

Introduction

The immune system

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yz4IFeqJPdU&feature=related>

<http://www.aimeserver.com/studiodaily/harvard/harvard.swf>



What is Immunity?

Immunitas: (from Latin) exemption from military service, civic duties and prosecution

Protection from infection

Immune response = reaction to a threat (or antigen)

Immune system = cells and molecules leading to protection

What is the immune system for?

To defend against:

- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Fungi
- Parasites

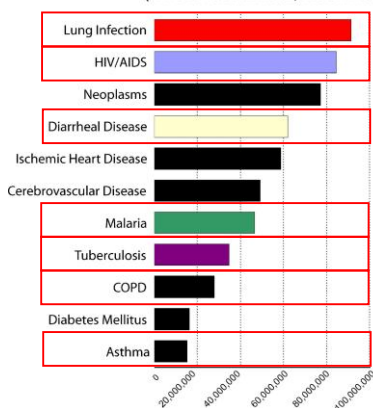


Has to detect and react to *dangerous* things
not the *safe but foreign*

The microbial world

- Seawater has 10^6 bacteria and 10^7 viruses/ml
- Atmosphere contains $\sim 1,000,000,000$ Tonnes of particles
- Indoor air has 400-900 bacteria/m³
- We inhale a potentially lethal pathogen every 7 seconds (10,000/d)
- Our bacteria outnumber our cells 10:1

Global burden of disease
(DALYs lost in 2002, worldwide)



Childhood lung infections:
'A permanent global emergency'
Kim Mulholland
Lancet 2007

Lung Infection—
A Public Health Priority
Mizgerd JP (2006)
PLoS Med 3(2): e76

Modes of Transmission

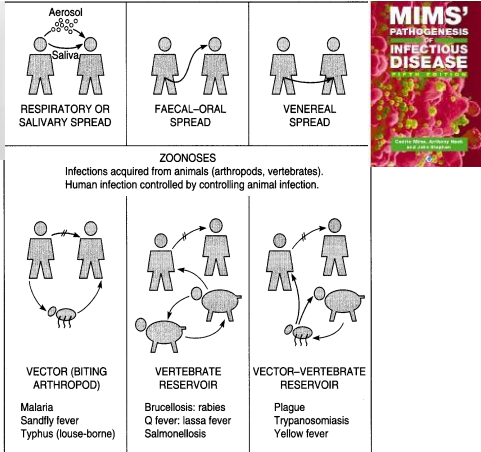


Respiratory

GI tract

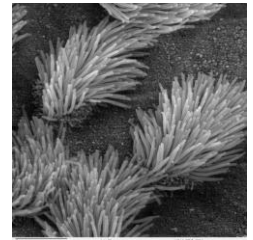


Cedric Mims



Surface defences against infections

- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Mucus
- Cilia
- Rapid cell turnover



Death: the first and last barrier

Dead already



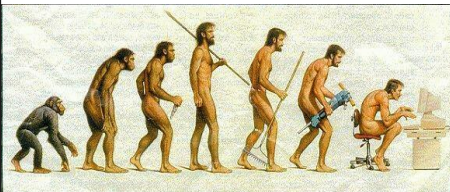
Soon to die

General Surface defences

- **Mechanical:**
Epithelial tight junctions
Skin waterproofed by fatty secretions
Social conditioning (e.g. washing)
- **Chemical:**
Fatty acids (skin)
Enzymes: lysozyme (saliva, sweat and tears), pepsin (gut)
Low pH (stomach, sweat)
Antibacterial peptides (Paneth cells in intestine)
- **Microbiological:**
Normal flora compete for nutrients/attachment sites
Production of antibacterial substances

The sequential actions of the immune system

Pre-infection	Early infection	Late infection
'first line' avoidance smell taste mucus physical barriers surface environment	'second line' phagocytes opsonins some lymphocytes interferons acute phase proteins Toll-like receptors	'specific' T cells antibody



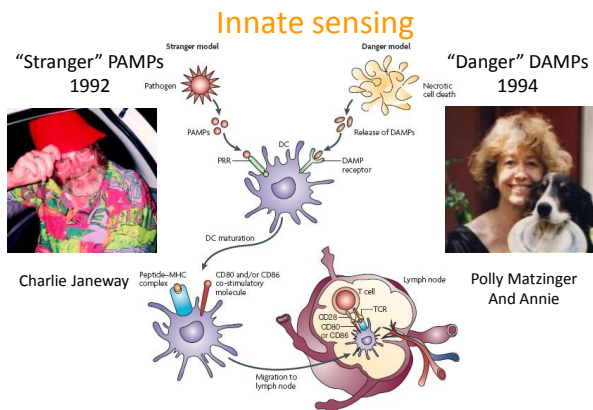
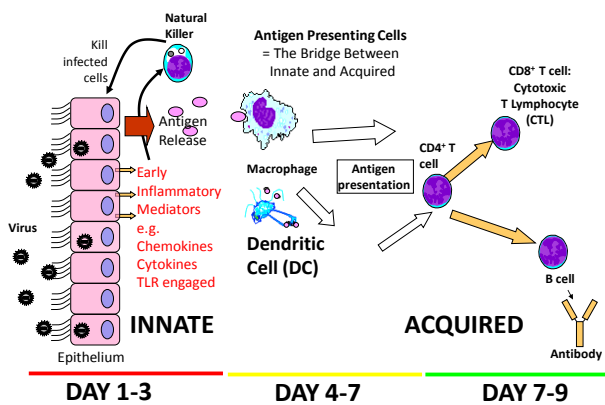
The sequential actions of the immune system

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specificity

breadth

learning



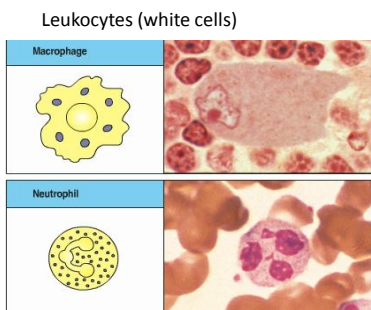
Hajime Kono and Kenneth L. Rock
NATURE REVIEWS | IMMUNOLOGY

VOLUME 8 | APRIL 2008 | 279

Phagocytes

• Cells that engulf invaders

• Antigen is destroyed in intracellular vesicles



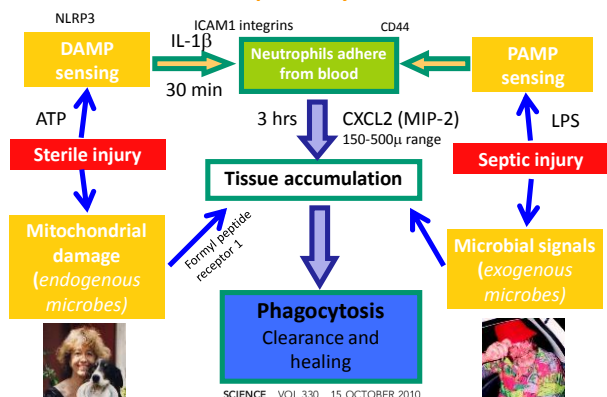
Neutrophil chasing bacteria



From 16mm movie, 1950s by David Rogers, Vanderbilt University

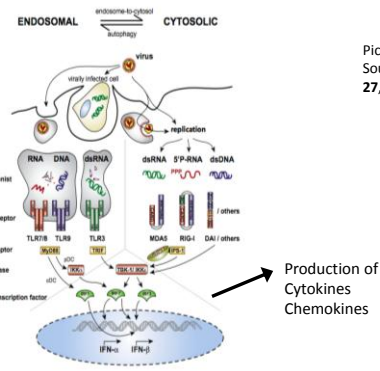
Neutrophil dynamics

10.1126/science.1195491



SCIENCE VOL 330 15 OCTOBER 2010
Spinning disc confocal intravital microscopy

Virus recognition pathways



Pichlmair and Reis e Sousa (2007) *Immunity* 27, 370-383

Interferons

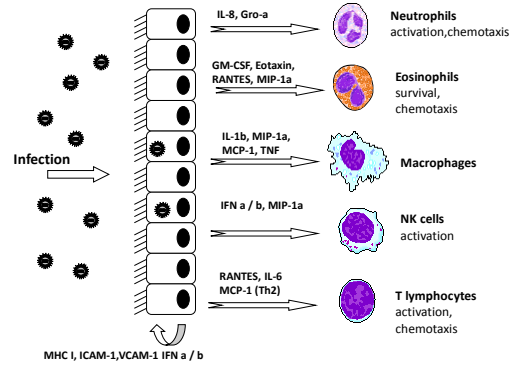
TYPE I/III: $\alpha/\beta/\lambda$

- activates NK cells
- upregulates MHC, Mx proteins
- activates RNase L, PKR
- induces anti-viral state

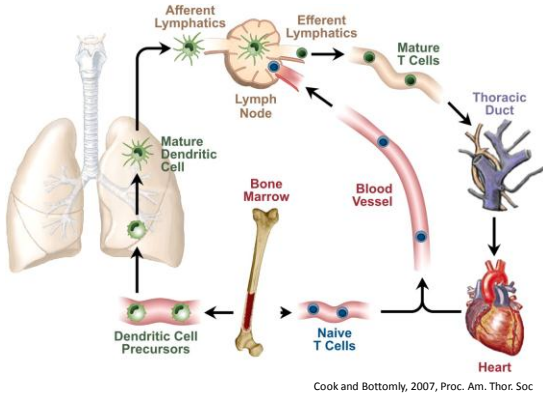
TYPE II: IFN γ

- proinflammatory
- Th1 cytokine
- "immune interferon"

Inflammatory mediators, chemokines and cells in epithelial infection



DC and T cell migration



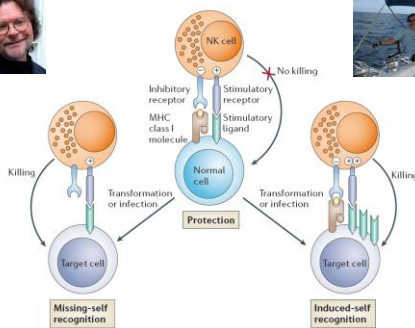
Cook and Bottomly, 2007, Proc. Am. Thor. Soc

Natural Killer Cells

- NK cells kill host cells that are:
 - Infected
 - Transformed
 - 'Stressed'
- Important in viral infections.
 - Viruses evade NK cell killing
 - NK deficiency leads to increased infections
- Important early source of cytokines
- Shape adaptive immune responses



Natural Killer Cell Activation



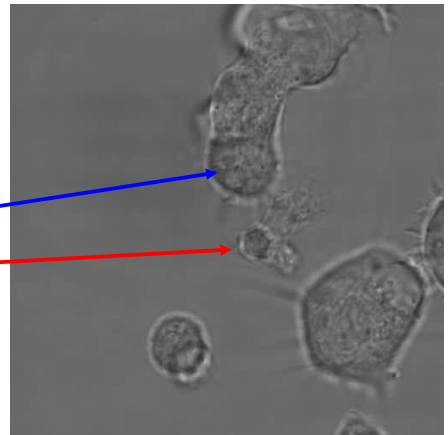
Raulet et al. Nature Reviews Immunology 6, 520-531 (July 2006) |



NK cell killing

Target

NK cell



15x

Fiona Culley, Imperial

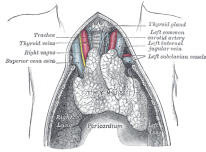
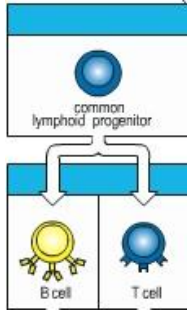
The acquired immune system

Two main types of lymphocyte



Hieronymus Fabricius
(Giolamo Fabrici)
1537-1619
'The Father of Embryology'

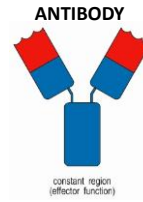
Bone marrow in mammals, Bursa of Fabricius (chickens)



Arise in the bone marrow but mature in the Thymus

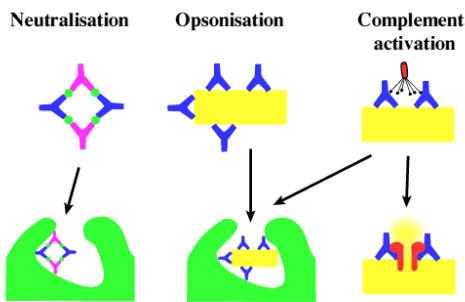
B cells express/crete antibody

- There are 10^{14} potential different antibodies (VDJ combinations)
- Each antibody recognises one specific shape/charge combination
- Each B cell expresses one unique antibody



Georges Kohler & Cesar Milstein. Nature (1975) 256: 495-7

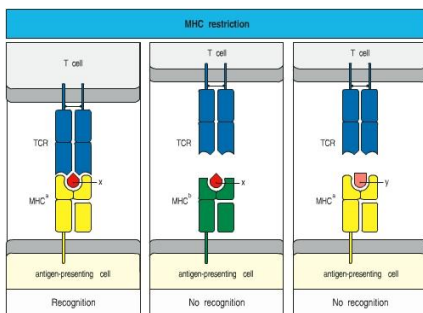
What antibody does



Summary: antibodies

1. Made by B cells
2. Bind antigen
3. Cell membrane bound/secreted
4. Enhances phagocytes (opsonisation)
5. Recruits other toxic molecules/cells

T cells and their receptors (TcR)

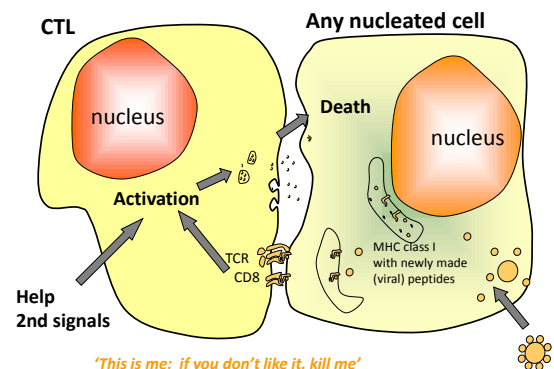


Each T cell expresses one TcR
There are potentially 10^{18} different TcRs
Each TcR sees a specific combination of MHC and peptide at high affinity

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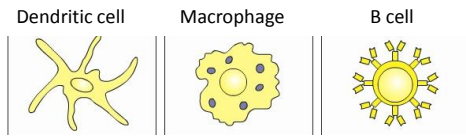
MHC: major histocompatibility complex

The Class I - Cytotoxic T cell system



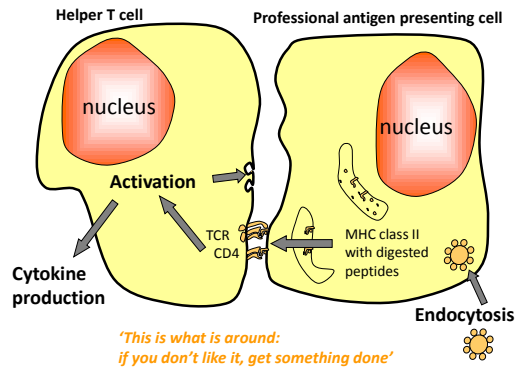
Helper T cells do not recognise native antigen but PROCESSED antigen

Antigen is engulfed by professional antigen presenting cells (APCs) and processed into **peptides**



These cells engulf antigens and **PRESENT** them to T cells

The class II - Helper T cell system



Mucosal defences

1. Mannan binding proteins
2. Antimicrobial peptides
3. Enzymes (e.g. lysozyme)
4. Mucosal lymphocytes
5. Secretory IgA
6. Special antigen sampling
 - Waldeyer's ring
 - Peyer's patches
 - Dendritic cell networks

Balance Tolerance vs. Attack

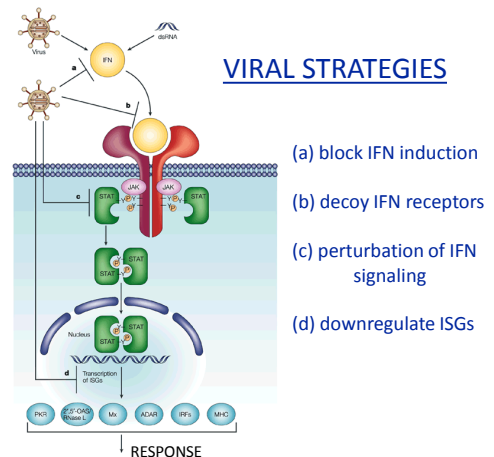
Defences against bacteria

- **Surface defences** (mechanical and chemical)
- **Antibody** opsonisation
- **Complement** (alternative pathway) causing lysis/opsonisation
- **Phagocytosis**
- Release of inflammatory mediators and **acute phase proteins** (also opsonins) *etc.*
- **Fever**

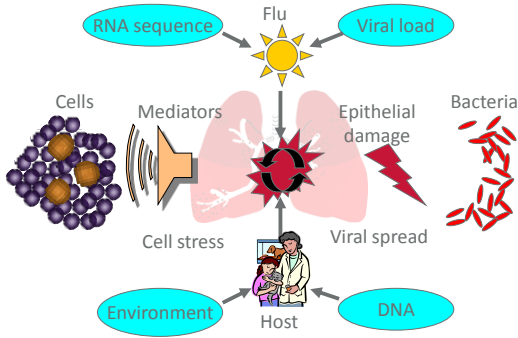
Defences against viruses

- Surface defences
- Interferons
- Inflammatory mediators and acute phase proteins/opsonins *etc.*
- NK cells
- Antibody, complement, ADCC
- T cells

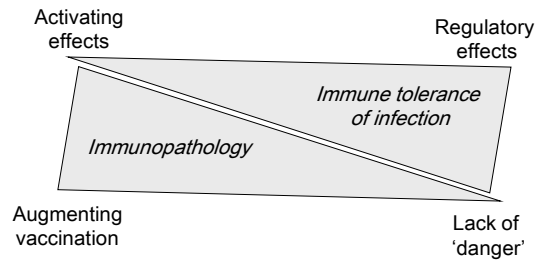
VIRAL STRATEGIES



Flu pathogenesis

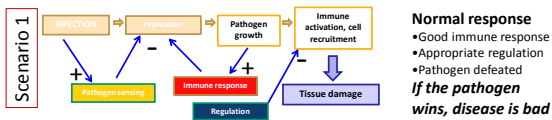


The spectrum of activation and regulation

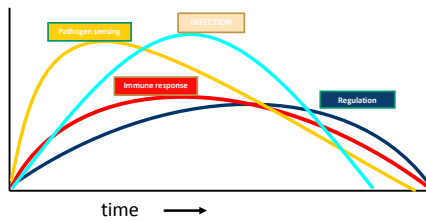


Inflammation is tightly regulated

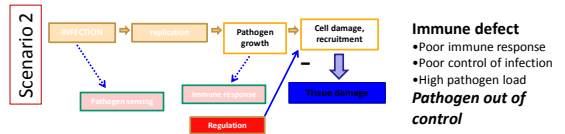
How infection causes disease (1)



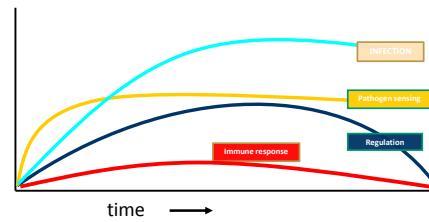
Normal response
 • Good immune response
 • Appropriate regulation
 • Pathogen defeated
If the pathogen wins, disease is bad



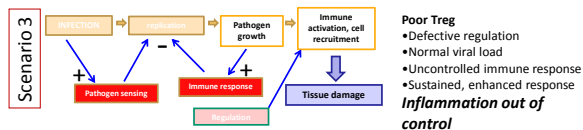
How infection causes disease (2)



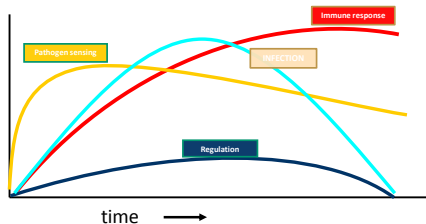
Immune defect
 • Poor immune response
 • Poor control of infection
 • High pathogen load
Pathogen out of control



How infection causes disease (3)



Poor Treg
 • Defective regulation
 • Normal viral load
 • Uncontrolled immune response
 • Sustained, enhanced response
Inflammation out of control



“Three million children die each year in poor countries from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination”

(World Bank, 1999)

Immunity

Win

~ Defence against
infection

Wealth, social stability