Comparative and integrative metabolomics reveal that S-nitrosation inhibits physiologically relevant metabolic enzymes

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Cysteine S-nitrosation is a reversible post-translational modification mediated by nitric oxide (NO)−derived agents. S-Nitrosation participates in cellular signaling and is associated with several diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and neuronal disorders. Despite the physiological importance of this nonclassical NO-signaling pathway, little is understood about how much S-nitrosation affects protein function. Moreover, identifying physiologically relevant targets of S-nitrosation is difficult because of the dynamics of transnitrosation and a limited understanding of the physiological mechanisms leading to selective protein S-nitrosation. To identify proteins whose activities are modulated by S-nitrosation, we performed a metabolomics study comparing WT and endothelial nitric-oxide synthase knockout mice. We integrated our results with those of a previous proteomics study that identified physiologically relevant S-nitrosated cysteines, and we found that the activity of at least 21 metabolic enzymes might be regulated by S-nitrosation. We cloned, expressed, and purified four of these enzymes and observed that S-nitrosation inhibits the metabolic enzymes 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase, Δ1-pyrroline-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase, catechol-O-methyltransferase, and D-3-phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase. Furthermore, using site-directed mutagenesis, we identified the predominant cysteine residue influencing the observed activity changes in each enzyme. In summary, using an integrated metabolomics approach, we have identified several physiologically relevant S-nitrosation targets, including metabolic enzymes, which are inhibited by this modification, and we have found the cysteines modified by S-nitrosation in each enzyme.

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This article contains Tables S1 and S2, Figs. S1 and S2, supporting Materials, and supporting references.

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Nitric oxide (NO) is an important signaling molecule in vertebrate tissue that controls physiological processes, including vasodilation, neurotransmission, and platelet aggregation (1–3). NO is biosynthesized by the three mammalian isoforms of nitric-oxide synthase (NOS). Endothelial (eNOS) and neuronal NOS produce picomolar to nanomolar concentrations of NO for cellular signaling, whereas inducible NOS produces NO at cytotoxic concentrations in the low micromolar range at sites of infection (4, 5). The most thoroughly characterized NO-signaling pathway involves the enzyme soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) (6). NO produced by NOS freely diffuses into adjacent cells where it activates sGC to increase the concentration of the secondary messenger cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) that activates downstream signaling pathways.

Another important, although less well understood, signaling mechanism involving NO is cysteine S-nitrosation. S-Nitrosation is a post-translational modification of cysteine residues by which an S-nitrosothiol is initially formed via a one-electron oxidation. Once formed, S-nitrosothiols can be transferred through an intermediate transnitrosating agent such as S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) (7). Many studies have corroborated the influence of S-nitrosation on protein and tissue function, as well as the variation of S-nitrosation profiles in disease states. However, the roles of S-nitrosation in cellular signaling pathways remain poorly understood (8–11). If S-nitrosation participates in cellular signaling and is not simply a result of nitrosative stress, the cellular levels of protein S-nitrosation must be tightly controlled (12). In this sense, S-nitrosation is often compared with O-phosphorylation, where a kinase transfers a phosphoryl moiety to an acceptor amino acid from an ATP donor molecule, which then changes the function or activity of the enzyme target (13). Phosphatases then act to reverse the process by hydrolytically removing the phosphoryl group. Simi-

3 The abbreviations used are: NOS, nitric-oxide synthase; iNOS, inducible nitric-oxide synthase; eNOS, endothelial nitric-oxide synthase; nNOS, neuronal nitric-oxide synthase; GGC, soluble guanylate cyclase; pNOS, nitro-1-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase; ALDH4A1, 13-pyrroline-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase; COMT, catechol-O-methyltransferase; PHGDH, 3-phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase; ALDOA, aldolase A; TP11, triose-phosphate isomerase 1; GSNO, S-nitrosoglutathione; MMTS, methyl methanethiosulfonate; TEV, tobacco etch virus; PDB, Protein Data Bank; NEM, N-ethylmaleimide; TAMRA, tetramethylrhodamine; DHBA, 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid; TCEP, tri(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine; HILIC, hydrophilic interaction chromatography; IPTG, isopropyl 1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside; rcf, relative centrifugal force; OAA, oxaloacetate; GPDH, α-glycerophosphate dehydrogenase.
S-Nitrosation modifies metabolic enzyme function

In this study, complementary metabolomics of WT and eNOS knockout (eNOS<sup>-/-</sup>) mice is reported. Analysis of the metabolic differences in conjunction with the previously published proteomics study led to the identification of 21 metabolic enzymes that may be modulated by S-nitrosation (23). These metabolic enzymes were found to be S-nitrosated in the previous proteomics study with up-regulated substrate and down-regulated product (or vice versa) in the metabolomics study reported here. Four of the 21 enzyme targets (6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (6PGLD); Δ1-pyrroline-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase (ALDH4A1); catechol O-methyltransferase (COMT); and β-3-phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase (PHGDH)) were studied in vitro for inhibitory effects by S-nitrosation. S-Nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) was selected as the nitrosothiol donor because of its putative physiological role in transnitrosation signaling (18, 25, 26), but it is important to note that GSNO may not be the relevant nitrosating agent that led to the observed S-nitrosation of these enzymes in mice. All four of the tested enzymes were inhibited upon GSNO treatment. Through site-directed mutagenesis, the cysteine residues responsible for modulating the activity were identified. Finally, after measuring the fraction of individual cysteine S-nitrosation, the degree of enzyme inhibition was confirmed to correlate with the amount of cysteine S-nitrosation. In summary, this study integrates comparative proteomics published previously with metabolomics performed in this study and presents quantitative and functional analysis of metabolic enzymes with the primary goal of identifying physiologically relevant protein targets of S-nitrosation.
**S-Nitrosation modifies metabolic enzyme function**

**Figure 1. Flow chart used to narrow target enzyme identification for in vitro characterization.** ENOS-dependent S-nitrosated metabolic enzymes were identified by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23). Metabolites from this metabolomics study with >1.4-fold difference in relative abundance between WT and ENOS knockout mice were also distinguished. These metabolites were plotted on KEGG maps using the program Pathos (32) along with ENOS-dependent S-nitrosated enzymes. Enzymes that were S-nitrosated and whose substrate was up-regulated and product down-regulated (or vice versa) are categorized in Table 1. Enzymes whose substrates and products were further distinguished based on p values (p < 0.1, n = 6) and confidence in metabolite identification (mass features closely match profiles in METLIN metabolic database) were categorized as enzyme targets that may be functionally affected by S-nitrosation in Table S1.

**Metabolic enzyme target list**

To investigate the effect of S-nitrosation on metabolic activity, a subset of the identified enzyme targets was selected for further characterization. These enzymes were selected based on the following criteria: (i) confidence in metabolite identification as outlined above; (ii) conservation of S-nitrosated cysteine residue in vertebrates or species known to contain an eNOS isoform (Fig. S1); (iii) established protocols for enzyme expression, purification, and activity determination; (iv) availability of enzyme crystal structure to map the site of S-nitrosation relative to the enzyme-active site (Figs. 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A); (v) disease relevance of the metabolic enzyme; and (vi) evidence in the literature implying ‘NO involvement in the metabolic pathway. To relate findings to human health, human instead of mouse protein sequences were used for this study. Based on these criteria, the following four enzymes were selected for in vitro determination of the effects of S-nitrosation: 6PGD, ALDH4A1, COMT, and PHGDH. Detailed descriptions of each enzyme can be found in the supporting information. Two control enzymes, aldolase A (ALDOA) and triose-phosphate isomerase 1 (TPPI) (Fig. 6), were selected for in vitro character-

**S-Nitrosation-dependent inhibition of target enzymes**

The activity of each enzyme was assayed as described under “Experimental procedures.” Because specific physiological mechanisms of S-nitrosation for these target metabolic enzymes are unknown, the small-molecule transnitrosation donor GSNO was used. In **in vitro** studies, any accessible cysteine may be S-nitrosated, which may differ from specific **in vivo** targeted S-nitrosation reactions (35, 36). All enzymes were purified following recombinant overexpression in Escherichia coli for in vitro characterization. To confirm each enzyme was S-nitrosated upon GSNO treatment, a TAMRA-maleimide switch assay was used, which is a variant of the biotin switch assay, where tetramethylrhodamine fluorescent imaging was substituted for a biotin immunoblot (37, 38). The enzymes 6PGD and PHGDH (at 20 and 150 μM, respectively) were incubated with 2 mM GSH or GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C; 20 μM ALDH4A1, ALDOA, and TPPI were incubated with 1 mM GSH or GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C; and 20 μM COMT was incubated with 150 μM GSH or GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C. All enzymes were S-nitrosated after incubation with GSNO followed by buffer exchange to remove residual GSNO (Figs. 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, and 6A). To determine the effects of S-nitrosation on each enzyme, activity assays were performed after exposure to GSNO (or reduced GSH followed by buffer exchange to remove residual GSH), and data were analyzed under steady-state kinetic conditions (Table 2 and Fig. S2).

The specificity constant (k_cat/K_m) of 6PGD negative control (2 mM GSH-treated) was 0.68 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹, whereas 6PGD activity when incubated with 2 mM GSNO was 2 orders of magnitude lower at 0.0057 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹ (Fig. 2D and Table 2). The k_cat/K_m value of ALDH4A1 treated with 1 mM GSH was 0.29 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹, whereas S-nitrosation from 1 mM GSNO treatment lowered activity to 7% that of GSH-treated ALDH4A1 at 0.021 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹ (Fig. 3D and Table 2). Treatment of COMT with 150 μM GSNO resulted in 26% of the 150 μM GSH-treated activity with k_cat/K_m values decreasing from 0.55 to 0.14 μM⁻¹ min⁻¹ (Fig. 4D and Table 2). It should be noted that higher concentrations of GSNO incubated with COMT resulted in complete inhibition of enzyme activity. Finally, S-nitrosation of PHGDH resulted in 29% of the GSH-treated activity, decreasing from 0.070 to 0.021 mM⁻¹ s⁻¹ with 2 mM GSNO (Fig. 5D and Table 2). The control enzymes ALDOA and TPPI were unaffected, giving the same k_cat/K_m values for both GSNO and GSH treatments within experimental error: 0.41 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹ for ALDOA and 2.0 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹ for TPPI (Fig. 6B and Table 2). In summary, the metabolic enzyme targets identified through the metabolomics study (6PGD, ALDH4A1, COMT, and PHGDH) were all inhibited when incubated with GSNO, whereas neither control enzyme (ALDOA and TPPI) showed significant inhibition with similar concentrations of GSNO as the target enzymes.
Table 1
Initial enzyme target list

Initial list of enzyme targets of S-nitrosation, obtained through the combined proteomics and metabolomics approach. Each enzyme on the list is S-nitrosated based on the proteomics study by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23); the listed substrate is found in overall increased levels and product at decreased levels (or vice versa) at least 1.4-fold in eNOS knockout mice compared with wild-type mice from the metabolomics. Metabolite p values were not used to generate this initial list, and the most relevant enzyme targets are found in Table S1. ThPP, thiamine diphosphate; AICAR, 5-aminoimidazole-4-carboxamide ribonucleotide; FAICAR, 5-formamidoimidazole-4-carboxamide ribonucleotide; LTC4, leukotriene C4; LTD4, leukotriene D4.

| Enzyme name | Uniprot accession no. | Enzyme commission no. | Primary substrate | Primary product |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2-Amino-3-carboxymuconate-6-semialdehyde | Q8R519 | 4.1.1.45 | 2-Amino-3-carboxymuconate semialdehyde | 2-Aminomuconate semialdehyde |
| 2-Oxoglutarate dehydrogenase | Q60597 | 1.2.4.2 | ThPP | 3-Carboxy-1-hydroxypyrrol-ThPP |
| 2-Oxoxoacyl-CoA dehydrogenase | P51036 | 1.2.4.4 | ThPP | 2-Methyl-1-hydroxypyrrol-ThPP, 1 more |
| 3β-Ketoadipoy-CoA thiolase | Q61694 | 1.1.1.45/5.3.3.1 | 3β,17β-Dihydroxy-androst-5-ene | Testosterone |
| 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase | Q9DCD0 | 1.6.4.6 | n-Glucuronic acid-6-phosphate | n-Ribulose 5-phosphate |
| Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 1 | Q5137 | 1.2.2.2 | C16:0-CoA | Palmitic acid |
| Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 10 | Q32MW3 | 3.1.2.2 | (7Z,10Z,13Z,16Z)-Docosatrienoate-CoA | Adrenic acid |
| Aldose reductase | P45376 | 1.1.2.1 | Galactitol, 1 more | Galactose, 1 more |
| Argininosuccinate lyase | Q91Y10 | 3.1.2.2 | Phosphoarginosuccinate, 1 more | Arginine, 1 more |
| Aspartate aminotransferase | P05202 | 2.6.1.1 | Aspartate | Oxaloacetate |
| Aspartate oxidase | Q91X4E | 3.5.1.5 | Oxaloacetate | Oxaloacetate |
| Bifunctional purine biosynthesis protein PURH | Q9CFW9 | 2.1.2.3/3.5.4.10 | AICAR | AICAR |
| Carnitine O-palmitoyltransferase 1 | Q92X42 | 2.3.1.1 | Hexadecanoyl-CoA | Hexadecanoyl-CoA |
| Carnitine O-palmitoyltransferase 2 | P52825 | 2.3.1.2 | n-Palmitoyl-carnitine | n-Palmitoyl-carnitine |
| Catechol O-methyltransferase | Q8S858 | 2.1.1.6 | n-Noradrenaline, 1 more | n-Noradrenaline, 1 more |
| Cytochrome P450 5B1 | Q9DBG1 | 1.1.1.13 | n-Acetylthioether, 1 more | n-Acetylthioether, 1 more |
| Cytosol aminopeptidase | Q9CPY7 | 3.4.11.5/3.4.11.1 | 3-Oxo-δ-lysine | 3-Oxo-δ-lysine |
| D-3-Phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase | Q61753 | 1.1.95 | 3-Phospho-D-glycerate | 3-Phospho-D-glycerate |
| L-Pyrrole-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase | Q8NFT0 | 2.1.98 | L-Carboxy-5-carboxylate | L-Carboxy-5-carboxylate |
| Enol-CoA hydratase | Q9H9X5 | 4.2.1.7 | L-Tyrosine | (S)-3-Oxo-δ-lysine |
| Fatty-acid synthase | P19096 | 2.3.1.85 | L-Malonyl-CoA | L-Malonyl-CoA |
| Glutamate decarboxylase | Q9DP64 | 3.4.19.14 | 3-Mercaptolactate | 3-Mercaptolactate |
| GDH/6PGD endoplasmic bifunctional protein | Q9FPX1 | 3.4.19.14 | 3-Mercaptopyruvate | 3-Mercaptopyruvate |
| Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA lyase | Q9SF21 | 4.1.1.5 | 3-Hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA | 3-Hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA |
| Indolethylamine N-methyltransferase | Q9OQ151 | 2.1.1.96 | N-Methyltryptamine | N-Methyltryptamine |
| Lactate dehydrogenase | P6151 | 1.1.1.27 | L-Glutamate | L-Glutamate |
| Long-chain-fatty-acyl-CoA ligase | Q9KPK3 | 1.1.1.45 | L-Hexadecanoyl-CoA | L-Hexadecanoyl-CoA |
| Neutral-α-glucosidase | P1216 | 6.2.1.3 | L-Sucrose | L-Sucrose |
| Pyruvate dehydrogenase | P35486 | 2.4.1 | ThPP | 2-Hydroxyethyl-ThPP |
| Succinate dehydrogenase | Q8KRC3 | 3.1.1.7 | i-Glutamic acid, 1 more | i-Glutamic acid, 1 more |
| Succinyl-CoA3-ketoacid-coenzyme A transferase 1 | Q9DKO2 | 2.8.3.7 | Acetoacetoyl-CoA | Acetoacetoyl-CoA |
| UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1-1 | Q6B88 | 2.4.1.17 | Testosterone, 3 more | Testosterone, 3 more |
| Uricase | Q8VC12 | 4.2.1.49 | Urocatechate | Urocatechate |
| Xanthine dehydrogenase/oxidase | Q9519 | 1.17.1.3 | Paraquat, 1 more | Paraquat, 1 more |
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Figure 2. A, crystal structure of 6PGD (PDB code 4GWK). The approximate location of the active site is outlined and faded. A black box highlights the zoomed-in region. The zoomed-in region highlights the targeted Cys-366 in red. Annotated active-site catalytic and substrate/cofactor-binding residues are shown in blue. 6PGD Cys-366 is within potential hydrogen-bonding or van der Waals interaction distances of 3.3 Å to Ser-129 and 3.6 Å to Ser-140 (green). B, 6PGD catalyzes the oxidative decarboxylation of 6-phosphogluconate to ribulose 5-phosphate in the pentose phosphate pathway. In eNOS+/−/− compared with WT mice, there is a lower abundance of a mass feature consistent with the substrate 6-phosphogluconate in heart and kidney organs as identified with C18 analysis in positive mode and a greater abundance of a mass feature consistent with the product ribulose 5-phosphate in the liver identified with both C18 using negative mode and HILIC using negative mode (see Table S1 for more details). C, TAMRA-switch SDS-polyacrylamide gel indicates GSNO-treated 6PGD is S-nitrosated, whereas the GSH-treated samples exhibit only background fluorescence. Coomassie staining is shown as a loading control. D, specificity constants of 6PGD WT and variants upon S-nitrosation. Shown is comparison of $k_{cat}/K_m$ values in either the presence of GSNO (as the trans-nitrosation donor in white) or GSH (as a negative control, in gray) ($n = 3$ for WT and $n = 2$ for variants with each run including eight substrate concentrations run in duplicate). The steady-state kinetic parameters are summarized in Table 1. The procedure exposed 20 μM 6PGD to 2 mM GSNO or GSH for 1 h at 37 °C, buffer exchanging out GSNO or GSH, and determining the protein concentration as outlined under “Experimental procedures.” Comparisons of percent activity are used for GSNO treatments in relation to GSH-treated control. WT 6PGD retains 0.8% activity when treated with GSNO, and cysteine variant C366S (highlighted in red text) is most responsible for S-nitrosation-derived inhibition and retains 67% activity when treated with GSNO. Other cysteine mutants were more significantly inhibited by GSNO treatment with comparable effects as the WT 6PGD, including the cysteine C289S, which was identified as S-nitrosated by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23). E and F, increasing GSNO concentration leads to increased S-nitrosation of cysteine residues responsible for S-nitrosation-dependent inhibition, where WT 6PGD was exposed to varying concentrations of GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C. E, D-switch LC-MS comparisons of select cysteine residues, highlighting the labeling efficiency of S-nitrosation with increasing GSNO concentrations. Increased labeling of the cysteine residues responsible for S-nitrosation-dependent inhibition, Cys-366, correlates with increased enzymatic inhibition. F, steady-state kinetic analyses highlighting decreased specificity constant values with increasing GSNO concentrations ($n = 3$). GSH was used as a negative control.
Table 2

Steady-state kinetics

|        | k_cat (μM⁻¹ s⁻¹) | K_m (μM) | k_cat/K_m (μM⁻¹ s⁻¹) |
|--------|------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 6PGD  | WT- GSH 18.7 ± 1.2 | 28.6 ± 0.2 | 0.678 ± 0.121 |
|        | WT-GSNO 0.154 ± 0.056 | 27.3 ± 1 | 0.0057 ± 0.0022 |
|        | C289S-GSH 22.1 ± 2.5 | 156 ± 37 | 0.147 ± 0.019 |
|        | C289S-GSNO 0.40 ± 0.1 | 128 ± 45 | 0.0033 ± 0.0004 |
|        | C580S-GSH 1.91 ± 0.07 | 59.9 ± 2.6 | 0.037 ± 0.001 |
|        | C580S-GSNO 1.05 ± 0.01 | 43.4 ± 4.4 | 0.024 ± 0.003 |
| ALDH4A1 | WT-GSH 11.4 ± 0.3 | 39 ± 1 | 0.293 ± 0.006 |
|        | WT-GSNO 2.39 ± 0.55 | 121 ± 38 | 0.021 ± 0.005 |
|        | C95S-GSH 9.4 ± 1.0 | 36.6 ± 0.3 | 0.257 ± 0.03 |
|        | C95S-GSNO 2.78 ± 0.23 | 187 ± 67 | 0.0165 ± 0.0046 |
|        | C315S-GSH 1.02 ± 0.32 | 26.9 ± 3.8 | 0.0360 ± 0.0072 |
|        | C315S-GSNO 1.87 ± 0.24 | 206 ± 25 | 0.00997 ± 0.0009 |
| PHGDH  | WT-GSH 7.97 ± 0.45 | 14.7 ± 1.7 | 0.547 ± 0.036 |
|        | WT-GSNO 2.27 ± 0.42 | 16 ± 1 | 0.142 ± 0.038 |
|        | C223S-GSH 9.5 ± 2.1 | 28.6 ± 5.7 | 0.356 ± 0.058 |
|        | C223S-GSNO 5.2 ± 1.4 | 25 ± 2.7 | 0.208 ± 0.049 |
|        | C241S-GSH 8.3* | 14* | 0.58* |
|        | C241S-GSNO 1.2* | 20* | 0.063* |
| COMT   | WT-GSH 0.229 ± 0.01 | 3.03 ± 0.3 | 0.070 ± 0.004 |
|        | WT-GSNO 0.091 ± 0.01 | 4.41 ± 0.56 | 0.021 ± 0.001 |
|        | C116S-GSH 0.215 ± 0.05 | 4.01 ± 0.04 | 0.0536 ± 0.0002 |
|        | C116S-GSNO 0.146 ± 0.001 | 3.24 ± 0.36 | 0.0455 ± 0.0005 |
|        | C289S-GSH 0.241 ± 0.045 | 4.78 ± 0.08 | 0.0952 ± 0.0009 |
|        | C289S-GSNO 0.066 ± 0.024 | 5.77 ± 1.27 | 0.0110 ± 0.0018 |
| ALDOA  | WT-GSH 8.4 ± 0.1 | 20.4 ± 1.2 | 0.413 ± 0.021 |
|        | WT-GSNO 8.6 ± 0.6 | 27.4 ± 3.6 | 0.413 ± 0.024 |
| TPI1   | WT-GSH 1880 ± 270 | 901 ± 7 | 2.09 ± 0.33 |
|        | WT-GSNO 1970 ± 90 | 1010 ± 10 | 1.96 ± 0.09 |

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Identification of cysteine residues responsible for metabolic enzyme inhibition

The four enzyme targets (6PGD, ALDH4A1, COMT, and PHGDH) contain multiple cysteine residues. To determine the cysteine residue(s) responsible for the observed enzyme inhibition, a series of cysteine to serine variants were prepared to compare the k_cat/K_m values of the GSH- versus GSNO-treated samples. We anticipated that the activity of the cysteine to serine variant enzyme when treated with GSNO would be comparable with the GSH-treated enzyme. For 6PGD, residue Cys-289 was identified in the study by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23), and the variant C289S basal k_cat/K_m value is 22% of WT activity, which is indicative of the importance of this cysteine residue for maximal activity. It should be noted that nearly all the cysteine residues mutated are highly conserved in vertebrates (Fig. S1), indicating these residues are important for function. Therefore, it is not surprising that the untreated activity of these variants is lower than the activity of the WT enzyme. However, the 6PGD variant C289S is still sensitive to GSNO treatment and therefore is likely not the S-nitrosated cysteine residue responsible for the activity decrease (Fig. 2D). A complete series of variants was generated for the nine 6PGD cysteine residues (Fig. S1A), where C289S was used as a background mutation so all other variants are double mutants (along with one triple mutant).

The 6PGD variants C199S/C289S and C289S/C422S could not be expressed as soluble protein. Cys-170 and Cys-171 are adjacent to each other in a buried loop, so the triple mutant of C170S/C171S/C289S was expressed and purified; however, this triple mutant was inactive. Of the remaining five 6PGD variant constructs (C305S/C289S, C113S/C289S, C289S, C289S/C366S, and C289S/C402S), only 6PGD C289S/C366S activity was not significantly inhibited by S-nitrosation with a k_cat/K_m value of 0.037 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹ for the GSH-treated negative control compared with the GSNO-treated k_cat/K_m value of 0.024 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹ (Fig. 2D). This represents 67% of GSH-treated activity for C289S/C366S compared with 0.8% activity for WT 6PGD. The activity of GSH-treated 6PGD C289S/C366S is low (6% compared with WT), which can be attributed to the importance of Cys-366 for activity; however, the k_cat/K_m value of the GSNO-treated 6PGD C289S/C366S is 650% that of the GSNO-treated WT enzyme.

Both Cys-95 and Cys-315 of ALDH4A1 displayed eNOS-dependent S-nitrosation in the study by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23). We determined that the k_cat/K_m values for ALDH4A1 C95S were 0.26 (GSH treatment) and 0.017 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹ (GSNO treatment), whereas the C315S variant exhibited k_cat/K_m values of 0.037 and 0.0091 μM⁻¹ s⁻¹ for GSH- and GSNO-treated samples, respectively (Fig. 3D and Table 2). These results suggest that Cys-315 has a greater effect on the inhibition of ALDH4A1 by S-nitrosation; GSNO-treated C315S exhibited 25% the activity of GSH-treated, whereas the C95S variant exhibited 6% activity of GSH-treated.

The study by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23) identified Cys-241 in COMT as an S-nitrosated residue. This cysteine is located on the protein surface and distant from the active site. Treatment of COMT C241S with 150 μM GSNO resulted in inhibition similar to the inhibition observed with WT COMT (Fig. 4D and Table 2), suggesting that Cys-241 is not the residue responsible for GSNO-mediated inhibition. After surveying the COMT structure (PDB code 3A7E), Cys-223 was identified as a surface-exposed cysteine at the entrance to the active site, a potential location that could influence activity upon S-nitrosation (Fig. 4A). The C223S variant was found to have k_cat/K_m values of 0.21 μM⁻¹ min⁻¹ upon GSNO treatment compared with 0.36 μM⁻¹ min⁻¹ for GSH-treated enzyme, corresponding to 59% activity upon GSNO treatment (Fig. 4D and Table 2). The C223S variant was much less inhibited by GSNO treatment compared with WT COMT, which exhibited a 26% decrease in activity upon GSNO treatment.

An initial activity assay of the C281S variant in PHGDH, the residue identified in the proteomics study by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23), exhibited 22% activity upon GSNO treatment, which is even more inhibited than WT PHGDH (Fig. 5D and Table 2). A survey of the PHGDH crystal structure (PDB code 2G76) identified four additional PHGDH cysteine residues that could affect enzymatic activity by either disrupting the active site or the overall structure. Serine variants of each cysteine were generated, and Cys-116 was identified as the cysteine residue most affecting activity from GSNO treatment (Fig. 5A). The k_cat/K_m value for GSNO-treated PHGDH C116S was 83% of GSH-treated enzyme, which is a small change compared with the 29% activity observed for GSNO-treated WT PHGDH (Fig. 5D). Cys-116 is found at the homodimer interface of PHGDH in a potential location to form a disulfide bond with Cys-116 of the neighboring monomer. To the best of our knowledge, there is
no evidence in vivo to suggest that PHGDH forms a disulfide, although S-nitrosation has been known to induce disulfide formation (39, 40). Therefore, it is possible that S-nitrosation of Cys-116 induces disulfide formation, leading to a structural change that lowers the activity of PHGDH.

Percentage of S-nitrosation correlates with inhibition

To further evaluate the effect of S-nitrosation on the identified cysteine residues and enzyme inhibition, 6PGD and ALDH4A1 were incubated with increasing GSNO concentrations.
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Figure 4. A, crystal structure of COMT (PDB code 3A7E). The approximate location of the active site is outlined and faded. A black box highlights the zoomed-in region. The zoomed-in region highlights targeted Cys-223 in red. Annotated active-site catalytic and substrate/cofactor-binding residues are shown in blue. COMT Cys-223 is located on the surface and by the entrance to the active site of COMT. B, COMT O-methylates a catechol hydroxyl and has several substrates. In eNOS−/− compared with WT mice, there is a lower abundance of a mass feature consistent with the substrate 2-hydroxyestradiol-17β in the lung and kidney as identified with C18 analysis in positive mode and a greater abundance of a mass feature consistent with the product 2-methoxyestradiol-17β in the brain as identified with C18 using positive mode (not shown due to p > 0.05) (see Table S1 for more details). C, TAMRA-switch SDS-polyacrylamide gel indicates GSNO-treated COMT is S-nitrosated, whereas the GSH-treated samples exhibit only background fluorescence. Coomassie staining is shown as a loading control. D, specificity constants of COMT WT and variants upon S-nitrosation. Shown is comparison of Kcat/Km values in either the presence of GSNO (as the trans-nitrosation donor in white) or GSH (as a negative control, in gray) (n = 3 except for C241S, where n = 1 with each run, including eight substrate concentrations including no substrate). The steady-state kinetic parameters are summarized in Table 2. The procedure exposed 20 μM COMT to 150 μM GSNO or GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C, buffer exchanging out GSH or GSNO, and determining the protein concentration as outlined under “Experimental procedures.” Comparisons of percent activity are used for GSNO treatments in relation to GSH-treated control. WT COMT retains 26% activity when treated with 150 μM GSNO, whereas 1 mM GSNO fully eliminates activity. Cysteine variant C223S (highlighted in red text) is most responsible for S-nitrosation-derived inhibition and retains 59% activity when treated with GSNO. The other cysteine mutant tested, C241S, was identified as S-nitrosated in the study by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23) (highlighted in blue text) and was more significantly inhibited by GSNO treatment.

Table S1

| Enzyme | GSNO Treatment | Activity (%) |
|--------|----------------|--------------|
| ALDH4A1 | 150 μM GSNO | 30 |
| 6PGD | 2 mM GSNO | 50 |
| COMT | 1 mM GSNO | 26 |

Discussion

S-Nitrosation is difficult to study under physiological conditions due to the cysteine reactivity of NO-derived nitrosating agents, low cellular NO concentrations, and the indirect detection methods used for this post-translational modification. In addition, varying levels of cysteine S-nitrosation will occur based on the relative reactivity of specific cysteine residues. Additionally, it remains unclear how S-nitrosation occurs enzymatically, as there are only a small number of known transnitrosating enzymes (17). Because it is known that S-nitrosation occurs in vivo (42), we focused on metabolic enzymes that are targets of S-nitrosation in which S-nitrosation modulates activity. To complement the S-nitrosation proteomics study by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23), we performed metabolomics with WT and eNOS knockout mice to search for S-nitrosated metabolic enzymes with eNOS-dependent fluctuations in
their substrate and product levels. This provided a list of 21 enzymes that are S-nitrosated and exhibited modulated substrate and product levels in an eNOS-dependent manner (Table S1). As both studies indicate, S-nitrosation abundance and metabolic effects are likely tissue-specific, and this specificity needs to be further addressed in future studies. Of these 21 enzymes, we further characterized the effects of S-nitrosation on 6PGD, ALDH4A1, COMT, and PHGDH (Figs. 2–5).

The transnitrosating agent GSNO was used to S-nitrosate each enzyme, but increasing concentrations of GSNO will eventually S-nitrosate all the accessible cysteine residues of a protein. In addition, inhibition of each enzyme was not necessarily due to the specific cysteine residue identified in the study by Ichispolous and co-workers (23). To relate enzyme inhibition to a specific cysteine residue, mutagenesis was performed, and a range of GSNO concentrations was used to compare enzyme activity with the percent modification of each cysteine residue (23). Based on our experiments, Cys-366 in 6PGD, Cys-315 in ALDH4A1, Cys-223 in COMT, and Cys-116 in PHGDH appear to be the cysteine residues most responsible for the observed decrease in activity upon GSNO treatment. Apart from a study by Fox and co-workers (16), where an iNOS–S100A8–A9 complex was shown to S-nitrosate cysteine residues in a (I/L)XCX(E/D) motif, no consensus sequence has been reported that predicts sites of cysteine S-nitrosation (35, 43). The cysteine residues identified in this study are also not part of any discernable consensus sequence. This is in contrast to other post-translational modifications such as phosphorylation, glycosylation, or protease cleavage sites where conserved consensus sequences exist (44). Although each cysteine identified here is conserved to varying degrees, these cysteine residues are mostly invariant in vertebrates and more variant in invertebrates (Fig. S1). Because all vertebrates but only a subset of invertebrates encode NOS isoforms, cysteine residues would be more likely to be targeted by S-nitrosation when the organism or host possesses a NOS homolog.

Of the four enzymes tested, 6PGD was most highly affected by S-nitrosation, exhibiting a decrease in $k_{cat}/K_m$ by 2 orders of magnitude, while also requiring a higher GSNO concentration for inhibition (Fig. 2, D and F). Based on mutagenesis experiments and D-switch assays, Cys-366 was identified as the residue most responsible for this significant activity change (Fig. 2, D and E). The C366S variant was the only variant tested in this study that lost sensitivity to GSNO (Fig. 2, D and E). This strongly indicates that S-nitrosation of Cys-366 is responsible for the observed inhibition of 6PGD upon GSNO treatment. Of all the residues identified in this study, Cys-366 is the only cysteine residue that is highly conserved from mammals to bacteria, demonstrating the functional importance of

Figure 5. A crystal structure of PHGDH (PDB 2G76). The approximate location of the active site is outlined and faded. A black box highlights the zoomed-in region. The zoomed-in region highlights targeted Cys-116 in red. Annotated active-site catalytic and substrate/cofactor-binding residues are shown in blue. PHGDH Cys-116 is at the putative dimer interface and could potentially form a disulfide bond with Cys-116 of its neighboring monomer in the PHGDH homodimer. B, PHGDH converts d-3-phosphoglycerate to 3-phosphohydroxy pyruvate in the l-serine biosynthesis pathway and can also convert $\alpha$-ketoglutarate to the oncometabolite d-2-hydroxyglutarate (data not shown). In eNOS compared with WT mice, there is a lower abundance of a mass feature consistent with the substrate d-3-phosphoglycerate in the liver as identified with C18 analysis in negative mode and a greater abundance of a mass feature consistent with the product 3-phosphohydroxy pyruvate in the pancreas as identified with HILIC analysis using negative mode (see Table S1 for more details). C, TAMRA-switch SDS-polyacrylamide gel indicates GSNO-treated PHGDH is S-nitrosated, whereas GSH-treated samples exhibit only background fluorescence. Coomassie staining is shown as a loading control. D, specificity constants of PHGDH WT and variants upon S-nitrosation. Shown is comparison of $k_{cat}/K_m$ values in either the presence of GSNO (as the trans-nitrosation donor in white) or GSH (as a negative control, in gray) ($n = 3$ for WT and $n = 2$ for variants with each run, including eight substrate concentrations run in duplicate). The steady-state kinetic parameters are summarized in Table 2. The procedure exposed 150 $\mu$M PHGDH to 2 mM GSH or GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C, buffer exchanging out GSH or GSNO, and determining the protein concentration as outlined under “Experimental procedures.” Comparisons of percent activity are used for GSNO treatments in relation to GSH-treated control. WT PHGDH retains 29% activity when treated with GSNO, whereas the cysteine variant C116S (highlighted in red text) is most responsible for S-nitrosation-derived inhibition and retains 83% activity when treated with GSNO. Other cysteine mutants were more significantly inhibited by GSNO treatment with comparable effects as the WT PHGDH, including the cysteine C281S, which was identified as S-nitrosated by the proteomics study by Ichispolous and co-workers (23) (highlighted in blue text).
animals but is a threonine in most single-celled organisms, suggesting that Cys-315 is important for proper protein function in multicellular organisms and may have evolved to mediate ALDH4A1 activity via S-nitrosation (Fig. S1B). Similar to Cys-366 of 6PGD, Cys-315 of ALDH4A1 is located between two half-domains at the periphery of the active site and borders the catalytic residue Glu-314. S-Nitrosation of Cys-315 could disrupt substrate binding to inhibit the enzyme (Fig. 3A). Unlike 6PGD, the Cys-315 side chain in ALDH4A1 borders a hydrophobic cleft and resides within a van der Waals distance of 4–5 Å from Phe-284, Val-288, and Phe-291. S-Nitrosation of this residue would likely disrupt a portion of the protein hydrophobic core as well as misalign the catalytic proton acceptor Glu-314 and disrupt catalytic efficiency.

COMT treated with 150 μM GSNO exhibited 26% of the activity of GSH-treated COMT (Fig. 4D). COMT activity was not detectable at higher GSH concentrations. The Cys-223 residue is highly conserved among vertebrates, with the notable exception that it is a valine in mice (Fig. S1C). Therefore, Cys-223 could not be identified as an S-nitrosation target in the study by Ischiropoulos and co-workers (23), although it may be important for COMT regulation and activity in humans and other vertebrates. Cys-223 is located on the protein surface, near the entrance to the active-site pocket (Fig. 4A). S-Nitrosation could reduce ligand access to the active site due to increased steric bulk and modulated electrostatic potential on the surface. Because Cys-223 is surface-exposed, the solvent accessibility probably contributes to the increased sensitivity of Cys-223 to GSNO treatment.

Of the four enzyme targets, PHGDH is the least sensitive to S-nitrosation, exhibiting 29% activity upon treatment with 2 mM GSNO. The C116S variant is largely unaffected by GSNO treatment and displays 83% of the GSH-treated activity (Fig. 5D). Although Cys-116 is variable in invertebrates, Cys-116 is highly conserved in vertebrates (Fig. S1D) and is located at the surface, but on the opposite side from the PHGDH active site. Because the sequence of the C-terminal regulatory domain of human PHGDH indicates it is a type I PHGDH enzyme, it is predicted to form a tetramer in vivo (45). Although the construct used in this study does not include the C-terminal domain, it could likely dimerize; the crystal structure of human PHGDH, which is also lacking the C-terminal domain, also forms a dimer (PDB code 2G76). Residue Cys-116 is located at the putative dimer interface, and the thiol side chain is oriented 3.3 Å away from Cys-116 of the dimer partner (Fig. 5A). Therefore, S-nitrosation of Cys-116 may either disrupt dimerization of PHGDH or induce an S-nitrosation-derived disulfide. Disulfide formation and generation of nitroxide (NO−) as a consequence of S-nitrosation has been demonstrated in a few cases (39, 40, 46). A disulfide bond could force the enzyme to adopt a more rigid conformation, resulting in GSNO-mediated inhibition. However, the exact mechanism requires further investigation.

Using a metabolomics approach to prioritize metabolic enzymes for further study, we demonstrated that four important metabolic enzymes (6PGD, ALDH4A1, COMT, and PHGDH) are inhibited by GSNO transnitrosation in vitro. These results demonstrate that S-nitrosation of Cys-366 of
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6PGD, Cys-315 of ALDH4A1, Cys-223 of COMT, and Cys-116 of PHGDH inhibit enzyme activity. Although the enzymes ALDOA and TPI-1 were identified to be S-nitrosated in the proteomics study (23) as well as the TAMRA-maleimide switch assay (Fig. 6A), the metabolomics data did not suggest that ALDOA or TPI-1 would be inhibited by S-nitrosation and were unaffected by GSNO treatment as anticipated. Although the concentrations of GSNO required for enzyme inhibition are higher than physiological levels (low micromolar range in vivo), NO and GSNO may reach higher local concentrations proximal to NOS. Additionally, other NO-derived agents and proteins may convey S-nitrosylation specificity. Because the physiological mechanism of S-nitrosation is unclear for the metabolic enzymes studied herein, varying GSNO concentrations were used to S-nitrosate the cysteine residues that affect activity. In this case, modifying the correct cysteine residues to observe inhibition was more important than the non-specific modifications of cysteine residues at higher concentrations of GSNO that had less of an inhibitory affect. This study highlights a novel strategy to identify physiologically relevant targets of S-nitrosation with an emphasis on functional effects of S-nitrosation of metabolic enzymes. The synergistic analyses of proteomics and metabolomics data were successful in identifying four functionally modulated S-nitrosated enzymes. The remaining 17 metabolic enzymes identified in this study as potentially regulated by S-nitrosation await further characterization.

Experimental procedures

Metabolomics

Adult B6.129P2-Nos3tm1Lei/ (eNOS−/−) C57BL/6 mice (Jax catalog no. 002684) were purchased from The Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME). Age-matched WT C57BL/6 mice were bred in an AAALAC-approved facility at the Scripps Research Institute. All procedures followed the guidelines of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of the Scripps Research Institute. Animal housing followed a typical 6 a.m./6 p.m. light/dark phase with free access to water and food. Six sets of both WT and eNOS−/− mouse brain, heart, kidney, liver, lung, and pancreas were harvested, flash-frozen in liquid N2, and stored at −80 °C until further processing. The organs were extracted by the Scripps Center for Metabolomics and Mass Spectrometry, as described previously (47, 48). LC-MS analysis of each sample was performed at the Scripps Center for Metabolomics and Mass Spectrometry using negative and positive mode MS for the C18 column and negative mode MS for the HILIC column. Resulting MS spectra and LC peak integrations were collected and analyzed using XCMS Online (27–29).

Proteomic and metabolomics analysis

Proteomic data were taken from the supplemental materials of Doulias et al. (23) and rearranged to identify each enzyme with eNOS-dependent S-nitrosation. From this list, less than 10% of identified cysteine residues had an annotated function as either a catalytic, ligand/metal-binding, post-translationally modified, disulfide, or protein–protein interaction residue. For metabolomics analysis, XCMS Online and METLIN analysis for each organ (n = 6) only utilized MS peaks with p < 0.1 when comparing differences between WT and eNOS−/− data (27, 30, 48). The average integrated peak area for each mass feature was compiled into tables, with separate tables for negative (C18 and HILIC) and positive (C18 only) mode MS analysis for each organ. Worksheets for each organ and ionization mode were uploaded to Pathos online to compare WT and eNOS−/− metabolomes (32). The combination of differences from all organs for each metabolite was plotted onto KEGG metabolic pathway maps with minimal difference in mean mass feature integrations between WT and eNOS−/− organs of 1.4-fold used in the analysis (31, 49, 50). Metabolic enzymes showing eNOS-dependent S-nitrosation from the proteomics study by Ischirooulos and co-workers (23) were then added to the KEGG maps. S-Nitrosated enzymes with metabolic mass features matching increased product and decreased substrate (or decreased product and increased substrate) levels in eNOS−/− compared with WT mice were compiled to generate an initial enzyme targets list (Table 1). Targets were further narrowed based on criteria outlined under “Results” to identify 21 enzymes (Table S1), including four for in vitro testing: 6PGD, ALDH4A1, COMT, and PHGDH.

Subcloning

Human ALDOA (Uniport ID P04075) in a pMCSG7 expression vector (AmpR) with a N-terminal His6 tag and tobacco etch virus (TEV) cleavage site was ordered from Harvard PlasmID repository (Clone ID HsCD00286766). An intron was removed from the construct using a standard site-directed mutagenesis loop excision protocol with primers in Table S2. DNA encoding human genes of 6PGD (Uniport ID P52209), ALDH4A1 (Uniport ID P30038), COMT (Uniport ID P21964), PHGDH (Uniport ID O43175), and TPI1 (Uniport ID P60174) were obtained from Harvard PlasmID repository with IDs HSCD0438431, HSCD00331467, HSCD00324442, HSCD00322318, and HSCD00042264, respectively. Two methods of subcloning were utilized for the remaining enzyme targets, separated by method.

Gateway cloning

COMT (pDONR221 to pDEST42, C-His), PHGDH (pDONR221 to pDEST527, N-His), and TPI-1 (pDONR221 to pDEST42, C-His) were cloned utilizing Gateway cloning methods (51). Both constructs were initially cloned into pDONR221 with BP Clonase II. After purification, transformation, and mini-prepping pDONR221 constructs, each construct was transferred to their respective destination vectors utilizing LR Clonase II reaction. The soluble isofrom of COMT was used for domain boundaries, excluding the first 50 amino acids that are present in membrane-bound COMT. The final construct ranged from Met-51 to Pro-271 and was cloned into pDEST42 with a C-terminal V5 epitope and His6 tag. PHGDH domain boundaries were chosen based on the published crystal structure (PDB code 2G76), which lacks the regulatory C-terminal domain and ranges from Met-1 to Val-315 and was cloned into pDEST527 with an N-terminal His6 tag. These domain boundaries were
chosen because full-length PHGDH was found to be largely insoluble.

**Golden Gate cloning**

6PGD and ALDH4A1 were cloned utilizing a Golden Gate cloning method into a PET28-GG vector (kindly provided by the Tullman-Ercek lab) using constructs with N-terminal His6 tags and TEV protease cleavage sites for each (52). Because the 6PGD N-terminal methionine is removed *in vivo*, the domain boundaries for this construct were from Ala-2 to Ala-483. ALDH4A1 contains a signal sequence on the N terminus that is removed *in vivo*, and this signal sequence was not included in the construct to give domain boundaries from Thr-18 to Gln-563.

**Site-directed mutagenesis**

Sequence and cysteine numbering is based on the human enzyme. Primers were obtained from Sigma or Integrated DNA Technologies (Table S2). Mutagenesis was accomplished through PCR, and sequences were confirmed using standard Sanger sequencing by GeneWiz or the University of California-Berkeley sequencing facility. Site-directed mutants were transformed into BL21(DE3) *E. coli* and purified similarly to their respective WT constructs as detailed below.

**Enzyme expression and purification**

Each construct was transformed into BL21(DE3) *E. coli* and inoculated with 2 ml of a 6-mL overnight culture into 1 liter of terrific broth plus appropriate antibiotic. Cells were grown to an *A*~600~nm = 0.4–0.6, ALDOA, TPI1, and COMT (and cysteine variants) were induced with 1 mM IPTG at 37 °C for 4 h. The enzymes 6PGD, ALDH4A1, and PHGDH along with their variants were incubated on ice for 15 min and induced with 0.7 mM IPTG overnight at 18 °C. Cell pellets were obtained by centrifugation at 4000 rpm for 15 min at 4 °C. Pellets were washed with 20 mM Tris, pH 8.0, pelleted once more, flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at −80 °C until purification. Frozen cell pellets were thawed quickly in room temperature water and resuspended in ice-cold lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 300 mM NaCl, 10% v/v glycerol, and 10 mM imidazole) supplemented with 0.25 mg/ml lysozyme, 20 μg/ml DNase I, and 20 μg/ml benzamidine. Resuspended cells were stirred at 4 °C for 30 min and sonicated to break cells (5 min with 2 s on and 4 s off). Cell debris was removed by centrifugation (35,000 rpm for 35 min or 15,000 rpm for 1 h), and the supernatant was mixed with Clontech His-60 nickel resin pre-equilibrated in lysis buffer. The nickel resin slurry was stirred for 45 min to 2 h. Unbound proteins were removed by application of the resin to a gravity column, and the flow-through was reapplied to the nickel. The nickel resin was then washed with 10 column volumes of lysis buffer. Bound protein was eluted with increasing concentrations of imidazole in lysis buffer (40–450 mM). Most protein eluted between 100 and 250 mM imidazole. Purity of the eluted fractions was confirmed by SDS-PAGE using Stain-Free methods (Bio-Rad); fractions containing the desired protein were combined and concentrated with 10-kDa molecular mass cutoff spin concentrators in a Beckman Coulter Allegra X-14R centrifuge at 4 °C at 3000–4000 rcf. ALDH4A1 was further purified with anion-exchange chromatography with a POROS HQ20 column using a 0–100% buffer B in buffer A gradient (buffer A: 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 10% v/v glycerol, 2 mM DTT, 5 mM EDTA; buffer B: buffer A plus 1 M NaCl). The enzymes 6PGD and ALDH4A1 were further purified by size-exclusion chromatography with a HiLoad 26/600 Superdex 200 column (GE Healthcare) pre-equilibrated in freezing buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 50 mM NaCl, 5% v/v glycerol, 1 mM EDTA, and 1 mM DTT), and COMT was further purified with a HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 75 column (GE Healthcare) pre-equilibrated in freezing buffer. The purest fractions, as assessed by SDS-PAGE, were combined. ALDOA, PHGDH, and TPI1 were buffer-exchanged into freezing buffer with a PD-10 column. All proteins were concentrated to 10–20 mg/ml, flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at −80 °C.

**S-Nitrosation of purified enzymes**

Frozen protein aliquots were thawed on ice. Proteins were diluted to 150 μl in the appropriate activity buffer (see under “Enzyme activity assays”), reduced with 2 mM TCEP for 20–30 min, and then buffer-exchanged into appropriate activity buffers using Bio-Spin6 columns (Bio-Rad). Protein concentrations were determined by the Bradford assay or the absorbance at 280 nm (using molar extinction coefficients of 63.4 mM−1 cm−1 for 6PGD, 74.3 mM−1 cm−1 for ALDH4A1, 22.9 mM−1 cm−1 for COMT, and 13.9 mM−1 cm−1 for PHGDH). GSN0 stock concentrations were measured before use (ε335 nm = 0.992 mM−1 cm−1). All proteins, except PHGDH, were incubated separately at 20 μM with varying GSNO or GSH concentrations (20, 50, 100, 150, 200, 500, 1000, or 2000 μM) at 37 °C for 1 h. PHGDH was incubated at 150 μM with GSNO or GSH concentrations of 150, 500, 1000, or 2000 μM for 1 h. For kinetics experiments, 6PGD and PHGDH were incubated with 2 mM GSH or GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C; ALDH4A1, ALDOA, and TPI1 were incubated with 1 mM GSH or GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C, and COMT was incubated for 150 μM GSH or GSNO for 1 h at 37 °C. Proteins were spun at ~21,000 rcf for 1 min to remove precipitation, and the supernatant was buffer-exchanged into the appropriate activity buffer using Bio-Spin6 columns. Protein concentrations were measured and diluted with activity buffer to stock solutions of 1 μM for 6PGD, ALDH4A1, TPI1, and ALDOA, 10 μM for COMT, or 50 μM for PHGDH.

**TAMRA-maleimide switch assay**

Each enzyme was diluted to 100 – 400 μM in HEN buffer (250 mM HEPEs, pH 7.7, 1 mM EDTA, and 0.1 mM neocuproine) and reduced with 3 mM TCEP for 20 min at room temperature. Enzymes were then exchanged into HEN buffer with pre-equilibrated Spin6 columns (Bio-Rad) to remove excess TCEP. A 50-μl aliquot of 20 μM enzyme and 100–200 μM GSNO or GSH was incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. Reactions were quenched with an equal volume of cysteine blocking buffer (6 M urea, 200 mM iodoacetamide, and 1% w/v SDS in HEN) and incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. Protein was precipitated with 1 ml of cold acetone (stored at −20 °C), thoroughly mixed, and pelleted at 21,000 rcf for 10 min at 4 °C, and supernatant was removed and discarded. This acetone precipitation was repeated 1–2 more times to...
remove all the blocking buffer and then incubated at 37 °C for 10–20 min after the final supernatant removal to evaporate any residual acetone. Pellets were resuspended in labeling buffer (6 M urea, 60 mM ascorbate, and 200 μM TAMRA maleimide diluted in PBS) and incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. Samples were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and washed with destain buffer (40% v/v methanol and 10% v/v acetic acid) three times for at least 20 min each followed by rehydration in MilliQ H₂O before TAMRA imaging on a ChemiDoc (Bio-Rad) to confirm that the enzymes were modified, followed by Coomassie staining to demonstrate equal protein loading.

**Enzyme activity assays**

To determine $k_{cat}$ and $K_m$ values, eight substrate concentrations were used for each protein and variant. All substrates, cofactors and enzymes were dissolved or exchanged into buffers specific for each assay, as described below. Product formation for all proteins (except COMT) was continuously monitored by absorbance changes at 340 nm over a period of 5 to 10 min. Initial rates were determined from the least-square fit of the linear portion of substrate turnover. COMT was assayed using a discontinuous HPLC-based end-point assay as described below. Initial rates were plotted versus substrate concentration using GraphPad Prism and fitted using nonlinear regression to the Michaelis-Menten equation to determine $k_{cat}$ and $K_m$ values.

**6PGD assay**—The activity assay buffer was composed of 100 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 50 mM KCl, and 1 mM EDTA. The assay mixture contained 200 μM NADP$^+$ and varying concentrations of 6-phosphogluconate (5, 10, 25, 50, 75, 100, 250, or 500 μM); the assay was initiated by the addition of 60 nM 6PGD. For 6PGD GSNO-treated samples, the assay was initiated with 60 nM enzyme.

**ALDH4A1 assay**—This assay first required the synthesis of the substrate 1-D-β-pyrroline-5-carboxylate.

*Synthesis of 1-D-β-pyrroline-5-carboxylate—1-D-β-pyrroline-5-carboxylate was synthesized as described previously (53, 54). All steps were performed on ice. Briefly, 3.1 ml of 50 mM sodium periodate (pH 7.0 with 1 M NaOH) was added to 2 ml of 70 mM m-L-5-hydroxylsine hydrochloride and incubated for 8 min. Glycerol (50 μl of 1 M) was added and incubated for 2 min to quench the periodate. Then, 45 μl of 6 M HCl was added to acidify the reaction. 1-D-β-Pyrroline-5-carboxylate was purified using AG1-X8 resin (Bio-Rad) in a 2 × 30-cm column treated with 1.0 M HCl before washing with 4 column volumes of MilliQ water. The reaction mixture was added to the column, washed with 1 column volume of 50 mM HCl, and eluted with 1 M HCl, collecting 1-ml fractions. Fractions containing 1-D-β-pyrroline-5-carboxylate were identified by mixing aliquots with 0.5% O-aminobenzaldehyde in ethanol and monitoring the absorbance at 444 nm. Fractions containing 1-D-β-pyrroline-5-carboxylate were combined, and the concentrations were noted before storage at −80 °C.*

**ALDH4A1 assay**—The activity assay buffer was composed of 100 mM HEPES, pH 8.1, 50 mM KCl, and 1 mM EDTA. The assay mixture contained 300 μM NAD$^+$ with varying concentrations of 1-D-β-pyrroline-5-carboxylate (5, 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, 100, or 200 μM); the assay was initiated by addition of 20 nM ALDH4A1.

**COMT assay**—The activity assay buffer was 100 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.6, and 1.2 mM MgCl₂. The assay mixture contained 1 mM S-adenosylmethionine with varying concentrations of 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHBA) (5, 10, 15, 20, 40, 60, or 100 μM) and was pre-incubated for 2–3 min at 37 °C before enzyme addition. The assay was initiated by the addition of 200 nM COMT in a 450-μl Eppendorf tube and incubated at 37 °C. For each time point (0, 2, 4, and 6 min for 5, 15, and 20 μM DHBA; 0, 3, 6, and 9 min for 40, 60, and 100 μM DHBA), 100-μl aliquots were removed and quickly mixed with 15 μl of 60% w/v perchloric acid to quench the reaction. Quenched reaction aliquots were stored at −80 °C until HPLC analysis. Aliquots were thawed and centrifuged at 21,000 rcf for 5 min at 4 °C. The supernatant was transferred to an HPLC vial, and 100 μl of the sample was injected onto a C18 reverse phase column (Agilent Eclipse Plus XDB C18 4.6 × 100-mm 3.5-μm particle size, 80-Å pore size) with an Agilent 1260 Infinity HPLC system. A gradient consisting of two buffers (buffer A: 0.1% v/v formic acid in MilliQ filtered water, and buffer B: 99.9% v/v acetonitrile with 0.1% v/v formic acid) was used with the following conditions: 5% B for 0–5 min; 5–17% B for 5–20 min; 17–100% B for 20–21 min; 100% B for 21–26 min; 100–5% B for 26–27 min; and 5% B for 27–34 min. The absorbance of the substrate (DHBA) and product (vanillic and isovanillic acid) peaks was monitored at 260 nm. Concentrations of vanillic and isovanillic acid were determined by plotting a standard curve using standards obtained from Sigma. Rates were determined from vanillic acid production as it is produced in ~5:1 ratio compared with isovanillic acid.

**PHGDH assay**—The activity assay buffer was composed of 200 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 50 mM KCl, and 1 mM EDTA. The assay mixture contained 1 mM PHGDH with varying concentrations of oxaloacetate (OAA) (0.2, 0.5, 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, or 40 mM); the assay was initiated by addition of 200 μM NADH. Because higher concentrations of OAA (>20 mM) absorb at 340 nm and slowly oxidize NADH, a control without enzyme was used to account for the background reactivity of the substrate. To minimize decomposition, OAA was dissolved in the activity assay buffer immediately before use.

**ALDOA assay**—The activity assay buffer was composed of 100 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 50 mM KCl, and 1 mM EDTA. The assay mixture contained 200 μM NADH, 2 milliunits/μl α-glycerophosphate dehydrogenase/triose-phosphate isomerase (GPDH/TPI) enzyme mixture from Sigma with varying concentrations of fructose 1,6-bisphosphate (2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 250, or 500 μM); the assay was initiated by the addition of 50 nM ALDOA.

**TPII assay**—The activity assay buffer was composed of 100 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 50 mM KCl, and 1 mM EDTA. The assay mixture contained 200 μM NADH, 2 milliunits/μl GPDH from Sigma with varying concentrations of glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate (0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, or 8 mM); the assay was initiated by the addition of 0.2 nM TPII.

**D-switch assay**

6PGD and ALDH4A1 were analyzed by a D-switch assay (41). After 20 μM enzyme was incubated with various GSNO concentrations for 1–2 h, as described above for the TAMRA-switch assay, an equal volume of blocking buffer (50 mM N-ethylmaleimide (NEM), 7 M urea, and 1% w/v SDS dissolved in 10–20 min after the final supernatant removal to evaporate any residual acetone. Pellets were resuspended in labeling buffer (6 M urea, 60 mM ascorbate, and 200 μM TAMRA maleimide diluted in PBS) and incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. Samples were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and washed with destain buffer (40% v/v methanol and 10% v/v acetic acid) three times for at least 20 min each followed by rehydration in MilliQ H₂O before TAMRA imaging on a ChemiDoc (Bio-Rad) to confirm that the enzymes were modified, followed by Coomassie staining to demonstrate equal protein loading.
HEN buffer (100 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, and 0.1 mM neocuproine) was added to each sample and sonicated in a water bath for 5 min. Samples were then incubated for 1 h at 55°C. Protein was precipitated by the addition of 1 ml of cold acetone (stored at −20°C) followed by 10-min incubation at −80°C and centrifugation at 21,000 rcf for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatant was gently removed, and the pellet was resuspended in 1 ml of cold acetone one or two more times, until the pellets were white, and all of the buffer was exchanged. Residual acetone was removed by incubating samples for a few minutes at 37°C before adding 5 mM d3-NEM dissolved in HBS (100 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, and 150 mM NaCl) with 7 M urea and 30 mM sodium ascorbate and incubating 1 h at 37°C. Samples were diluted 14X in HBS plus 5 mM CaCl2, and protein was digested overnight while shaking at 37°C with chymotrypsin for 6PGD or trypsin/LysC for ALDH4A1. Samples were pelleted at 21,000 rcf for 5 min at room temperature to remove any precipitate, and the supernatant was transferred to a new Eppendorf tube. Samples were analyzed by LC-MS, and peaks of peptides containing cysteine residues were integrated and compared to determine the relative amounts of NEM and d3-NEM-labeled peptides.

Author contributions—J. J. B. analyzed and combined proteomics and metabolomics data, subcloned all enzymes except ALDOA and TP11, expressed and purified all enzymes, performed site-directed mutagenesis on all constructs, conducted S-nitrosation reactions, and performed TAMRA-maleimide switch on all enzymes, performed and analyzed all enzyme activity assays, and performed and analyzed D-switch assays. S. L. W.-S. subcloned ALDOA and TP11. S. L. W.-S. and B. C. S. initiated and prepared mouse organs for metabolomics. J. J. B., S. L. W.-S., B. C. S., and M. A. M. conceived and designed the experiments, prepared figures, and wrote the manuscript. M. A. M. acquired funding and coordinated the study. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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