

HISTORY- Antibody production

The first evidence of presence of a neutralizing substance in the blood that could counter infections came when [Emil von Behring](#) along with [Kitasato Shibasaburo](#) in 1890 developed effective [serum](#) against diphtheria. This they did by transferring serum produced from animals immunized against diphtheria to animals suffering from it. Transferring the serum thus could cure the infected animals. Behring was awarded the [Nobel Prize](#) for this work in 1901.^[28]

At this time though the chemical nature of what exactly in the blood conferred this protection was not known. In a few decades to follow it could be shown that the protective serum could neutralize and precipitate toxins, and clump bacteria. All these functions were attributed to different substances in the serum, and named accordingly as *antitoxin*, *precipitin* and *agglutinin*.^[17] That all the three substances were one entity ([gamma globulins](#)) was demonstrated by [Elvin A. Kabat](#) in 1939. In the preceding year itself Kabat had demonstrated amazing heterogeneity of antibodies through [ultracentrifugation](#) studies of horses' sera.^[29]

Until this time cell-mediated immunity and humoral immunity were considered to be contending theories to explain effective immune response, but the former lagged behind owing to lack of advanced techniques.^[17] Cell-mediated immunity got an impetus in its recognition and study when in 1942, [Merrill Chase](#) successfully transferred immunity against [tuberculosis](#) between pigs by transferring white blood cells.^{[17][30]}

It was later shown in 1948 by Astrid Fagraeus in her doctoral thesis that the plasma B cells are specifically involved in antibody production.^[31] The role of lymphocytes in mediating both cell-mediated and humoral responses was demonstrated by James Gowans in 1959.



Paul Ehrlich



Sir Frank McFarlane Burnet

In order to account for the wide range of antigens the immune system can recognize, [Paul Ehrlich](#) in 1900 had hypothesized that preexisting "*side chain receptors*" bind a given pathogen, and that this interaction induces the cell exhibiting the receptor to multiply and

produce more copies of the same receptor. This theory, called *the selective theory* was not proven for next five decades, and had been challenged by several *instructional theories* which were based on the notion that an antibody would assume its effective structure by folding around the antigen.^[17] In the late 1950s however, the works of three scientists—[Jeme](#), [Talmage](#) and [Burnet](#) (who largely modified the theory) gave rise to the [clonal selection theory](#), which proved all the elements of Ehrlich's hypothesis except that the specific receptors that could neutralize the agent were soluble and not membrane-bound.^{[17][30]}

The clonal selection theory was proved to be correct when Sir [Gustav Nossal](#) showed that one clone of B cell always produces only one antibody.^[30]

Subsequently the role of MHC in antigen presentation was demonstrated by [Rolf Zinkernagel](#) and [Peter C. Doherty](#) in 1974.

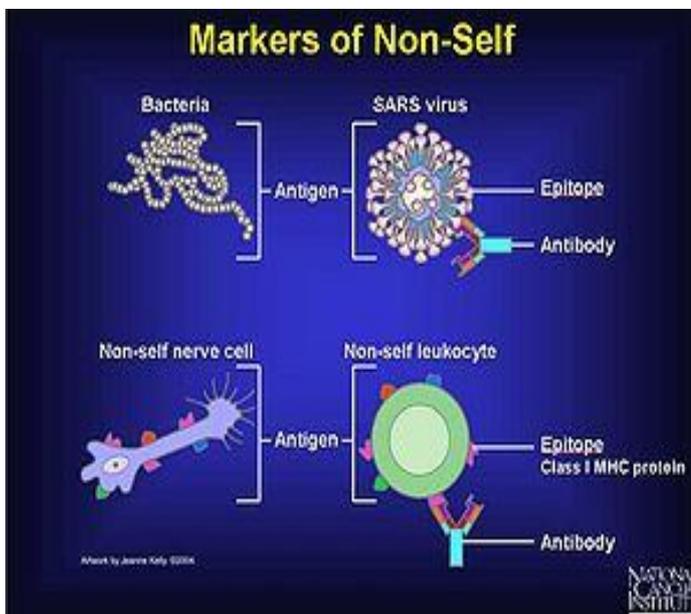
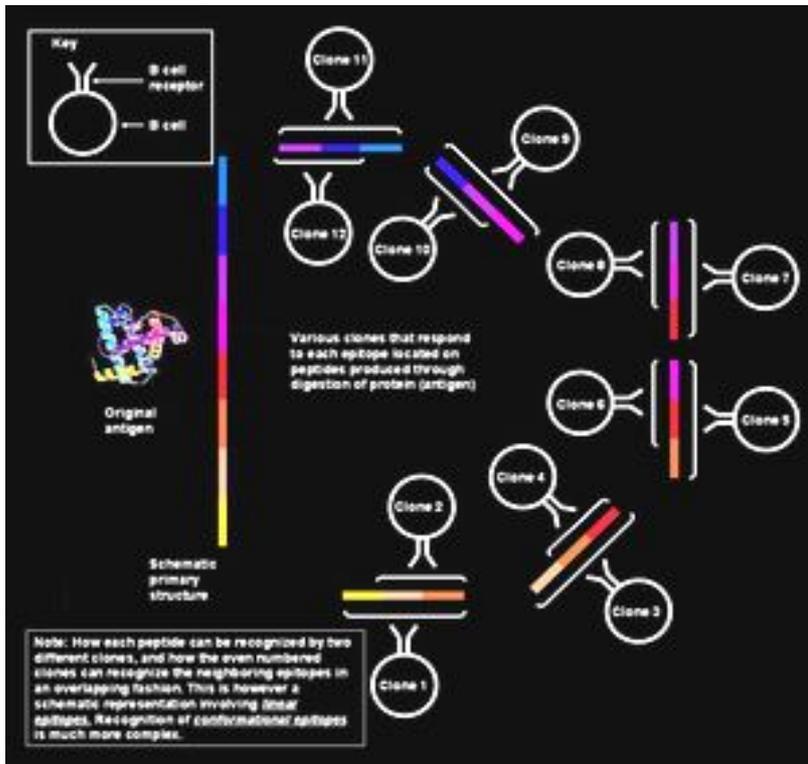
Polyclonal B cell response

Polyclonal B cell response is a natural mode of immune response exhibited by the [adaptive immune system](#) of [mammals](#). It ensures that a single [antigen](#) is recognized and attacked through its overlapping parts, called [epitopes](#), by multiple [clones](#) of [B cell](#).^{[1][2]}

In the course of normal immune response, parts of [pathogens](#) (e.g. [bacteria](#)) are recognized by the immune system as foreign (non-self), and eliminated or effectively neutralized to reduce their potential damage. Such a recognizable substance is called an [antigen](#). The immune system may respond in multiple ways to an antigen; a key feature of this response is the production of [antibodies](#) by B cells (or B lymphocytes) involving an arm of the immune system known as [humoral immunity](#). The antibodies are soluble and do not require direct cell-to-cell contact between the pathogen and the B-cell to function.

Antigens can be large and complex substances, and any single antibody can only bind to a small, specific area on the antigen. Consequently, an effective immune response often involves the production of many different antibodies by many different B cells against the *same* antigen. Hence the term "polyclonal", which derives from the words *poly*, meaning *many*, and *clones* ("Klon"=Greek for sprout or twig);^{[3][4][5]} a clone is a group of cells arising from a common "mother" cell. The antibodies thus produced in a polyclonal response are known as [polyclonal antibodies](#). The [heterogeneous](#) polyclonal antibodies are distinct from [monoclonal antibody](#) molecules, which are identical and react against a single antigen only, i.e., are more specific.

Although the polyclonal response confers advantages on the immune system, in particular, greater probability of reacting against pathogens, it also increases chances of developing certain autoimmune diseases resulting from the reaction of the immune system against native molecules produced within the host.



Humoral response to infection

Diseases which can be transmitted from one organism to another are known as [infectious diseases](#), and the causative biological agent involved is known as a [pathogen](#). The process by which the pathogen is introduced into the body is known as [inoculation](#),^{[note 1][6]} and the organism it affects is known as a [biological host](#). When the pathogen establishes itself in a step known as [colonization](#),^[7] it can result in an [infection](#),^[7] consequently harming the host directly or through the harmful substances called [toxins](#) it can produce.^[7] This results in the various [symptoms](#) and [signs](#) characteristic of an infectious disease like [pneumonia](#) or [diphtheria](#).

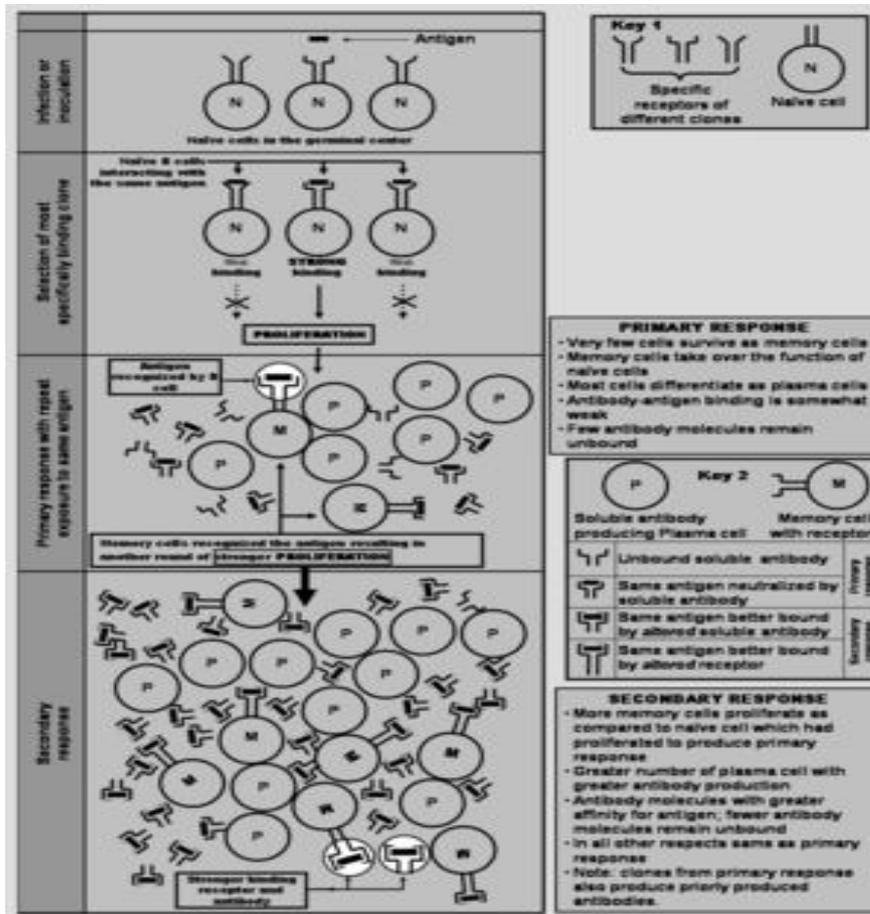
Countering the various infectious diseases is very important for the survival of the [susceptible](#) organism, in particular, and the species, in general. This is achieved by the host by eliminating the pathogen and its toxins or rendering them nonfunctional. The collection of various [cells](#), [tissues](#) and [organs](#) that specializes in protecting the body against infections is known as the [immune system](#). The immune system accomplishes this through direct contact of certain [white blood cells](#) with the invading pathogen involving an arm of the immune system known as the [cell-mediated immunity](#), or by producing substances that move to sites *distant* from where they are produced, "seek" the disease-causing cells and toxins by specifically^[note 2] binding with them, and neutralize them in the process—known as the [humoral arm](#) of the immune system. Such substances are known as soluble antibodies and perform important functions in countering infections.

Types of [White blood cells](#) (WBCs)



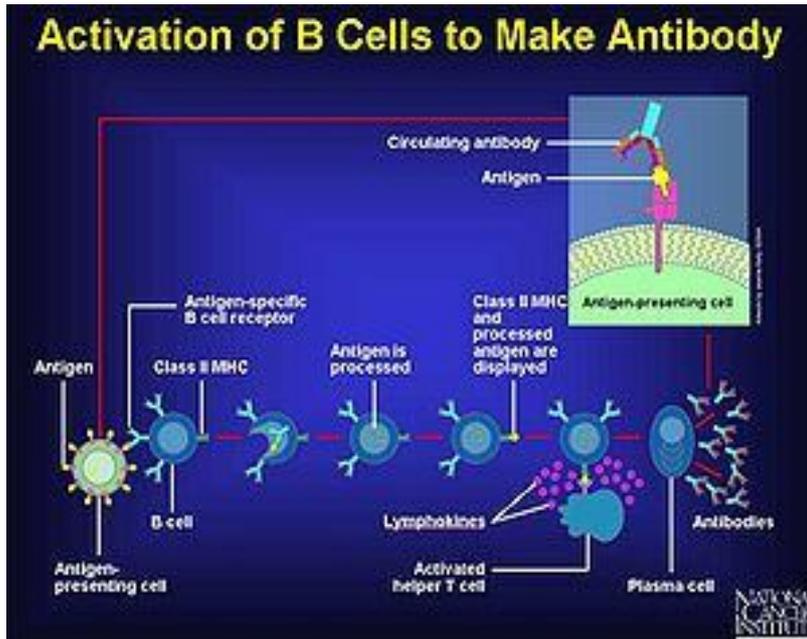
Neutrophil Eosinophil Basophil Lymphocyte Monocyte Macrophage

B cell response



Antibodies serve various [functions](#) in protecting the host against the pathogen. Their soluble forms which carry out these functions are produced by [plasma B cells](#), a type of white blood cell. This production is tightly regulated and requires the activation of B cells by activated [T cells](#) (another type of white blood cell), which is a sequential procedure. The major steps involved are:^[9]

- Specific or nonspecific recognition of the pathogen (because of its antigens) with its subsequent engulfing by B cells or [macrophages](#). This activates the B cell only *partially*.
- [Antigen processing](#).
- [Antigen presentation](#).
- Activation of the [T helper cells](#) by [antigen-presenting cells](#).
- [Costimulation](#) of the B cell by *activated* T cell resulting in its *complete* activation.
- [Proliferation](#)^[note 4] of B cells with resultant production of soluble antibodies.



Steps in production of antibodies by B cells: 1. Antigen is recognized and engulfed by B cell 2. Antigen is processed 3. Processed antigen is presented on B cell surface 4. B cell and T cell mutually activate each other 5. B cells differentiate into plasma cells to produce soluble antibodies

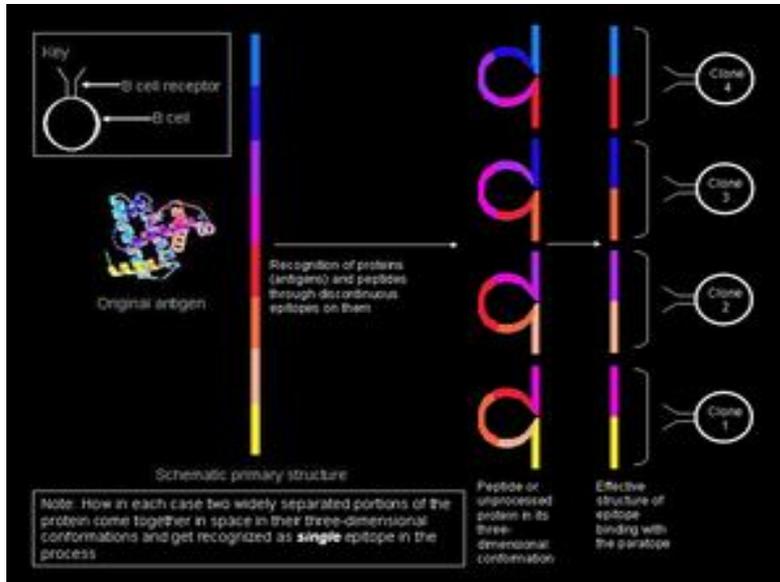
Recognition of pathogens

Molecular recognition

Pathogens synthesize [proteins](#) that can serve as "*recognizable*" antigens; they may express the molecules on their surface or release them into the surroundings (body fluids). What makes these substances recognizable is that they bind very specifically and somewhat strongly to certain host proteins called [antibodies](#). The same antibodies can be anchored to the surface of cells of the immune system, in which case they serve as [receptors](#), or they can be secreted in the blood, known as soluble antibodies. On a molecular scale, the proteins are relatively large, so they cannot be recognized as a whole; instead, their segments, called [epitopes](#), can be recognized.^[1] An epitope comes in contact with a very small region (of 15–22 amino acids) of the antibody molecule; this region is known as the [paratope](#)

In the immune system, membrane-bound antibodies are the [B cell receptor](#) (BCR). Also, while the T cell receptor is not biochemically classified as an antibody, it serves a similar function in that it specifically binds to epitopes complexed with [major histocompatibility complex](#) (MHC) molecules.^{[note 5][10]} The binding between a paratope and its corresponding antigen is very specific, owing to its structure, and is guided by various [noncovalent bonds](#), not unlike the pairing of other types of [ligands](#) (any atom, ion or molecule that binds with any receptor with at least some degree of *specificity* and *strength*). The specificity of binding does not arise out of a rigid [lock and key](#) type of

interaction, but rather requires both the paratope and the epitope to undergo slight conformational changes in each other's presence.^[11]



Recognition of conformational epitopes by B cells. Segments widely separated in the primary structure have come in contact in the three dimensional tertiary structure forming part of the same epitope^[11]

Specific recognition of epitope by B cells

In figure above, the various segments that form the epitope have been shown to be continuously collinear, meaning that they have been shown as sequential; however, for the situation being discussed here (i.e., the antigen recognition by the B cell), this explanation is too simplistic. Such epitopes are known as *sequential* or *linear epitopes*, as all the amino acids on them are in the same sequence (line). This mode of recognition is possible only when the peptide is small (about six to eight amino acids long),^[11] and is employed by the T cells (T lymphocytes).

However, the B memory/naive cells recognize intact proteins present on the pathogen surface.^[note 6] In this situation, the protein in its *tertiary structure* is so greatly folded that some loops of amino acids come to lie in the interior of the protein, and the segments that flank them may lie on the surface. The paratope on the B cell receptor comes in contact only with those amino acids that lie on the *surface* of the protein. The surface amino acids may actually be discontinuous in the protein's *primary structure*, but get *juxtaposed* owing to the complex protein folding patterns (as in the adjoining figure). Such epitopes are known as *conformational* epitopes and tend to be longer (15–22 amino acid residues) than the linear epitopes.^[11] Likewise, the antibodies produced by the plasma cells belonging to the same clone would bind to the same conformational epitopes on the pathogen proteins.^{[12][13][14][15]}

The binding of a specific antigen with corresponding BCR molecules results in increased production of the MHC-II molecules. This assumes significance as the same does not happen when the same antigen would be internalized by a relatively nonspecific process called [pinocytosis](#), in which the antigen with the surrounding fluid is "drunk" as a small vesicle by the B cell.^[16] Hence, such an antigen is known as a *nonspecific antigen* and does not lead to activation of the B cell, or subsequent production of antibodies against it.

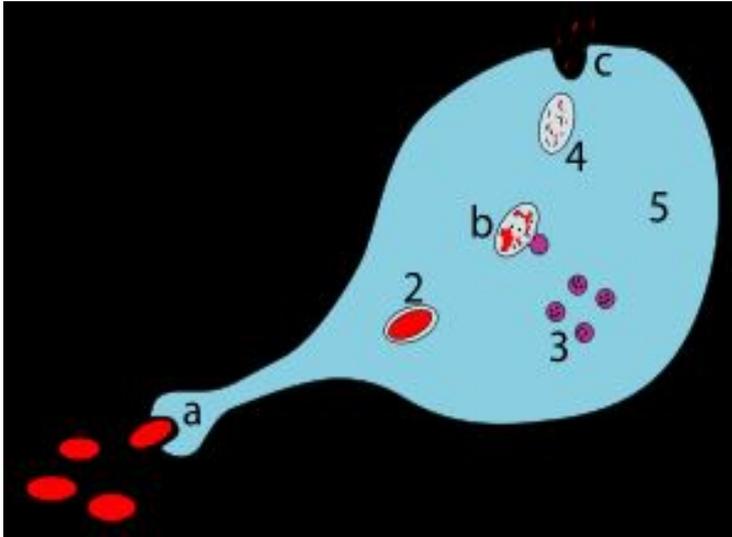
Nonspecific recognition by macrophages

[Macrophages](#) and [related cells](#) employ a different mechanism to recognize the pathogen. Their receptors recognize certain [motifs](#) present on the invading pathogen that are very *unlikely* to be present on a host cell. Such repeating motifs are recognized by [pattern recognition receptors \(PRRs\)](#) like the [Toll-like receptors \(TLRs\)](#) expressed by the macrophages.^{[1][17]} Since the same receptor could bind to a given motif present on surfaces of widely disparate [microorganisms](#), this mode of recognition is relatively nonspecific, and constitutes an [innate immune response](#).

Antigen processing

After recognizing an antigen, an [antigen presenting cell](#) such as the [macrophage](#) or B lymphocyte engulfs it completely by a process called [phagocytosis](#). The engulfed particle, along with some material surrounding it, forms the endocytic vesicle (the [phagosome](#)), which fuses with [lysosomes](#). Within the lysosome, the antigen is broken down into smaller pieces called [peptides](#) by [proteases \(enzymes\)](#) that degrade larger proteins). The individual peptides are then complexed with major histocompatibility complex class II ([MHC class II](#)) molecules located in the lysosome – this method of "handling" the antigen is known as the [exogenous or endocytic pathway of antigen processing](#) in contrast to the *endogenous or cytosolic pathway*,^{[17][18][19]} which complexes the *abnormal* proteins produced within the cell (e.g. under the influence of a [viral infection](#) or in a [tumor](#) cell) with [MHC class I](#) molecules.

An alternate pathway of endocytic processing had also been demonstrated wherein certain proteins like [fibrinogen](#) and [myoglobin](#) can bind as a whole to MHC-II molecules after they are [denatured](#) and their [disulfide bonds](#) are [reduced](#) (breaking the bond by adding [hydrogen atoms](#) across it). The proteases then degrade the exposed regions of the protein-MHC II-complex.



Antigen presentation

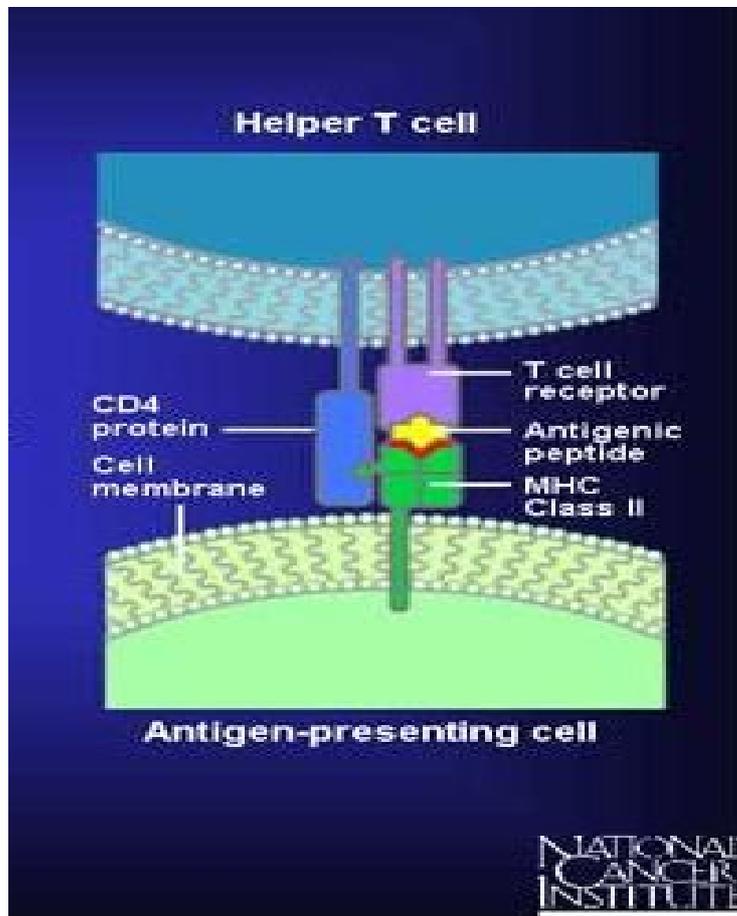
Antigen presentation and major histocompatibility complex

After the processed antigen (peptide) is complexed to the MHC molecule, they both migrate together to the cell membrane, where they are exhibited (elaborated) as a complex that can be recognized by the CD 4+ (T helper cell) – a type of white blood cell. This is known as *antigen presentation*. However, the epitopes (conformational epitopes) that are recognized by the B cell prior to their digestion may not be the same as that presented to the T helper cell. Additionally, a B cell may present different peptides complexed to different MHC-II molecules.^[16]

T helper cell stimulation

The CD 4+ cells through their T cell receptor-CD3 complex recognize the epitope-bound MHC II molecules on the surface of the antigen presenting cells, and get 'activated'. Upon this activation, these T cells proliferate and differentiate into T_h2 cells.^{[16][21]} This makes them produce soluble chemical signals that promote their own survival. However, another important function that they carry out is the stimulation of B cell by establishing *direct* physical contact with them.

Costimulation of B cell by activated T helper cell



Complete stimulation of T helper cells requires the [B7](#) molecule present on the antigen presenting cell to bind with [CD28](#) molecule present on the T cell surface (in close proximity with the T cell receptor).^[10] Likewise, a second interaction between the CD40 ligand or CD154 ([CD40L](#)) present on T cell surface and [CD40](#) present on B cell surface, is also necessary.^[21] The same interactions that stimulate the T helper cell also stimulate the B cell, hence the term *costimulation*. The entire mechanism ensures that an activated T cell only stimulates a B cell that recognizes the antigen containing the *same* epitope as recognized by the T cell receptor of the "costimulating" T helper cell. The B cell gets stimulated, apart from the direct costimulation, by certain growth factors, viz., [interleukins 2, 4, 5, and 6](#) in a [paracrine](#) fashion. These factors are usually produced by the newly activated T helper cell.^[22] However, this activation occurs only after the B cell receptor present on a [memory](#) or a [naive](#) B cell itself would have bound to the corresponding epitope, without which the initiating steps of phagocytosis and antigen processing would not have occurred

Proliferation and differentiation of B cell.

A naive (or *inexperienced*) B cell is one which belongs to a clone which has never encountered the epitope to which it is specific. In contrast, a memory B cell is one which derives from an activated naive or memory B cell. The activation of a naive or a memory B cell is followed by a manifold proliferation of that particular B cell, most of the progeny of which terminally differentiate into [plasma B cells](#),^[note 8] the rest survive as memory B cells. So, when the naive cells belonging to a particular clone encounter their specific antigen to give rise to the plasma cells, and also leave a few memory cells, this is known as the *primary immune response*. In the course of proliferation of this clone, the B cell receptor [genes](#) can undergo frequent (one in every *two* cell divisions)^[8] [mutations](#) in the genes coding for paratopes of antibodies. These frequent mutations are termed [somatic hypermutation](#). Each such mutation alters the epitope-binding ability of the paratope slightly, creating new clones of B cells in the process. Some of the newly created paratopes bind *more strongly* to the same epitope (leading to the [selection](#) of the clones possessing them), which is known as [affinity maturation](#).^{[note 9][8][21]} Other paratopes bind better to epitopes that are *slightly* different from the original epitope that had stimulated proliferation. Variations in the epitope structure are also usually produced by mutations in the genes of pathogen coding for their antigen. Somatic hypermutation, thus, makes the B cell receptors and the soluble antibodies in subsequent encounters with antigens, more inclusive in their antigen recognition potential of *altered* epitopes, apart from bestowing greater specificity for the antigen that induced proliferation in the first place. When the memory cells get stimulated by the antigen to produce plasma cells (just like in the clone's primary response), and leave even more memory cells in the process, this is known as a [secondary immune response](#),^[21] which translates into greater numbers of plasma cells and faster rate of antibody production lasting for longer periods. The memory B cells produced as a part of secondary response recognize the corresponding antigen faster and bind more strongly with it (i.e., greater affinity of binding) owing to affinity maturation. The soluble antibodies produced by the clone show a similar enhancement in antigen binding.^[21]

Basis of polyclonality

Responses are polyclonal in nature as each clone somewhat specializes in producing antibodies against a given epitope, and because, each antigen contains multiple epitopes, each of which in turn can be recognized by more than one clone of B cells. But, to be able to react to innumerable antigens, as well as, multiple constituent epitopes, the immune system requires the ability to recognize a very great number of epitopes in all, i.e., there should be a great diversity of B cell clones.

Clonality of B cells

[Memory](#) and naive B cells normally exist in relatively small numbers. As the body needs to be able to respond to a large number of potential pathogens, it maintains a pool of B cells with a wide range of specificities.^[17] Consequently, while there is almost always at least one B (naive or memory) cell capable of responding to any given epitope (of all that

the immune system can react against), there are very few exact duplicates. However, when a single B cell encounters an antigen to which it can bind, it can proliferate very rapidly.^[21] Such a group of cells with identical specificity towards the epitope is known as a *clone*, and is derived from a common "mother" cell. All the "daughter" B cells match the original "mother" cell in their epitope specificity, and they secrete antibodies with identical paratopes. So, in this context, a polyclonal response is one in which *multiple clones of B cells react to the same antigen*.

Single antigen contains multiple overlapping epitopes



Blind Monks examining an elephant. An [allegory](#) for the polyclonal response: Each clone or antibody recognizes different parts of a single, larger antigen

A single antigen can be thought of as a sequence of multiple overlapping epitopes. Many unique B cell clones may be able to bind to the individual epitopes. This imparts even greater multiplicity to the overall response.^[3] All of these B cells can become activated and produce large colonies of plasma cell clones, each of which can secrete up to 1000 antibody molecules against each epitope per second.^[21]

Multiple clones recognize single epitope

In addition to different B cells reacting to *different* epitopes on the same antigen, B cells belonging to different clones may also be able to react to the *same* epitope. An epitope that can be attacked by many different B cells is said to be highly *immunogenic*. In these cases, the [binding affinities](#) for respective epitope-paratope pairs vary, with some B cell clones producing antibodies that bind strongly to the epitope, and others producing antibodies that bind weakly.^[1]

Clonal selection

The clones that bind to a particular epitope with greater strength are more likely to be *selected* for further proliferation in the germinal centers of the follicles in various lymphoid tissues like the [lymph nodes](#). This is not unlike [natural selection](#): clones are selected for their fitness to attack the epitopes (strength of binding) on the encountered pathogen.^[23] What makes the analogy even stronger is that the B lymphocytes have to compete with each other for signals that promote their survival in the germinal centers.

Diversity of B cell clones

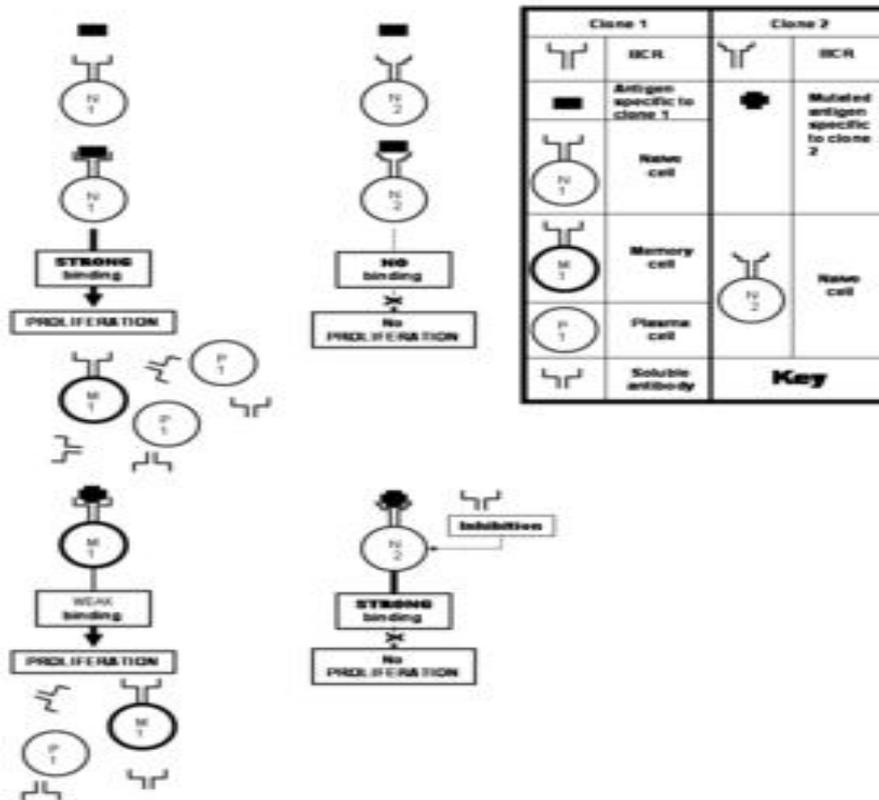
Although there are many diverse pathogens, many of which are constantly mutating, it is a surprise that a majority of individuals remain free of infections. Thus, maintenance of health requires the body to recognize all pathogens (antigens they present or produce) likely to exist. This is achieved by maintaining a pool of immensely large (about 10^9) clones of B cells, each of which reacts against a specific epitope by recognizing and producing antibodies against it. However, at any given time very few clones actually remain receptive to their specific epitope. Thus, approximately 10^7 different epitopes can be recognized by all the B cell clones combined.^[21] Moreover, in a lifetime, an individual usually requires the generation of antibodies against very few antigens in comparison with the number that the body can recognize and respond against.^[21]

Significance of the phenomenon

Increased probability of recognizing any antigen

If an antigen can be recognized by more than one component of its structure, it is less likely to be "missed" by the immune system.^[note 10] Mutation of pathogenic organisms can result in modification of antigen—and, hence, epitope—structure. If the immune system "remembers" what the other epitopes look like, the antigen, and the organism, will still be recognized and subjected to the body's immune response. Thus, the polyclonal response widens the range of pathogens that can be recognized

Limitation of immune system against rapidly mutating viruses



The clone 1 that got stimulated by first antigen gets stimulated by second antigen, too, which best binds with naive cell of clone 2. However, antibodies produced by plasma cells of clone 1 inhibit the proliferation of clone 2.

Original antigenic sin

Many viruses undergo frequent [mutations](#) that result in changes in amino acid composition of their important proteins. Epitopes located on the protein may also undergo alterations in the process. Such an altered epitope binds less strongly with the antibodies specific to the unaltered epitope that would have stimulated the immune system. This is unfortunate because somatic hypermutation does give rise to clones capable of producing soluble antibodies that would have bound the altered epitope avidly enough to neutralize it. But these clones would consist of naive cells which are not allowed to proliferate by the weakly binding antibodies produced by the priorly stimulated clone. This doctrine is known as the [original antigenic sin](#).^[21] This phenomenon comes into play particularly in immune responses against [influenza](#), [dengue](#) and [HIV](#) viruses.^[25] This limitation, however, is not imposed by the phenomenon of

polyclonal response, but rather, *against it* by an immune response that is biased in favor of experienced memory cells against the "novice" naive cells.

Increased chances of autoimmune reactions

In [autoimmunity](#) the immune system wrongly recognizes certain native molecules in the body as foreign (*self-antigen*), and mounts an immune response against them. Since these native molecules, as normal parts of the body, will naturally always exist in the body, the attacks against them can get stronger over time (akin to secondary immune response). Moreover, many organisms exhibit [molecular mimicry](#), which involves showing those antigens on their surface that are antigenically similar to the host proteins. This has two possible consequences: first, either the organism will be spared as a self antigen; or secondly, that the antibodies produced against it will also bind to the mimicked native proteins. The antibodies will attack the self-antigens and the tissues harboring them by activating various mechanisms like the complement activation and [antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity](#). Hence, the wider the range of antibody-specificities, greater the chance that one or the other will react against self-antigens (native molecules of the body).

Difficulty in producing monoclonal antibodies

[Monoclonal antibodies](#) are structurally identical immunoglobulin molecules with identical epitope-specificity (all of them bind with the same epitope with same affinity) as against their polyclonal counterparts which have varying affinities for the same epitope. They are usually not produced in a natural immune response, but only in diseased states like [multiple myeloma](#), or through specialized laboratory techniques. Because of their specificity, monoclonal antibodies are used in certain applications to quantify or detect the presence of substances (which act as antigen for the monoclonal antibodies), and for targeting individual cells (e.g. cancer cells). Monoclonal antibodies find use in various diagnostic modalities (see: [western blot](#) and [immunofluorescence](#)) and [therapies](#)—particularly of cancer and diseases with autoimmune component. But, since virtually all responses in nature are polyclonal, it makes production of immensely useful monoclonal antibodies [less straightforward](#).

NOTES

1. [^] The term "*inoculation*" is usually used in context of [active immunization](#), i.e., deliberately introducing the antigenic substance into the host's body. But in many discussions of infectious diseases, it is not uncommon to use the term to imply a spontaneous (that is, without human intervention) event resulting in introduction of the causative organism into the body, say ingesting water contaminated with [Salmonella typhi](#)—the causative organism for [typhoid fever](#). In such cases the causative organism itself is known as the *inoculum*, and the number of organisms introduced as the "dose of inoculum".
2. [^] *Specificity* implies that two different pathogens will be actually viewed as two distinct entities, and countered by different antibody molecules.

3. [^] Actions of antibodies:
 - Coating the pathogen, preventing it from adhering to the host cell, and thus preventing colonization
 - Precipitating (making the particles "sink" by attaching to them) the soluble antigens and promoting their clearance by other cells of immune system from the various tissues and blood
 - Coating the microorganisms to attract cells that can engulf the pathogen. This is known as opsonization. Thus the antibody acts as an *opsonin*. The process of engulfing is known as phagocytosis (literally, *cell eating*)
 - Activating the complement system, which most importantly pokes holes into the pathogen's outer covering (its cell membrane), killing it in the process
 - Marking up host cells infected by viruses for destruction in a process known as Antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC)
4. [^] Proliferation in this context means multiplication by cell division and differentiation
5. [^] The major histocompatibility complex is a gene region on the DNA that codes for the synthesis of Major histocompatibility class I molecule, Major histocompatibility class II molecule and other proteins involved in the function of complement system (MHC class III). The first two products are important in antigen presentation. MHC-compatibility is a major consideration in organ transplantation, and in humans is also known as the human leukocyte antigen (HLA).
6. [^] Here, *intact* implies that the undigested protein is recognized, and *not* that the paratope on B cell receptor comes in contact with the *whole* protein structure at the same time; the paratope will still contact only a restricted portion of the antigen exposed on its surface.
7. [^] There are many types of white blood cells. The common way of classifying them is according to their appearance under the light microscope after they are stained by chemical dyes. But with advancing technology newer methods of classification has emerged. One of the methods employs the use of monoclonal antibodies, which can bind specifically to each type of cell. Moreover, the same type of white blood cell would express molecules typical to it on its cell membrane at various stages of development. The monoclonal antibodies that can specifically bind with a particular surface molecule would be regarded as *one* cluster of differentiation (CD). Any monoclonal antibody or group of monoclonal antibodies that does not react with known surface molecules of lymphocytes, but rather to a yet-unrecognized surface molecule would be clubbed as a *new* cluster of differentiation and numbered accordingly. Each cluster of differentiation is abbreviated as "CD", and followed by a number (usually indicating the order of discovery). So, a cell possessing a surface molecule (called ligand) that binds specifically to cluster of differentiation 4 would be known as *CD4+ cell*. Likewise, a *CD8+ cell* is one that would possess the CD8 ligand and bind to CD8 monoclonal antibodies.

8. [^] [The plasma cells secrete antibodies that bind to the *same* structure that had stimulated the B cell in the first place by binding to its B cell receptor.](#)
9. [^] [Affinity roughly translates as *attraction* from Latin. See also: \[Definition of Affinity from Online Etymology Dictionary\]\(#\) and \[Definition of Affinity from TheFreeDictionary by Farlex\]\(#\)](#)
10. [^] [Analogically, if in a crowded place, one is supposed to recognize a person, it is better to know as many physical features as possible. If you know the person only by the hairstyle, there is a chance of overlooking the person if that changes. Whereas, if apart from the hairstyle, if you also happen to know the facial features and what the person will wear on a particular day, it becomes much more unlikely that you will miss that person.](#)

References

1. [^] [^{a b c d e f g h i} Goldsby, Richard; Kindt, TJ; Osborne, BA; Janis Kuby \(2003\). "Antigens \(Chapter 3\)". *Immunology* \(Fifth ed.\). New York: W. H. Freeman and Company. pp. 57–75. ISBN 0-07167-4947-5.](#)
2. [^] ["Definition of Polyclonal from MedicineNet.com". Webster's New World Medical Dictionary. <http://www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=20127>. Retrieved 2008-05-03.](#)
3. [^] [^{a b} Frank, Steven A. \(2002\). "\[Specificity and Cross-Reactivity \\(Chapter 4\\)\]\(#\)". *Immunology and Evolution of Infectious Disease*. Princeton University. pp. 33–56. ISBN 0-0691-09595-7. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=infdis&part=A22#A23>. Retrieved 2008-06-23.](#)
4. [^] ["Etymology of "clone"". Online etymology dictionary. <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?search=clone&searchmode=none>. Retrieved 2008-06-26.](#)
5. [^] [Bansal, R.K. \(2005\). "\[Reproductive Cloning-An Act Of Human Rights Violation\]\(#\)". *Journal of Indian Association of Forensic Medicine* \(Indian Association of Forensic Medicine\) 27 \(3\): 971–973. <http://209.85.175.104/search?q=cache:hYkYveFNZEgJ:medind.nic.in/jal/t05/i3/jalt05i3p180.pdf+Klon+clone+sprout&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=8&gl=in&client=firefox-a>. Retrieved 2008-06-23.](#)
6. [^] ["Definition of *inoculation*". TheFreeDictionary.com \(citing Dorland's Medical Dictionary for Health Consumers. © 2007 by Saunders, an imprint of Elsevier, Inc.\). <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/inoculation>. Retrieved 2008-06-10.](#)
7. [^] [^{a b c} Pier, Gerald B. \(2005\) \[1945\]. "Molecular mechanisms of microbial pathogenesis \(Chapter 105\)". in Kasper, Braunwald, Fauci, Hauser, Longo, Jameson. *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*. 1 \(Sixteenth ed.\). McGraw-Hill. pp. 700. ISBN 007-123983-9.](#)
8. [^] [^{a b c d e} Goldsby, et al.. "Organization and Expression of Immunoglobulin Genes \(Chapter 5\)". *Immunology* \(Fifth ed.\). New York. pp. 105–136.](#)

9. ^ Nairn, Roderick (2004) [1954]. "Immunology (Chapter 8)". in Geo F. Brooks, Janet S. Butel and Stephen A. Morse. *Jawetz, Melnick, & Adelberg's Medical Microbiology* (Twenty-Third Edition International ed.). Lange publications/McGraw-Hill. pp. 133–135, 138–139. [ISBN 007-123983-9](#).
10. ^ ^{a b c} Goldsby, et al.. "T-Cell Maturation, Activation and Differentiation (Chapter 10)". *Immunology* (Fifth ed.). pp. 221–246.
11. ^ Nair, Deepak; Singh Kavita, Siddiqui Zaved, Nayak Bishnu, Rao Kanury, Salunke Dinakar (2002-01-09). "[Epitope Recognition by Diverse Antibodies Suggests Conformational Convergence in an Antibody Response](#)". *The Journal of Immunology* (The American Association of Immunologists) 168 (5): 2371–2382. [PMID 11859128](#).
<http://www.jimmunol.org/cgi/reprint/168/5/2371.pdf>. Retrieved 2008-05-03.
12. ^ "[Immunochemical Applications](#)". *Technical Tips*. EMD biosciences.
<http://www.emdbiosciences.com/html/CBC/technical-tips-immunochemical-applications.html#TechTip8>. Retrieved 2008-05-07.
13. ^ Davis, Cheryl. "[Antigens](#)". *Biology course*. Western Kentucky University.
<http://bioweb.wku.edu/courses/biol328/antigens.html>. Retrieved 2008-05-12.
14. ^ Ceri, Howard. "[Antigens](#)". *Immunology course*. University of Calgary.
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~ceri/cmmb427prot/ANTIGEN.html>. Retrieved 2008-05-12.
15. ^ Khudyakov, Yury; Howard A. Fields (2002). *Artificial DNA: Methods and Applications*. Florida: CRC Press. pp. 227. [ISBN 0849314267](#).
<http://books.google.co.in/books?id=dexRnDtLIWUC&pg=PA227&lpg=PA227&dq=nonsequential+epitopes+amino+acid&source=web&ots=OILUOPuA2M&sig=n0aGyPF2YbTtfRnifE3Ual7EE34&hl=en#PPA226>.
16. ^ ^{a b c} Myers, CD (1991). "[Role of B cell antigen processing and presentation in the humoral immune response](#)". *The FASEB Journal* 5 (11): 2547–2553. [PMID 1907935](#). <http://www.fasebj.org/cgi/reprint/5/11/2547.pdf>. Retrieved 2008-06-20.
17. ^ ^{a b c d e f g h} Goldsby, et al.. "Overview of the Immune System (Chapter 1)". *Immunology* (Fifth ed.). pp. 1–23.
18. ^ Goldsby, et al.. "Antigen Processing and Presentation (Chapter 8)". *Immunology* (Fifth ed.). pp. 188–194.
19. ^ ^{a b} Ojcius, DM; L Gapin, JM Kanellopoulos and P Kourilsky (09 1994). "[Is antigen processing guided by major histocompatibility complex molecules?](#)". *The FASEB Journal* 8 (5): 974–978.
<http://www.fasebj.org/cgi/reprint/8/12/974.pdf>. Retrieved 2008-06-20.
20. ^ Goldsby, et al.. "Cells and Organs of the Immune System (Chapter 2)". *Immunology* (Fifth ed.). pp. 24–56.
21. ^ ^{a b c d e f g h i k} Goldsby, et al.. "B-Cell Generation, Activation and Differentiation (Chapter 11)". *Immunology* (Fifth ed.). New York. pp. 247–275.
22. ^ McPhee, Stephen; Ganong, William (2006). *Pathophysiology of Disease: An Introduction to Clinical Medicine*. Lange Medical Books/McGraw-Hill. pp. 39. [ISBN 007144159X](#).

23. ^ Cziko, Gary (1995). "[The Immune System: Selection by the Enemy](#)". *Without Miracles: Universal Selection Theory and the Second Darwinian Revolution* (Fifth ed.). Massachusetts: MIT Press. pp. 39–48. ISBN 0-262-03232-5. <http://faculty.ed.uiuc.edu/g-cziko/wm/04.html#Heading5>. Retrieved 2008-05-12.
24. ^ Greener, Mark (2005-02-14). "[Monoclonal antibodies \(MAbs\) turn 30](#)". *The Scientist* (Philadelphia: SAGE Publications) 19 (3): 14. <http://www.vetscite.org/publish/items/002093/index.html#>. Retrieved 2008-06-06.
25. ^ Deem, Michael. "[Michael W. Deem](#)". *Official Web Page*. Rice University. <http://www.mwdeem.rice.edu/mwdeem/>. Retrieved 2008-05-08.
26. ^ Granholm, Norman; Tito Cavallo (1992). "[Autoimmunity, Polyclonal B-Cell Activation and Infection \(abstract\)](#)". *Lupus* (SAGE Publications) 1 (2): 63–74. doi:10.1177/096120339200100203. PMID 1301966. <http://lup.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/1/2/63>. Retrieved 2008-05-04.
27. ^ Montes, Carolina; Eva V. Acosta-Rodríguez, Maria Cecilia Merino, Daniela A. Bermejo and Adriana Gruppi. "[Polyclonal B cell activation in infections: infectious agents' devilry or defense mechanism of the host? \(abstract\)](#)". *Journal of Leukocyte Biology* (Society for Leukocyte Biology) 82 (5): 1027–1032. doi:10.1189/jlb.0407214. PMID 17615380. <http://www.jleukbio.org/cgi/content/abstract/82/5/1027>. Retrieved 2008-05-04.
28. ^ "[Emil von Behring: The Founder of Serum Therapy](#)". *Nobel Prize in Medicine*. http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/articles/behring/index.html. Retrieved 2008-06-23.
29. ^ Mage, Rose G.; Ten Feizi. "[Elvin A. Kabat](#)". *Biographical memoirs*. <http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/biomems/ekabat.html>. Retrieved 2008-06-23.
30. ^ ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e Greenberg, Steven. "[A Concise History of Immunology](#)". <http://www.columbia.edu/itc/hs/medical/pathophys/immunology/readings/ConciseHistoryImmunology.pdf>. Retrieved 2008-06-23.
31. ^ "[MTC News](#)". [Karolinska Institutet](#). http://ki.se/content/1/c6/02/28/99/get_pdf-17.php.pdf. Retrieved 2008-06-23.

Further reading

- Goldsby, Richard; Kindt, TJ; Osborne, BA; Janis Kuby (2003). *Immunology* (Fifth ed.). New York: W. H. Freeman and Company. ISBN 07167-4947-5.
- Kishiyama, Jeffery L. (2006) [1997]. "Disorders of the Immune system (Chapter 3)". in Stephen J. McPhee and William F. Ganong. *Pathophysiology of Disease: An Introduction to Clinical Medicine* (5 ed.). Lange Medical Books/McGraw-Hill. pp. 32–58. ISBN 0-07-110523-9.

- **Nairn, Roderick (2004) [1954]. "Immunology (Chapter 8)". in Geo F. Brooks, Janet S. Butel and Stephen A. Morse. *Jawetz, Melnick, & Adelberg's Medical Microbiology* (Twenty-Third Edition International ed.). Lange publications/McGraw-Hill. pp. 133–135, 138–139. [ISBN 007-123983-9](#).**