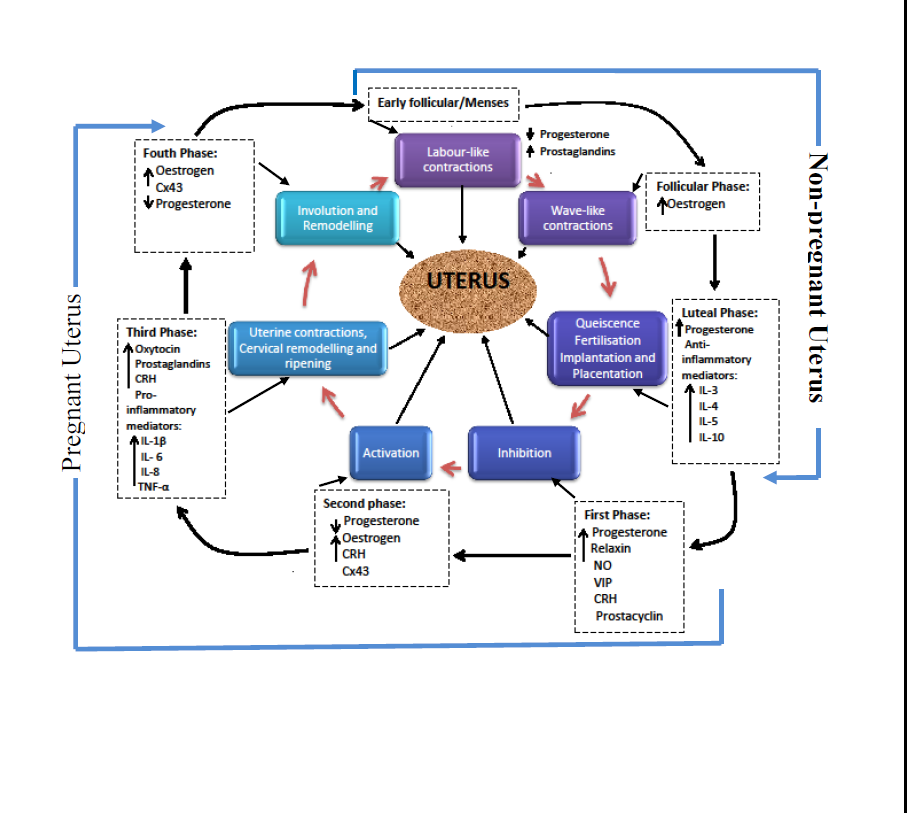


**Figure 1:** Probable causes and mechanisms of preterm labour(Behrman, R. E., & Butler, 2007; Cogswell et al., 2003; Thoene et al., 2020)



**Figure 2: Physiological uterine activity during the non-pregnant state, pregnancy and parturition**(Fanchin et al., 2009; Gestel et al., 2003; Rabotti et al., 2015; Sammali et al., 2018; Sanborn, 2001; Terzidou, 2007; Vannuccini et al., 2016; Ziegler et al., 2001)

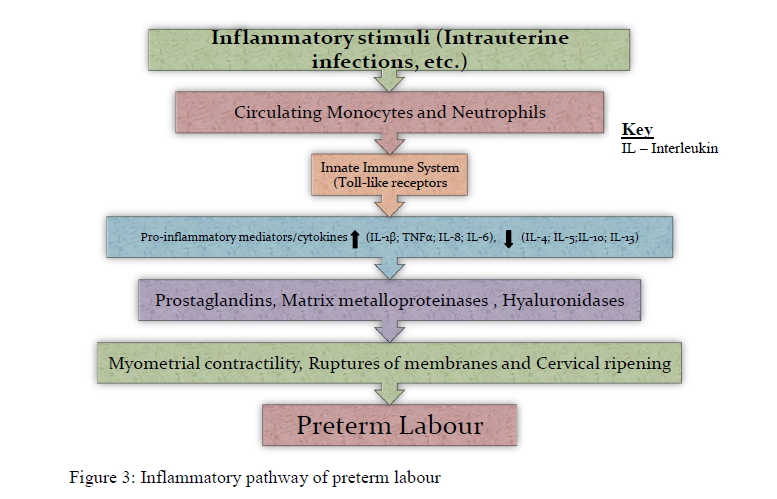
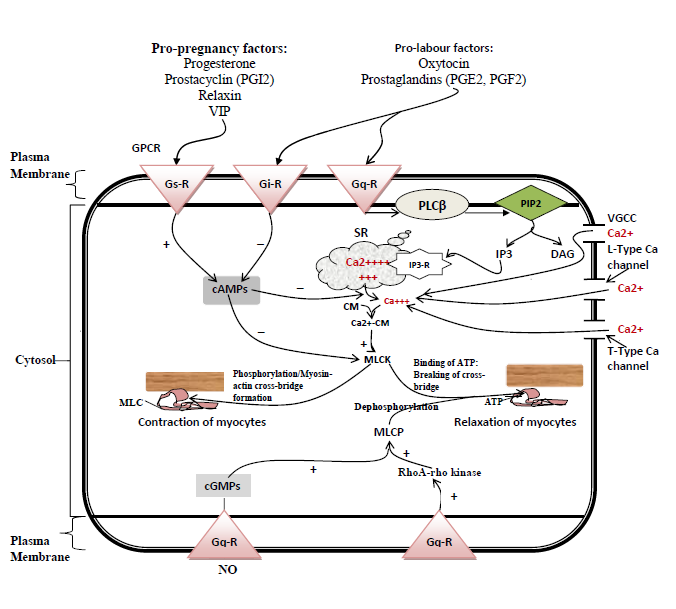


Figure 3: Inflammatory pathway of preterm labour (Boyle et al., 2017; John R. Challis, PhD, Charles J. Lockwood, MD, Leslie Myatt, PhD & Jane E. Norman, MD, Jerome F. Strauss III, MD, PhD, and Felice Petraglia, 2009; Robert Visse, 2003; Wei et al., 2010)



**Figure 4**: **Physiological pathways and biological mechanisms of uterine activity**

(Aguilar & Mitchell, 2010)