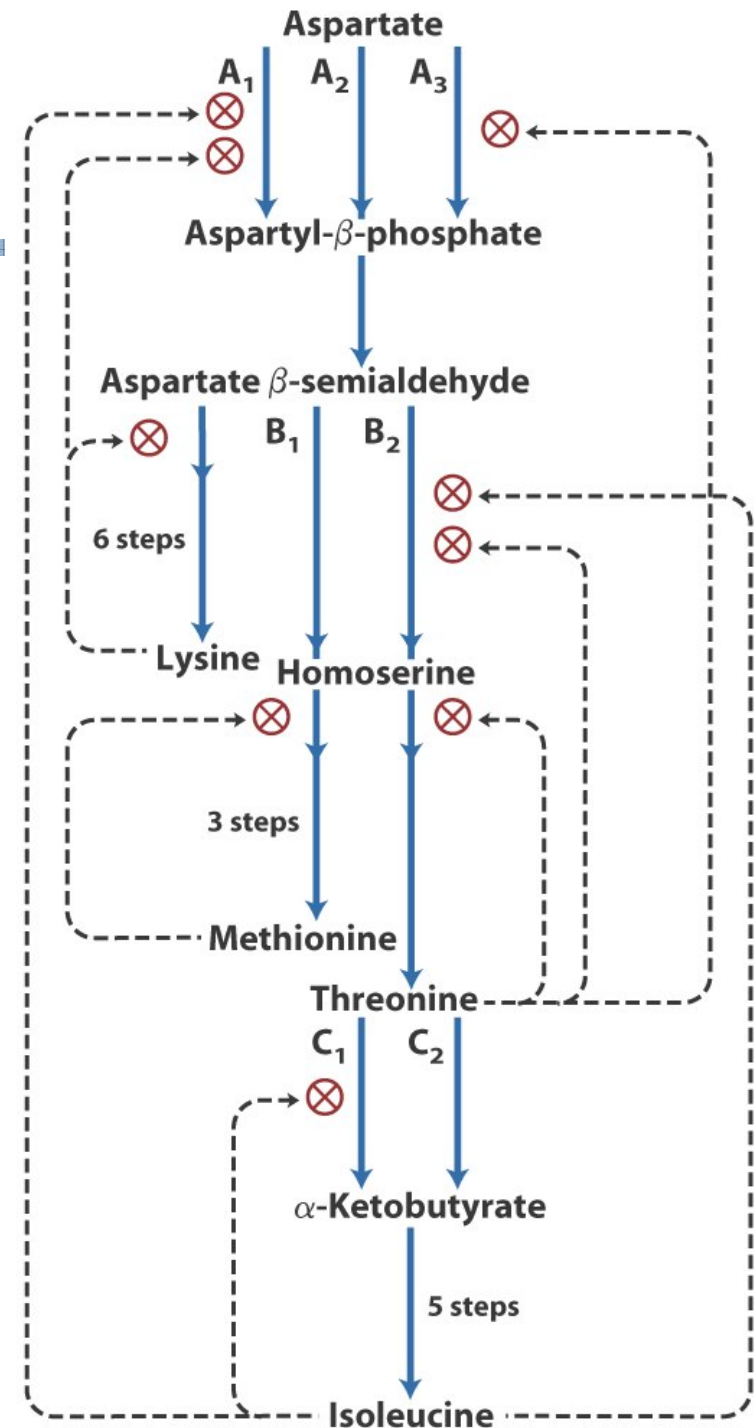


Fig 22-22,  
p. 872

# Gln synthetase (p. 859)

- Consists of 12 identical subunits of 50 kDa
- Allosteric feedback (concerted) inhibition (Fig 22-6)
- Covalent modification (Fig 22-7)

✓ Adenylation (-AMP to Tyr) of each subunit

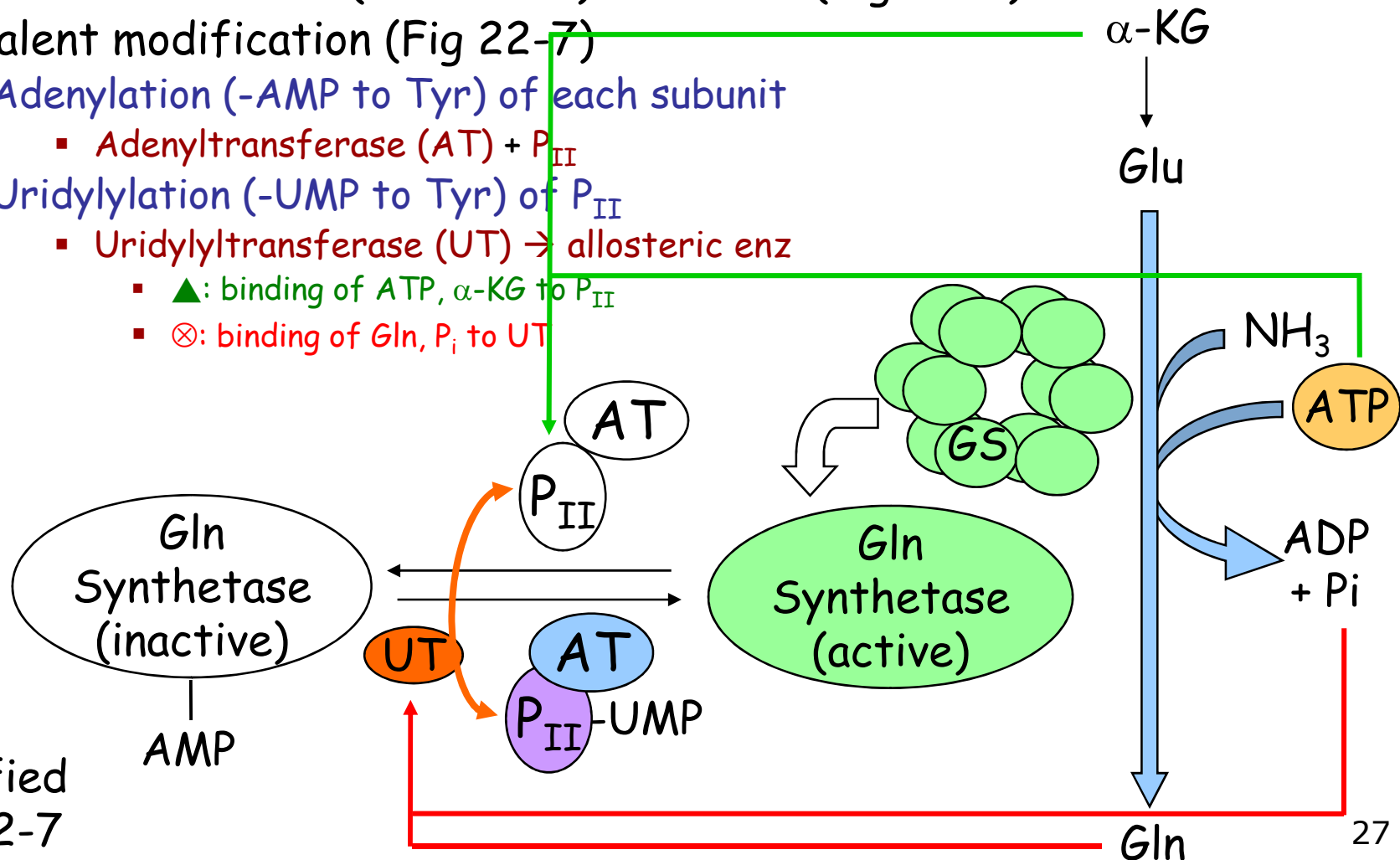
- Adenyltransferase (AT) +  $P_{II}$

✓ Uridylation (-UMP to Tyr) of  $P_{II}$

- Uridyltransferase (UT) → allosteric enz

- ▲: binding of ATP,  $\alpha$ -KG to  $P_{II}$

- ⊗: binding of Gln,  $P_i$  to UT



Modified  
Fig 22-7



# A.A derived molecules

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p. 873

Porphyrins

Creatine and Glutathione

D-amino acids

Plant substances

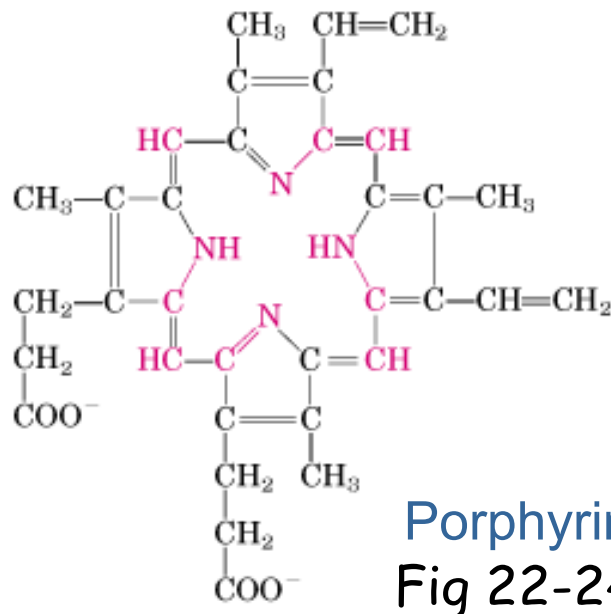
Biological amines

Nitric oxide



# Synthesis of heme

- Porphyrin precursors: *glycine* + succinyl-CoA i
- Feedback inhibited by heme product
- Congenital erythropoietic porphyria (Box 22-2):
  - ✓ Porphyrin precursor accumulation, excreted in urine (red)
  - ✓ Deposited in skin (light sensitive)
  - ✓ Fluorescent teeth under UV
  - ✓ Often anemia (insufficient heme produced)



Porphyrin + Fe<sup>2+</sup> = Heme (Fig 5-1)

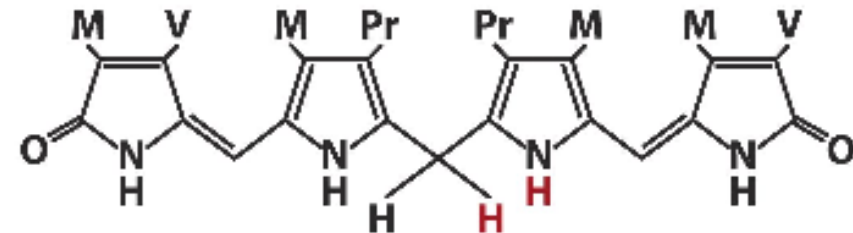
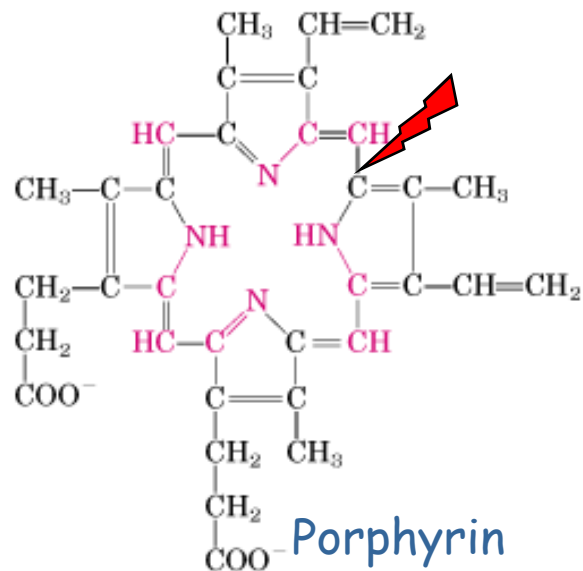
# Heme breakdown

p. 875-6

- Hb = globin (protein) + Fe<sup>2+</sup> + bilirubin (in spleen)
- *Bilirubin* (reddish-yellow pigment), insoluble
  - ✓ Transported to liver by serum albumin
  - ✓ Transformed to bile pigments (add glucuronide, becomes soluble) in liver
  - ✓ Excreted in the bile
- Impaired liver function or blocked bile secretion:
  - ✓ Bile leak into the blood
  - ✓ Yellowing of the skin and eyeballs
  - ✓ Jaundice

- Bilirubin (insoluble)
- Bilirubin diglucuronide (soluble)

↓  
Carbohydrate



Bilirubin (in blood)

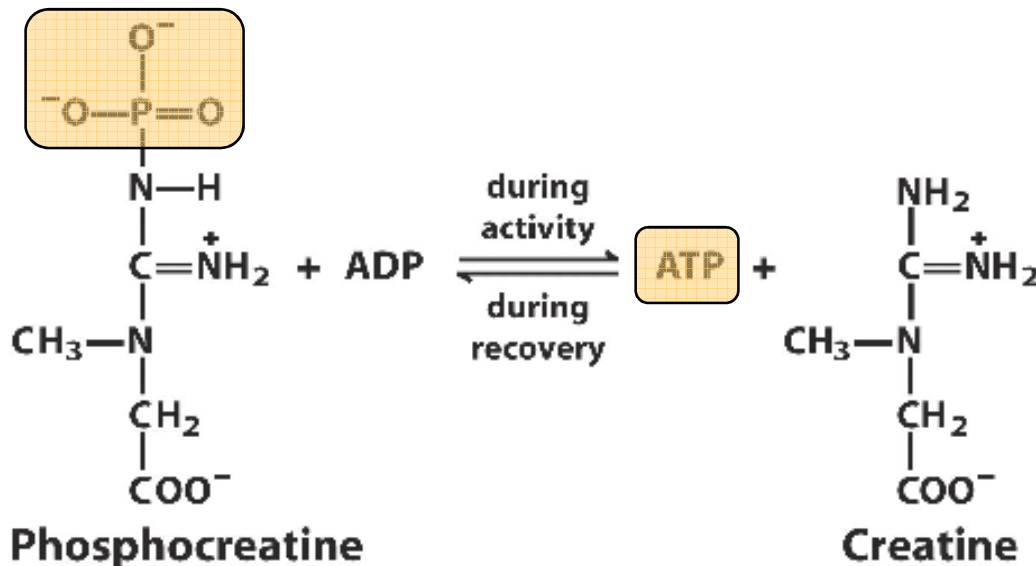
M: methyl;  
V: vinyl;  
Pr: propionyl

Fig 22-25 modified

# Creatine and phosphocreatine

- Creatine (Cr) = Gly + Arg + Met (adoMet) p. 876-7
- Creatine + ATP → Phosphocreatine + ADP
  - ✓ Catalyzed by creatine kinase
- Phosphocreatine (PCr) = Creatine phosphate (CrP)
  - ✓ Very high [PCr] in skeletal muscle (10 x of [ATP])
  - ✓ Source of **(P)** for ATP synthesis from ADP
  - ✓ PCr as a phosphoryl reservoir (energy buffer)

4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
Fig 23-19  
or 22-26



In resting muscle:

[ATP] = 4 mM

[ADP] = 0.013 mM

[PCr] = 25 mM

[Cr] = 13 mM

# Energy sources for muscle

**Bursts of heavy activity**

Muscle glycogen

**Light activity or rest**

Fatty acids, ketone bodies, blood glucose

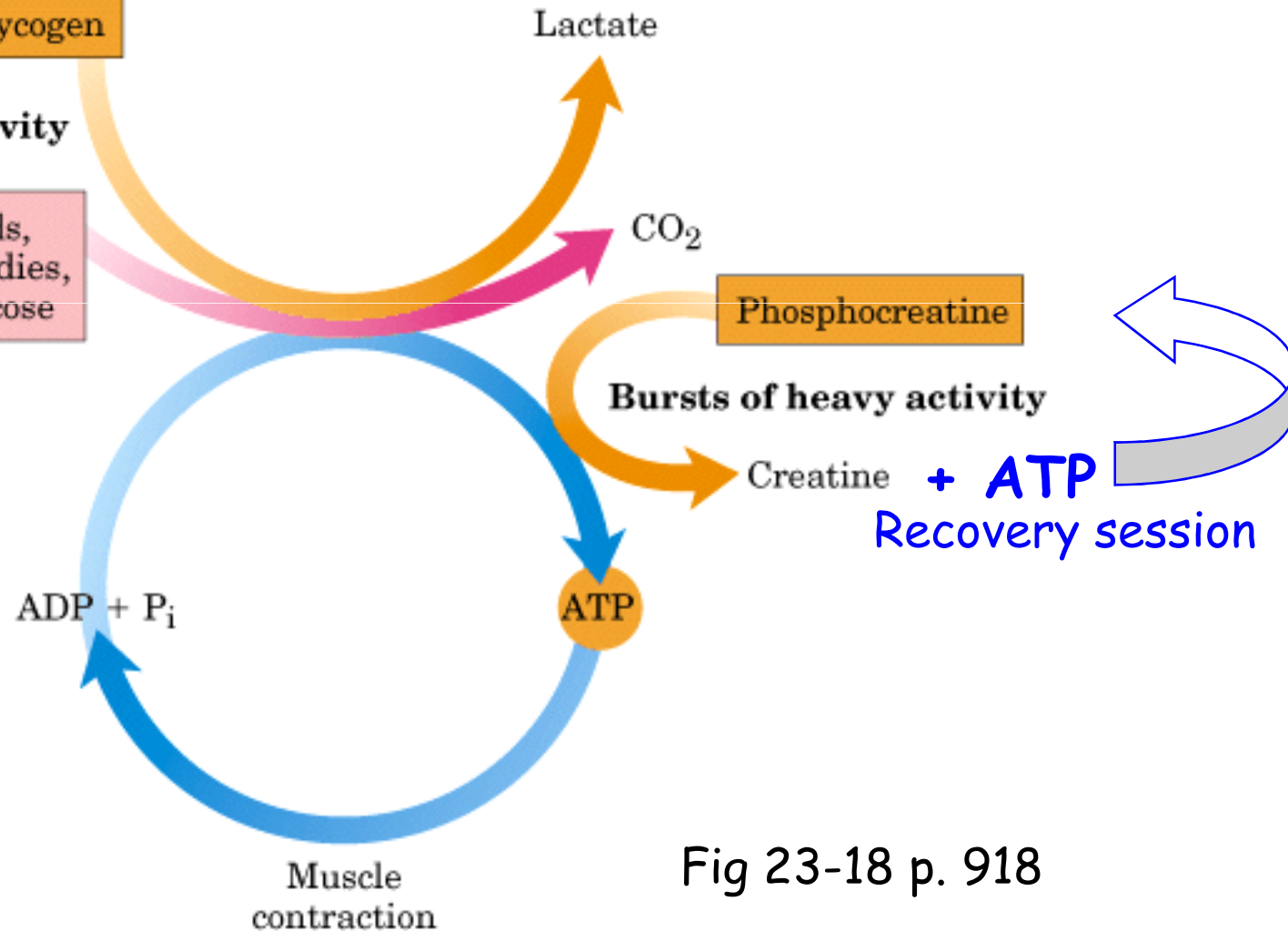
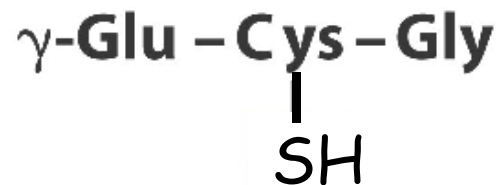


Fig 23-18 p. 918

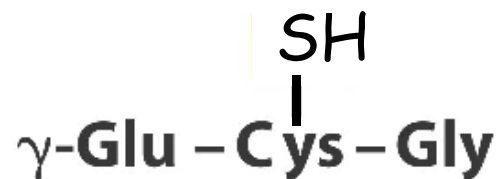
# Glutathione (GSH, GSSG)

- GSH (reduced) = Gly + Glu + Cys p. 876-7
- Present at high levels as a redox buffer
  - ✓ Maintain the -SH of protein in reduced state
  - ✓ Maintain iron of heme in Fe<sup>2+</sup> state
  - ✓ As a reducing agent for glutaredoxin in dNT synthesis (Fig 22-39)
  - ✓ Remove toxic peroxides under aerobic condition
    - $2 \text{ GSH} + \text{R-O-O-H} \rightarrow \text{GSSG} + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{R-OH}$
    - Catalyzed by glutathione peroxidase (containing selenium, Se, in the form of selenocysteine (Fig 3-8a))

Fig 22-27



Glutathione  
(reduced, GSH)



Glutathione  
(reduced, GSH)

# Biological amines

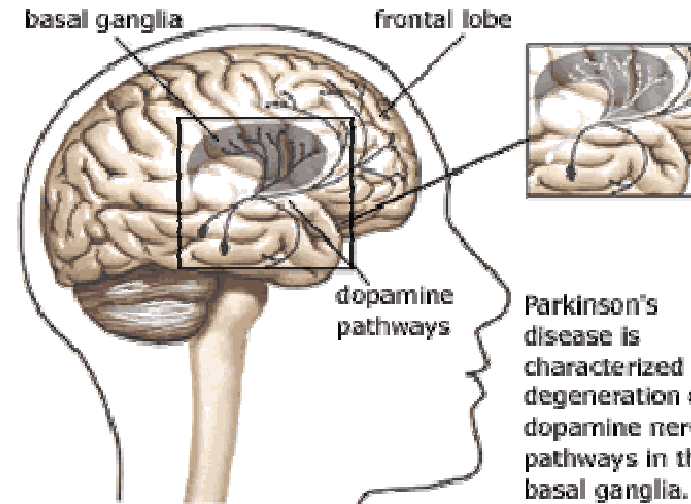
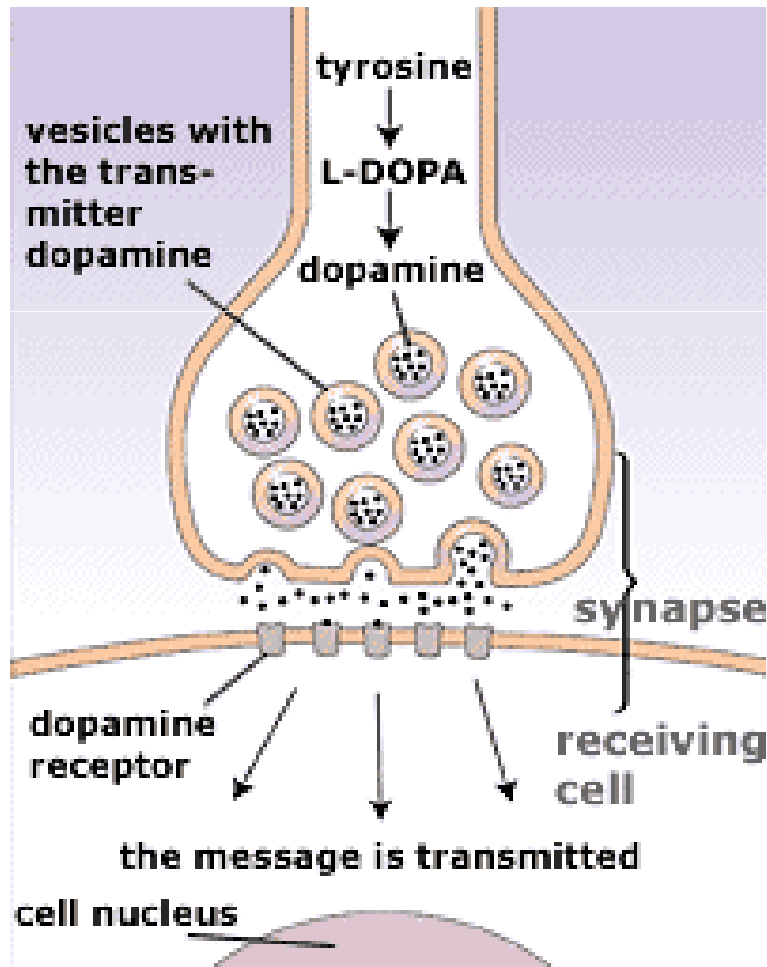
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- A.A. are converted to amines by **decarboxylation** (requiring **PLP** as a cofactor, Fig 18-6, 22-29)
- Catecholamines (**Tyr**)
  - ✓ Dopamine, norepinephrine, epinephrine
  - ✓ Affects blood pressure
  - ✓ **Parkinson's disease**: underproduction of dopamine
  - ✓ **Schizophrenia**: overproduction of dopamine
- $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid (**GABA**) (**Glu**)
  - ✓ An inhibitory neurotransmitter (NT)
  - ✓ **Epileptic seizures**: underproduction of **GABA**
    - **Treatment: increase GABA level**
      - **GABA analogs**
      - **Inhibitor of GABA degrading enzyme (GABA aminotransferase)**
- **Serotonin** (**Trp**)
  - ✓ **Neurotransmitter**

p. 879

# Dopamine and Parkinson Disease

- Tyrosine as precursor



# More amines by decarboxylation

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- Histamine (His) p. 879-80
  - ✓ Vasodilator in animal tissue, involved in allergy
  - ✓ Stimulate stomach acid secretion
    - Cimetidine (Tagamet)
      - Structural analog of histamine = histamine receptor antagonist
      - Promoting healing of duodenal ulcers by inhibiting gastric acid secretion
- Polyamine: spermidine and spermine (Met and ornithine)
  - ✓ Used in DNA packaging
  - ✓ Required in large amounts in rapidly dividing cells
    - African sleeping sickness (trypanosome-caused disease, Box 22-3, 錐蟲病):
      - Ornithine decarboxylase has a much slower turnover rate in trypanosome than in human (human, fast turnover, less side-effect of enzyme inhibitor)
      - DMFO (difluoromethylornithine): suicide inhibitor or mechanism-based inhibitor

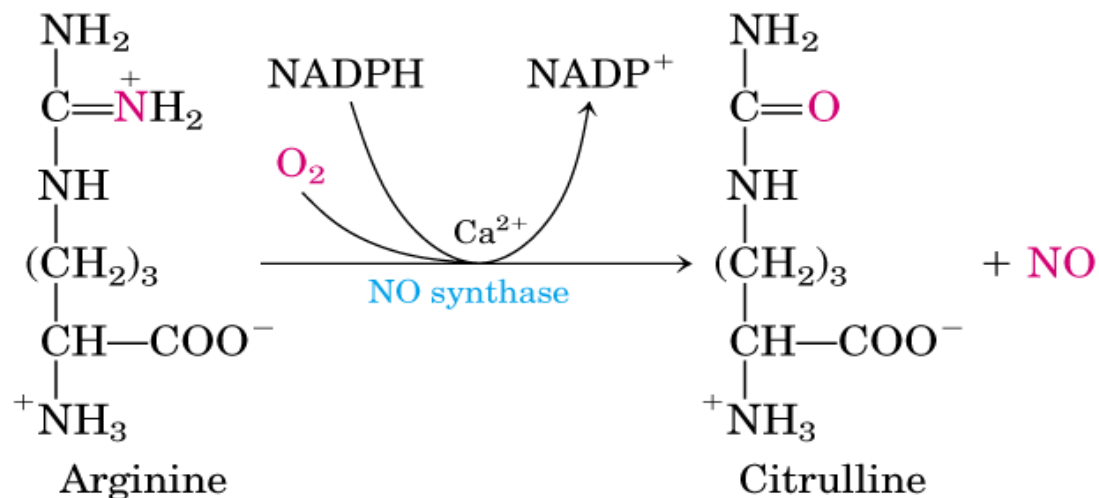


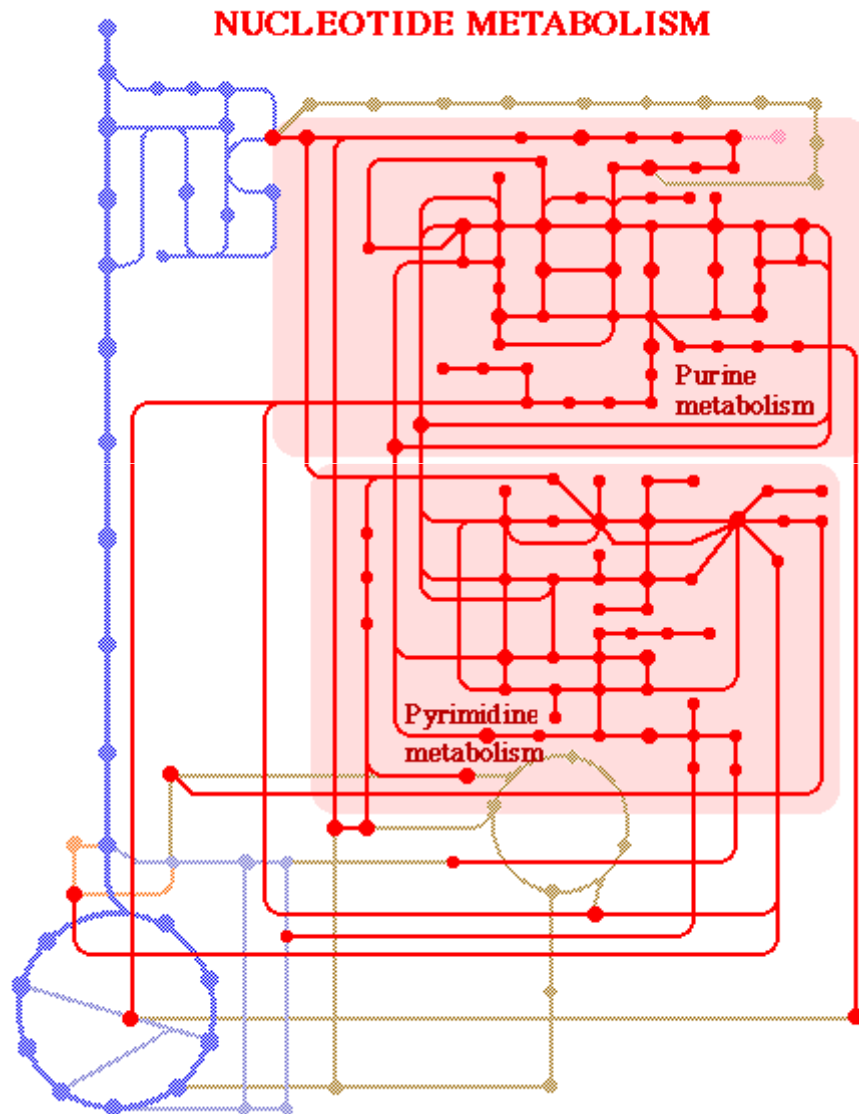
# Nitric oxide (NO)

- Derived from Arg
- Unstable gas, diffuse through membranes
  - ✓ Neurotransmission
  - ✓ Blood clotting
  - ✓ Regulating blood pressure
    - Muscle relaxant (p.446, Ch 12)
      - Cardiac muscle: heart disease and nitroglycerine
      - Smooth muscle: erectile dysfunction and Viagra



Fig 22-31 or p.446





# Nucleotides

## Biosynthesis and Degradation

p.882

# Nucleotide (核苷酸)

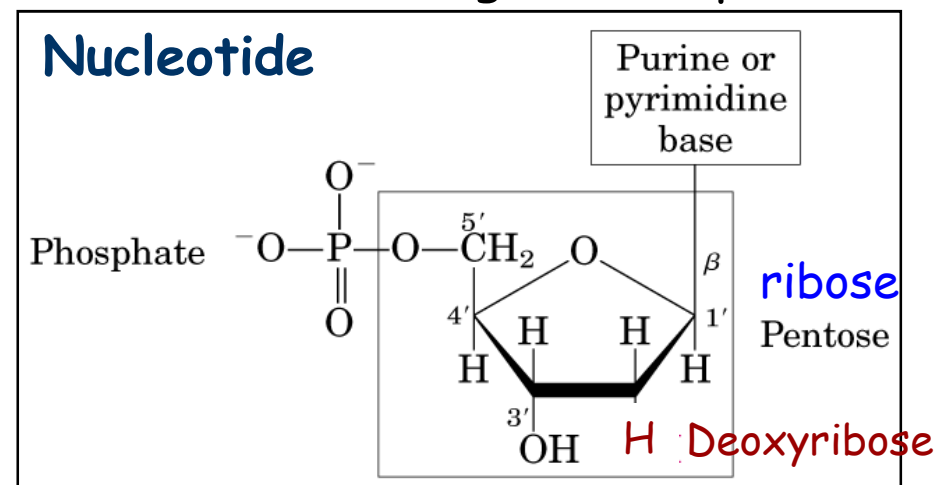
## ■ Cellular functions

- ✓ Precursor of nucleic acid (核酸)
  - RNA (ribonucleic acid): A, U, C, G
  - DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid): A, T, C, G  $\implies$  dA, dT, dC, dG
- ✓ Carrier of chemical energy
  - ATP and GTP
- ✓ Act as cofactors and activated intermediates
  - NAD, FAD, S-adoMet, CoA
  - UDP-glucose, CDP-diacylglycerol
- ✓ Act as cellular second messengers
  - cAMP, cGMP

## ■ Basic structure

- ✓ Base
- ✓ Phosphate
- ✓ Pentose
  - Ribose
  - Deoxyribose

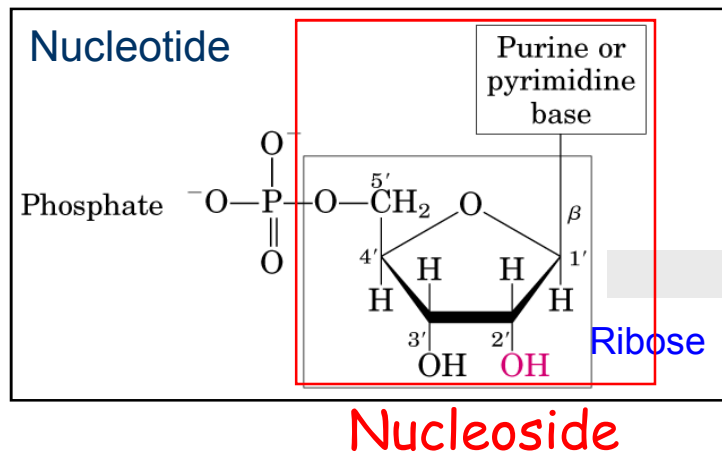
Fig 8-1a on p.271



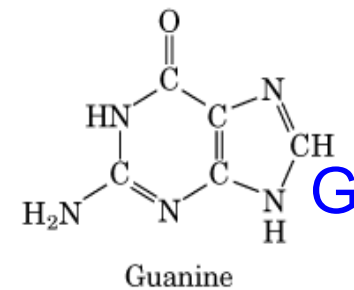
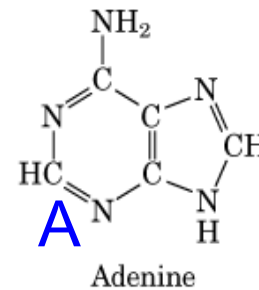
# Nucleotide Synthesis

p.882

- de novo pathways
  - ✓ From small molecules readily available in cells
  - ✓ A.A., ribose 5-phosphate,  $CO_2$ , and  $NH_3$
  - ✓ The bases are *not* intermediates in this pathway
- Salvage pathways
  - ✓ Recycle the free bases and nucleosides released from nucleic acid breakdown



Purine



Pyrimidine

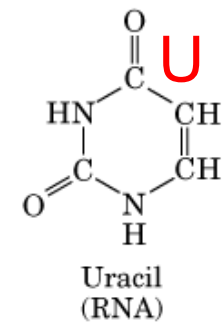
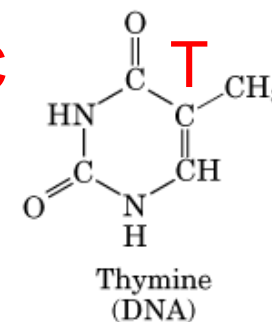
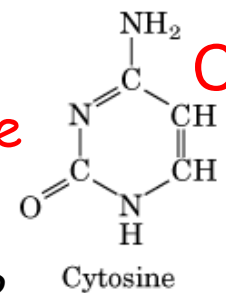
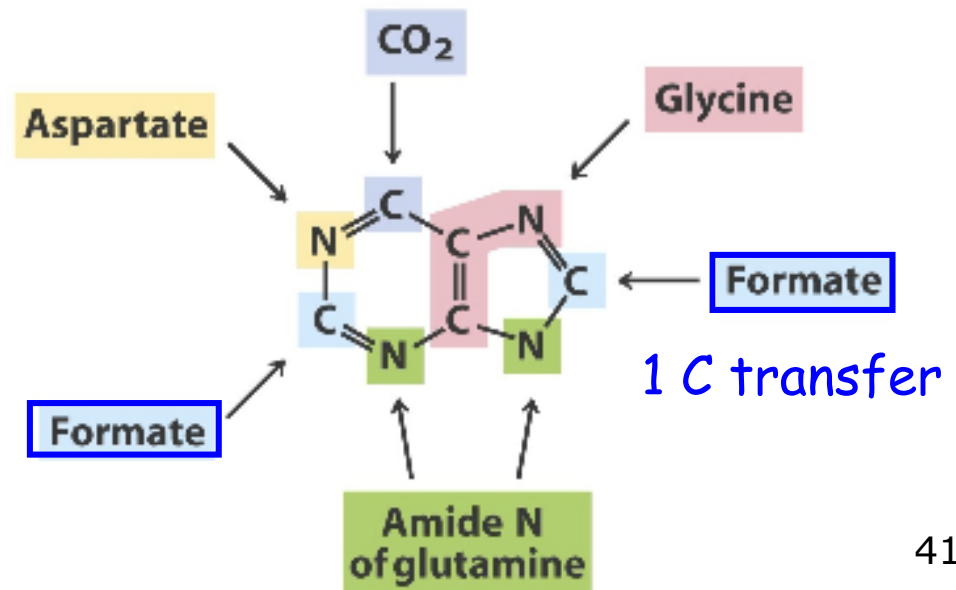
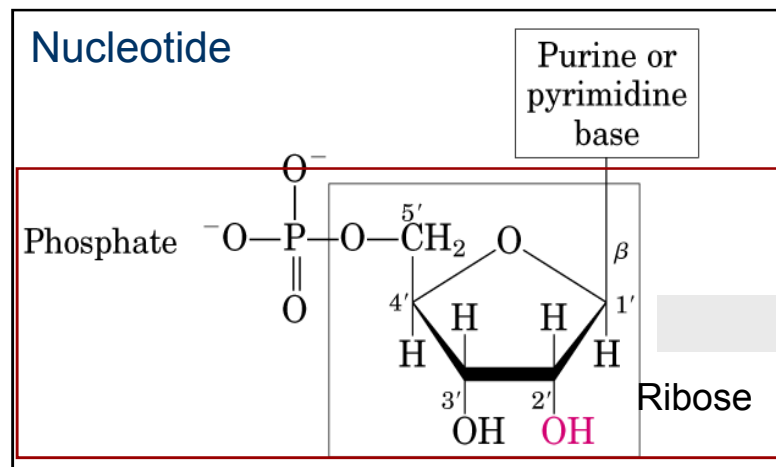


Fig 8-2 on p.272

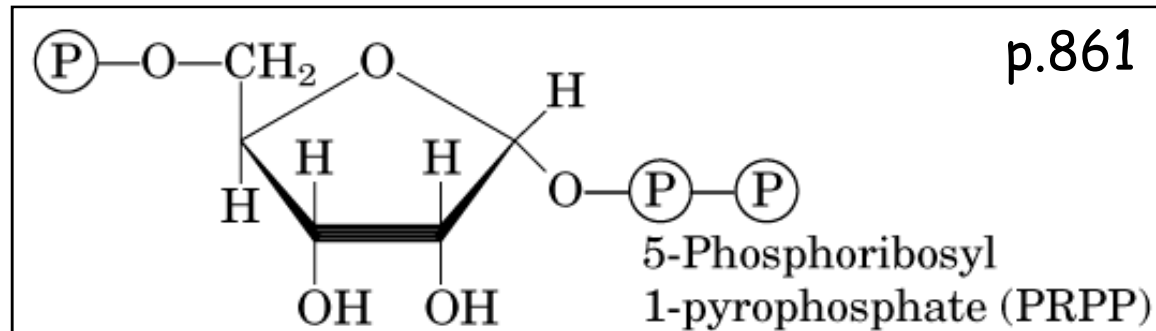
# Purine synthesis (I)

- A (AMP), G (GMP)
- Adding functional groups one by one onto a preexisting ribose phosphate → inosinate (IMP)
- Fig 22-33 (p.884):
  - ✓ PRPP, Gln, Gly, 1-C, Gln, CO<sub>2</sub>, Asp, 1-C → IMP
  - ✓ In steps 8-9, Asp has an analogous role in the urea cycle

Fig 22-32



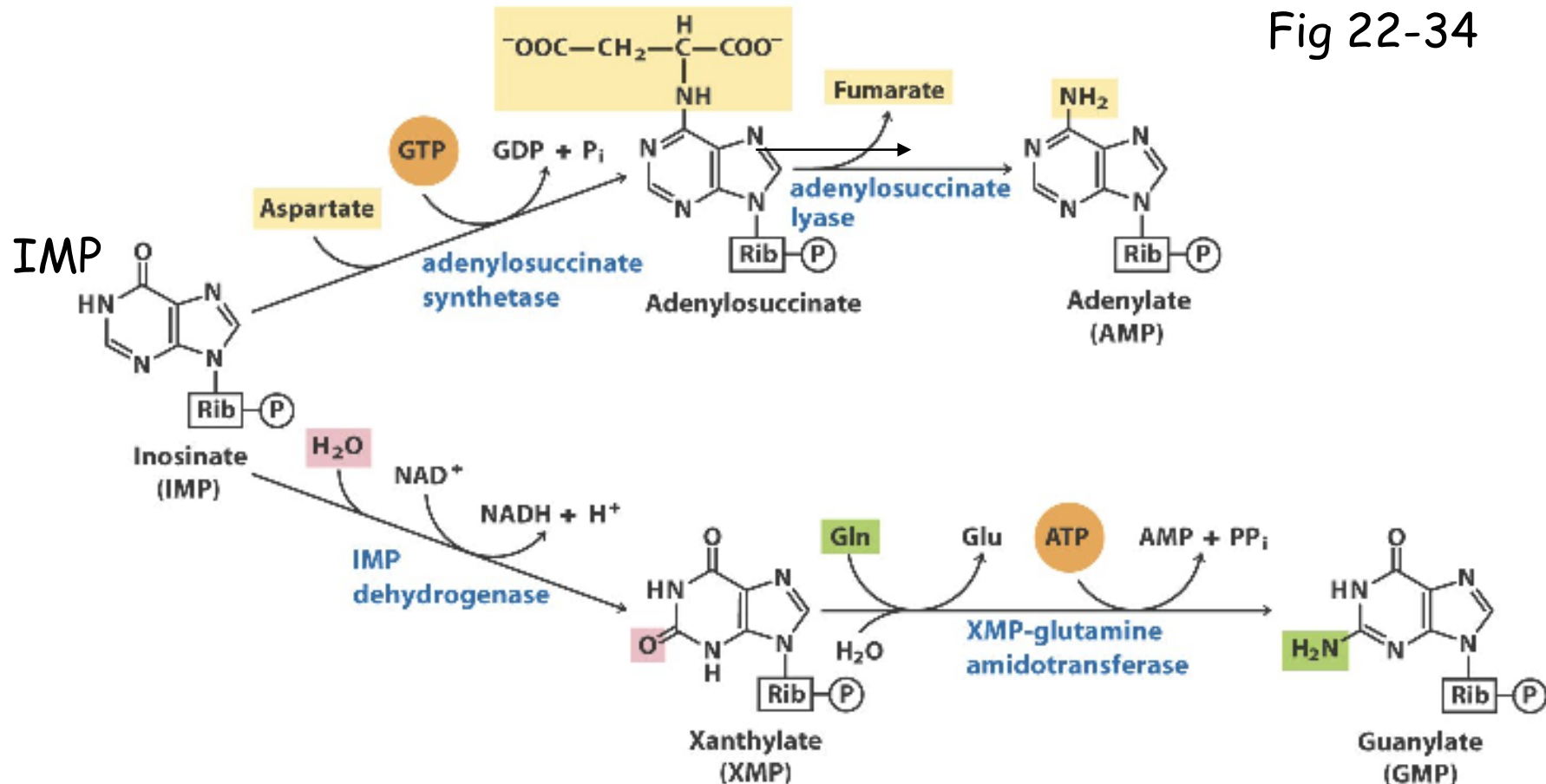
# PRPP



- $\textcircled{\text{P}} = \text{PO}_4^{3-}$
- **PRPP = 5-phosphoribosyl-1-pyrophosphate**
- Ribose 5-phosphate (from pentose phosphate pathway)
- $\text{R5-P} + \text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{PRPP} + \text{AMP}$
- An important intermediate in several a.a. (**Trp** and **His**) and nucleotide synthesis.

# Purine synthesis (II)

- IMP (inosinate, inosine monophosphate)
  - ✓  $\text{IMP} + \text{Asp} \rightarrow \text{AMP}$  ( $\text{GTP} \rightarrow \text{GDP} + \text{P}_i$ )
  - ✓  $\text{IMP} \rightarrow \text{oxidized IMP} + \text{Gln} \rightarrow \text{GMP}$  ( $\text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{AMP} + \text{PP}_i$ )



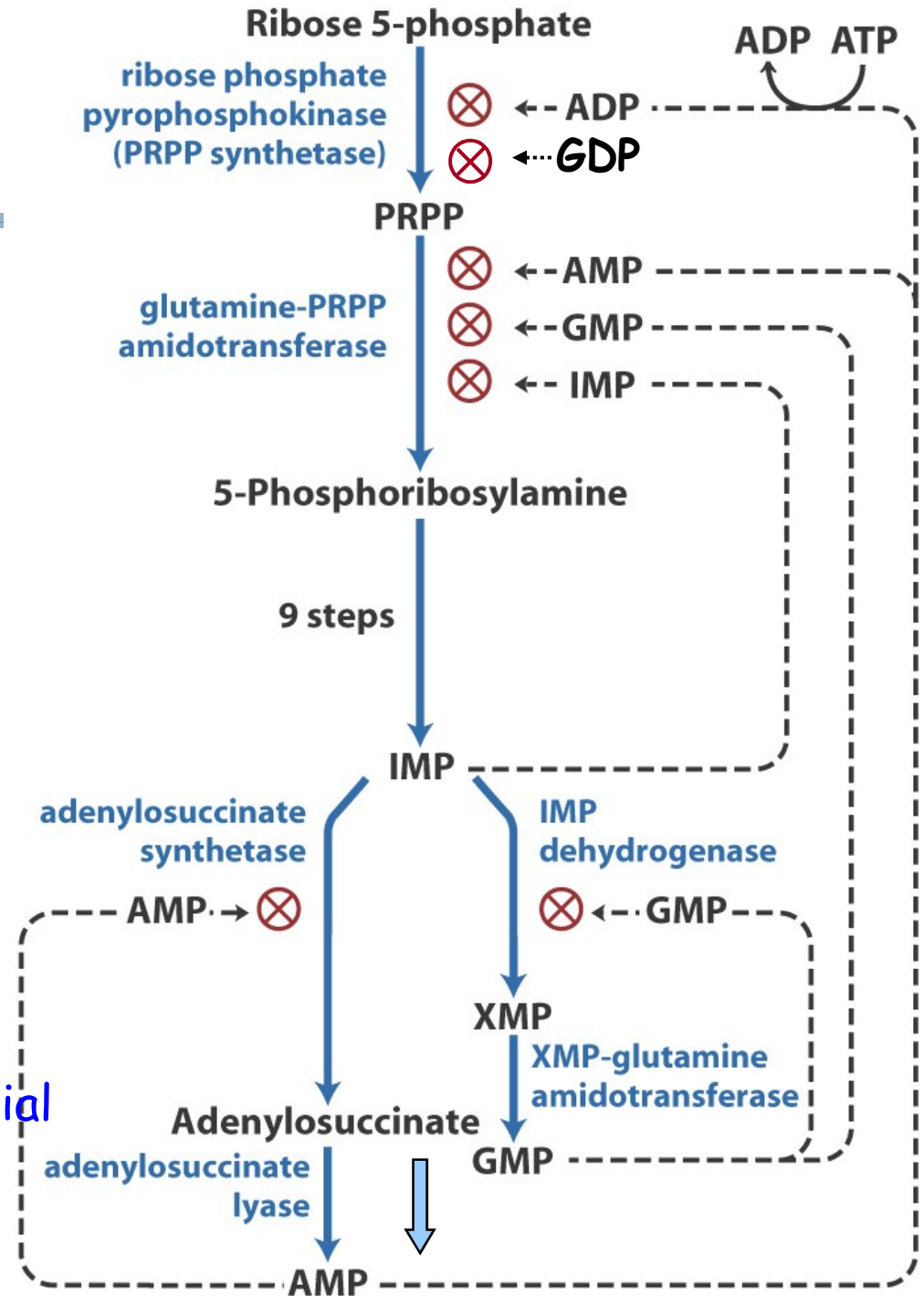
# Regulations

- Rate of synthesis
  - ✓ Overall rate
  - ✓ Relative rate
- 3 major feedback mechanisms
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> - **C**oncerted
  - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> - **A**, **G** inhibition independently
  - ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> - a reciprocal energy arrangement (Fig 22-34)

p. 885

Q: Can you identify the "sequential inhibition" in this example?

Fig 22-35

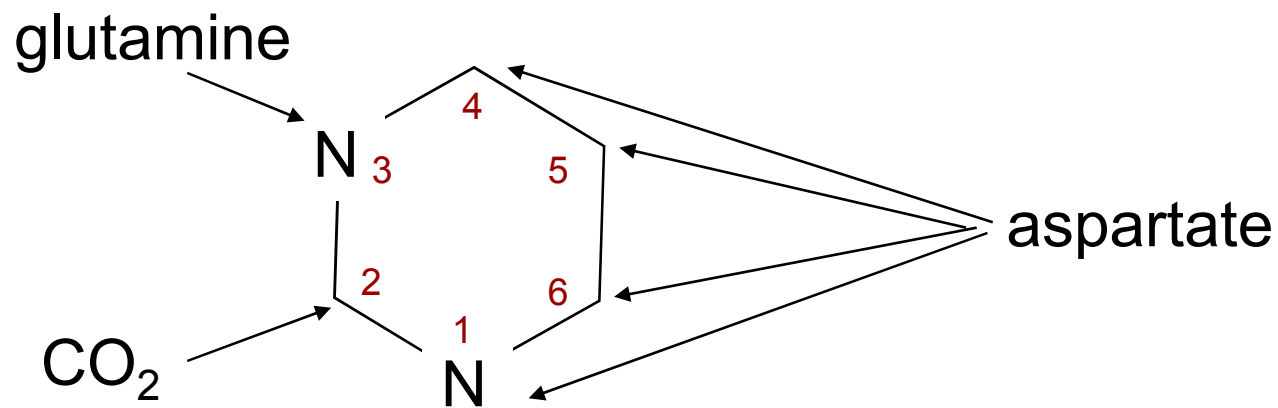




# Pyrimidine synthesis (I)

p. 886-7

- U (UMP), C (CMP), T (dTMP)
- The ring (**orotate**) structure is synthesized first, then attached to PRPP. (Fig 22-36, center)



Source of the atoms of the pyrimidine ring.

# Pyrimidine synthesis (II)

- Ribonucleotides: U, C
  - ✓ **Carbamoyl phosphate**, aspartate  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$  orotate
  - ✓ Orotate + PRPP  $\rightarrow \rightarrow$  UMP
  - ✓ UMP  $\rightarrow$  UTP + Gln  $\rightarrow$  CTP  $\rightarrow$  CDP, CMP
  - ✓ Regulated by feedback inhibition (end product: CTP)

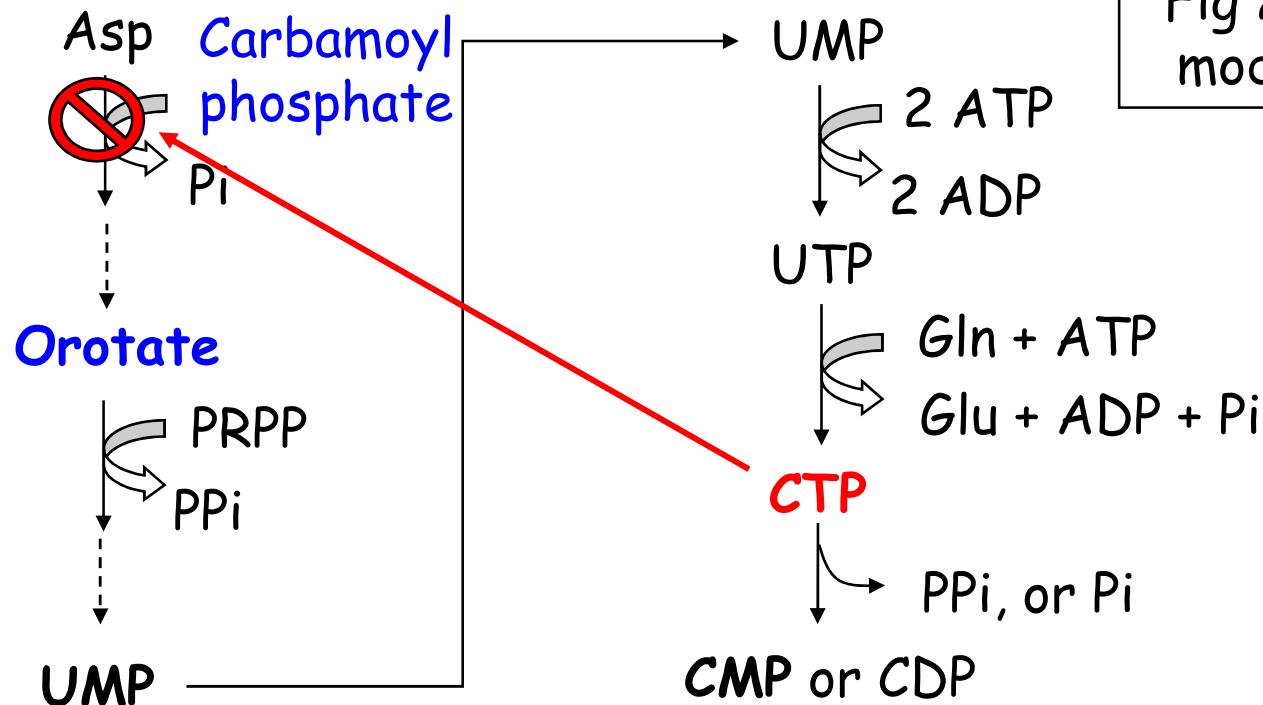
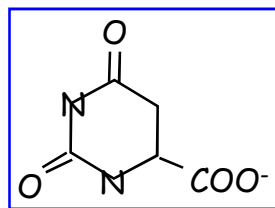
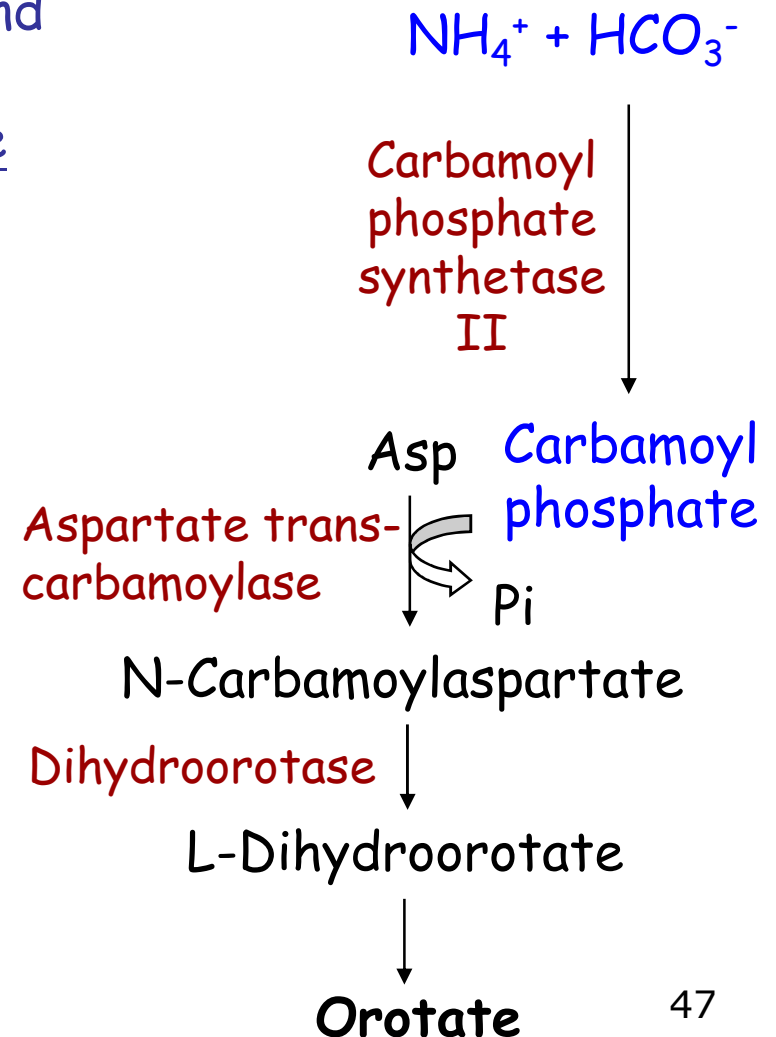


Fig 22-36 modified

# Carbamoyl phosphate synthetase

- In bacteria:
  - ✓ Carbamoyl phosphate for both *Arg* and *pyrimidines*
  - ✓ One carbamoyl phosphate synthetase
- In eukaryotes:
  - ✓ CP synthetase I (mitochondria)
  - ✓ CP synthetase II (cytosol)
    - A single trifunctional protein → CAD
      - Carbamoyl phosphate synthetase II
      - Aspartate transcarbamoylase
      - Dihydroorotase
    - Large, multienzyme complexes



# CP synthetase I vs. II

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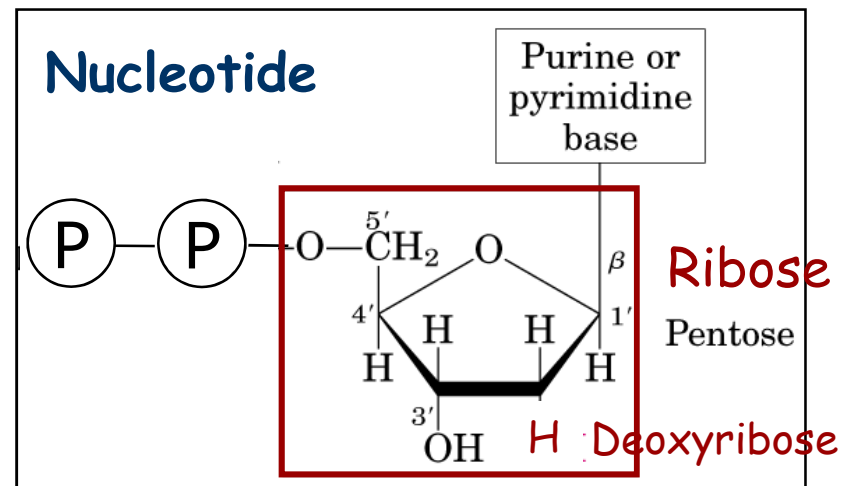
- Comparision CP synthetase I and II (from Schumm):
  - ✓ The enzyme catalyzing CP for urea cycle needs a cofactor (N-acetylglutamate), but the enz. for pyrimidine biosynthesis does not.
  - ✓ Mitochondrial [CP synthetase] is 10x greater than cytosolic [CP synthetase]
    - Reflecting a much greater need to synthesize urea than pyrimidines

# Deoxyribonucleotide synthesis

## ■ Precursors: ribonucleotides

p. 888

- ✓ Reduction only occur at the level of ribonucleoside diphosphate by ribonucleotide reductase
- ✓  $AMP \rightarrow ADP \rightarrow dADP \rightarrow dAMP$
- ✓  $GMP \rightarrow GDP \rightarrow dGDP \rightarrow dGMP$
- ✓  $CMP \rightarrow CDP \rightarrow dCDP \rightarrow dCMP$
- ✓  $UMP \rightarrow UDP \rightarrow dUDP \rightarrow ? \rightarrow dTMP$



# Synthesis of dTMP

- Thymidylate (dTMP) is derived from dUMP

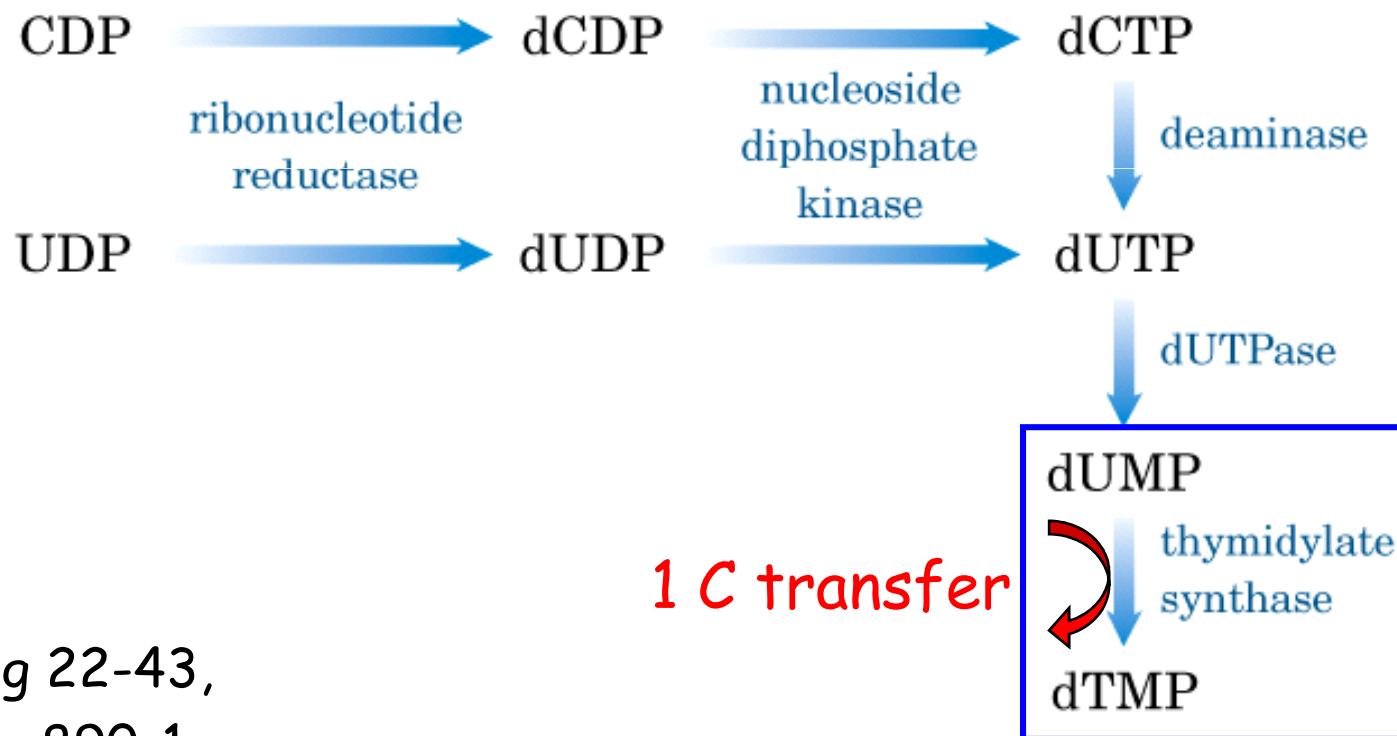


Fig 22-43,  
p. 890-1

# Nucleotide salvage (p. 893)

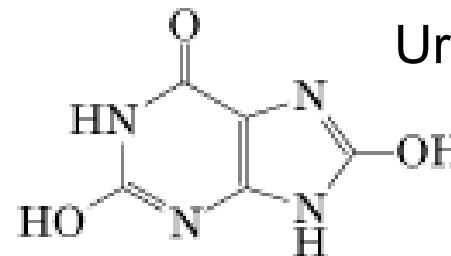
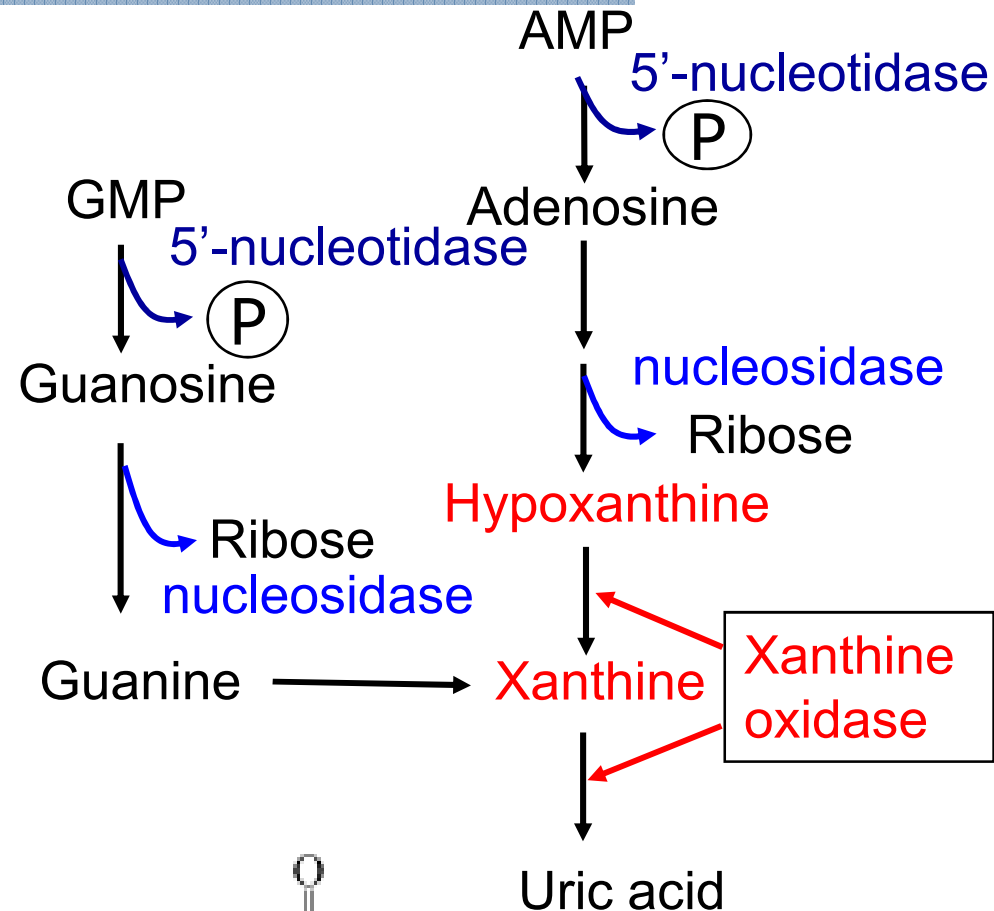
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- Purine salvage
  - ✓ One-step reaction
  - ✓ The purine bases (adenine, guanine) + PRPP → AMP, GMP
    - Adenosine phosphoribosyltransferase
    - Hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase
      - Lesch-Nyhan syndrome
- Pyrimidine salvage
  - ✓ Two-step reaction
  - ✓ The pyrimidine bases (uracil, cytosine) + ribose → nucleosides (uridine, cytidine)
  - ✓ Nucleosides (uridine, cytidine) + Pi → nucleotides (UMP, CMP)

# Nucleotide degradation

p. 892-3

- Release bases can be salvaged for reuse
- Pyrimidine degradation
  - ✓  $\text{NH}_4^+ \rightarrow$  urea
  - ✓ Produce all soluble compounds
- Purine degradation
  - ✓ Uric acid
  - ✓ Low solubility



Purine degradation  
Fig 22-45 left modified



# Uric acid overproduction

p. 893, bottom right

## ■ Gout

- ✓ Excessive purines → uric acid ↑
- ✓ Gout - occurs mainly in males
- ✓ Medication: allopurinol (xanthine oxidase inhibitor)

Fig 22-47

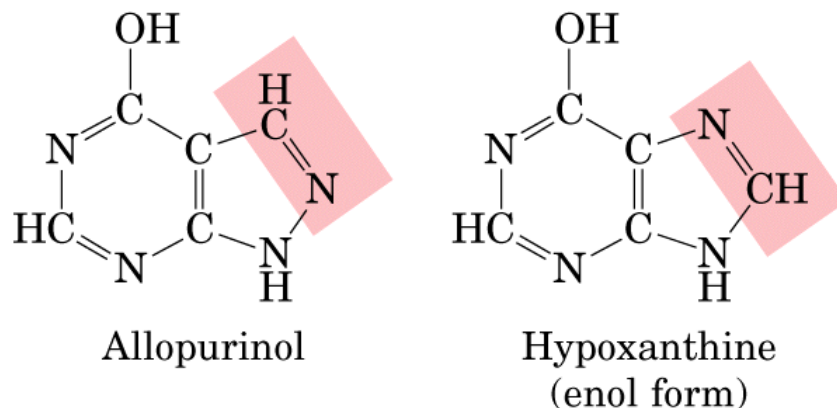
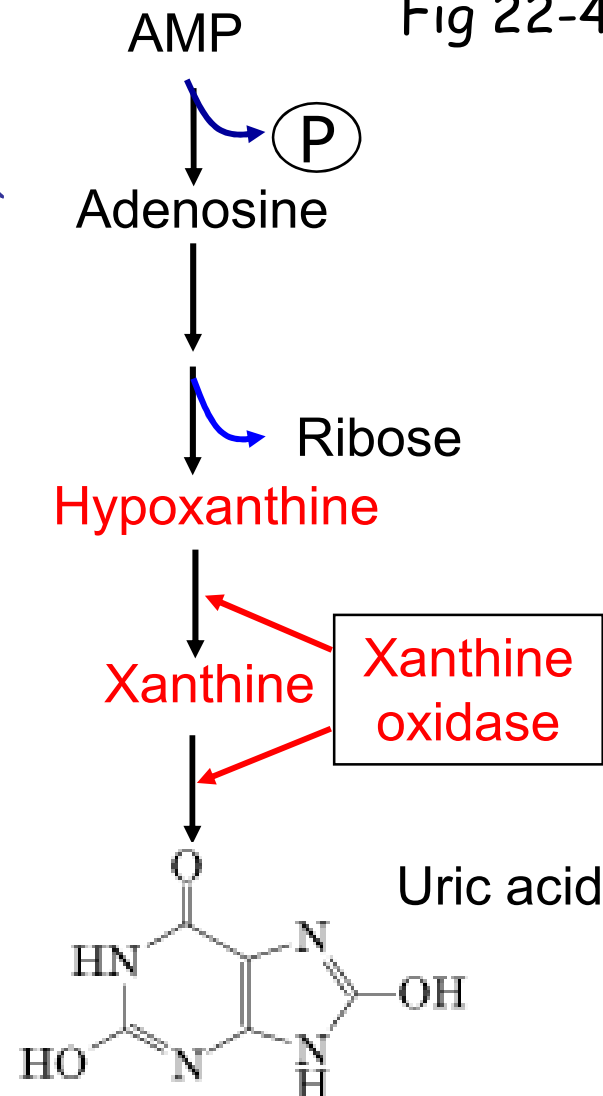


Fig 22-45



# Inhibitors and anticancer drugs

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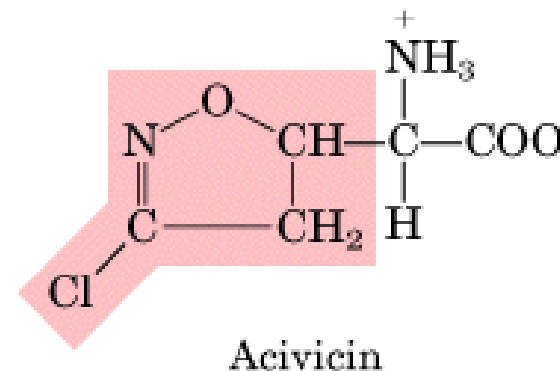
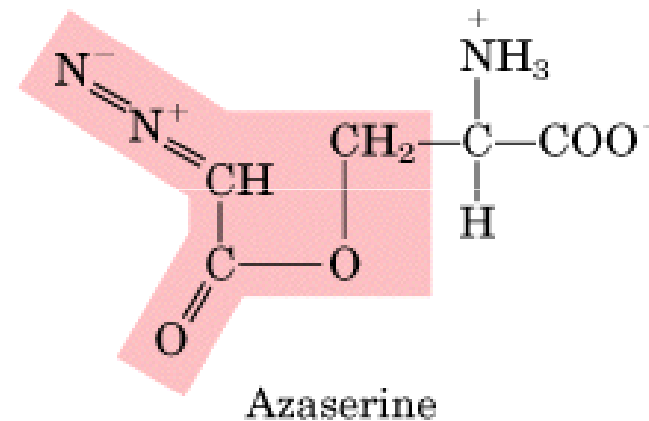
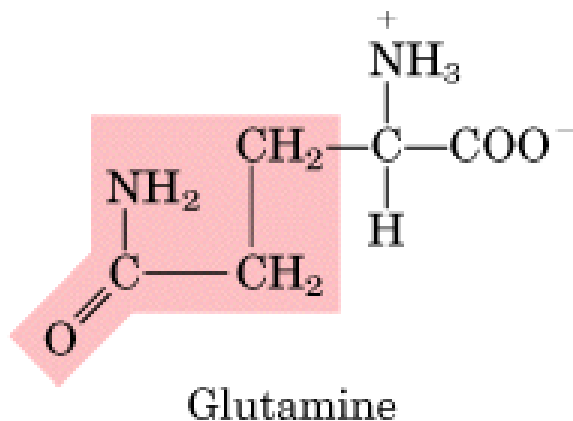
p. 894-6

- Growing cells need to synthesize both DNA and RNA.
  - ✓ Drugs inhibiting nucleotide biosynthesis affect not only tumor cells but normal ones as well.
    - Side effects of cancer chemotherapy
    - Stem cells: require DNA and RNA synthesis
    - Inhibits the formation of erythrocytes, lymphocytes, cells of the intestinal epithelium, and hair-forming cells.
- Most tumor cells possess **a more active salvage pathway** than do normal cells.
  - ✓ Drugs entering metabolism via the salvage pathways obtain a higher conc. in tumor cells and have a therapeutic advantage.

# Chemotherapeutic agents i

- Azaserine and acivicin
  - ✓ Inhibit glutamine amidotransferases
  - ✓ Gln analogs

Fig 22-48



# Summary

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- Non-essential amino acid biosynthesis
- Regulation of a.a. biosynthesis
- A.A. derived biomolecules
- Nucleotide biosynthesis and degradation
  - ✓ De novo synthesis and regulation
  - ✓ Salvage pathway
  - ✓ Inhibitor and chemotherapeutic agent
- Problems
  - ✓ 7, 9, 10, 16