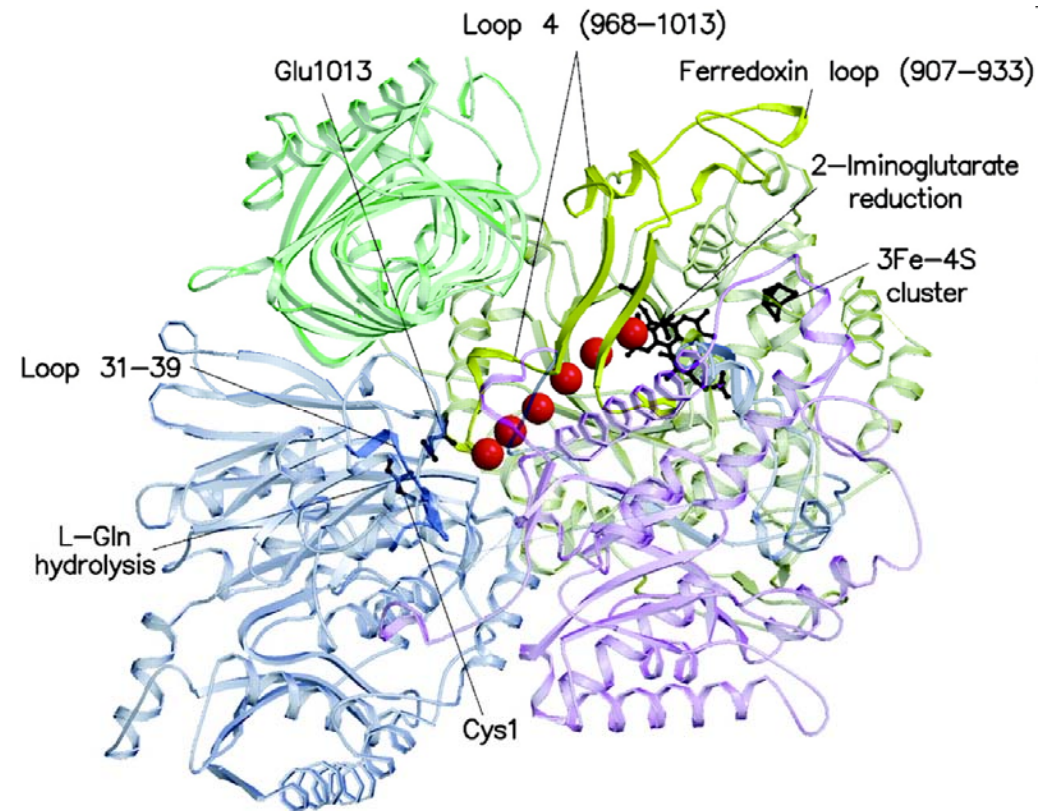
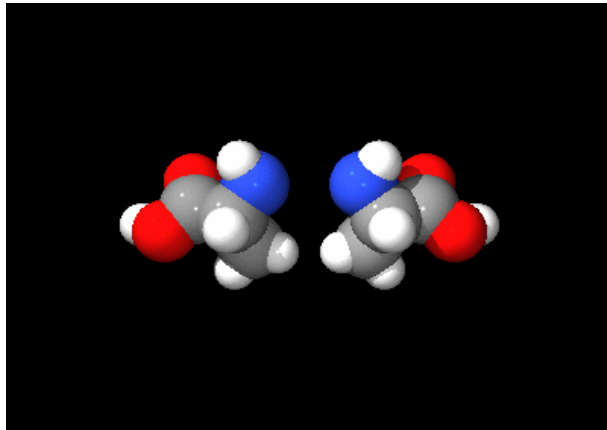
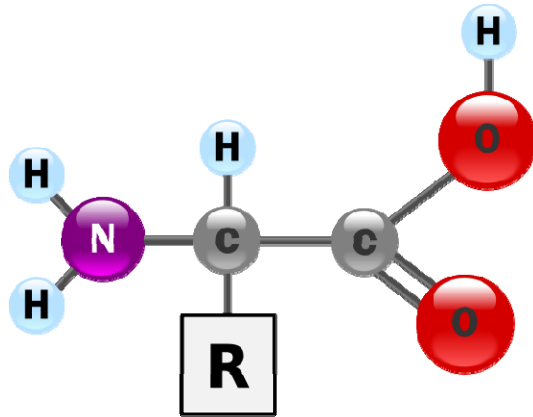
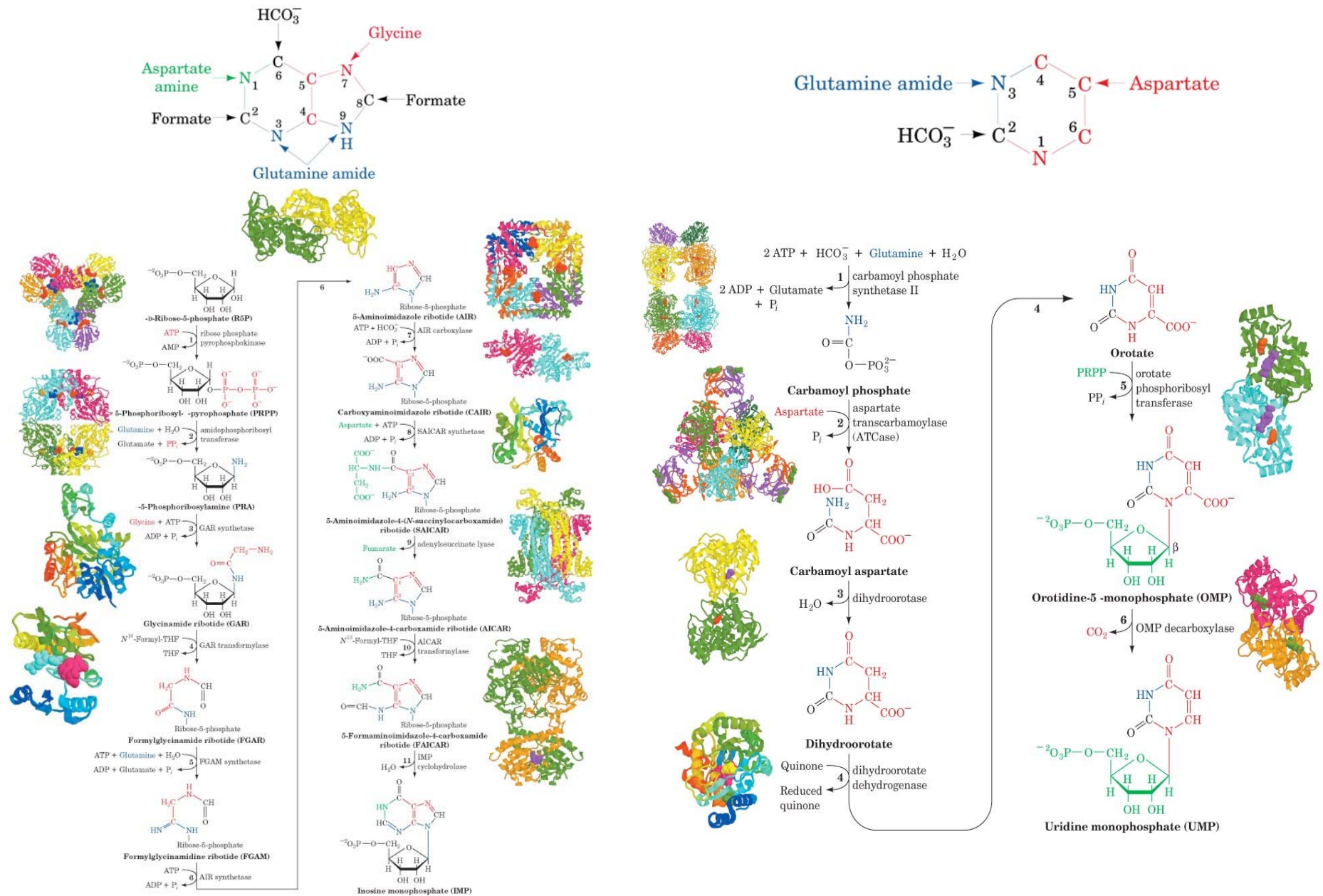


Amino Acid Metabolism



Last Week...



Most of the Animal Kingdom = Lazy

- Most higher organisms in the animal kingdom don't bother to make all of the amino acids.
- Instead, we eat things that make the 'essential' amino acids for us

Unsuprisingly, humans are among the laziest animals

Not really
essential

Essential	Nonessential
Arginine ^a	Alanine
Histidine	Asparagine
Isoleucine	Aspartate
Leucine	Cysteine
Lysine	Glutamate
Methionine	Glutamine
Phenylalanine	Glycine
Threonine	Proline
Tryptophan	Serine
Valine	Tyrosine

More or less
essential

^aAlthough mammals synthesize arginine, they cleave most of it to form urea (Sections 26-2D and 26-2E).

Nucleotide Metabolism

- Synthesis of:

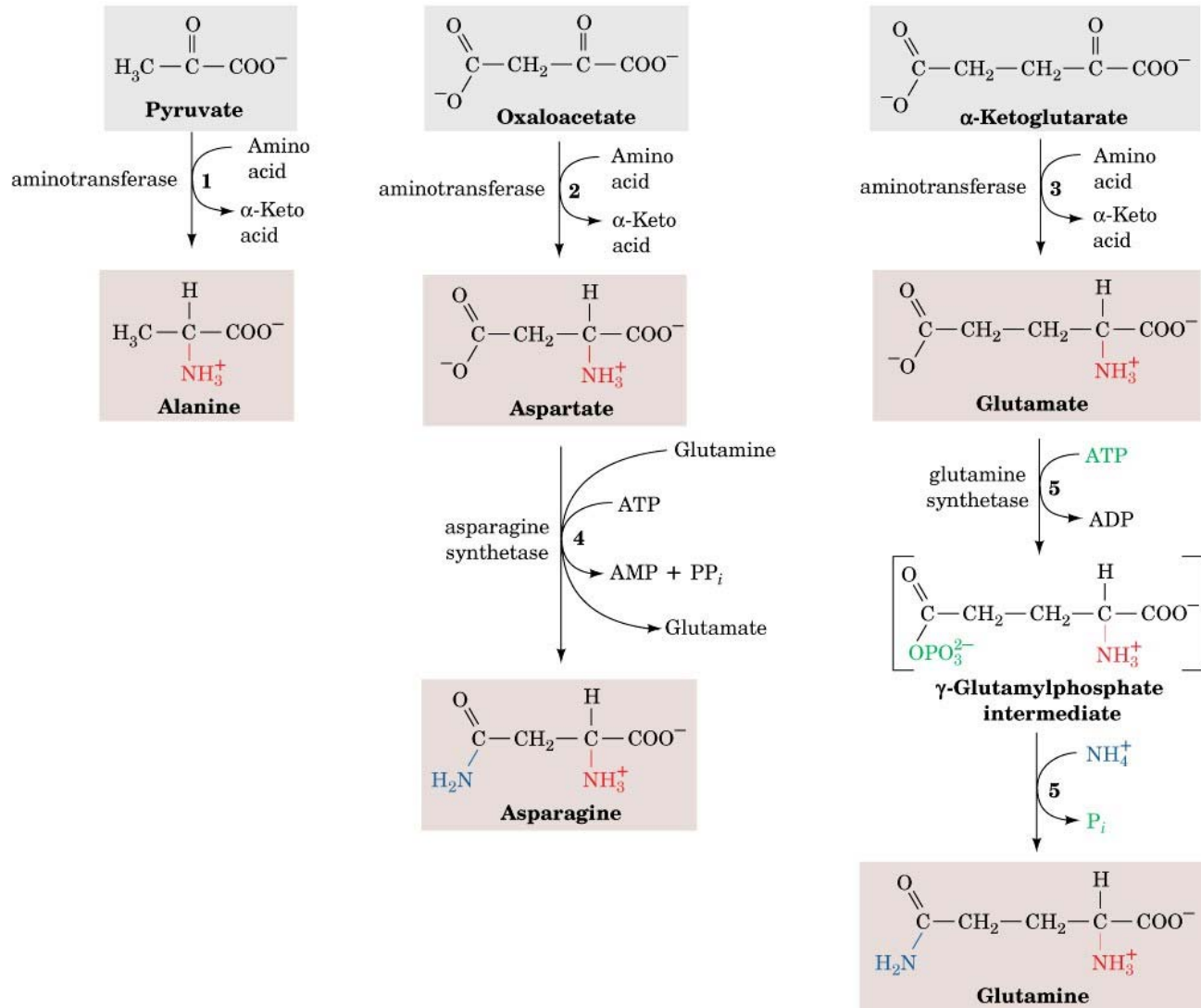
Alanine

Aspartate

Asparagine

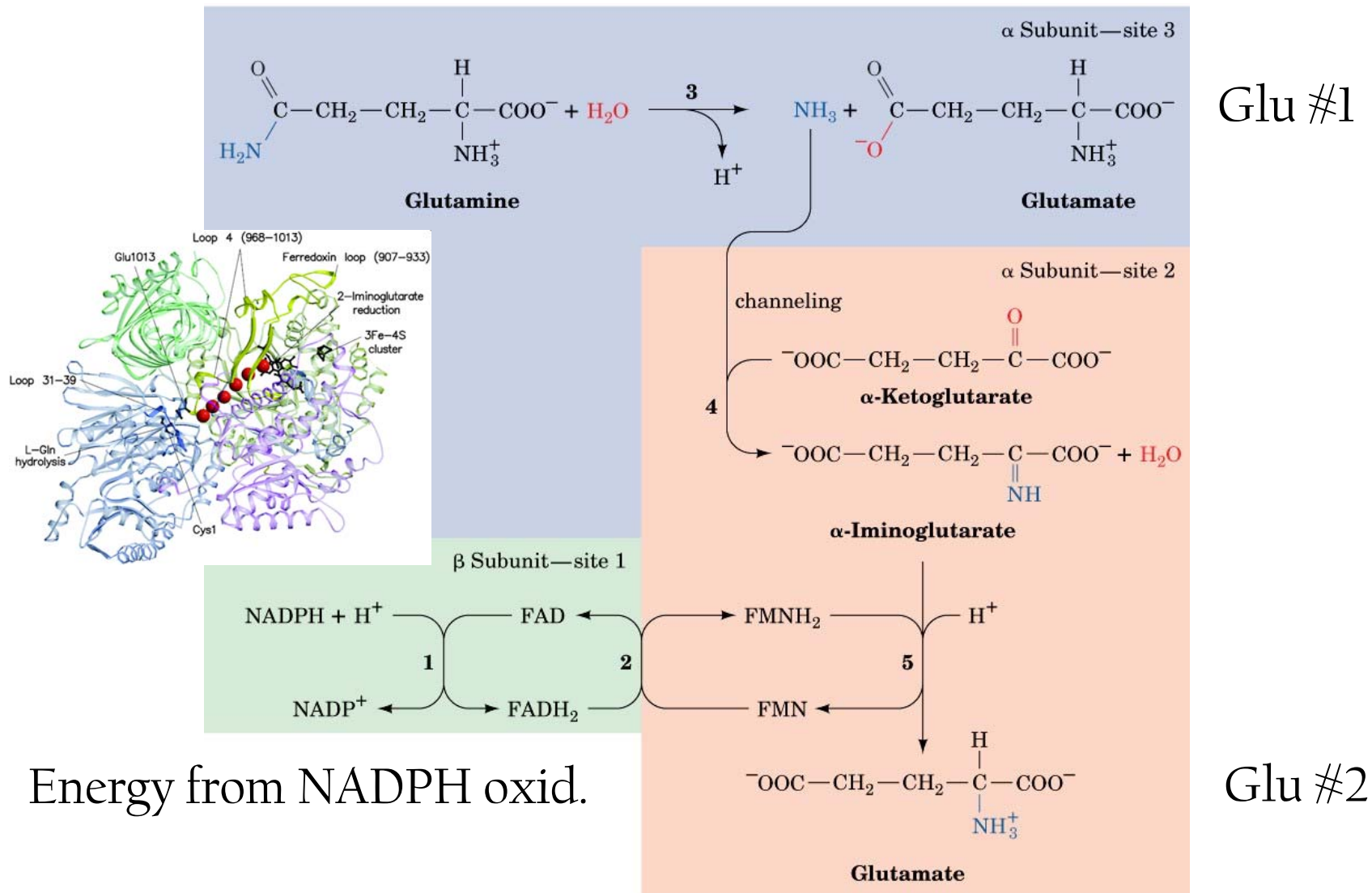
Glutamate

Glutamine



Glutamate Synthase

- Plants and lower organisms use a **synthase** to make glutamate

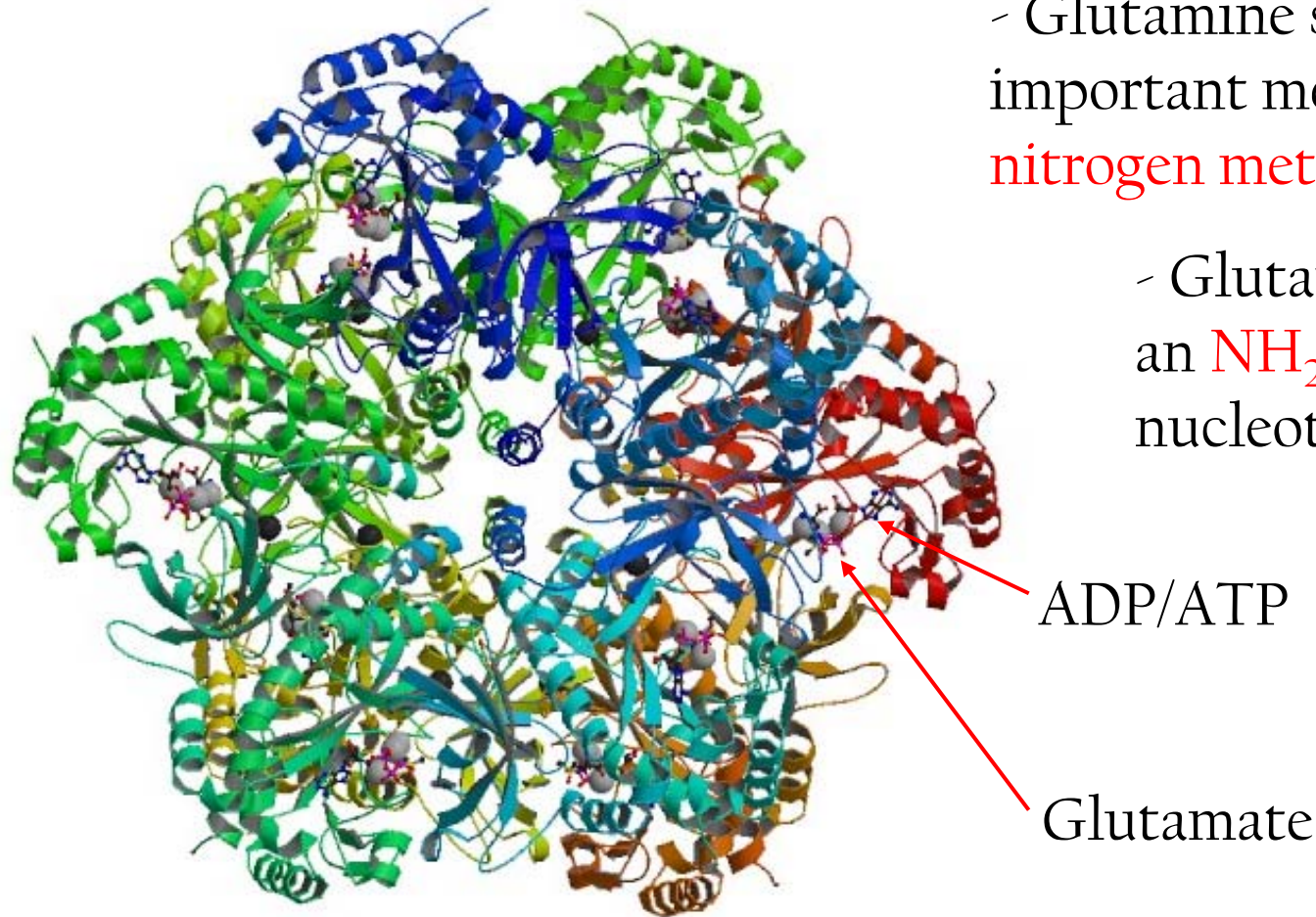


Glutamine Synthetase

- When we make glutamine, we've got to use some precious ATP

- Glutamine synthetase is an important metabolic center for **nitrogen metabolism**.

- Glutamine is commonly an **NH₂ donor** (see nucleotide synthesis)



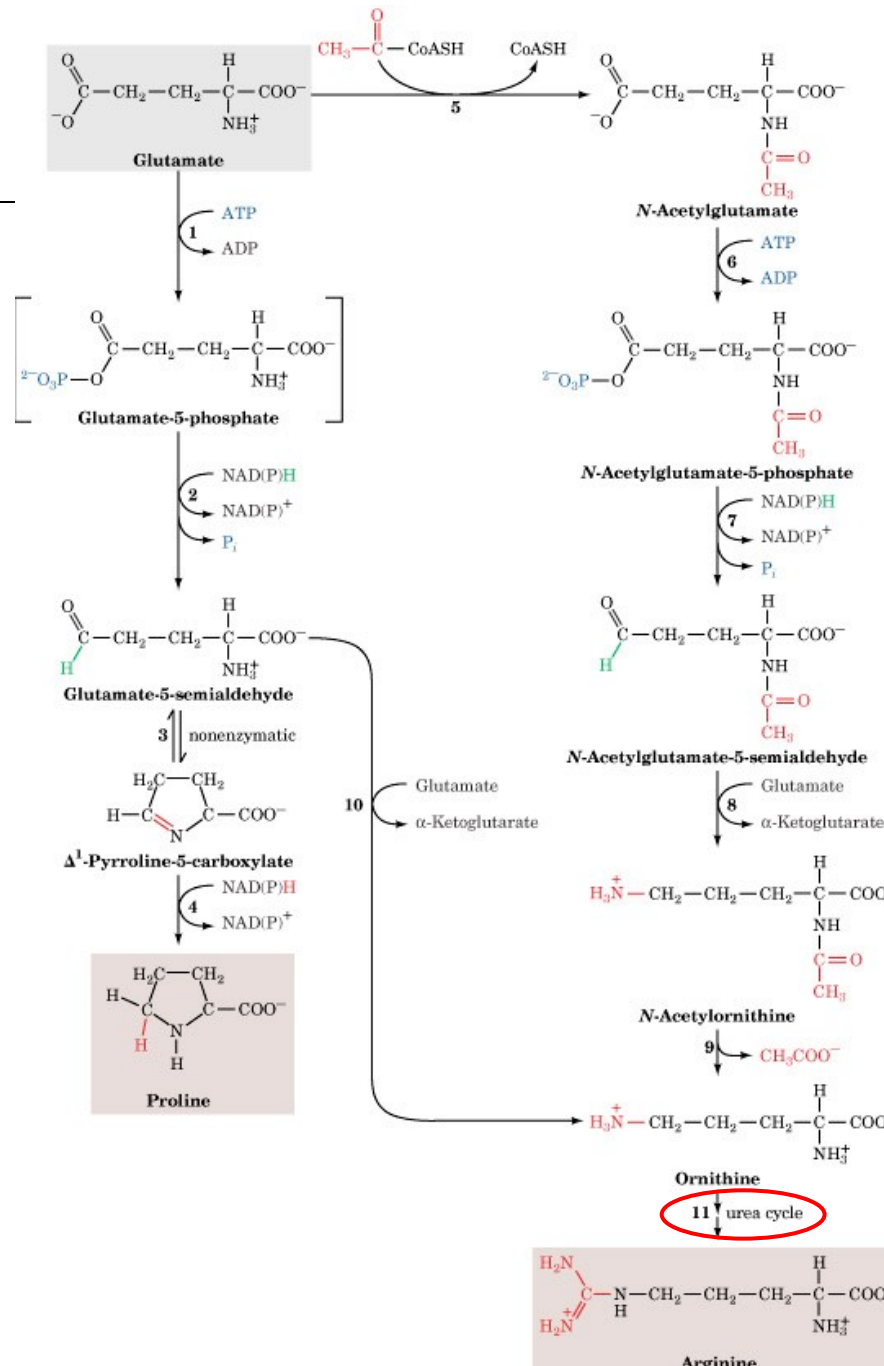
Nucleotide Metabolism

- Synthesis of:

Arginine

Ornithine

Proline



Good for
getting rid of
excess NH₄⁺ ...

...or making
Arg

Amino Acids from 3-Phosphoglycerate

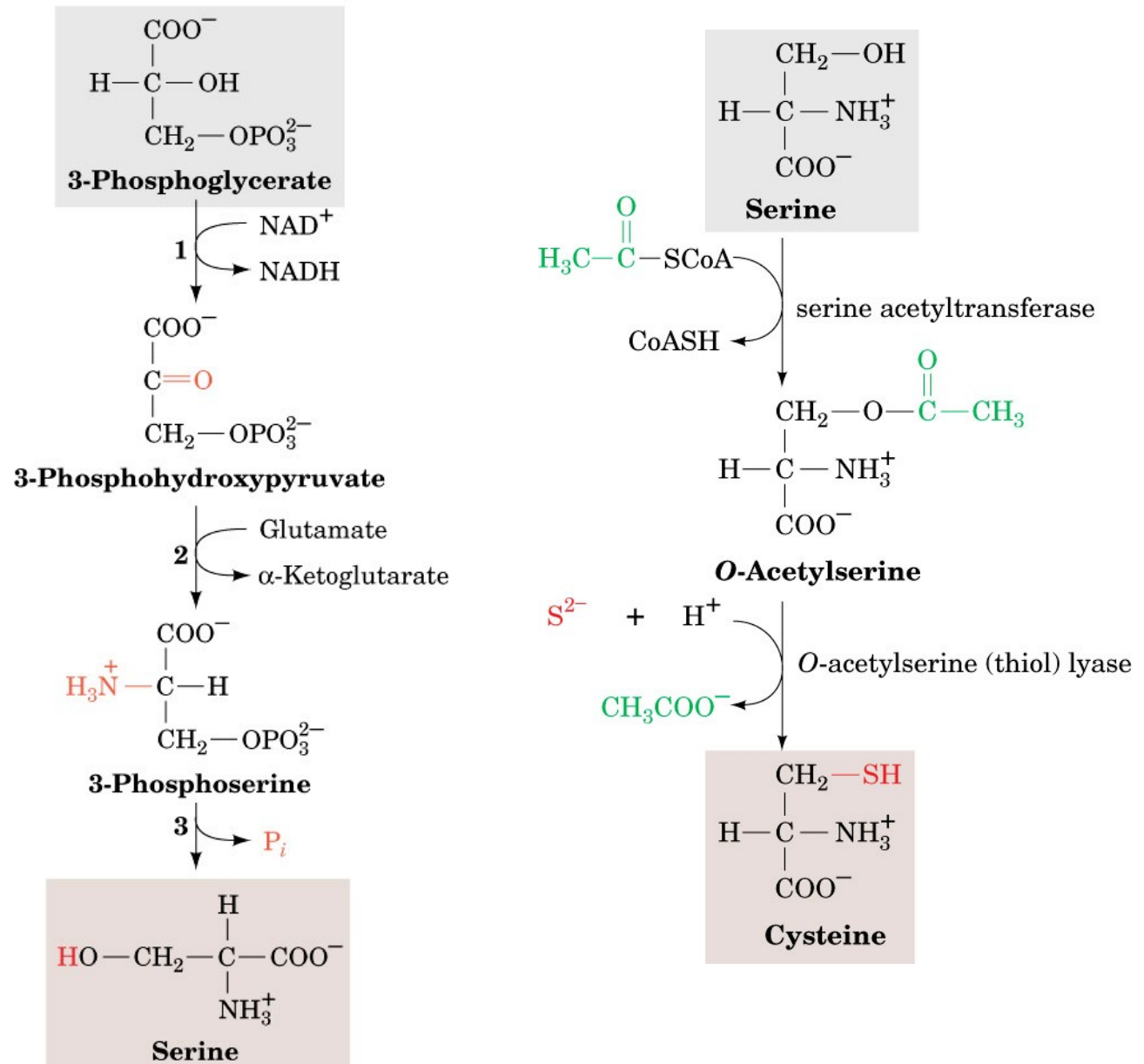
- Synthesis of:

Serine

Cysteine

Glycine

- Made from Serine, can regenerate methylene-tetrahydrofolate



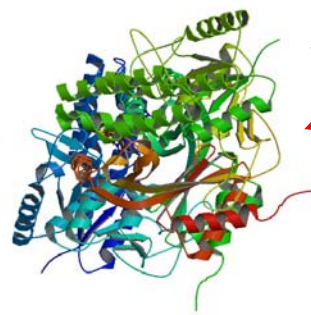
Essential Amino Acids from Aspartate

- Plants synthesize
for us:

Lysine

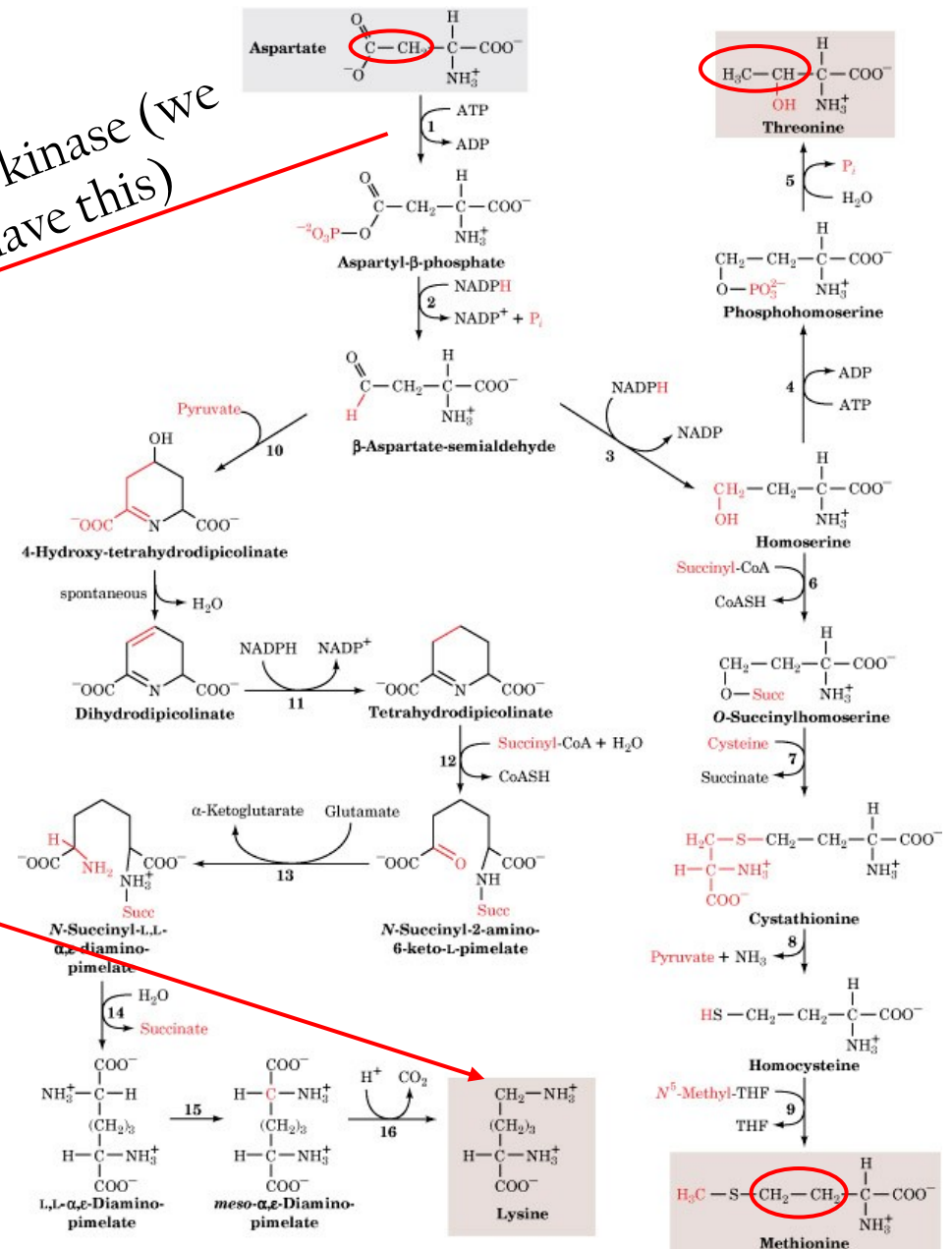
Methionine

Threonine



Aspartokinase (we
don't have this)

- Hardest
(long carbon
chain)



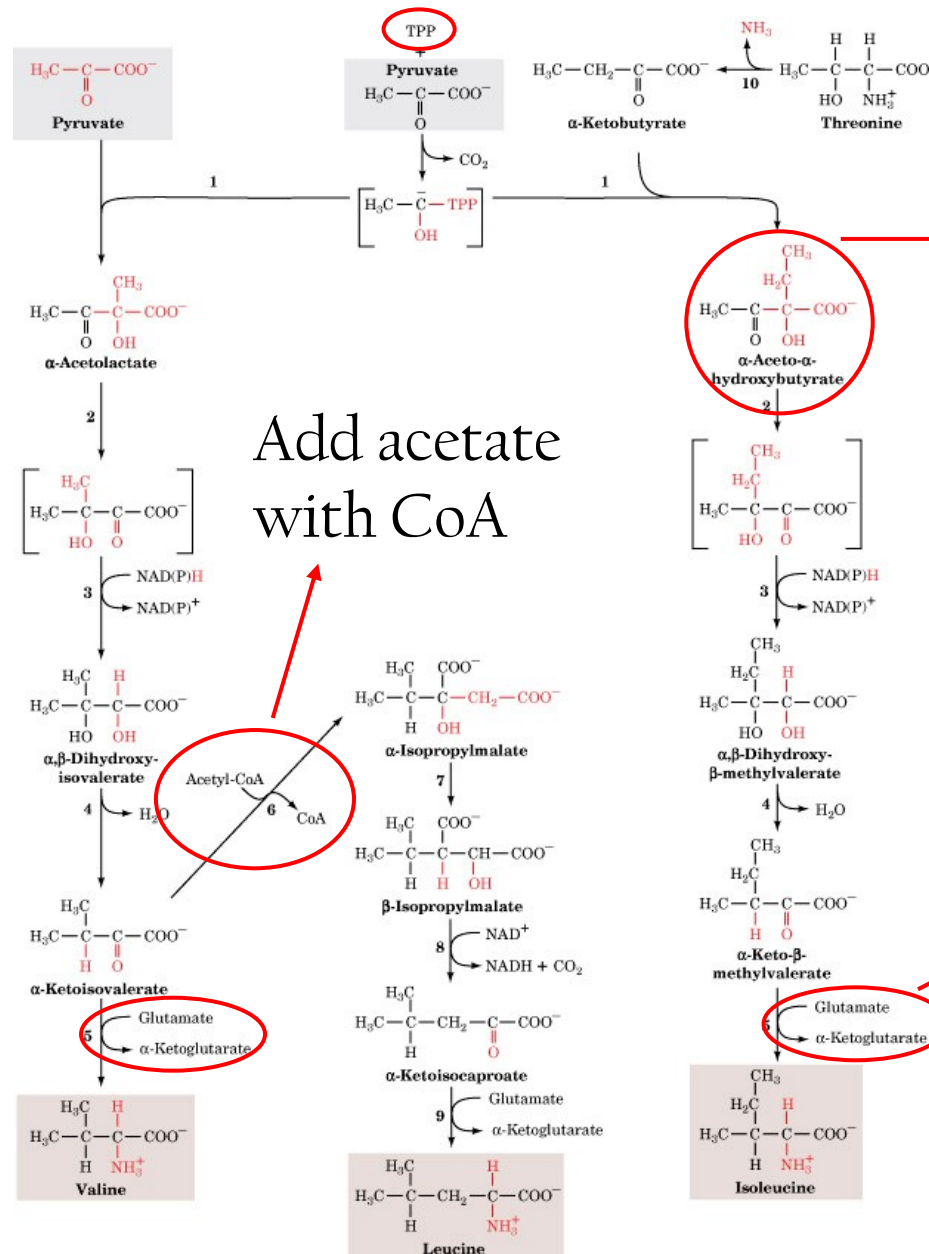
Essential Amino Acids from Pyruvate

- Synthesis of:

Leucine

Isoleucine

Valine



- Clearly on our way to 'iso'-something

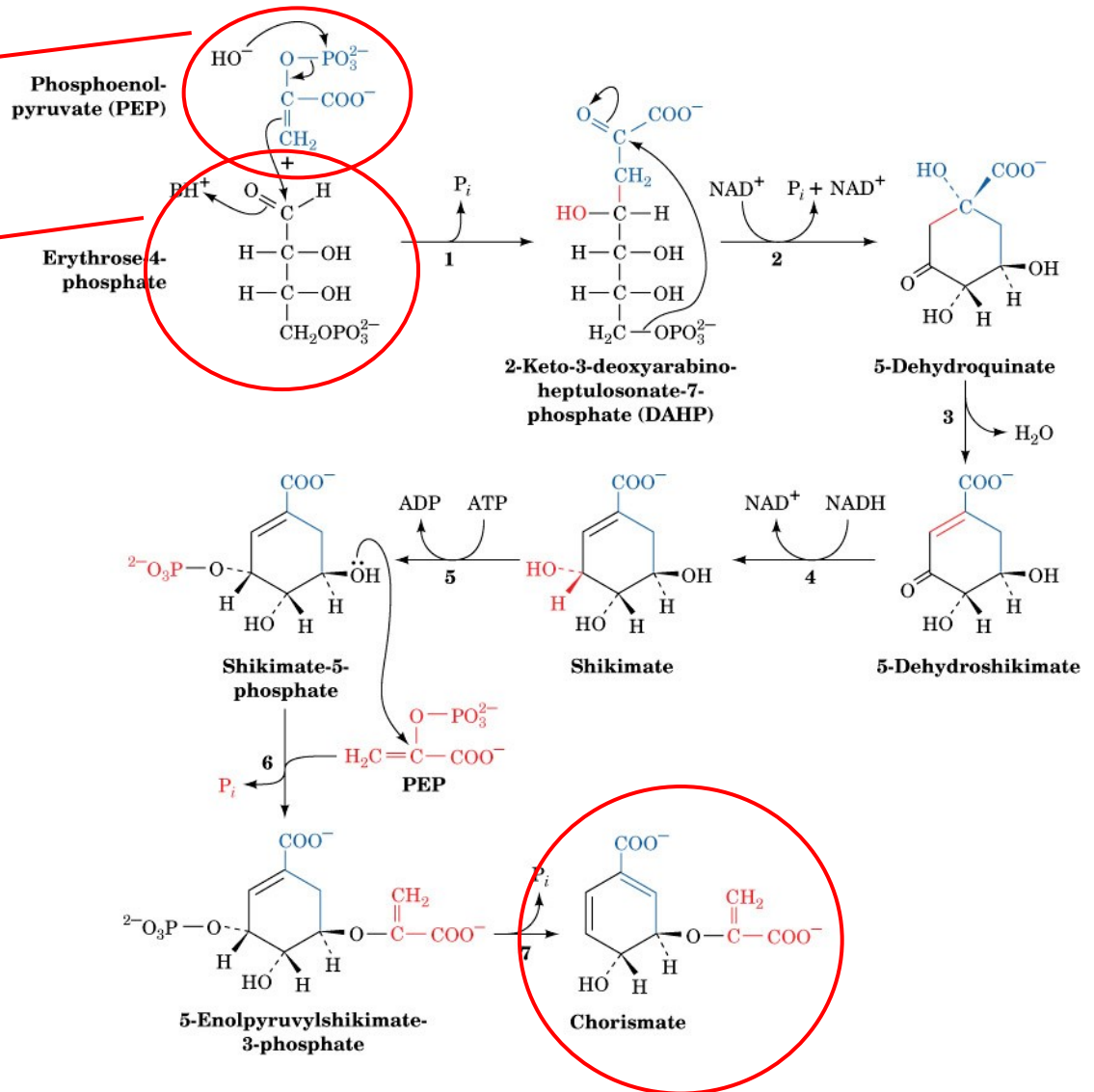
- E.g. Glutamate as NH₂ donor

Chorismate: The Aromatic A.A. Precursor

- There is a single precursor for all 'standard' aromatic amino acids

- Made from PEP!

- From the Pentose Phosphate Pathway (an alternative to glycolysis)



Making Aromatic Amino Acids

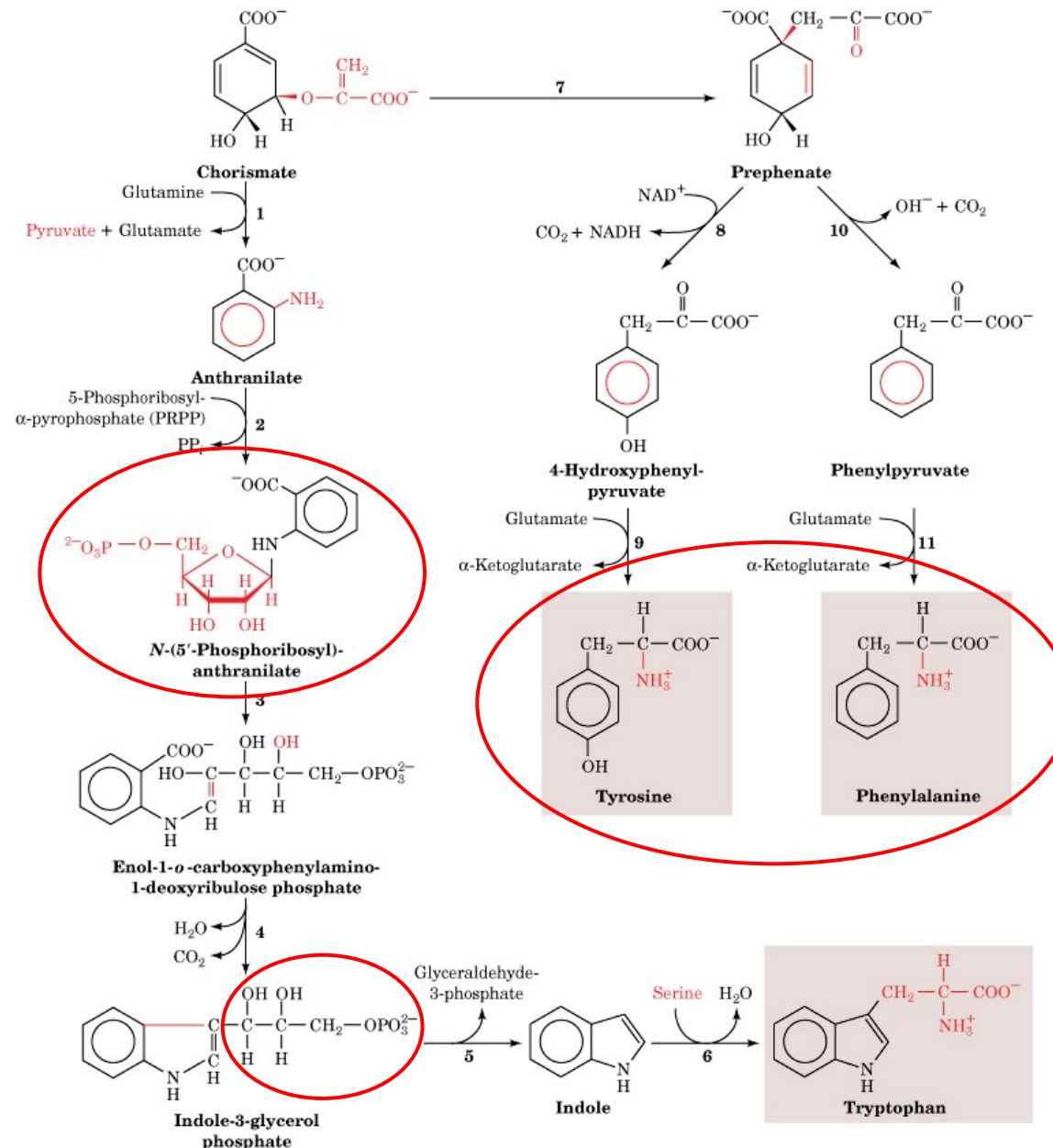
- Synthesis of:

Tyrosine

Phenylalanine

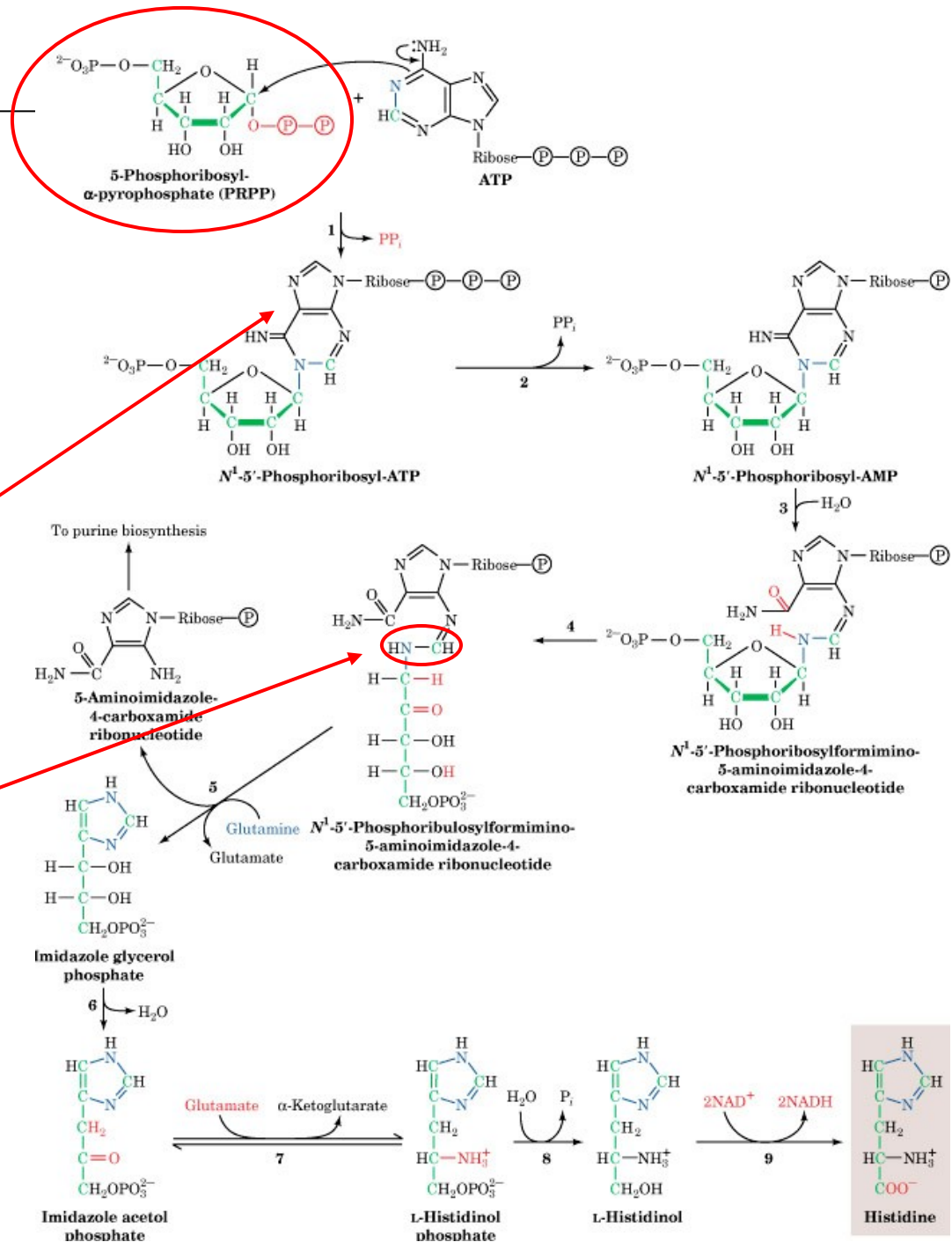
Tryptophan

- We can do a direct hydroxylation of Phenylalanine to give tyrosine



Synthesis of Histidine

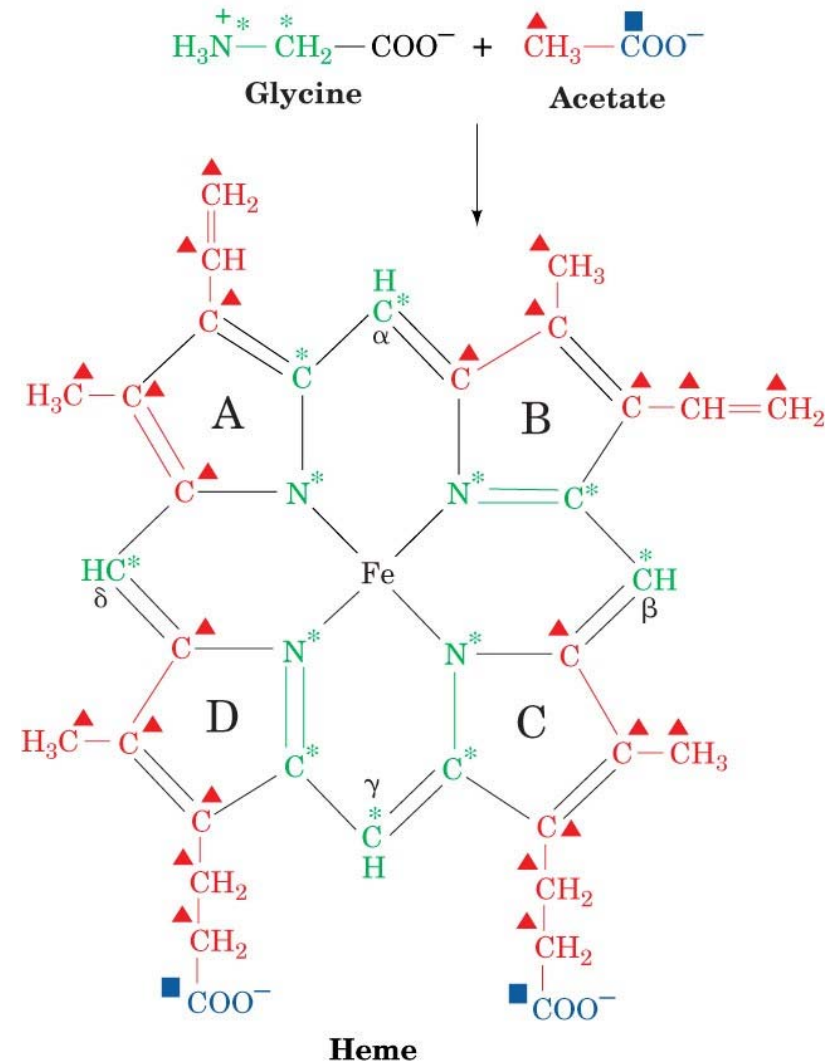
- The one amino acid we 'missed' is the essential amino acid Histidine
- Synthesized from PRPP and a purine! (Adenosine)
- The only two groups from ATP
- Could be a 'leftover' from when RNA ruled the world.



Heme Biosynthesis

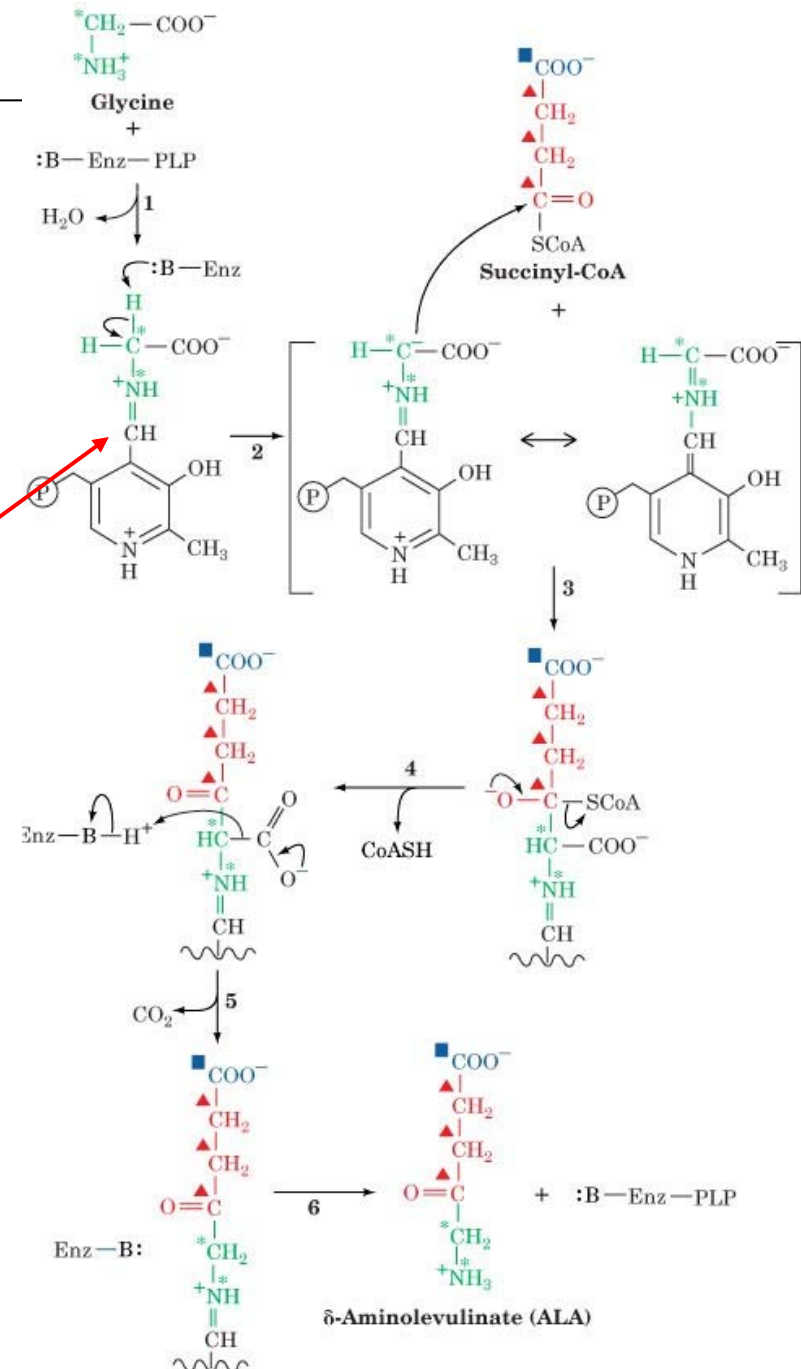
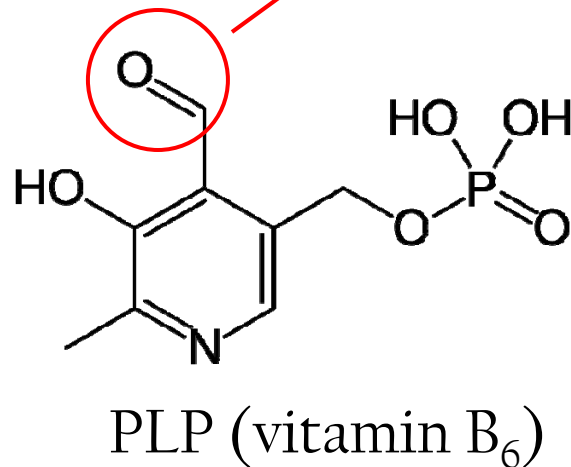
- In addition to proteins, some amino acids are used to make co-factors and signaling molecules:

- Porphyrins, for example, are made from Succinyl CoA and **Glycine**



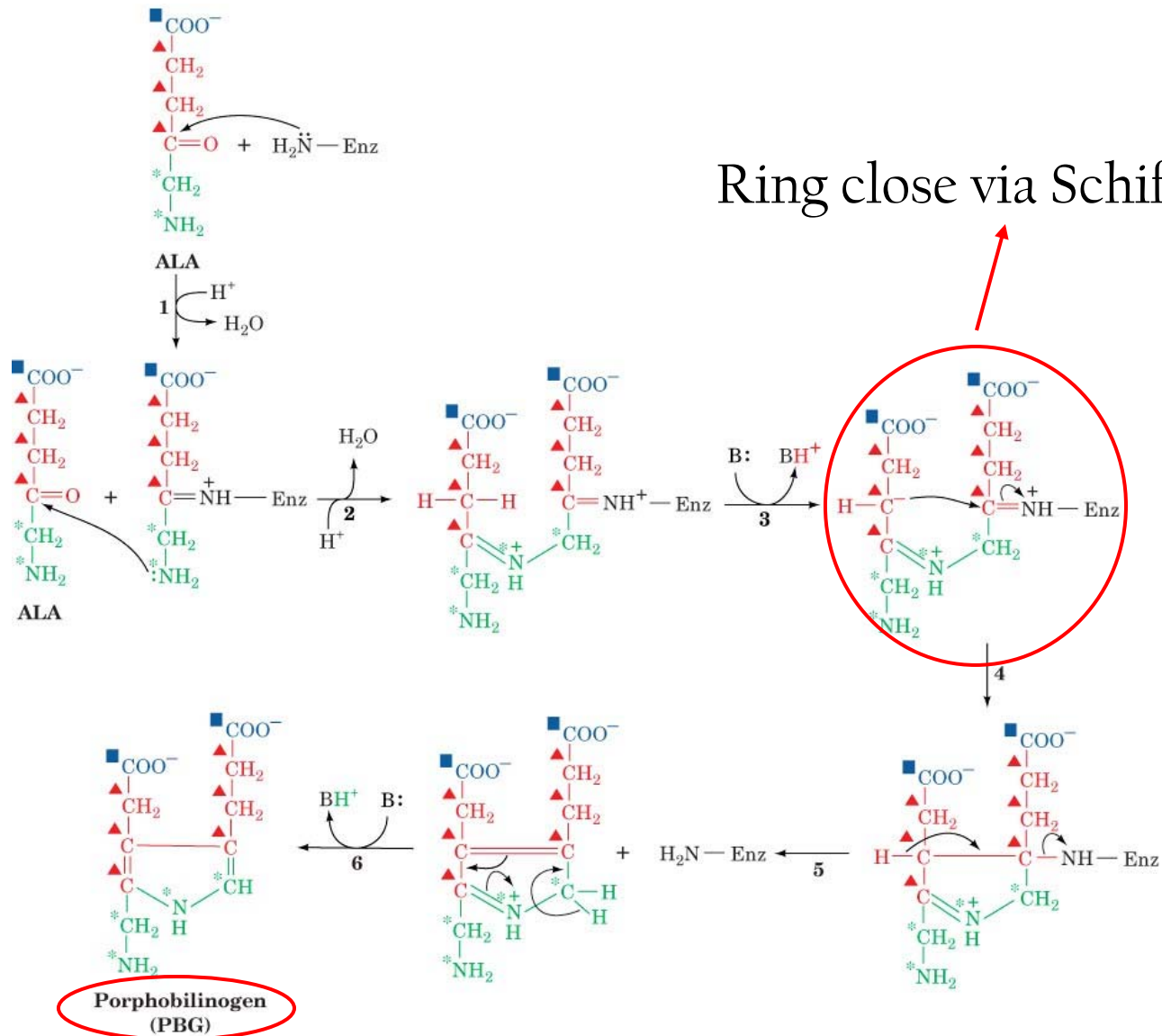
Porphyrin Biosynthesis

- The fundamental unit of porphyrins is **δ -aminolevulinate (ALA)**
- Made by the pyroxidal phosphate (PLP) dependent enzyme **δ -aminolevulinate synthase**



Porphyrin Biosynthesis

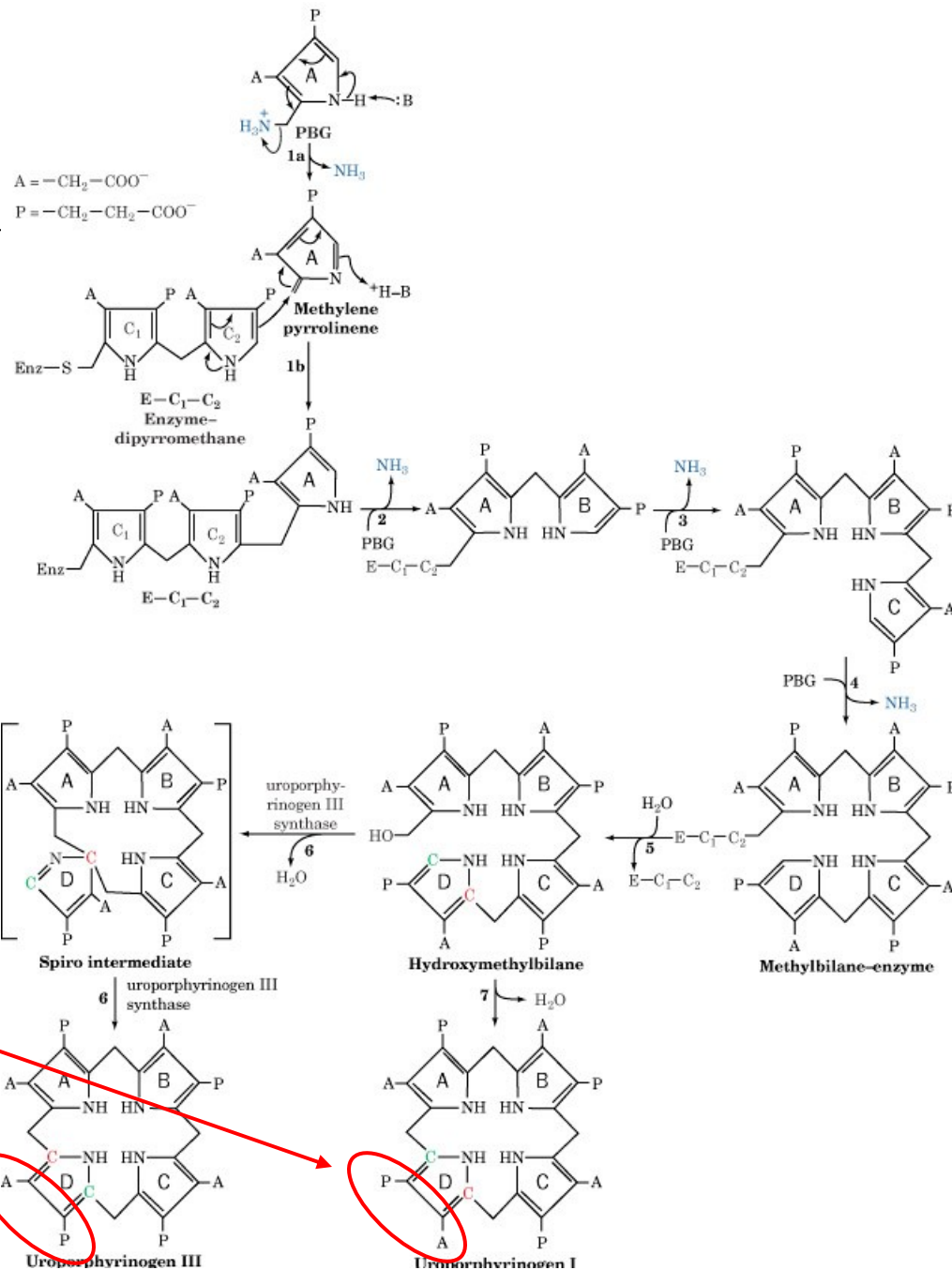
- We then combine 2 ALA into **Porphobilinogen**



Porphyrin Synthesis from PBG

- Porphyrins are composed of 4 PBG subunits

- The difference between Uroporphyrinogen I and III



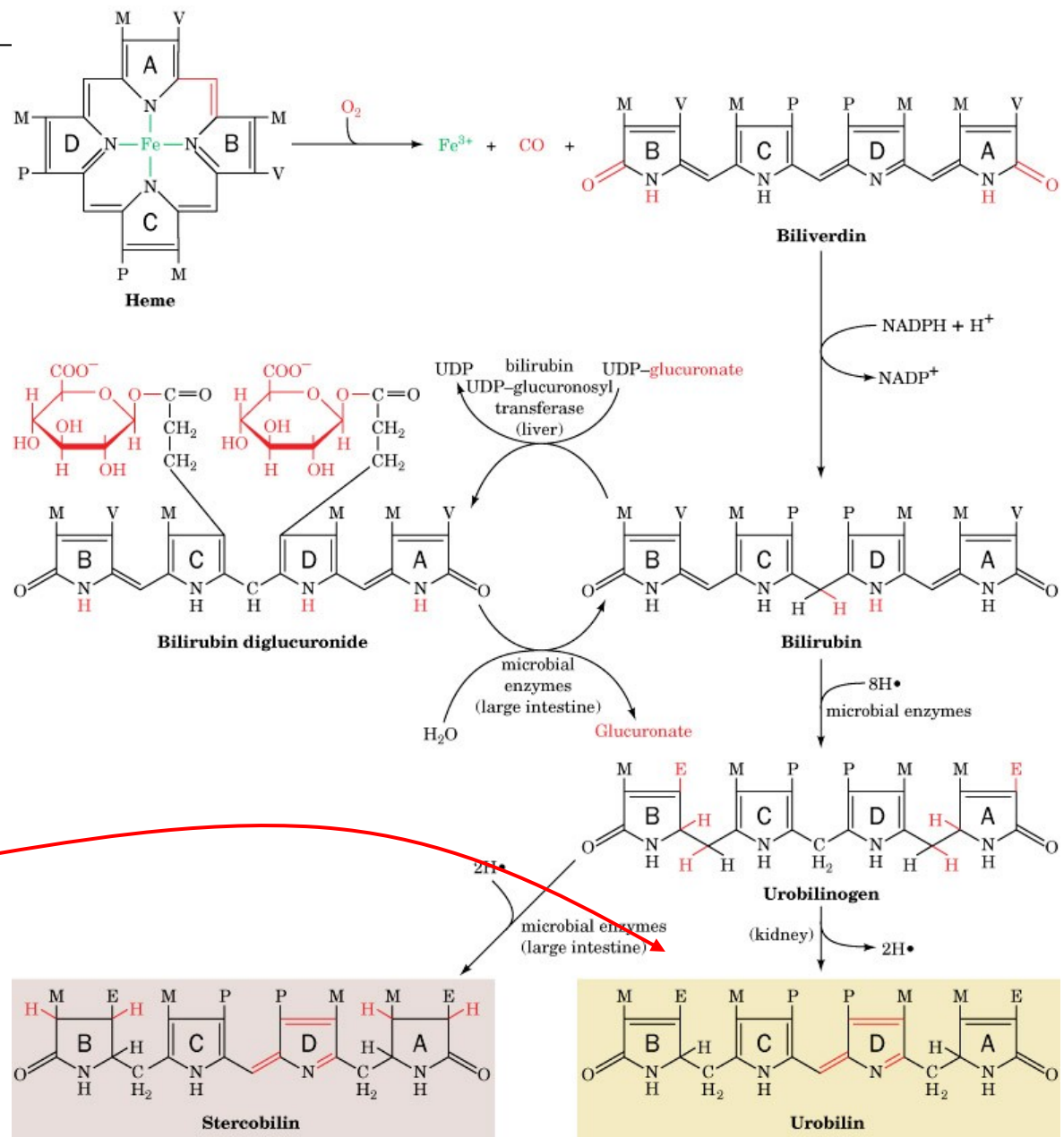
Degradation of Heme

- Excreted into the large intestine in bile (from liver)

- Failure to excrete Bilirubin diglucuronide results in Bilirubin buildup in the blood, i.e. **Jaundice**.

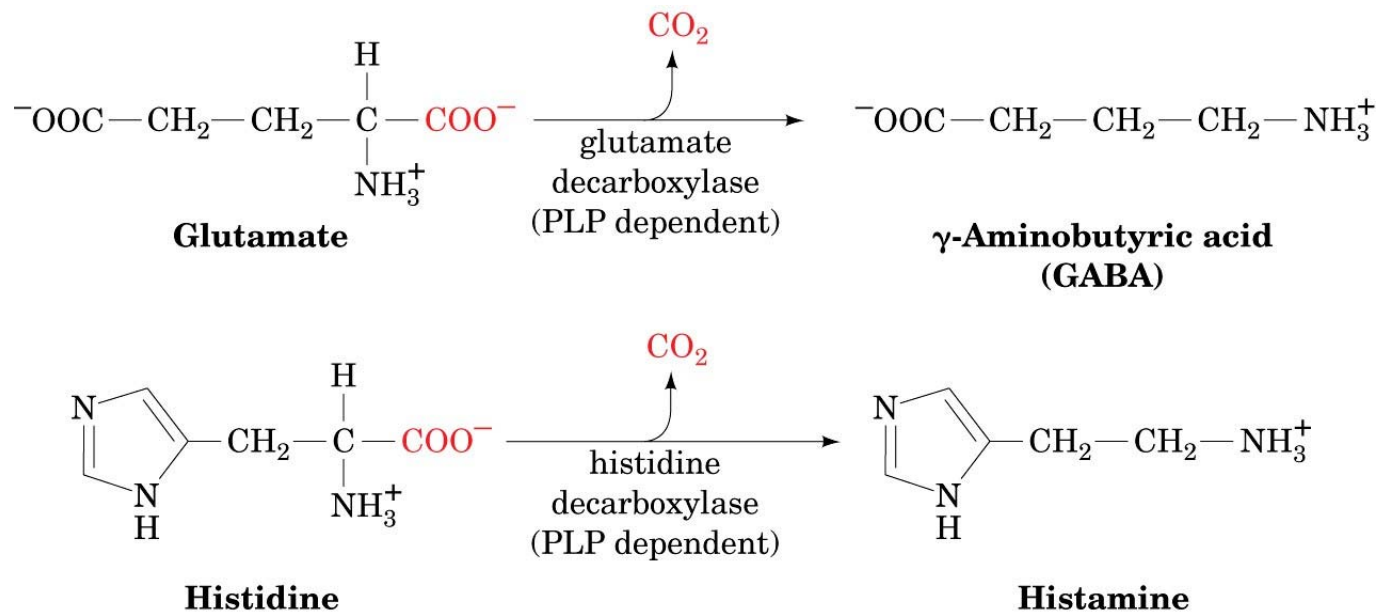
Colours pee

Colours poo



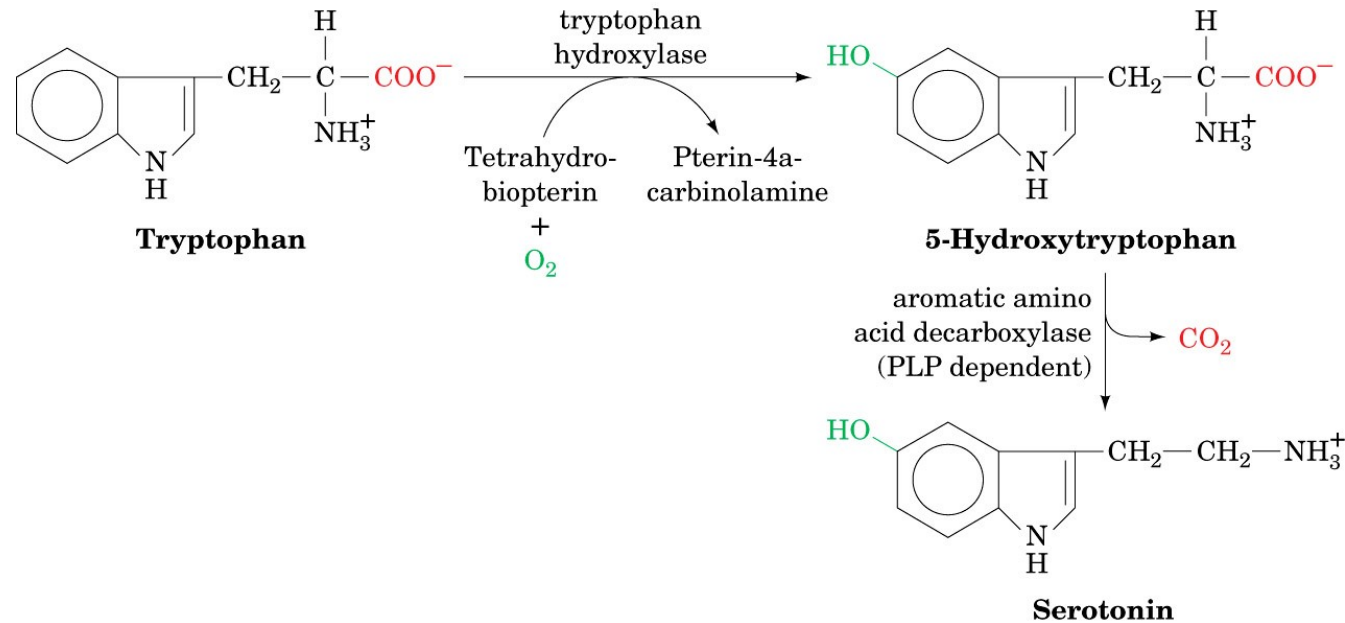
Physiologically Active Amines

- Many signaling molecules and neurotransmitters containing amines are formed from amino acids



- **GABA** = very important inhibitory neurotransmitter
- **Histamine** = multifunctional signaling molecule (though we are most affected by immune system signaling, *i.e.* anti-histamines)

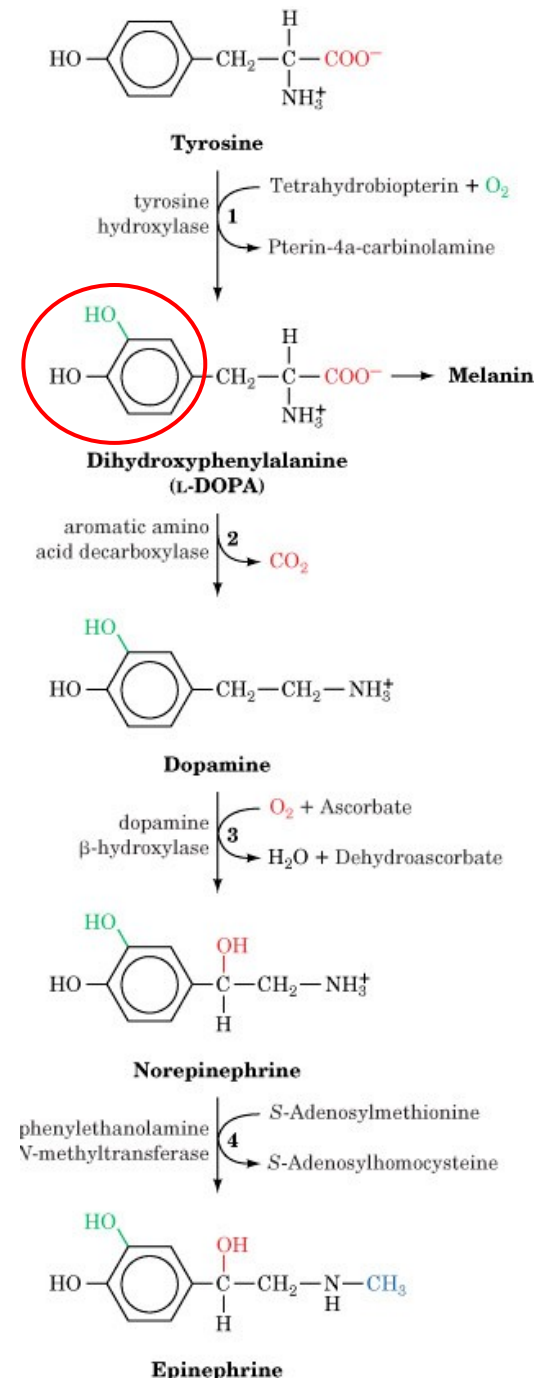
Serotonin is from Tryptophan



- **Serotonin** is an important neurotransmitter associated with mood (SSRIs = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors)
- Also important in the gut and the 'extra sorness' you feel when you get a cut

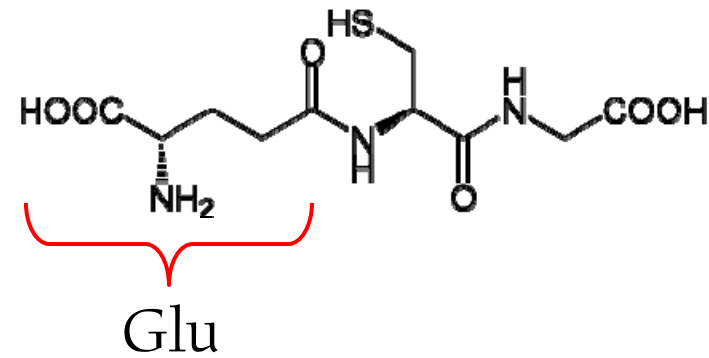
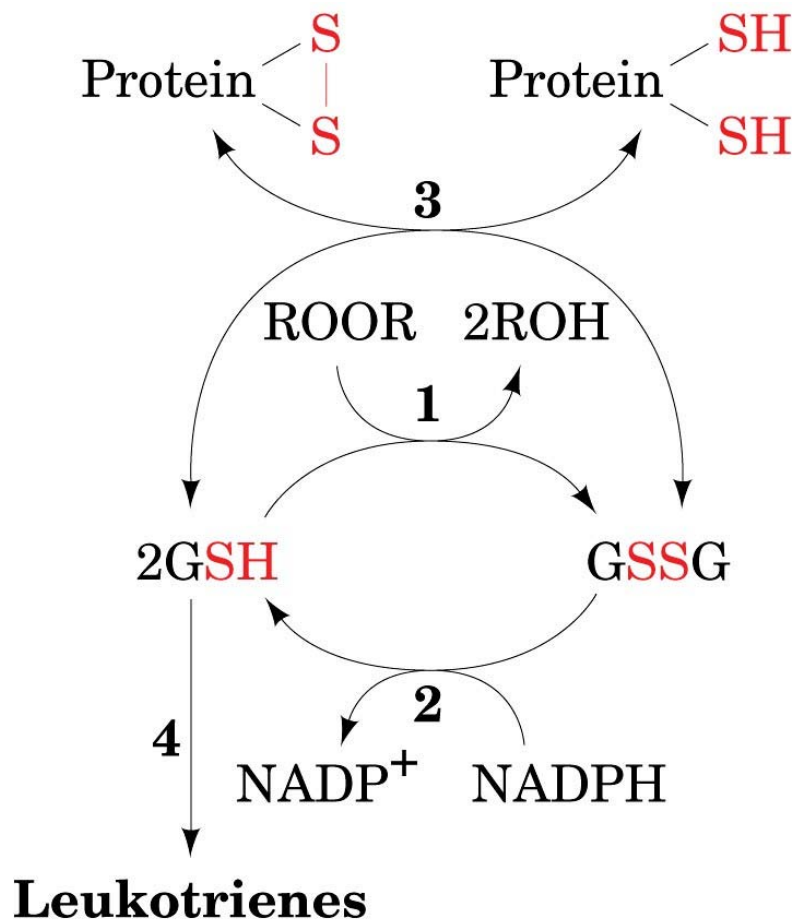
Catechol-based Metabolites are from Tyrosine

- Catechol-based molecules are used as hormones and neurotransmitters
- Dopamine is associated with mood, learning, hunger etc.
- Epinephrine is associated with getting you pumped up (*i.e.* fight or flight)



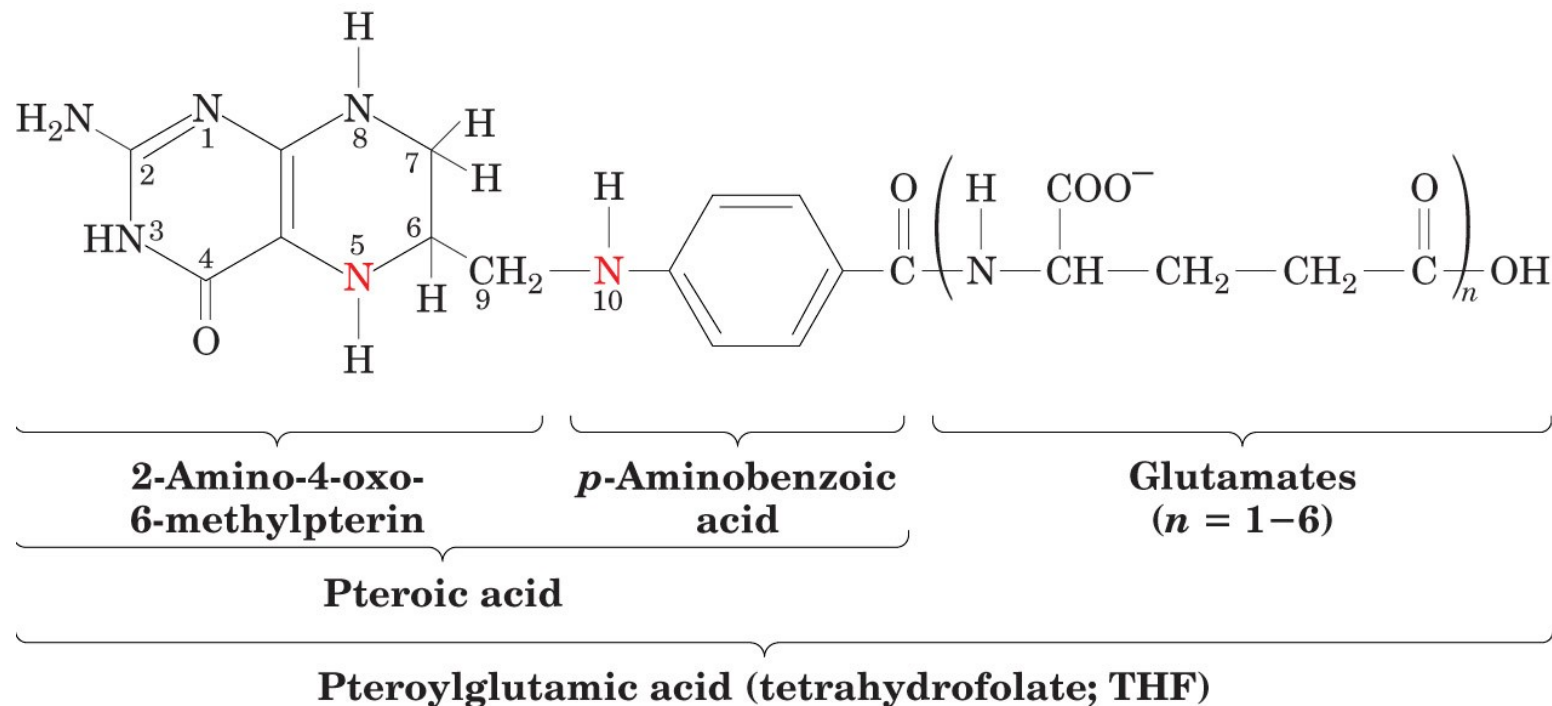
Glutathione

- Here's a cofactor we haven't seen yet: Glutathione (GSH) is a redox cofactor, ROS killer and keeper of the correct oxidation state for cysteines



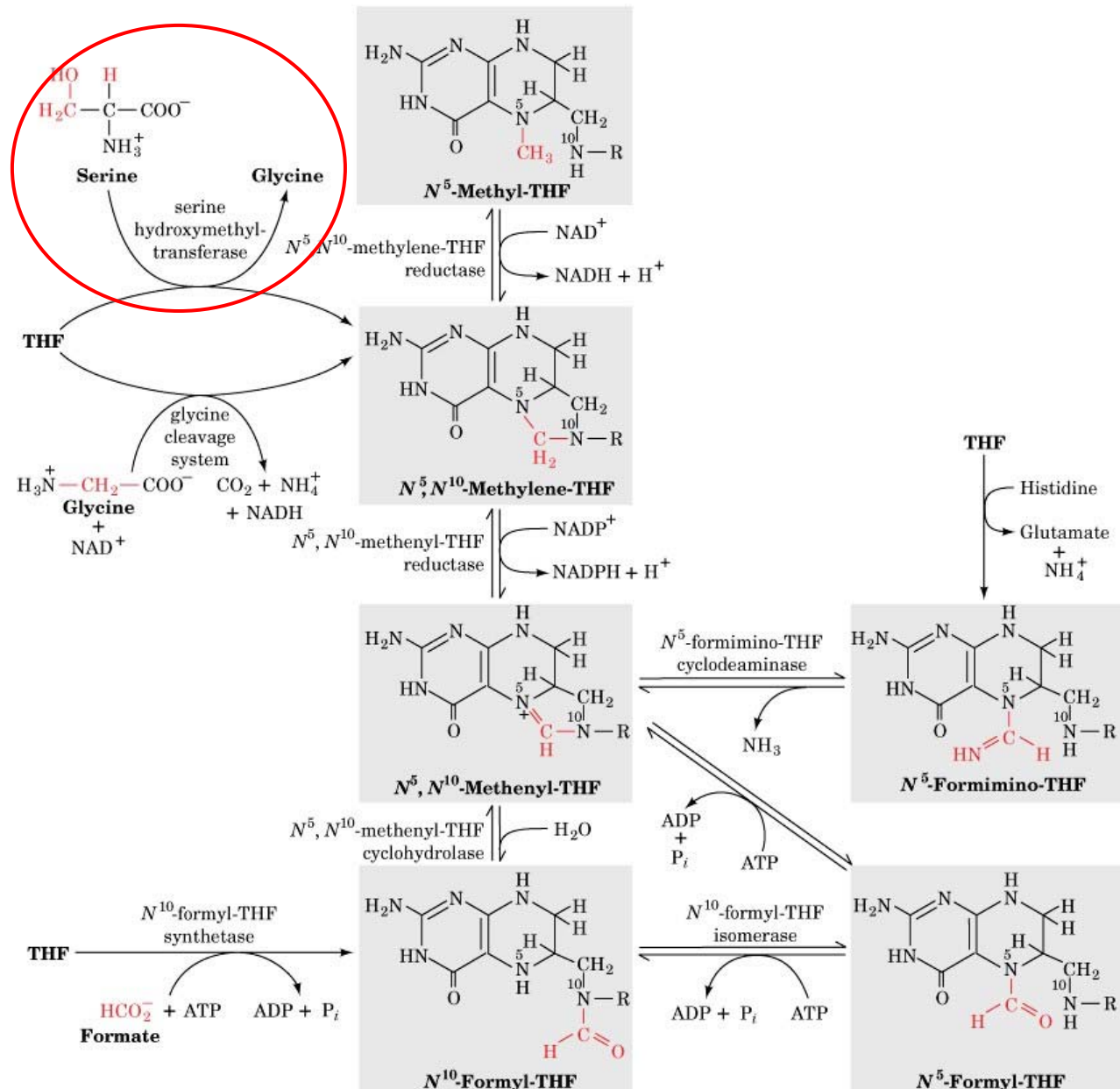
Tetrahydrofolate cofactors

- Part of the tetrahydrofolate molecule comes from a chain of condensed **Glutamates**



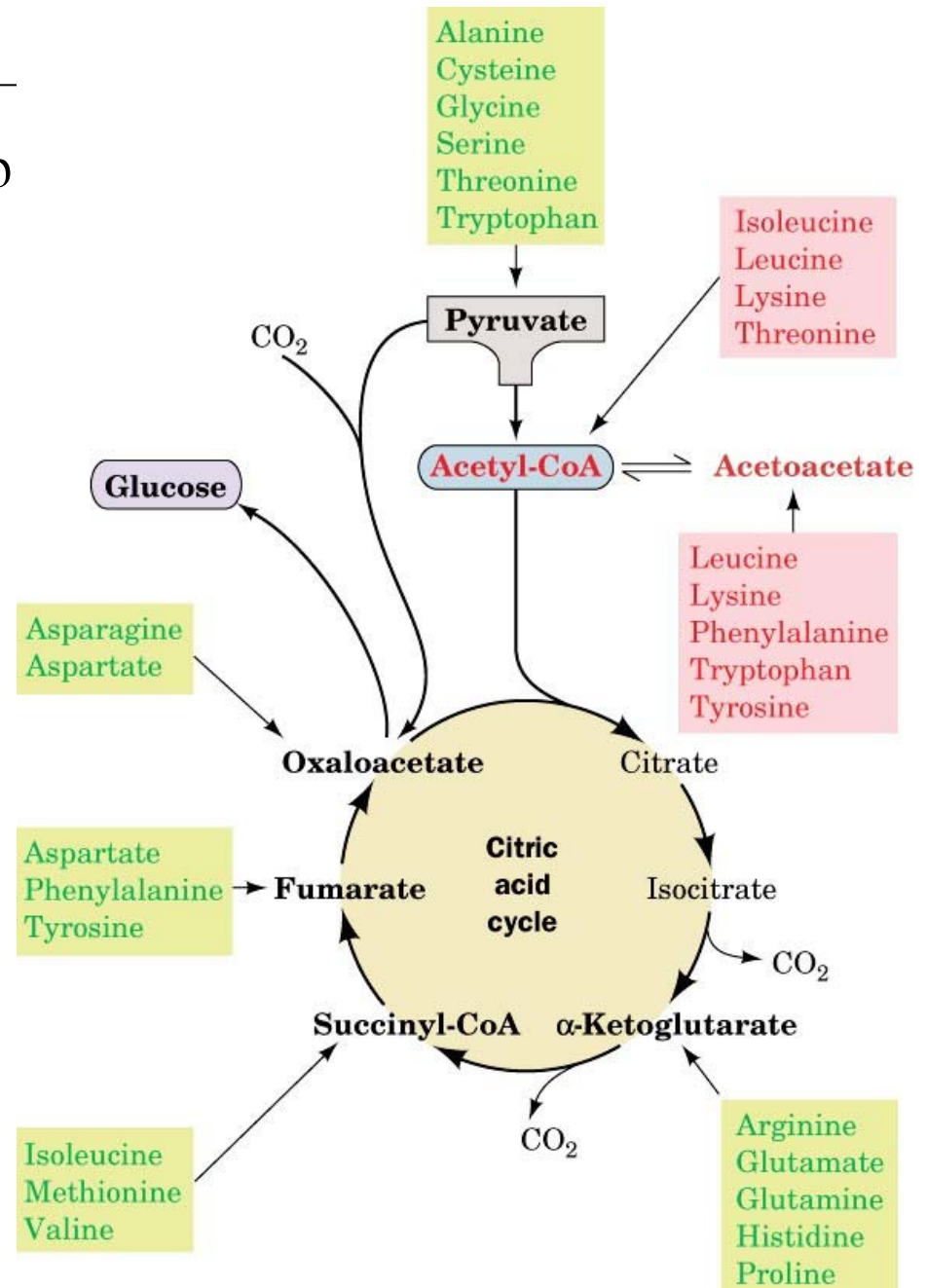
Tetrahydrofolate cofactors

- THF synthesis
can be used to
make **Glycine**
from **Serine**



Breakdown of Amino Acids

- Here's a summary of how amino acids are broken down
- Notice that some amino acids (i.e. Leucine) are degraded to **two different products**.
- Amino Acids that feed intermediates in Glycolysis/ Citric Acid Cycle are **Glucogenic**
- Amino Acids that feed intermediates in fatty acid metabolism are **Ketogenic**



Pyruvate Makers

- These are broken down to Pyruvate:

Alanine

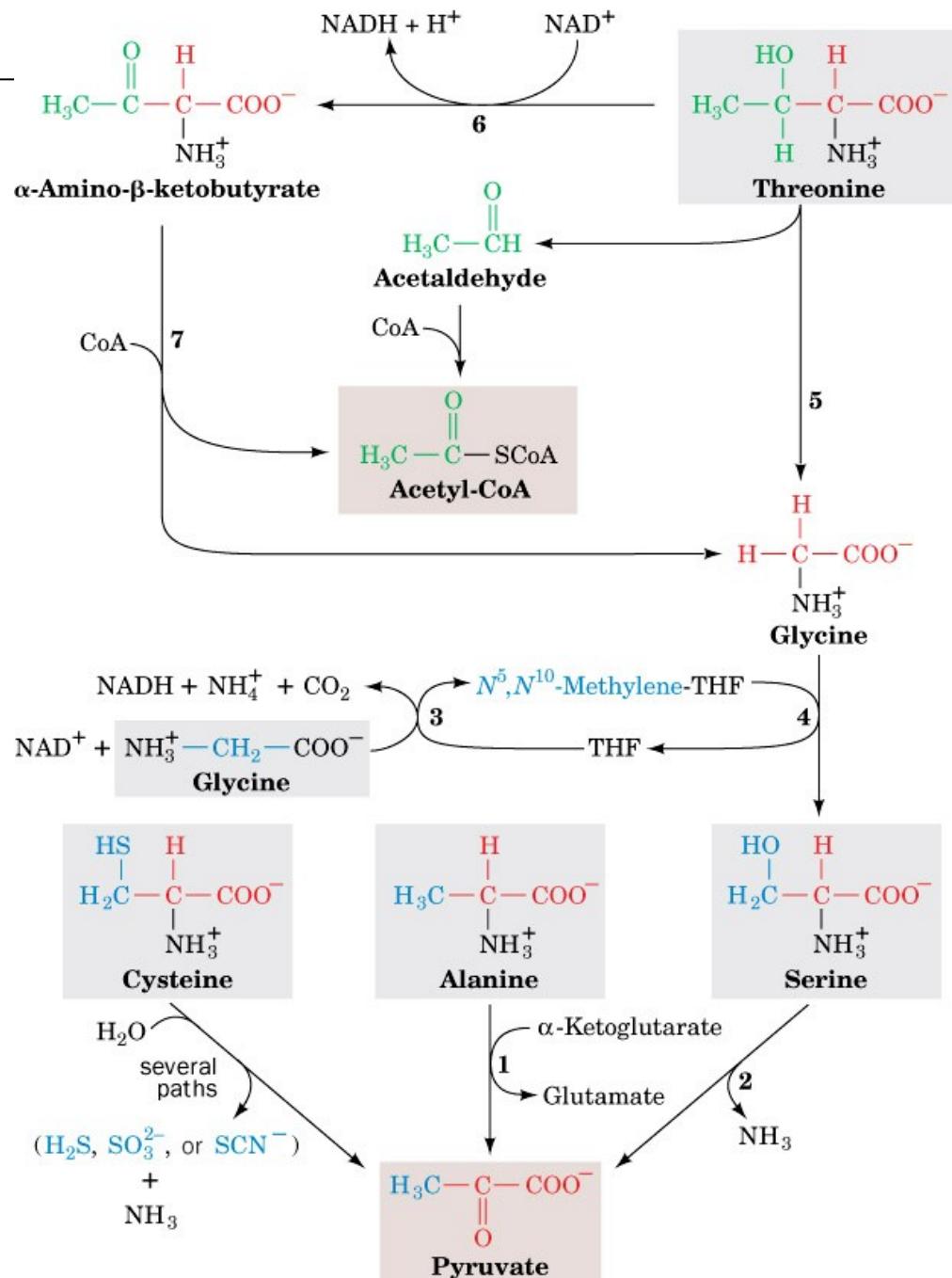
Cysteine

Glycine

Serine

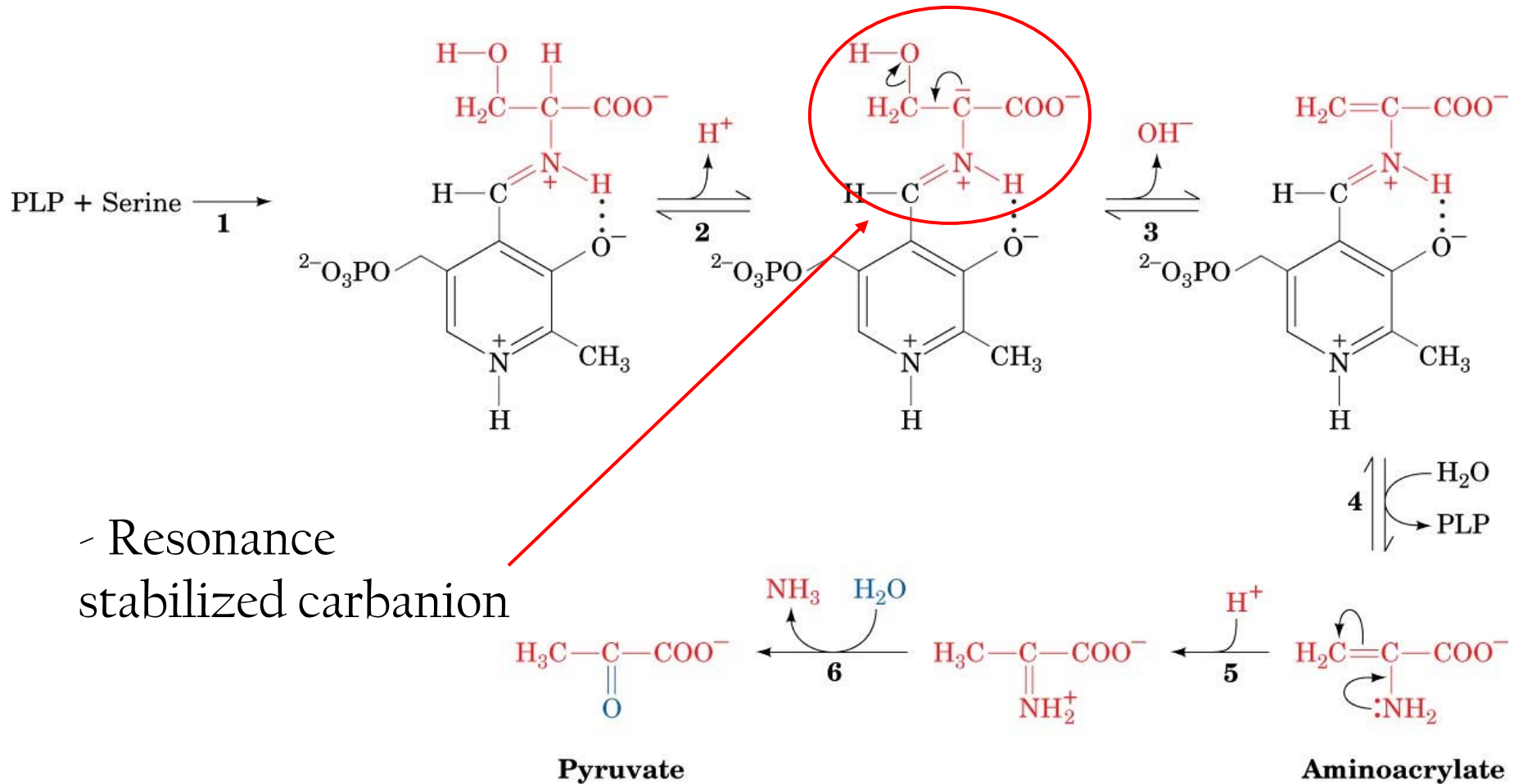
Threonine

- Of these only **Alanine** is made (directly) from Pyruvate



Breakdown of Serine

- **Pyrooxalal Phosphate** up to it's old tricks! (see porphyrin biosynthesis)



α -ketoglutarate Makers

- These are broken down into α -ketoglutarate:

Arginine

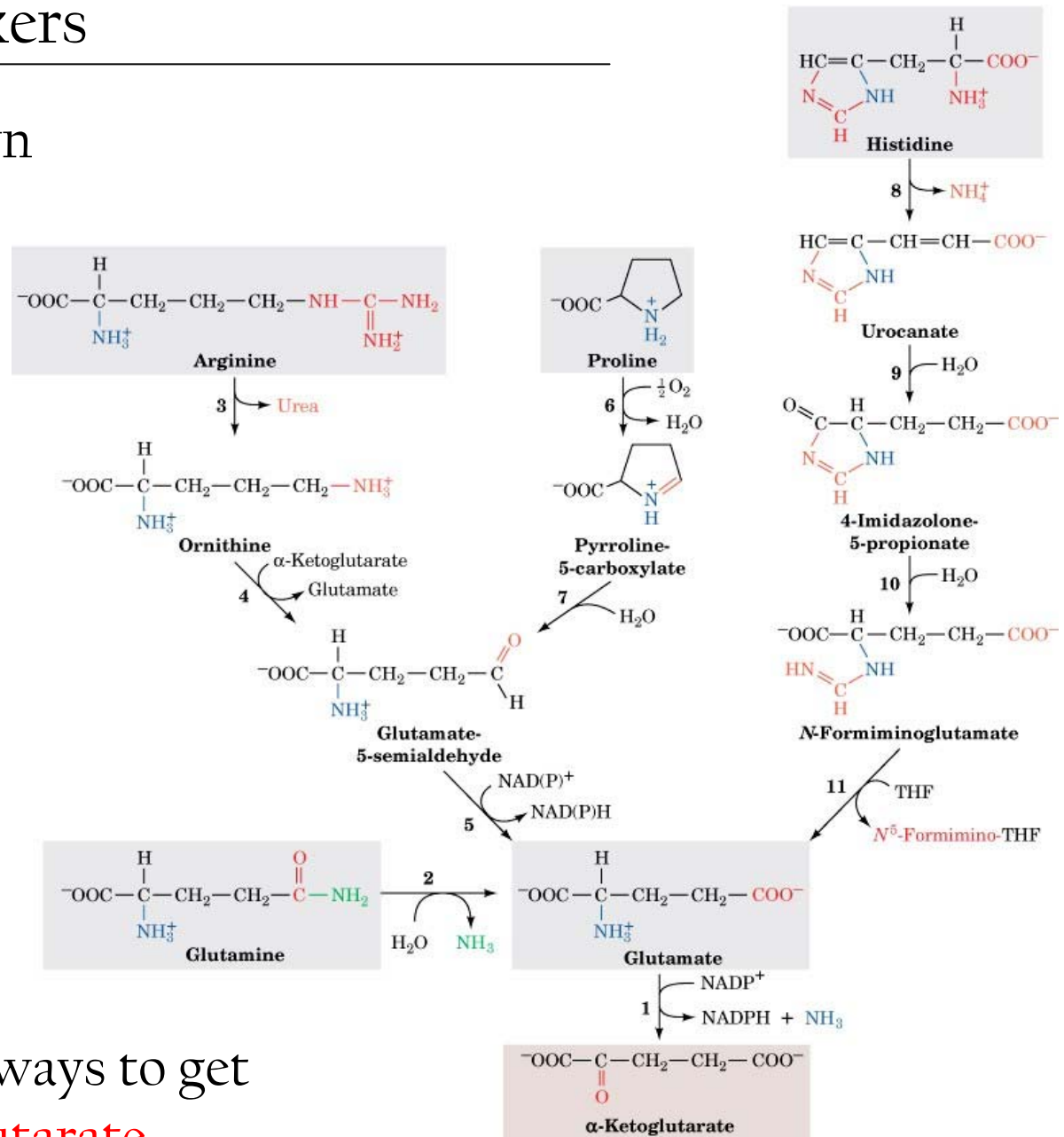
Glutamate

Glutamine

Histidine

Proline

- There are all kinds of ways to get Glutamate to α -ketoglutarate



Breakdown of Branched Chain A.A.

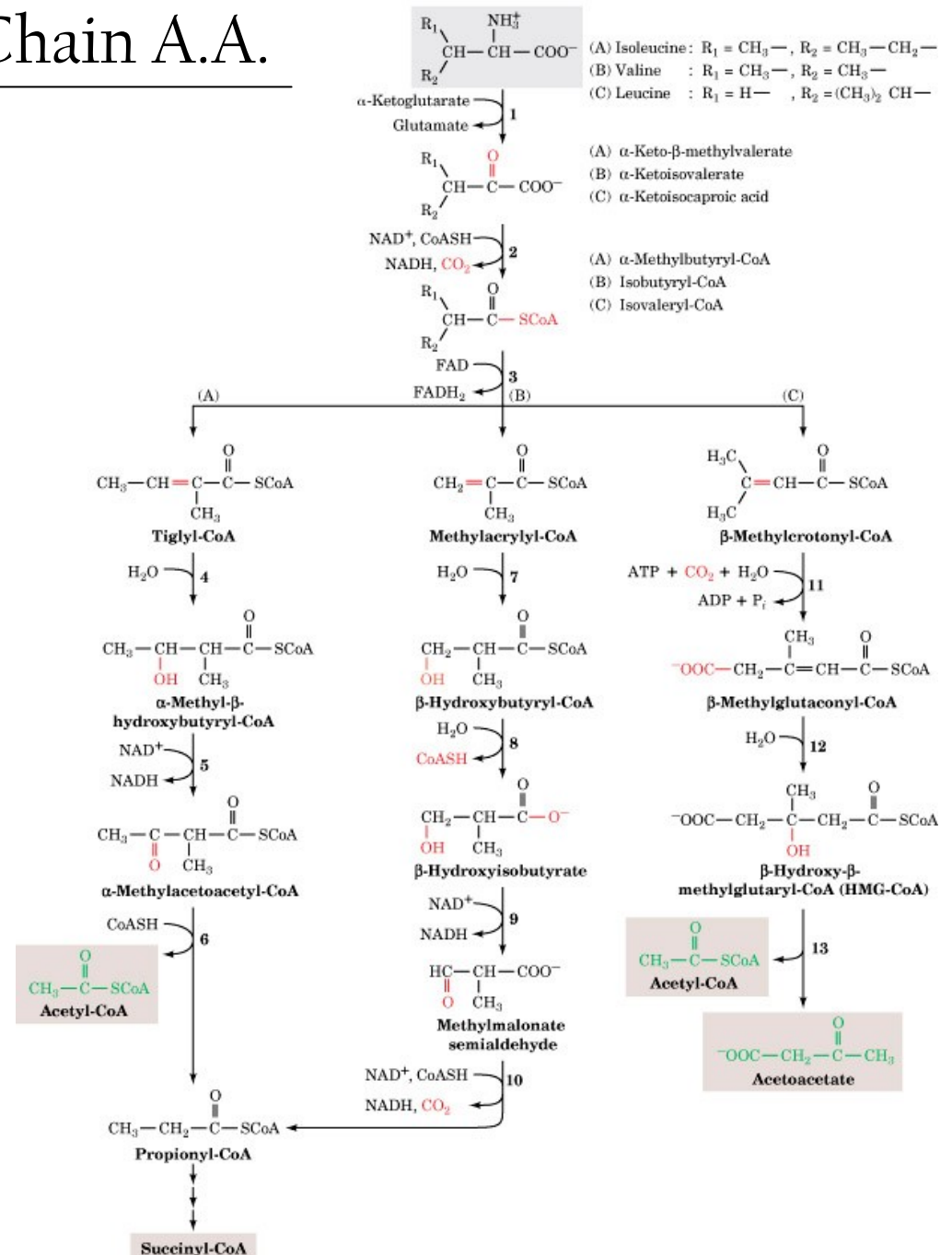
- The following make Acetyl/Succinyl-CoA, Acetoacetate:

Isoleucine

Leucine

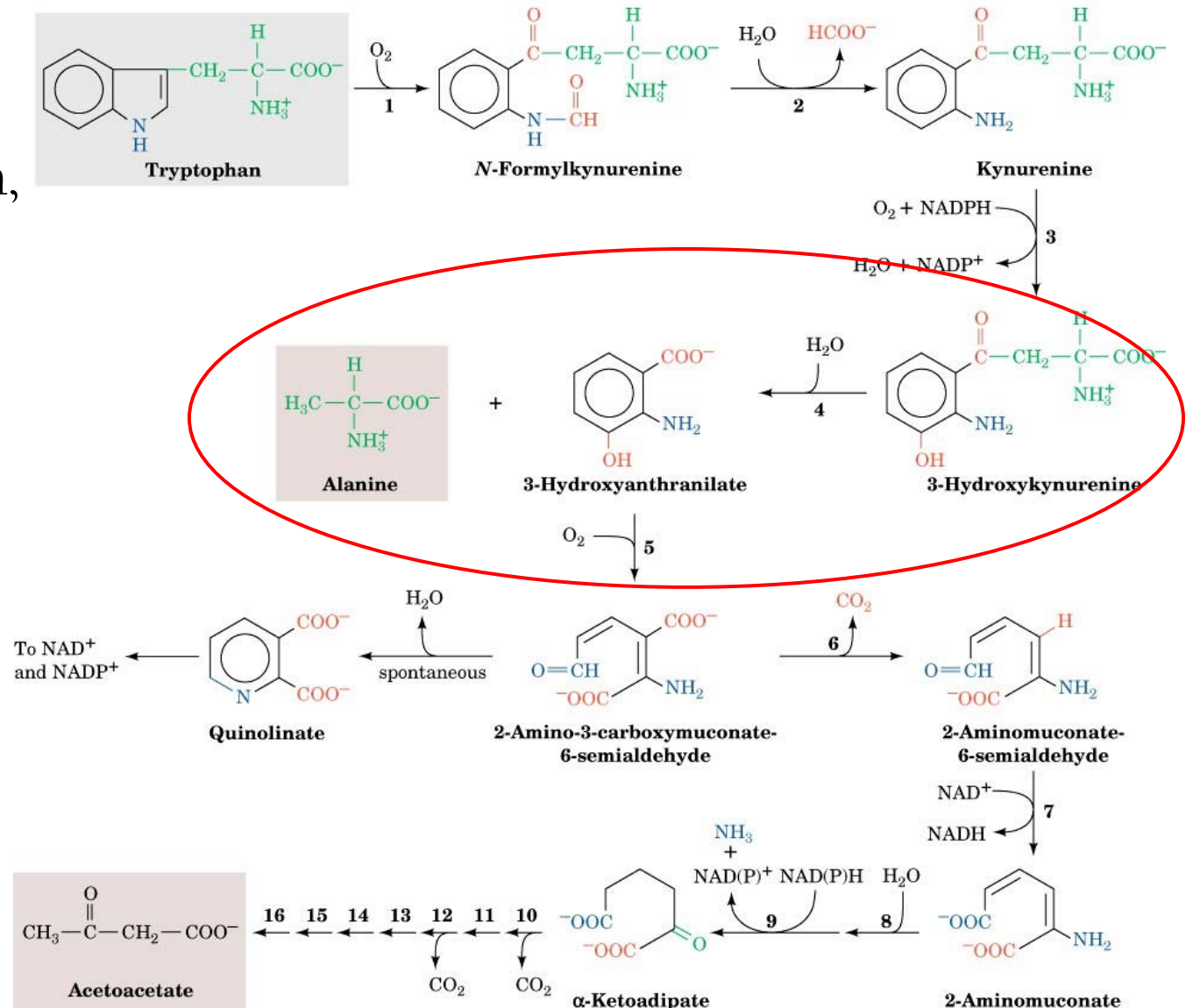
Valine

- Valine = 1 Succinyl-CoA
- Leucine = Acetoacetate + 1 Acetyl CoA (gluco- and keto-genic)
- Isoleucine = 1 Acetyl-CoA + 1 Succinyl-CoA



Degradation of Tryptophan

- Tryptophan is degraded by an unusual mechanism, forming Alanine in the process:
- You would think this step would involve a simple nucleophilic attack on that carbonyl carbon...
- But no!



Degradation of Tryptophan, Step 4

- This step requires... you guessed it! **PLP**!

- This time, PLP is used to break a C-C bond.

- This Schiff base is **not acting as a Schiff base**, strictly speaking. Here it is promoting the formation of a double bond.

