## Electron Transport Chain Electron Carriers

1. FMN (Flavin mononucleotide) is a coenzyme derived from riboflavin (vitamin B<sub>2</sub>). FMN contains a flavin ring system that is also found in FAD. In riboflavin, the ring system is attached to ribitol, the sugar alcohol of ribose. The reduced product is FMNH<sub>2</sub>.

2. Fe-S clusters is the name given to a group of iron-sulfur proteins that contain iron-sulfur clusters embedded in the proteins of the electron transport chain. The clusters contain iron ions, inorganic sulfides, and several cysteine groups. The iron in the clusters is reduced to  $Fe^{2+}$  and oxidized to  $Fe^{3+}$  as electrons accepted and lost.

3. Coenzyme Q (Q, CoQ, Ubiquinone) is derived from quinone, which is a six-carbon cyclic compound with two double bonds and two keto groups attached to a lond carbon chain. Coenzyme Q is reduced when the keto groups of quinone accept hydrogen ions and electrons.

4. Cytochromes (cyt) are proteins that contain an iron ion in a heme group. The different cytochromes are indicated by the letters following the abbreviation of the cytochrome (cyt): cyt b, cyt c, etc. In each cytochrome, the Fe<sup>3+</sup> accepts a single electron to form Fe<sup>2+</sup>, which is oxidized back to Fe<sup>3+</sup> when the electron is passed to the next cytochrome.

 $Fe^{3+} + 1 \Rightarrow Fe^{2+}$ .

