Prof. Sabrina Pricl A.Y. 2023-2024

Your T-cell

Lesson 22 – Basic immunology: The third line of defense



Acquired (specific) immunity – the third line of defense (TLD)

The body's ability to recognize and defend itself against distinct invaders

- Is a "smart" system
 - Also called specific and/or adaptive immunity
 - "Memory" allows it to respond rapidly to additional encounters with a pathogen
 - If nonspecific immune system has warriors, then acquired immunity has more sophisticated special agents and assassins
- Two types of specific immunity
 - Naturally acquired = immune response against antigens encountered in daily life
 - Artificially acquired = response to antigens introduced via vaccines

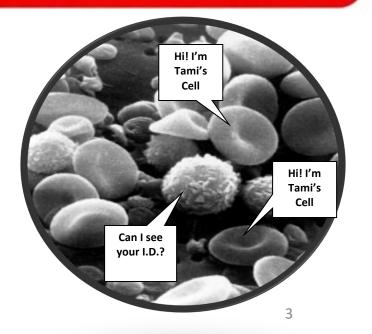


Antigens

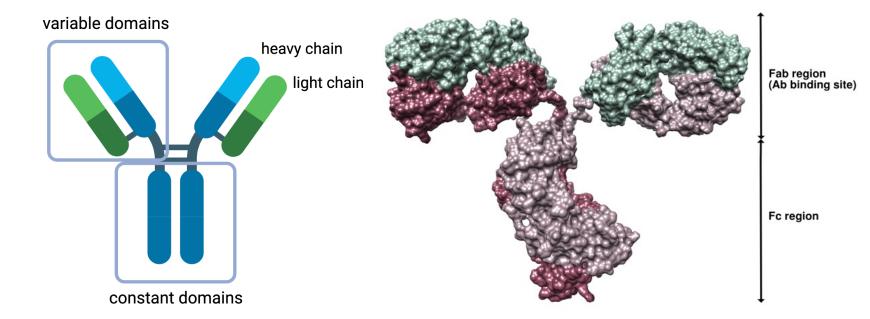
- Body does not direct immune response against whole bacteria, fungi, protozoa or viruses
- Foreign molecules (antigens) trigger a specific immune response
 - Include components of bacterial cell walls, capsules, pili, and flagella, as well as proteins of viruses, fungi and protozoa
- Food and dust can also contain antigenic particles
- Enter the body by various methods
 - Through breaks in skin and mucous membranes
 - Direct injection, as with a bite or needle
 - Through organ transplants and skin grafts

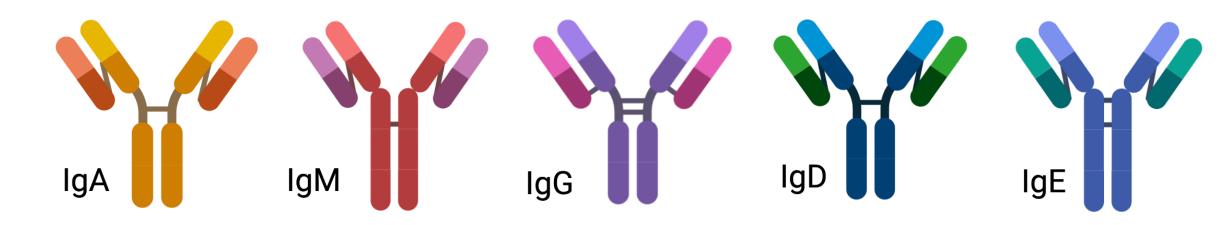
HELLO my name is

Antigens Are Like Name Tags
Antigenic particles are often
associated with a specific
characteristic of an organism,
so are detected as foreign
when they get inside another
organism that doesn't have
that characteristic



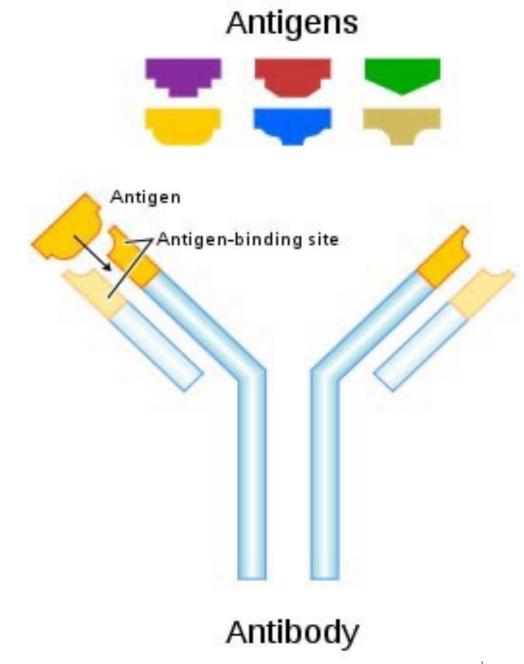
Also called immunoglobulins (Igs)





Also called immunoglobulins (lgs)

 Proteins that bind antigens at the antigen-binding site

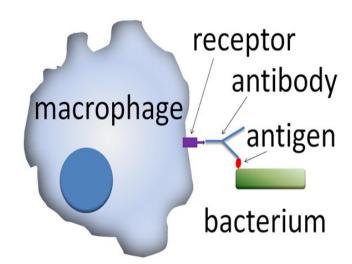


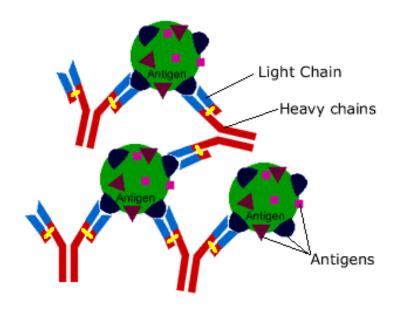
Some act as **opsonins**, markers to identify antigens for phagocytes and stimulate phagocytosis

Some work as **antitoxins** (*i.e.*, they neutralize toxins *e.g.* those causing diphtheria and tetanus)

Some attach to bacterial flagella making them less active and easier for phagocytes to engulf

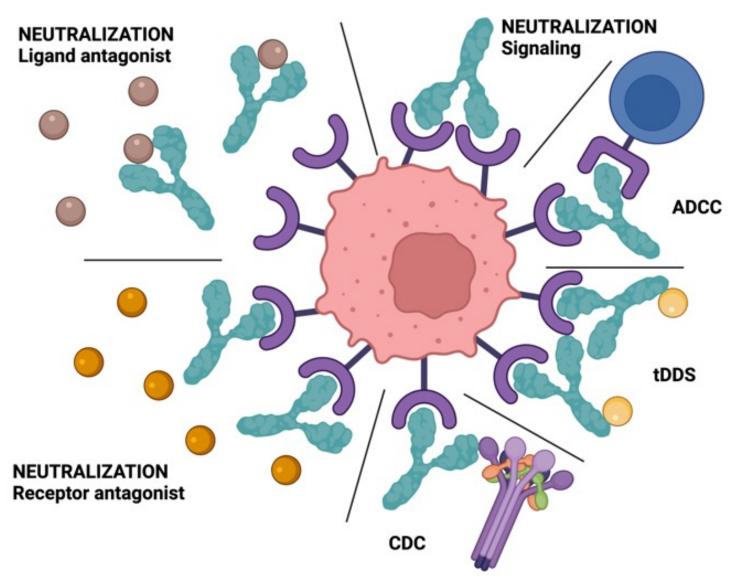
Some cause **agglutination** (clumping together) of bacteria making them less likely to spread





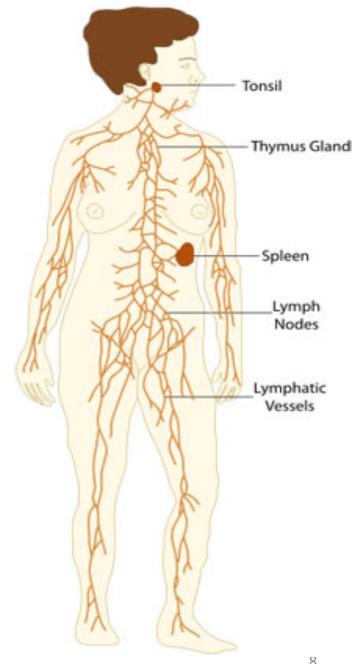
And much more...

Q. Where are antibodies produced?.. Stay tuned..



The lymphatic system

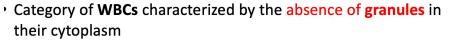
- Screens tissues of the body for foreign antigens
- Composed of lymphatic vessels and lymphatic cells
- One-way system that conducts lymph from local tissues and returns it to the circulatory system
- Lymph is a liquid with similar composition to blood plasma
- Lymph nodes house lymphocytes that recognize and attack foreign antigens present in lymph





- WBCs of specific immunity (Lesson 21, slide #6)
- Smallest leukocytes
 - Have huge nucleus surrounded by thin rim of cytoplasm
 - Produced from blood stem cells in the red bone marrow

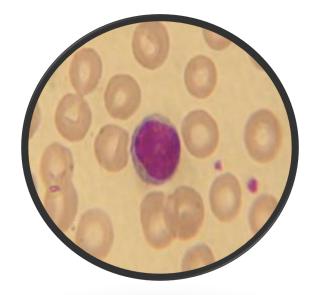
Leukocytes - agranulocytes







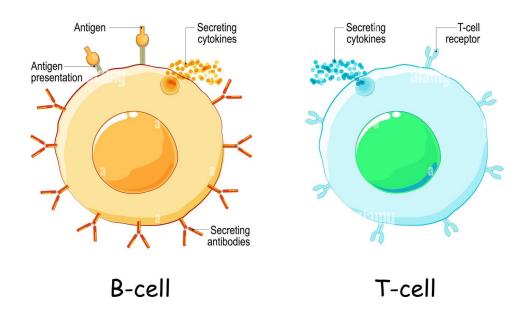
• most involved in the **SPECIFIC IMMUNITY** (3rd line of immune defense - TLD)



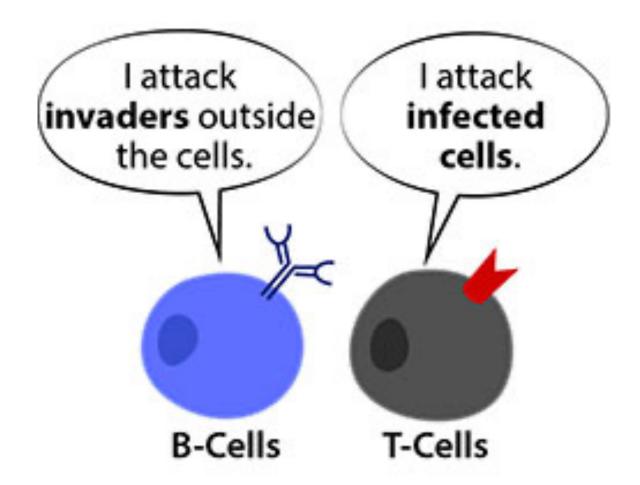
The lymphocytes

- WBCs of specific immunity
- Smallest leukocytes
 - Have huge nucleus surrounded by thin rim of cytoplasm
 - Produced from blood stem cells in the red bone marrow
- Two main types
- B-cells
 - mature in bone marrow, then concentrate in lymph nodes and spleen
- T-cells
 - mature in thymus
- B and T cells mature then circulate in the blood and lymph
- Circulation ensures they come into contact with pathogens and each other

Cells of the adaptive immune system

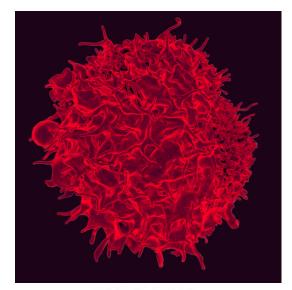


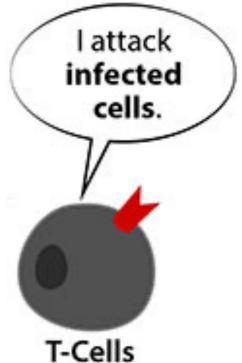
B- vs. T-lymphocytes



T-cells (or T-lymphocytes)

- Produced in red bone marrow and mature in thymus
- Circulate in the lymph and blood and migrate to the lymph nodes (and other areas of the lymph system)
- Part of the cellular immune response (aka cell-mediated immune response) because these cells act directly against various antigens
 - Intracellular pathogens (inside the body's cells)
 - Abnormal body cells such as cancer cells





T-cells (or T-lymphocytes)

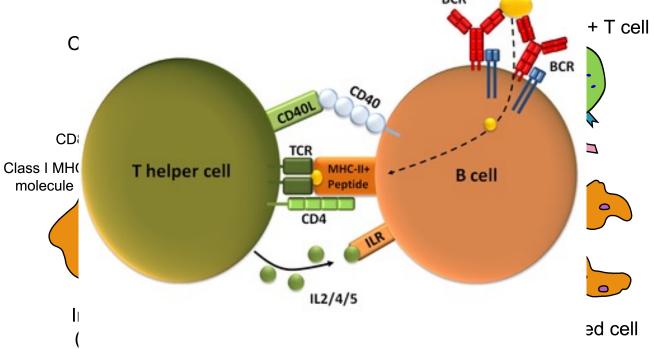
2 main types

• cytotoxic or killer T cells (T_C)

Destroy compromised body cells

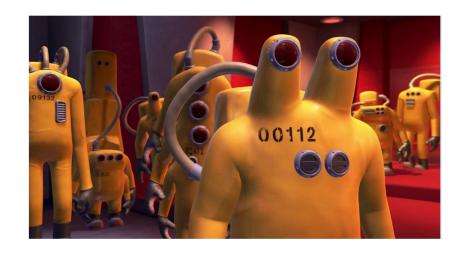
helper T cells (T_H)

Activate B-cells



B-cells (or B-lymphocytes) – the APCs

 Consider your WBCs a security patrol for your body and



any non-self antigens as the bad guys



The antigen presenting cells (APCs)

- Consider your WBCs a security patrol for your body and
- any non-self antigens as the bad guys
- The larger the patrol, the more likely one of the officers will run into a bad guy and help the body apprehend it
- Any WBC that can grab and present an antigen to another immune cell, is called an antigen presenting cell (APC)





The APCs

 Antigen-presenting cells (APCs) are a heterogeneous group of immune cells that mediate the cellular immune response by processing and presenting antigens for recognition by certain lymphocytes such as T cells

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APCS are classified as

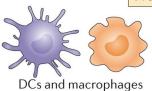
Professional APCs

 include dendritic cells, macrophages, Langerhans cells and B- cells

Atypical APCs

 Include basophils, eosinophils, some skin cells l(ike fibroblasts and some epithelial and endothelial cells cells) and glial cells (brain) among others

Professional APCs





Key features

- Phagocytic
- Express receptors for apoptotic cells, DAMPs and PAMPs
- Localize to tissues
- Localize to T cell zone of lymph nodes following activation (DCs)
- Constitutively express high levels of MHC class II molecules and antigen processing machinery
- Express co-stimulatory molecules following activation

Key features

- Internalize antigens via BCRs
- Constitutively express MHC class II molecules and antigen processing machinery
- Express co-stimulatory molecules following activation

Atypical APCs









Mast cells

Basophils E

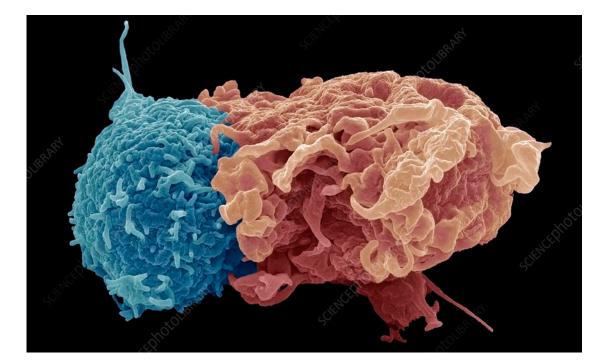
Eosinophils I

Key features

- Inducible expression of MHC class II molecules
- Antigen-presenting functions limited to specific immune environments (especially type 2 immune settings)
- Lack of compelling evidence that they can activate naive CD4⁺ T cells in an antigenspecific manner

Antigen presentation

- Macrophages (red) are antigen-presenting cells (APCs)
- They present antigens (fragments on the surface of pathogens or foreign objects) to Thelper-lymphocytes (Th, blue), activating them
- Each Th lymphocyte recognizes and binds to a specific antigen
- Binding of the Th cell to the antigen presented by the macrophage activates the Th cell
- This leads to its proliferation and the activation of other immune cells that eliminate the antigen



B-cells (or B-lymphocytes) – special APCs

Activated B-lymphocytes produce either:

- Plasma cells
 - make antibodies to a pathogen

- Memory cells
 - remember the same pathogen for faster antibody production in future infections

Answer to question in slide 7

