pig respiratory system

pig respiratory system plays a crucial role in the overall physiology and health of swine. Understanding the anatomy and function of the pig respiratory system is essential for veterinarians, farmers, and researchers involved in swine health management. This system is responsible for the intake of oxygen and the expulsion of carbon dioxide, facilitating cellular respiration and maintaining homeostasis. The pig respiratory system shares many similarities with that of other mammals, making it a valuable model for comparative anatomy and biomedical research. This article explores the detailed structure, function, and common diseases affecting the pig respiratory system, as well as its physiological processes and adaptations. A comprehensive understanding of this system aids in improving animal welfare and productivity in swine production. The following sections will cover the anatomy, physiological functions, respiratory mechanics, common respiratory diseases, and clinical significance of the pig respiratory system.

- Anatomy of the Pig Respiratory System
- Physiological Functions of the Respiratory System
- Respiratory Mechanics and Gas Exchange
- Common Respiratory Diseases in Pigs
- Clinical Significance and Veterinary Care

Anatomy of the Pig Respiratory System

The anatomy of the pig respiratory system comprises several specialized structures that work in concert to facilitate breathing and gas exchange. This system includes the nasal cavity, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi, lungs, and associated muscles. Each component plays a distinct role in the passage and processing of air, ensuring efficient oxygen uptake and carbon dioxide removal.

Nasal Cavity and Pharynx

The nasal cavity in pigs serves as the primary entry point for air. It is lined with mucous membranes and cilia, which filter, warm, and humidify the incoming air. The pharynx acts as a shared pathway for both the respiratory and digestive tracts, directing air towards the larynx while preventing food

from entering the airway during swallowing.

Larynx and Trachea

The larynx, commonly known as the voice box, is located at the top of the trachea and functions as a gateway to the lower respiratory tract. It contains the vocal cords and plays a role in sound production and airway protection. The trachea is a rigid tube supported by cartilaginous rings that prevents collapse during respiration. It conducts air towards the bronchi and lungs.

Bronchi and Lungs

The trachea bifurcates into two primary bronchi, each entering a lung. Inside the lungs, the bronchi further subdivide into smaller bronchioles, culminating in alveoli, the microscopic air sacs where gas exchange occurs. Pigs have well-developed lungs with lobes that maximize surface area for efficient oxygen absorption and carbon dioxide elimination.

Muscles Involved in Respiration

Respiration in pigs is facilitated by muscles such as the diaphragm and intercostal muscles. The diaphragm is a dome-shaped muscle that contracts and flattens to increase thoracic volume during inspiration, while intercostal muscles assist in expanding and contracting the rib cage.

Physiological Functions of the Respiratory System

The pig respiratory system performs several vital physiological functions beyond mere air passage. These functions are integral to maintaining metabolic balance and supporting cellular activities throughout the pig's body.

Gas Exchange

The primary function of the respiratory system is gas exchange, where oxygen is absorbed into the bloodstream and carbon dioxide is expelled. This process occurs in the alveoli, where oxygen diffuses across the alveolar and

capillary membranes into the blood, and carbon dioxide diffuses in the opposite direction to be exhaled.

Regulation of Blood pH

The respiratory system helps regulate blood pH by controlling the levels of carbon dioxide in the blood. Carbon dioxide reacts with water to form carbonic acid, affecting blood acidity. By adjusting respiration rate and depth, pigs maintain acid-base homeostasis critical for enzymatic and cellular functions.

Thermoregulation

Respiration also contributes to thermoregulation in pigs. Through panting and increased respiratory rate, pigs can dissipate excess body heat, especially since they have limited sweat glands. This is vital for maintaining optimal body temperature in varying environmental conditions.

Protection and Filtration

The respiratory tract is lined with mucous membranes and cilia, which trap and remove dust, pathogens, and other particulates from inhaled air. This protective function minimizes the risk of respiratory infections and maintains lung health.

Respiratory Mechanics and Gas Exchange

The mechanics of respiration in pigs involve coordinated movements of respiratory muscles and the elastic properties of the lungs and thoracic cavity. Understanding these mechanics is important for recognizing normal and pathological respiratory patterns.

Inspiration and Expiration

Inspiration is an active process driven by the contraction of the diaphragm and external intercostal muscles, which enlarges the thoracic cavity and decreases intrapulmonary pressure, allowing air to enter the lungs. Expiration is typically passive, resulting from muscle relaxation and elastic recoil of lung tissues, forcing air out of the lungs.

Alveolar Gas Exchange

Within the alveoli, gas exchange occurs via diffusion driven by concentration gradients. Oxygen moves from alveolar air into the blood, binding to hemoglobin in red blood cells, while carbon dioxide diffuses from the blood into the alveolar air to be expelled during expiration.

Control of Breathing

Breathing is regulated by the respiratory center in the brainstem, which responds to chemical signals such as carbon dioxide and oxygen levels in the blood. Chemoreceptors in the carotid and aortic bodies provide feedback to adjust respiratory rate and depth according to metabolic demands.

Common Respiratory Diseases in Pigs

The pig respiratory system is susceptible to various diseases that can significantly impact swine health and productivity. Understanding these conditions aids in early diagnosis and effective treatment.

Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC)

PRDC is a multifactorial syndrome involving viral and bacterial pathogens such as Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV), Swine Influenza Virus, and Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae. It leads to coughing, labored breathing, and reduced growth rates.

Swine Influenza

Swine influenza is a contagious respiratory disease caused by influenza A virus strains. Clinical signs include fever, nasal discharge, and respiratory distress. It spreads rapidly in herds, especially under stressful conditions.

Mycoplasmal Pneumonia

This chronic respiratory disease caused by Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae results in persistent coughing and lung lesions. It compromises lung function and predisposes pigs to secondary infections.

Bacterial Pneumonia

Bacterial infections, often secondary to viral infections, cause pneumonia characterized by inflammation and consolidation of lung tissue. Common bacterial agents include Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae and Pasteurella multocida.

List of Common Respiratory Diseases in Pigs

- Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC)
- Swine Influenza
- Mycoplasmal Pneumonia
- Bacterial Pneumonia
- Atrophic Rhinitis
- Enzootic Pneumonia

Clinical Significance and Veterinary Care

Proper management of the pig respiratory system is vital for swine health, welfare, and economic efficiency. Veterinary care focuses on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of respiratory conditions, as well as environmental and nutritional management.

Preventive Measures

Preventive strategies include vaccination programs, biosecurity measures, and maintaining optimal housing conditions to reduce pathogen exposure and stress. Good ventilation and hygiene practices are essential to minimize respiratory disease incidence.

Diagnostic Techniques

Veterinarians employ various diagnostic tools such as auscultation,

radiography, bronchoscopy, and laboratory testing of respiratory secretions to identify respiratory diseases accurately. Early diagnosis improves treatment outcomes.

Treatment and Management

Treatment often involves antibiotics, antivirals, and supportive care such as anti-inflammatory drugs and fluid therapy. Management practices may be adjusted to reduce stress and improve air quality to support recovery.

Role of Nutrition and Environment

Balanced nutrition strengthens the immune system, enhancing resistance to respiratory infections. Environmental controls, including temperature regulation and minimizing airborne irritants, further protect respiratory health.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main components of the pig respiratory system?

The main components of the pig respiratory system include the nasal cavity, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, and lungs.

How does the pig respiratory system function?

The pig respiratory system functions by allowing air to enter through the nasal cavity, pass through the trachea and bronchi, and reach the lungs where gas exchange occurs, supplying oxygen to the blood and removing carbon dioxide.

Why is the pig respiratory system important for its overall health?

The pig respiratory system is important because it facilitates oxygen intake necessary for cellular respiration and removes carbon dioxide, helping maintain the pig's metabolic functions and overall health.

How is the pig's respiratory system similar to that

of humans?

The pig's respiratory system is similar to humans in structure and function, including having lungs with alveoli for gas exchange, making pigs valuable models in medical research.

What diseases commonly affect the pig respiratory system?

Common diseases affecting the pig respiratory system include pneumonia, swine influenza, and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS).

How can respiratory infections in pigs be prevented?

Respiratory infections in pigs can be prevented through proper ventilation, vaccination, maintaining hygiene, and reducing stress within pig housing facilities.

What role do the alveoli play in the pig respiratory system?

Alveoli are tiny air sacs in the pig lungs where oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange occurs between the air and the bloodstream.

How does the structure of the pig's trachea support its respiratory function?

The pig's trachea is supported by C-shaped cartilage rings that keep the airway open, allowing unobstructed passage of air to and from the lungs.

Additional Resources

- 1. Respiratory Physiology of Pigs: Structure and Function
 This book offers a comprehensive overview of the anatomy and physiology of
 the pig respiratory system. It delves into the cellular and molecular
 mechanisms that regulate breathing and gas exchange. Ideal for veterinary
 students and researchers, it also discusses common respiratory diseases
 affecting pigs.
- 2. Porcine Respiratory Diseases: Diagnosis and Management
 Focused on the clinical aspects, this book covers the diagnosis, treatment,
 and prevention of respiratory diseases in pigs. It includes case studies and
 practical approaches for veterinarians working in swine health. The book
 emphasizes biosecurity and herd health management strategies.
- 3. Comparative Respiratory Systems: Pigs and Other Farm Animals
 This text compares the respiratory systems of pigs with those of other

livestock species. It highlights anatomical and physiological differences and similarities essential for veterinary practice. The book is useful for understanding species-specific respiratory challenges and adaptations.

- 4. Advances in Swine Respiratory Research
 A collection of recent research findings on the pig respiratory system, this book covers topics from immunology to environmental impacts. It is aimed at scientists and students interested in cutting-edge developments in swine health. The book also explores novel therapeutic approaches.
- 5. Pathophysiology of Porcine Respiratory Syndromes
 This detailed text explains the pathophysiological mechanisms behind common respiratory syndromes in pigs. It connects clinical signs to underlying cellular and tissue changes. The book serves as a valuable resource for veterinary pathologists and clinicians.
- 6. Swine Respiratory Microbiology and Immunology
 Focusing on the microbial agents that affect pig lungs, this book discusses
 bacterial, viral, and fungal pathogens. It also explores the immune responses
 pigs mount against these infections. The book is essential for
 microbiologists and veterinarians specializing in infectious diseases.
- 7. Environmental Impacts on Pig Respiratory Health
 This book examines how factors like housing, air quality, and management
 practices influence pig respiratory systems. It provides guidelines for
 optimizing environmental conditions to reduce respiratory problems. The text
 is useful for swine producers and animal welfare specialists.
- 8. Diagnostic Imaging of the Porcine Respiratory System
 Covering radiography, ultrasound, and advanced imaging techniques, this book
 aids in the visualization of pig respiratory anatomy and pathology. It
 includes numerous images and case examples for veterinary diagnostic
 purposes. The book is a practical guide for veterinary radiologists.
- 9. Nutrition and Its Effects on Pig Respiratory Function
 This book explores the relationship between nutrition and respiratory health
 in pigs. It discusses how dietary components can influence lung development,
 immune function, and disease resistance. The book is targeted at animal
 nutritionists and swine health professionals.

Pig Respiratory System

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Ebook Title: The Complete Guide to the Porcine Respiratory System

Outline:

Introduction: Overview of the pig respiratory system and its importance.

Chapter 1: Anatomy of the Pig Respiratory System: Detailed description of the organs involved (nasal cavity, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi, lungs).

Chapter 2: Physiology of Respiration in Pigs: Mechanism of breathing, gas exchange, and regulation of breathing.

Chapter 3: Common Respiratory Diseases in Pigs: Identification, symptoms, and treatment of prevalent diseases.

Chapter 4: Impact of Environmental Factors: How housing, climate, and air quality affect respiratory health.

Chapter 5: Diagnostic Techniques: Methods used to diagnose respiratory problems in pigs.

Chapter 6: Prevention and Management Strategies: Biosecurity, vaccination, and other preventative measures.

Chapter 7: Economic Impact of Respiratory Diseases: The financial burden of respiratory illnesses on pig farming.

Conclusion: Summary of key points and future perspectives in porcine respiratory health research.

The Complete Guide to the Porcine Respiratory System

Introduction: Understanding the Importance of Pig Respiratory Health

The respiratory system is crucial for the survival and productivity of pigs. Efficient gas exchange, providing oxygen for metabolic processes and removing carbon dioxide, is essential for growth, reproduction, and overall well-being. Any compromise to this system directly impacts the animal's health, leading to reduced growth rates, decreased feed efficiency, increased mortality, and significant economic losses for farmers. This comprehensive guide explores the intricate anatomy, physiology, common diseases, and management strategies related to the pig respiratory system, providing valuable insights for veterinarians, pig farmers, and anyone interested in animal health and welfare.

Chapter 1: Anatomy of the Pig Respiratory System: A Detailed

Exploration

The pig respiratory system, like that of other mammals, is responsible for the intake of oxygen and the expulsion of carbon dioxide. It comprises several key organs working in a coordinated manner:

- 1.1 Nasal Cavity: The initial point of entry for air, the nasal cavity is lined with mucous membranes that filter, warm, and humidify the incoming air. The turbinates within the cavity increase the surface area for these processes.
- 1.2 Pharynx: This common passageway serves both the respiratory and digestive systems. It connects the nasal cavity and oral cavity to the larynx.
- 1.3 Larynx (Voice Box): The larynx houses the vocal cords and acts as a valve, preventing food from entering the trachea. Its cartilaginous structure provides support and protection.
- 1.4 Trachea (Windpipe): A rigid tube supported by C-shaped cartilage rings, the trachea conducts air to the lungs. Its lining is ciliated, aiding in mucus removal.
- 1.5 Bronchi: The trachea branches into two main bronchi, which further subdivide into smaller bronchioles, forming a complex branching network within the lungs.
- 1.6 Lungs: The primary organs of gas exchange, the lungs are paired organs located in the thoracic cavity. They are composed of millions of alveoli, tiny air sacs surrounded by capillaries, where oxygen and carbon dioxide are exchanged. The pleura, a double-layered membrane, surrounds the lungs and facilitates smooth breathing movements.

Understanding the precise anatomy of each component is vital for diagnosing and treating respiratory diseases. Any blockage, inflammation, or structural abnormality can severely impair respiratory function.

Chapter 2: Physiology of Respiration in Pigs: The Mechanics of Breathing

The process of respiration in pigs involves several crucial steps:

- 2.1 Pulmonary Ventilation: This refers to the mechanical movement of air into and out of the lungs. It's driven by the contraction and relaxation of the diaphragm and intercostal muscles. Inhalation (inspiration) involves the diaphragm contracting and flattening, increasing the volume of the thoracic cavity and drawing air into the lungs. Exhalation (expiration) involves the relaxation of these muscles, reducing the thoracic volume and expelling air.
- 2.2 Gas Exchange: Once air reaches the alveoli, gas exchange occurs across the alveolar-capillary membrane. Oxygen diffuses from the alveoli into the blood, while carbon dioxide diffuses from the blood into the alveoli to be expelled. This exchange is facilitated by the partial pressure differences of the gases.

2.3 Regulation of Breathing: Breathing rate and depth are carefully regulated to meet the body's oxygen demands. Chemoreceptors in the blood and brain monitor oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, sending signals to the respiratory centers in the brainstem to adjust ventilation accordingly. Factors like pH, temperature, and exercise also influence breathing patterns.

Chapter 3: Common Respiratory Diseases in Pigs: Identification and Management

Pigs are susceptible to various respiratory diseases, many of which are highly contagious and can cause significant economic losses. Some of the most prevalent include:

Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (PRRS): A viral disease causing reproductive failure and respiratory problems.

Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae: A bacterial infection causing enzootic pneumonia.

Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae: A highly contagious bacterial pneumonia.

Pasteurellosis: Caused by Pasteurella multocida, resulting in various respiratory infections.

Influenza: Viral infections causing respiratory symptoms.

Each disease presents with unique clinical signs, and diagnosis requires careful examination, laboratory tests, and possibly imaging techniques. Treatment strategies vary depending on the causative agent and the severity of the infection, ranging from antibiotic therapy to supportive care.

Chapter 4: Impact of Environmental Factors: The Role of Housing and Air Quality

Environmental factors significantly influence pig respiratory health. Poor air quality, overcrowding, high humidity, and temperature fluctuations can compromise the respiratory system's defenses and increase susceptibility to diseases. Appropriate ventilation, temperature control, and hygiene are crucial in minimizing the risk of respiratory problems. Dust, ammonia, and other airborne pollutants can irritate the respiratory tract, leading to inflammation and increased susceptibility to infections.

Chapter 5: Diagnostic Techniques: Accurate Identification of Respiratory Issues

Accurate diagnosis of respiratory diseases requires a combination of techniques:

Clinical Examination: Observing clinical signs like coughing, sneezing, dyspnea, and nasal discharge. Laboratory Tests: Blood tests, bacterial cultures, and serological tests to identify the causative

agent.

Imaging Techniques: Radiography (X-rays) and ultrasonography to visualize lung structures and detect abnormalities.

Necropsy: Examination of deceased animals to identify pathological changes in the respiratory system.

Chapter 6: Prevention and Management Strategies: Proactive Approaches to Respiratory Health

Effective management strategies focus on prevention and early intervention:

Biosecurity: Strict hygiene protocols to prevent the introduction and spread of pathogens.

Vaccination: Vaccination programs against prevalent respiratory diseases.

Appropriate Housing: Well-ventilated, appropriately sized housing to minimize stress and improve air quality.

Nutritional Management: Providing a balanced diet to support immune function.

Early Detection and Treatment: Implementing regular health checks and prompt treatment of infected animals.

Chapter 7: Economic Impact of Respiratory Diseases: The Financial Burden

Respiratory diseases inflict a substantial economic burden on the pig industry. Reduced growth rates, increased mortality, treatment costs, and reduced market value of affected animals all contribute to significant financial losses for farmers. Effective disease prevention and management strategies are therefore crucial to minimize these losses and ensure the economic viability of pig production.

Conclusion: A Look to the Future

The pig respiratory system is a complex and vital organ system. Understanding its intricate anatomy, physiology, and susceptibility to various diseases is crucial for ensuring the health and productivity of pigs. Ongoing research continues to advance our understanding of porcine respiratory diseases and the development of more effective prevention and treatment strategies. A multi-faceted approach combining biosecurity, vaccination, appropriate housing, and early intervention remains essential for mitigating the economic and welfare impacts of respiratory illnesses in the pig industry.

FAQs

- 1. What are the most common signs of respiratory disease in pigs? Coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, dyspnea (difficulty breathing), reduced appetite, and lethargy.
- 2. How are respiratory diseases diagnosed in pigs? Through clinical examination, laboratory tests (bacterial cultures, serology), and imaging (X-rays, ultrasound).
- 3. What is the role of vaccination in preventing pig respiratory diseases? Vaccines help stimulate the immune system to protect against specific respiratory pathogens.
- 4. How important is good ventilation in pig housing? Excellent ventilation is essential for maintaining good air quality and reducing the risk of respiratory diseases.
- 5. What are the economic consequences of respiratory diseases in pigs? Reduced growth rates, increased mortality, treatment costs, and lower market value of affected animals.
- 6. What is the difference between enzootic pneumonia and pleuropneumonia? Enzootic pneumonia is usually caused by Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae, while pleuropneumonia is caused by Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae. Pleuropneumonia is often more severe.
- 7. Can environmental factors trigger respiratory diseases in pigs? Yes, poor air quality, stress, and temperature extremes can compromise the immune system and increase susceptibility.
- 8. What role does biosecurity play in preventing respiratory diseases? Strict hygiene protocols to prevent pathogen introduction and spread are vital for biosecurity.
- 9. What are some future directions in porcine respiratory health research? Developing new vaccines, improving diagnostic tools, and better understanding the interplay between genetics, environment, and disease.

Related Articles:

- 1. Porcine Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV): A Comprehensive Review: A detailed overview of PRRSV, its pathogenesis, diagnosis, and control measures.
- 2. Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae Infection in Pigs: Clinical Presentation and Management: A focus on the clinical aspects of M. hyopneumoniae infection and its management.
- 3. Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae: Pathogenesis and Control Strategies: An in-depth exploration of A. pleuropneumoniae, including its virulence factors and control methods.

- 4. The Impact of Housing and Ventilation on Pig Respiratory Health: An analysis of how housing conditions and ventilation affect respiratory health.
- 5. Nutritional Strategies to Enhance Respiratory Immunity in Pigs: A review of nutritional approaches to strengthen the immune system against respiratory infections.
- 6. Diagnostic Techniques for Porcine Respiratory Diseases: A Practical Guide: A practical guide to using different diagnostic tools for respiratory diseases.
- 7. The Economic Burden of Respiratory Diseases in the Swine Industry: A detailed analysis of the economic costs associated with respiratory diseases.
- 8. Biosecurity Measures for Preventing Respiratory Diseases in Pig Farms: A comprehensive review of biosecurity measures for pig farms.
- 9. Vaccine Efficacy and Strategies for Controlling Porcine Respiratory Diseases: A review of vaccine efficacy and strategies for controlling common respiratory diseases.

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forward, promoting health rather than treating disease. It will be your number one reference for keeping your pigs healthy.

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the premier source of comprehensive information on swine production, health, and management for swine health specialists of all disciplines and at any level of expertise, including veterinarians, researchers, and students. Featuring a new content organization designed for improved navigability, the Tenth Edition adds chapters on the cardiovascular system, diagnostic tests and test performance, food safety and zoonotic diseases, show and pet pigs, and the most current information on both long-recognized and emerging pathogens. Diseases of Swine, Tenth Edition is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in swine health.

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otherwise familiar creature. Cavia has remained uncharted territory for experimenters who come to it without previous experience. Gale Cooper and Alan L. Schiller here provide a thorough description of guinea pig anatomy in a text illustrated with about four hundred separate drawings. It is a detailed, complete, and practical guide to the gross morphology of the animal. Nomenclature has been standardized according to the Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria. The authors' dissections have been carefully correlated with the published literature on guinea pig anatomy, and numerous references are given. This book sets a new standard of beauty and clarity in anatomical illustration. Dr. Cooper's drawings not only provide anatomical information with the utmost in accuracy and fidelity, they are in themselves an aesthetic triumph. Her pencil drawings have been made by a technique that requires specially made paper and demands unusual skill from the artist; closely identified with the famous illustrator Max Brodl, this method is now rarely employed. Researchers in immunology, hematology, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, reproductive biology, comparative anatomy, and taxonomy, among other fields, will turn to this anatomy as a reliable guide to a favored experimental species.

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practical handbook on high welfare standards in pig farming for people who work directly with animals. The aim is to improve animal health and farm profitability through introducing good husbandry practices and finding low cost solutions to improve welfare for the animals. Aimed at farmers, stockmen, food industry personnel, and agricultural students, the book explains why welfare is important for the animal and the farm, what good welfare looks like, how to measure welfare in practice using assessment tools, and practical advice for improving welfare for pigs. (5m Books)

pig respiratory system: *Nitric Oxide in Health and Disease* Jill Lincoln, Charles H. V. Hoyle, Geoffrey Burnstock, 1997-08-28 Nitric oxide has a tantalizing role in health and disease: while many of its wide-ranging effects are well known, there remains much more to explore and to learn about the interactions of this fascinating molecule in physiological and pathophysiological processes. The volume reviews the myriad effects of nitric oxide as a chemical messenger in the central nervous system, peripheral nervous system, immune system and cardiovascular system. Furthermore, it provides a very practical introduction to the procedures and experimental protocols necessary to work with and study nitric oxide and its synthesizing enzyme, nitric oxide synthase, in the laboratory. In this respect the volume is unique, providing as it does a complete single-volume review of the role of nitric oxide in health and disease, and a very practical introduction to the methods and protocols involved in this intriguing and active area of biomedical research.

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