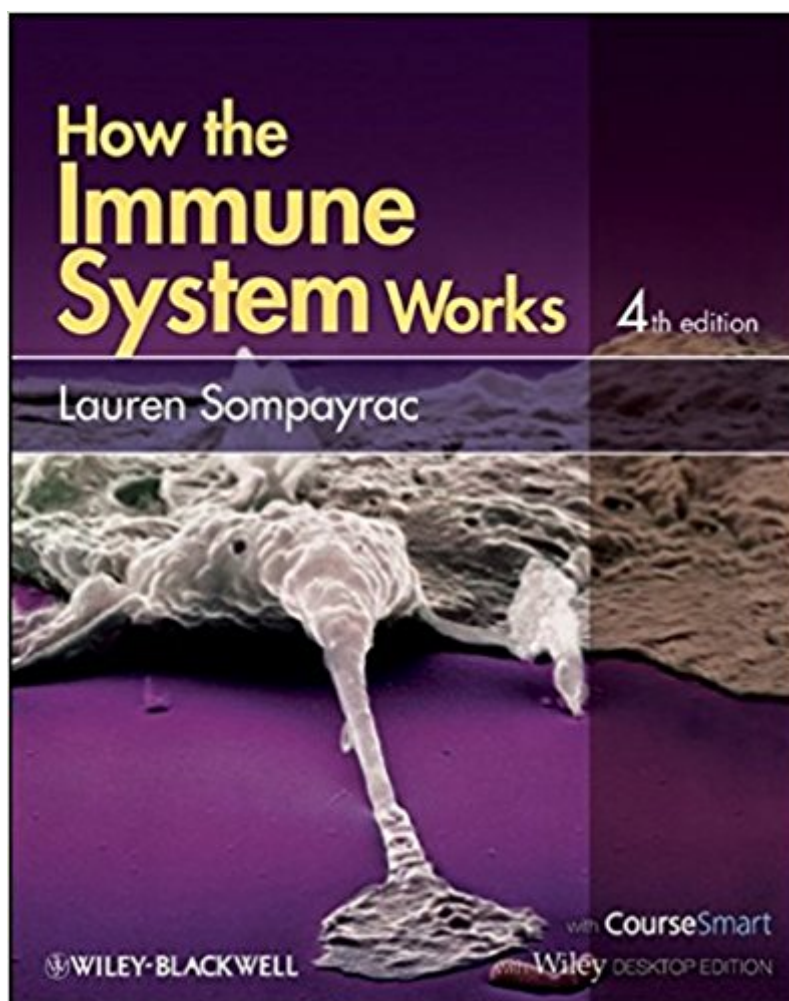


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# How The Immune System Works, Includes Desktop Edition



## Synopsis

How the Immune System Works is not a comprehensive textbook. It's the book thousands of students have used to help them understand what's in their big, thick, immunology texts. In this book, Dr. Sompayrac cuts through the jargon and details to reveal, in simple language, the essence of this complex subject. Fifteen easy to follow lectures, featuring the uniquely popular humorous style and engaging analogies developed by Dr Sompayrac, provide an introduction to the bigger picture, followed by practical discussion on how each of the components interacts with one another. Now featuring full-color diagrams, this book has been rigorously updated for its fourth edition to reflect today's immunology teaching and includes updated discussion of B and T cell memory, T cell activation, vaccines, immunodeficiency, and cancer. Whether you are completely new to immunology, or require a refresher, How the Immune System Works is an enjoyable way of engaging with the key concepts you need know nothing of the workings of the immune system to benefit from this book! How the Immune System Works is now accompanied by a FREE enhanced Wiley Desktop Edition - the interactive, digital version of the book - featuring downloadable text and images, highlighting and note taking facilities, book-marking, cross-referencing, in-text searching, and linking to references and glossary terms. It is also available from CourseSmart for instant, online and offline access for studying anytime, anywhere.

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## Customer Reviews

“This edition is well justified since immunology is a constantly evolving field.” (Doody, MD, 12 July 2013) What users of the previous edition said: "The voice of the author is one of a true teacher whose enthusiasm for the subject is contagious. There are far too many dry, "academic," or "scientific" textbooks around and this book felt very fresh in comparison." Medical Student, University of Texas, South Western Medical Center at Dallas "As if immersed in a conversation, this book is able to balance the line between facts, humor and history. The analogies and metaphors allow such a notorious subject to be leisurely digested over a couple days. From references to the Pillsbury Doughboy, Grace Kelly, quarterbacks and the Bubble Boy, this is an entertaining read as well as an informational read." Medical Student, Eastern Virginia Medical School "Best textbook I have ever had! I am a first-year veterinary student. This book was a required text and I am SO glad I bought it! Very thin book, super easy to read. It is like reading a good story. This is a must for anyone taking immunology." .com reviewer

How the Immune System Works is not a comprehensive textbook. It's the book thousands of students have used to help them understand what's in their big, thick, immunology texts. In this book, Dr. Sompayrac cuts through the jargon and details to reveal, in simple language, the essence of this complex subject. Fifteen easy to follow lectures, featuring the uniquely popular humorous style and engaging analogies developed by Dr Sompayrac, provide an introduction to the bigger picture, followed by practical discussion on how each of the components interacts with one another. Now featuring full-color diagrams, this book has been rigorously updated for its fourth edition to reflect today's immunology teaching and includes updated discussion of B and T cell memory, T cell activation, vaccines, immunodeficiency, and cancer. Whether you are completely new to immunology, or require a refresher, How the Immune System Works is an enjoyable way of engaging with the key concepts you need know nothing of the workings of the immune system to benefit from this book! How the Immune System Works is now accompanied by a FREE enhanced Wiley Desktop Edition - the interactive, digital version of the book - featuring downloadable text and images, highlighting and note taking facilities, book-marking, cross-referencing, in-text searching, and linking to references and glossary terms. It is also available from CourseSmart for instant, online and offline access for studying anytime, anywhere.

Ahh, I found this be a refreshing take on the workings of the immune system. I was surprised at how thin the book is, but it still contains a decent overview of the immune system - enough to get a good

grasp on things, but not burdened with the kind of detail that some other immunology textbooks are. I think it would be perfect for someone who is interested in the immune system, who wants to learn about it, but doesn't have to be tested on all of the details. This is a FUN book, and Lauren Sompayrac does a fantastic job of explaining the immune system using words that normal people can understand. I'd be surprised if this was actually used in an Immunology class, as it is quite small. I used it as a supplement to Janeway's Immunobiology, which is just overwhelming, but which was the formal text used in my Immunology course. I would use the Sompayrac book to get a basic understanding of things either before or right after lecture, and then would read the Janeway text while re-listening to my lectures, in order to fill in the details. It was still tough, but this book made it a little bit easier and may have staved off a few gray hairs. I'll be keeping this book around, and will probably re-sell the Janeway's text, as I won't need to know all the nitty-gritties of the immune system later on.

A few reviews have said that this little 141 page text is "dated." Two perspectives: 1. The material covered is timeless. Our understanding of T and B cells will evolve over time, but the basic function, and the ideas of receptor sites, etc. are so fundamental that a few decades here or there cannot possibly subtract from the immense value of this text. 2. Current thinking ("2020") is that we're entering an era of completely recasting the immune system, with as revolutionary a paradigm shift as recombinant DNA itself. One aspect of this is thinking of this system as multiple systems (6 or more in some literature). Another is the role of microRNA (small ds- double stranded RNA) and the epigenomic phenomena of RNA-interference. These phenomena don't subtract from antibody or cell mediated immunity as models, they ADD to them. For complete coverage of the new models, without spending a fortune or trying to scan a whole large text, see any book or recent article by Dr. Bagasra, including: Immunology and the Quest for an HIV Vaccine: A New Perspective. That out of the way, when our ClassPros and Library Picks surveys poll med students, THIS little text has come up in the top 5 for over a decade (and the top 1 or 2 in the last 3 years)! How is it possible, with texts of 1,000 pages, that an 8.5 x 11" 141 page, colorful "High School" looking monograph consistently takes these honors? The answer is the astonishing flow of the metaphors coupled with "aha" pictures and illustrations on every page. Each page, though PACKED with information, is told like a story, and the pictures, both descriptive and visual, "stick" in your mind in a way that allows a synthesis that no other text has ever achieved, in my opinion (I'm a molecular biologist) in ANY field I've reviewed! Lauren makes the field "seem" understandable with only the most basic understanding of bio, and every reader here knows that simply isn't true--immunology is one of the

most complex, rapidly changing fields in all of bio. The balance of history, metaphor, quant and color illustration is nearly perfect. You can literally get more insight into the CURRENT view of the immune system from an integrative point of view with intuitive understanding with two days immersed in this book than a semester with Janeway (888 pages), Parham (600 pages) or Male (480 pages). I'm not knocking those fine texts, and you certainly need their detail, but without Sompayrac, you will sincerely miss the "whole picture" that relates SO many topics. As an intro, a reference (now comes with fully searchable pdf), a supplement, or even just an enjoyable popular science review that will make you a LOT smarter than those who took Janeway but missed this (;=)), I cannot recommend this enough, and intend to make sure the adjunctive option is on all those text pages for the benefit of all of us struggling with this wonderful but challenging field. Library Picks reviews only for the benefit of shoppers and has nothing to do with , the authors, manufacturers or publishers of the items we review. We always buy the items we review for the sake of objectivity, and although we search for gems, are not shy about trashing an item if it's a waste of time or money for shoppers. If the reviewer identifies herself, her job or her field, it is only as a point of reference to help you gauge the background and any biases.

I have been struggling to understand papers written about the immune system for years and finally decided to go back to Square One and relearn it all. This book is not only clearly written, but fun (see the hot dog bun explanation of MHC I and II molecules on page 9). Best of all, the author understands what can be confusing to the novice and explains it (page 27: "Immunologists say that B cell receptors are 'cross-linked' although they really are not linked together" and page 45 "Dendritic antigen presenting cells don't kill and macrophages don't travel"). The subject matter is still very complex and I'm on my fourth time through the first few chapters, but at least what I'm trying to learn is, for once, clearly presented.

A very nice, searchable intro to the immune system. I got the kindle for PC version because I was immersed in discussions with anti-vax people who have no clue how the immune system works, preferring the magic of alternative medicine to evidence based medicine. The problem is my dated knowledge had me speaking from a similar position of ignorance. I'm not sure my ossified brain can retain the latest discoveries, but at least I have a current reference. I also purchased a used version of The Immune System, 3rd Edition Paperback [http://www..com/gp/product/0815341466/ref=oh\\_aui\\_search\\_detailpage?ie=UTF8&psc=1](http://www..com/gp/product/0815341466/ref=oh_aui_search_detailpage?ie=UTF8&psc=1) and sent copies to people who show a desire to learn what is known vs what some wish to be so.

Excellent breakdown of immunology for someone who is lacking a foundation. It lays things out sequentially, but you can also easily skip around if your classes are run in a different order of material presentation. It's much shorter than I expected, but I think one of the things I appreciate about this book most is its concision. If you're thinking about getting a supplement for immuno, this should be your first stop. It doesn't go as in detail as needed in some cases, but it will give you a solid foundation.

If they had a book like this for every body system, med school would be soooo much easier! Forget all of those overly complicated histo and physio books, this is all you need to succeed with the immune system. The immune system is taught in a very intuitive and straightforward manner. The author is careful to remind you of abbreviations and concepts from earlier lessons, so you don't need to waste time going back to look things up. I can not recommend this book enough for anyone interested in immunology, be it a 1st-year med student or high school senior.

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