



Figure 2. A simplified diagram of the “Mammalian Stress Mechanism” (MSM). The MSM is analogous to the coagulation cascade, but it incorporates recent research that clarifies the relationships of stress, nervous activity, tissue disruption, tissue repair, hemostasis, and hemodynamic physiology. Sympathetic tone releases VWF from the vascular endothelium to activate the “capillary gate component” of the MSM, shown in red, which is analogous to the “intrinsic pathway” of the coagulation cascade. Parasympathetic tone, shown in green, releases nitric oxide (NO) from the vascular endothelium to open the capillary gate. Tissue damage activates the “tissue disruption pathway,” shown in blue, that is analogous to the “extrinsic pathway” of the coagulation cascade, to enable tissue repair.