



# The 7th International Electronic Conference on Medicinal Chemistry (ECMC 2021)

01-30 NOVEMBER 2021 | ONLINE

## Synthesis and biological evaluation of chalcone and stilbene based acetamidines as Nitric Oxide Synthase inhibitors

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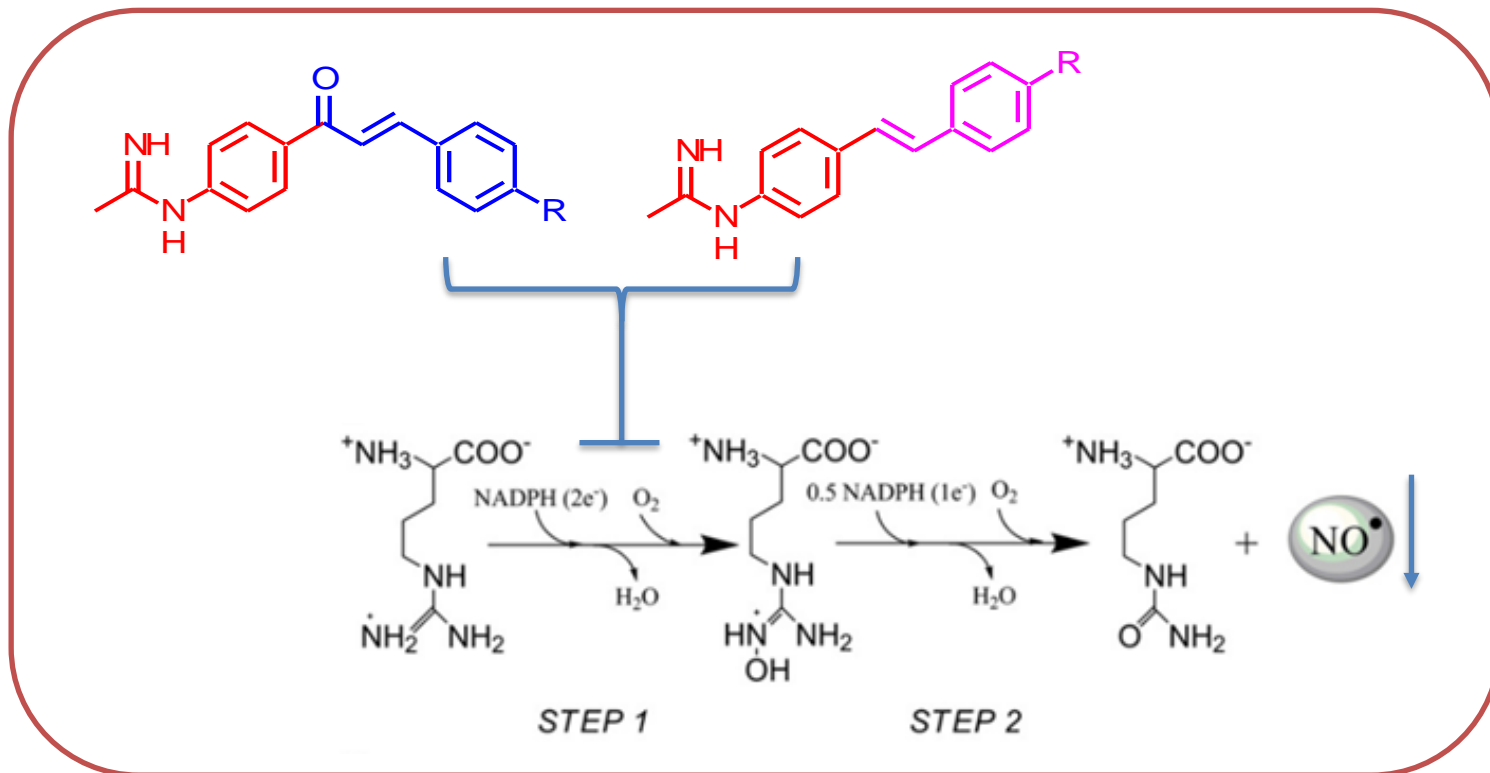
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# Synthesis and biological evaluation of chalcone and stilbene based acetamidines as Nitric Oxide Synthase inhibitors

## Graphical Abstract



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**Abstract:**

Nitric Oxide Synthases (NOS) are a family of oxidoreductases responsible for the biosynthesis of the free radical nitric oxide (NO). This is a very important signalling molecule involved in many different biological processes, both physiologic and pathologic.

In particular, the inhibition of the inducible NOS (iNOS) has been proposed as a targeted therapy in several diseases, including cancer, neurodegeneration and inflammatory bowel disease. In the past years our research group has disclosed different new potent and selective acetamidines as iNOS inhibitors, collecting evidence their usefulness as anticancer agents.

In the present work, starting from the observation that different chalcone-based compounds can modulate the iNOS expression levels, we have synthesised a set of acetamidin-chalcones and acetamidin-stilbenes and we evaluated them as inhibitors of the iNOS activity. Results obtained from these studies will be presented.

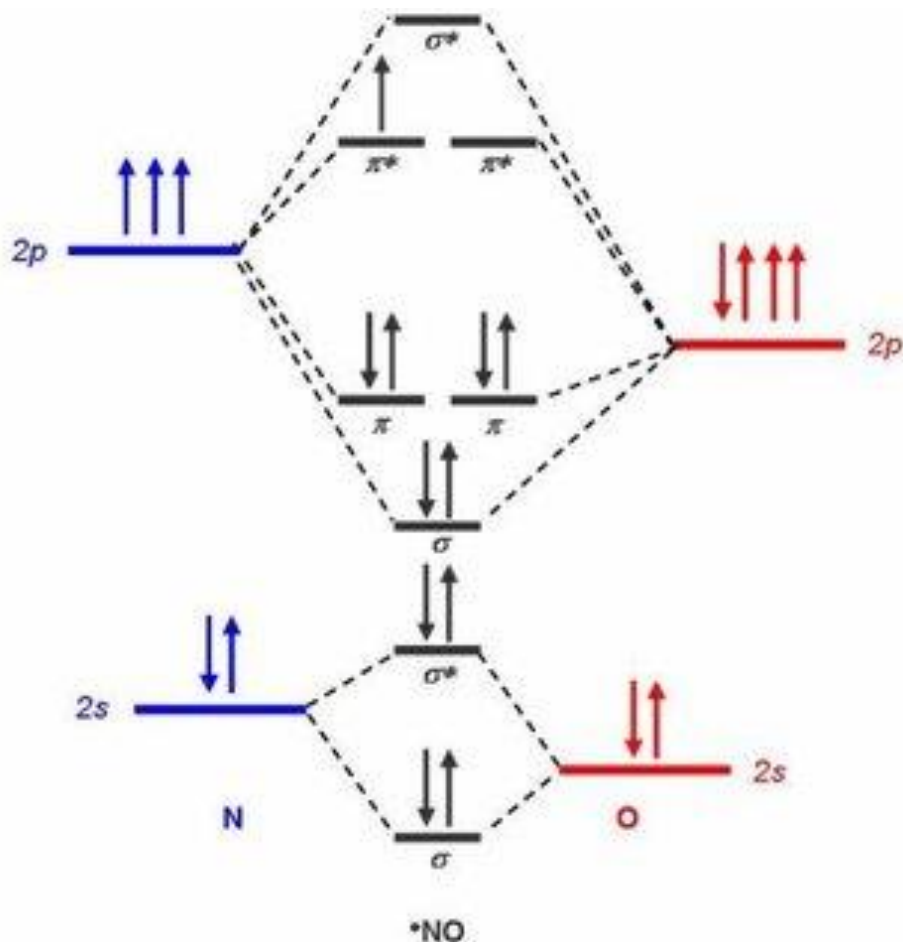
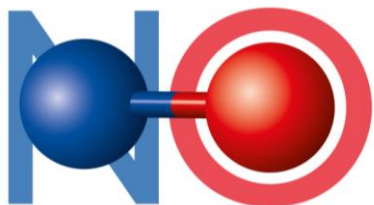
**Keywords:** Chalcone; inhibitors; nitric oxide synthases; synthesis; stilbene



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# Introduction



98



C  
le

in the cardiovascular system



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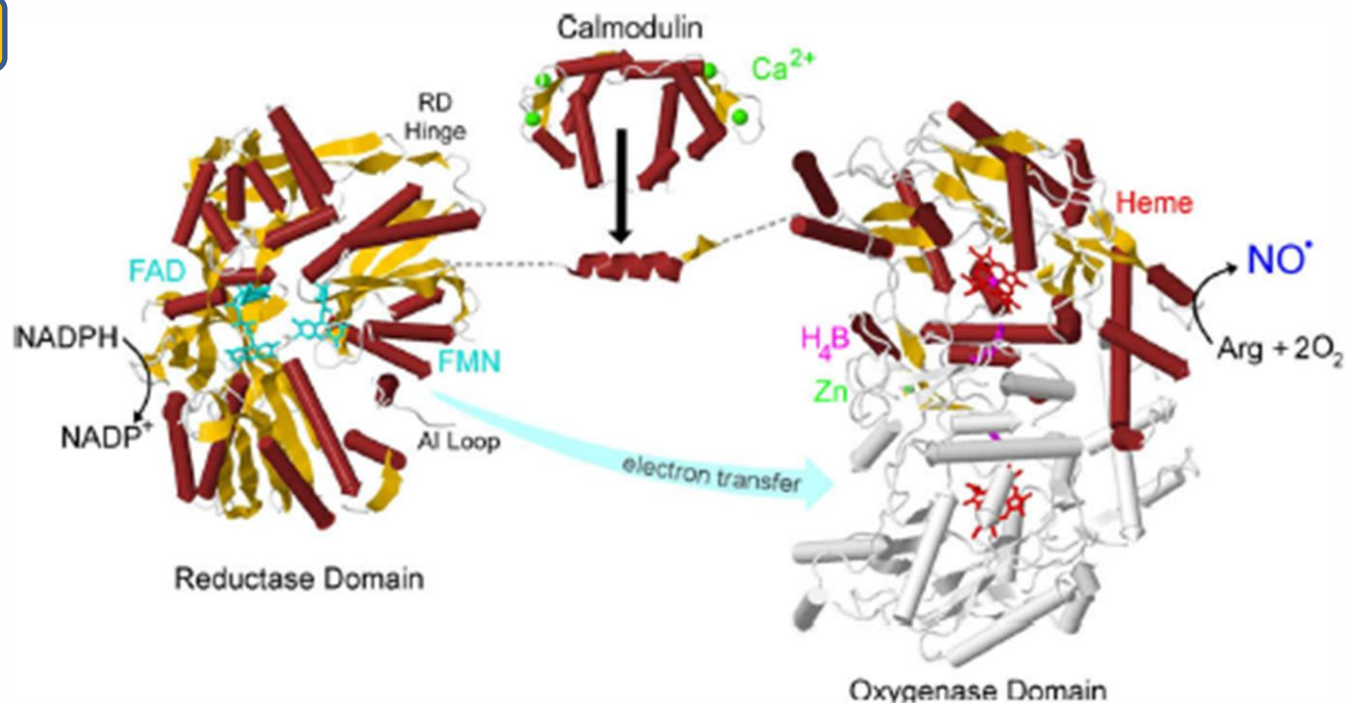
# Introduction: Nitric Oxide is biosynthesised by Nitric Oxide Synthases

nNOS (NOS-1)

eNOS (NOS-3)

iNOS (NOS-2)

Constitutive



*European Heart Journal*, 2012, 33, 829–837

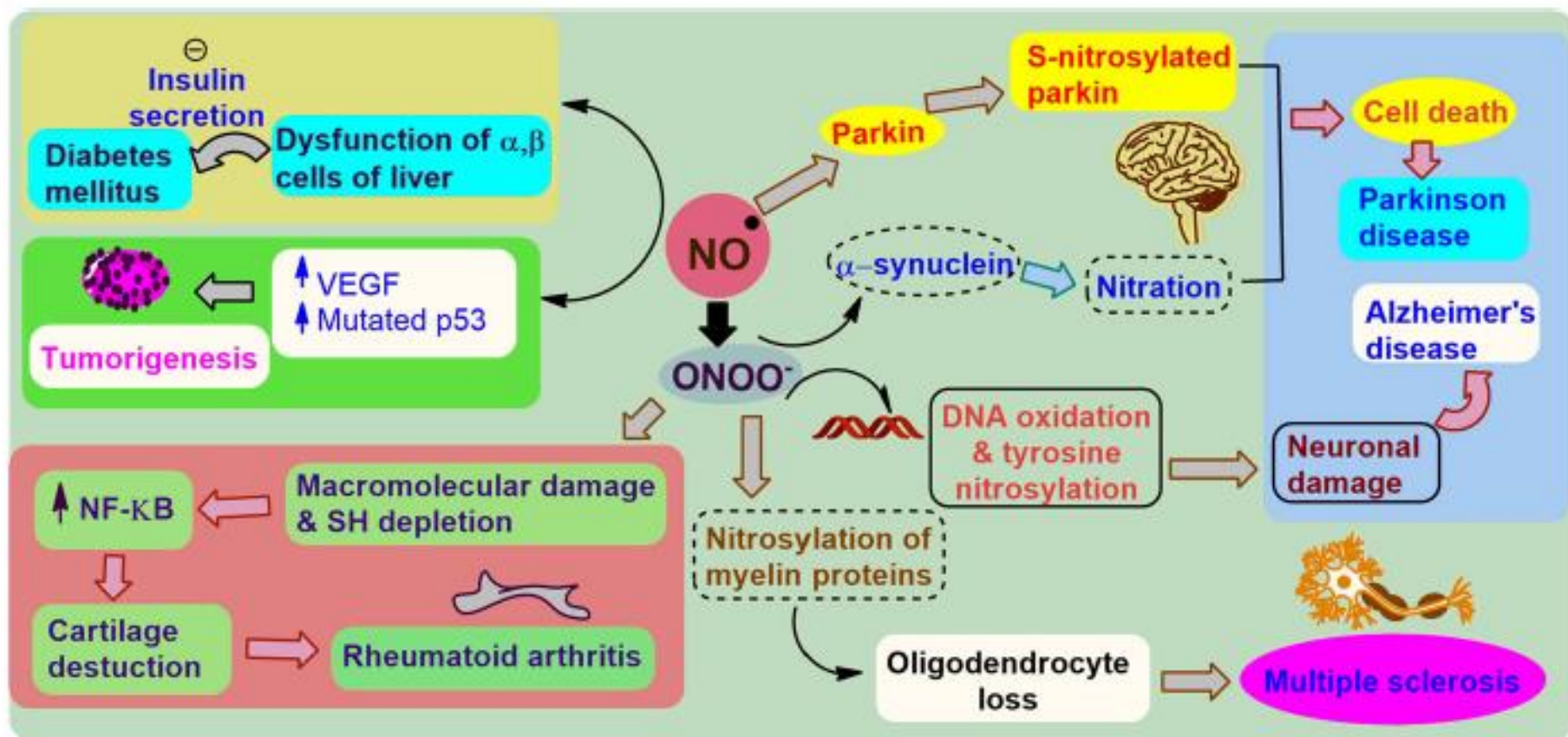


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# Introduction: Role of Nitric Oxide in different pathological conditions



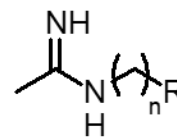
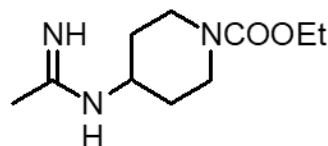
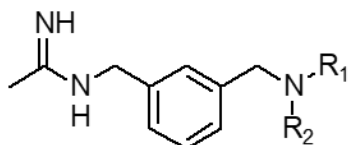
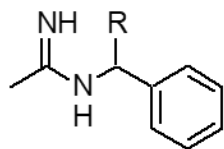
*Med. Res. Rev.* 2020; 40, 823-855.



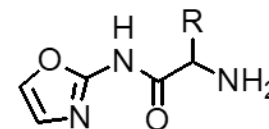
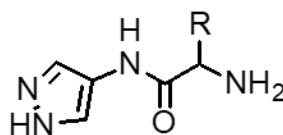
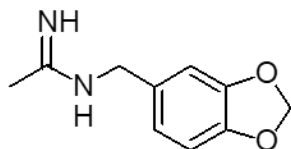
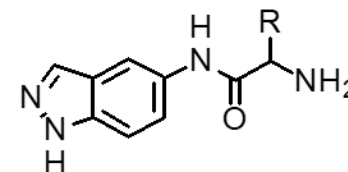
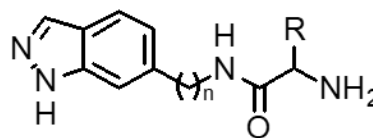
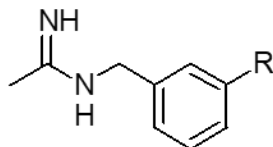
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# Introduction: Acetamidines as iNOS inhibitors



Maccallini, C. et al. *Med. Chem.*, **2012**, *8*, 991-995

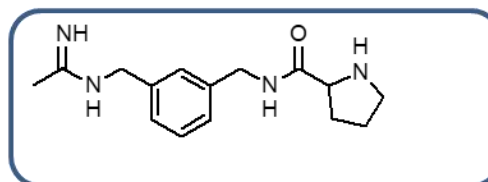
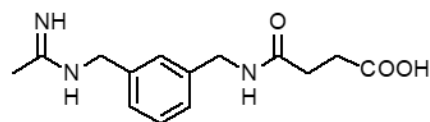


Maccallini, C et al. *J. Med. Chem.* **2009**, *52*, 1481–1485

Maccallini, C et al. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, **2010**, *20*, 6495–6499

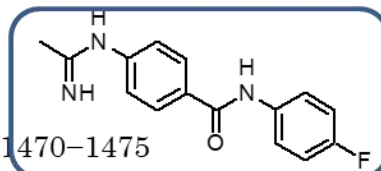
Fantacuzzi, M. et al. *ChemMedChem* **2011**, *6*, 1203 – 1206

Maccallini, C. et al. *ChemMedChem* **2016**, 1695-1699



Maccallini, C. et al. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2015**, *6*, 635–640

Maccallini, C. et al. *E. J. Med. Chem.* **2018**, *152*, 53–64



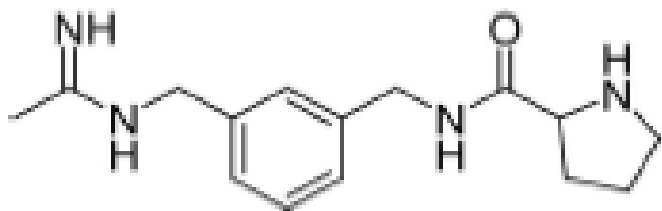
Maccallini, C. et al. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2020**, *11*, 1470–1475

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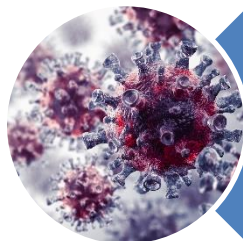
# Introduction: CM544 and FAB1020 bioactivity



**CM544**

iNOS IC<sub>50</sub>: 58 nM

Selectivity eNOS/iNOS=4569



Antiglioma activity

*E. J. Med. Chem.* **2018**, *152*, 53

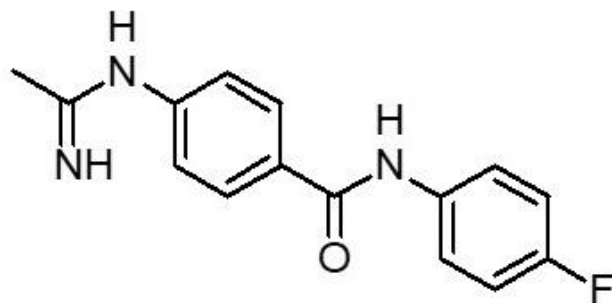
*Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2019**, *20*, 495

*ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2020**, *11*, 1470



Neuroprotective

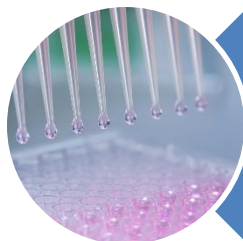
*Molecules* **2020**, *25*, 2646



**FAB1020**

iNOS IC<sub>50</sub>: 11 nM

Selectivity eNOS/iNOS>900



Immunomodulatory

*Molecules* **2021**, *26(15)*, 4419



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# Introduction: chalcones and stilbenes, privileged structures in medicinal chemistry

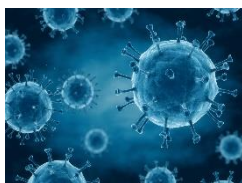
Antimicrobial

Antifungal

Antiparasitic

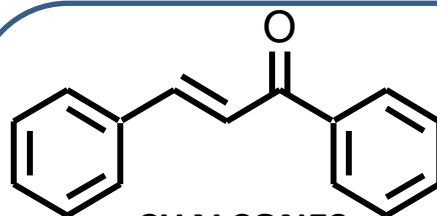


Anti-inflammatory

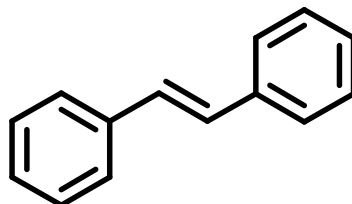


↓ COX  
↓ PGE2  
↓ TNF-α

*Front. Pharmacol.* **2021**; 11:592654  
*ChemMedChem* **2017**; 12:558



CHALCONES



STILBENES



Natural



Synthesised

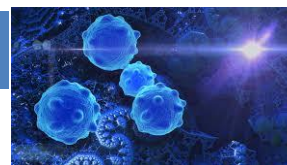
Antidiabetic



↓ Blood glucose level  
↑ Insuline secretion  
↓ lipogenesis

Antiproliferative

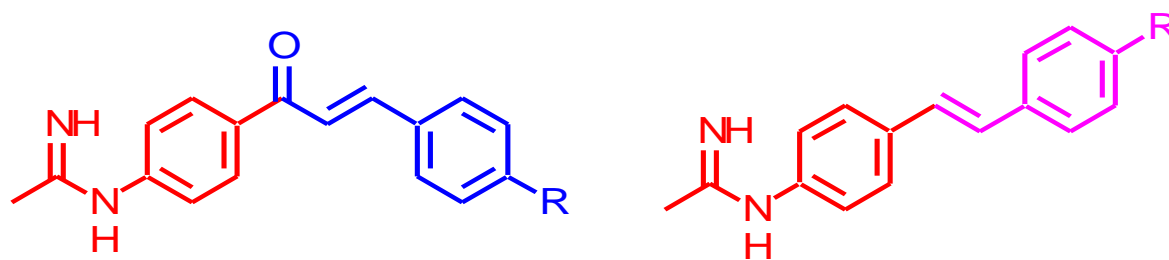
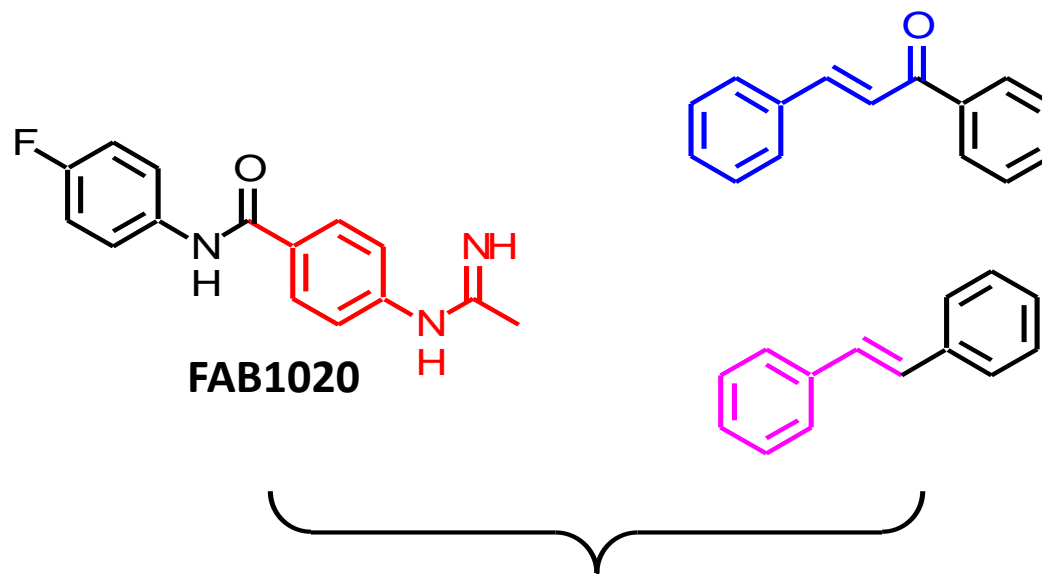
↓ Cell proliferation



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# AIM of the WORK:



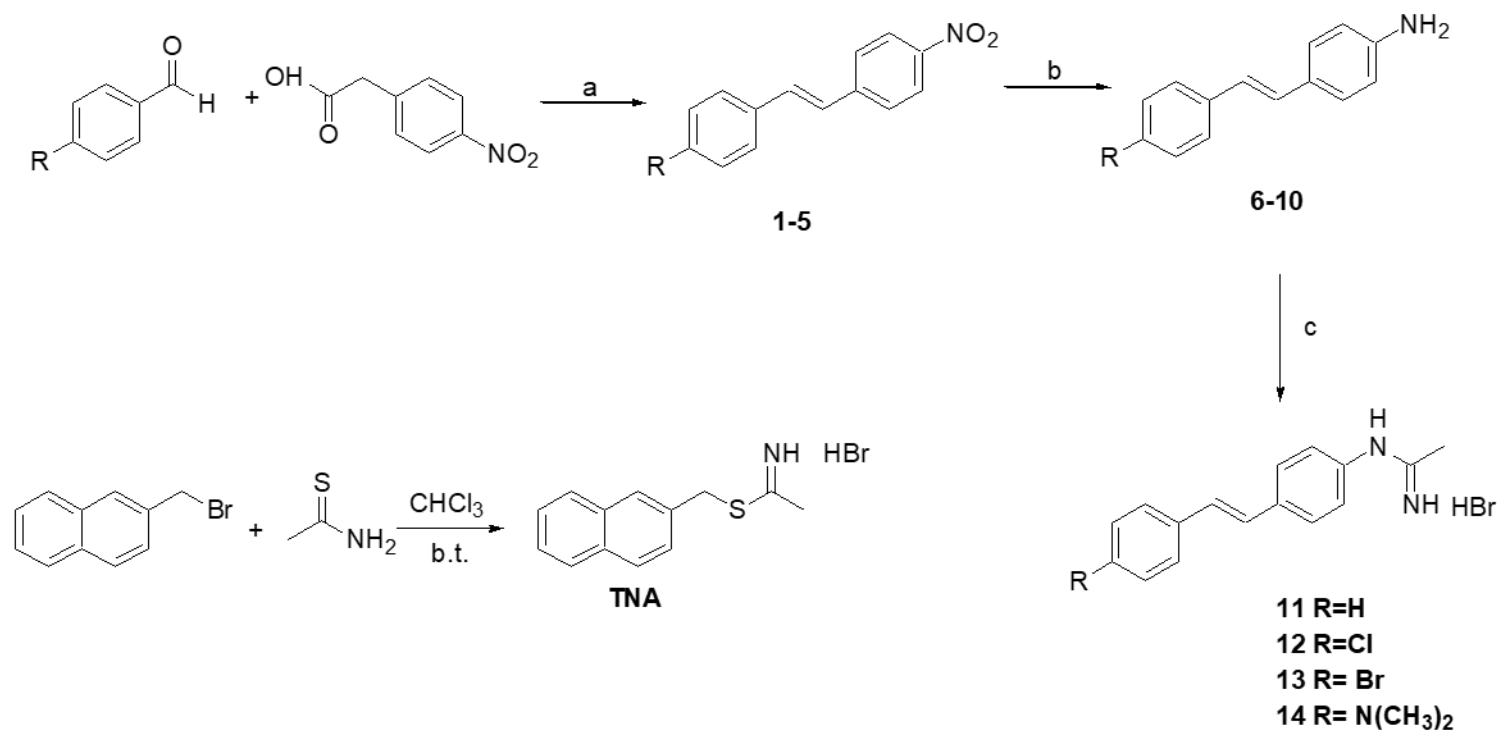
*New chalcone and stilbene based acetamidines*



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# Synthesis: Stilbene derivatives



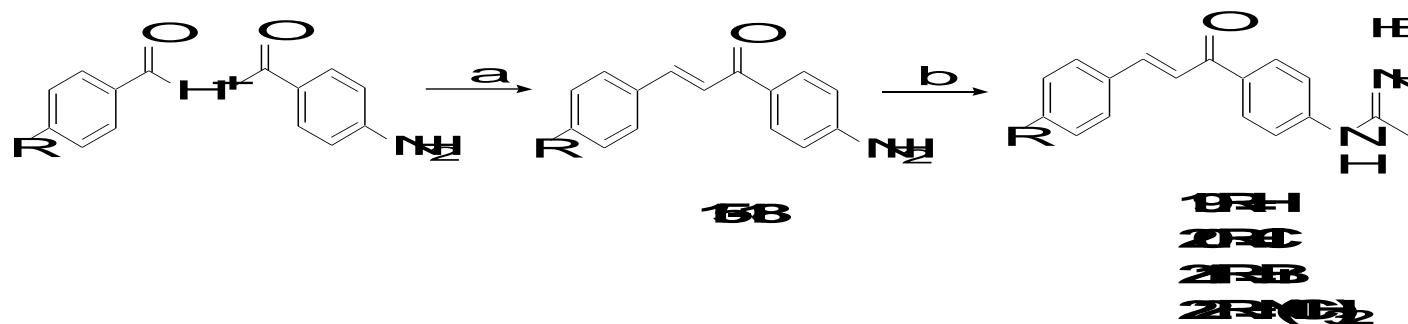
**Scheme 1.** Reaction conditions. a) EtOH, b.t, 24 h. b) SnCl<sub>2</sub>, HCl, EtOH, b.t., 3 h. c) TNA, EtOH, b.t, 24h



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# Synthesis: Chalcone derivatives



**Scheme 2.** Reaction conditions. a) NaOH, EtOH, from 0 °C to r.t., 24 h. b) TNA, EtOH, b.t, 24h



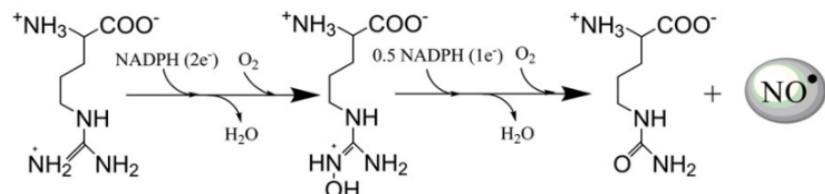
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# Biological evaluation of Stilbene and Chalcone derivatives

iNOS and eNOS %inhibition @ 1μM

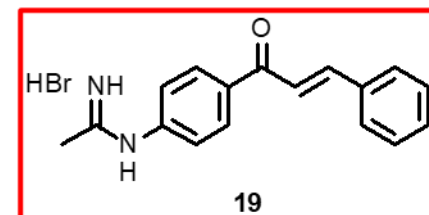
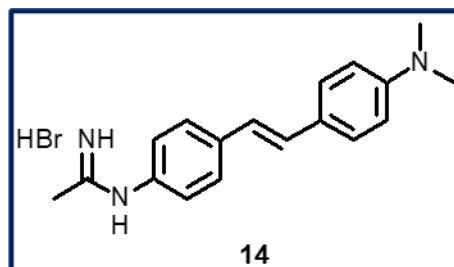
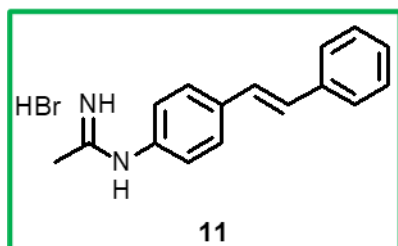
Compound	iNOS	eNOS
<b>11</b>	32	<i>inactive</i>
<b>12</b>	12	n.d.
<b>13</b>	<i>inactive</i>	n.d.
<b>14</b>	64	<i>inactive</i>
<b>19</b>	82	<i>inactive</i>
<b>20</b>	9	n.d.
<b>21</b>	14	n.d.
<b>22</b>	n.d.	n.d.



STEP 1

STEP 2

11-14  
19-22



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# Conclusions and Perspectives

New acetamidines containing stilbene and chalcone moieties were synthesised

Compound 14 and 19 were the most active iNOS inhibitors and showed also selectivity with respect to eNOS. IC50 to be evaluated!

More compounds are needed and it can be supposed that the introduction of polar and ionizable groups could improve the activity of these derivatives



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## Acknowledgments

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Dr Letizia Giampietro

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Prof. Amelia Cataldi

Dr Marialucia Gallorini

Dr Monica Rapino



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