

## Developments in Biologicals

### Vol 115 Laboratory Correlates of Immunity to Influenza – A Reassessment

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XII p. + 164 p., 14 fig., 19 tab., soft cover 2003. ISBN 3-8055-7735-4

For some 30 years it has been a rule of thumb that antibody to influenza haemagglutinin, induced by natural infection or vaccination, is a universal and useful marker of immunity to influenza. It now seems important to re-examine this hypothesis.

Knowledge of the mechanisms of acquired influenza immunity and correlations with measurable laboratory parameters is clearly of importance in understanding influenza epidemiology and vaccine-induced immunity. While immunity is certainly multi-factorial, involving both B and T cell responses, any comprehensive assessment is complicated by the capacity of the virus to undergo extensive and frequent antigenic variation.

The aim of this workshop was

- to review the methods available for assessing immune responses and their advantages and disadvantages;
- to present information on immune responses to the various vaccine types and attempt to draw possible conclusions on their value in assessing protective immunity;
- to address the question of standardization and validation of assays and the appropriate use of reference materials;
- to identify appropriate themes for international collaborative studies.

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**Volume n° 115      Laboratory Correlates of Immunity to Influenza –  
A Reassessment**

**Contents**

*Session I*

**Influenza Surveillance and Licensing of Vaccines**

Overview of the WHO Global Influenza Programme

*K. Stöhr*

The Use of Correlates of Immunity in European Union Licensing of Influenza Vaccines

*J.M. Wood, R.W. Newman, K. Ploss*

Using the Strains and Getting the Vaccine Licensed – a Vaccine Manufacturer's View

*C. Gerdil*

*Session II*

**Overview of Immune Response to Influenza Infection and Immunization**

An Overview of Serum Antibody Responses to Influenza Virus Antigens

*R.B. Couch*

Cellular Immune Responses to Influenza

*P. Moss*

Role of Mucosal Immunity in Influenza

*P. Brandtzaeg*

Original Antigens Sin. A Confounding Issue?

*L.R. Haaheim*

Flow Cytometric Measurement of Intracellular IFN- $\gamma$  Induction in Aged Subjects

Before and After Parenteral Influenza Vaccination

*E. Fringuelli, E. Lepri, B. Camilloni, M. Neri, E. Carriò, A. Russano, F. Spinozzi,  
A.M. Iorio*

*Session III*

**Overview of Current Methods for Assessing Immune Response to Influenza**

Haemagglutination-Inhibiting Antibody to Influenza Virus

*J.C. de Jong, A.M. Palache, W.E.P. Beyer, G.F. Rimmelzwaan, A.C.M. Boon,  
A.D.M.E. Osterhaus*

Neuraminidase Assays

*M. Aymard, O. Ferraris, L. Gerentes, J. Jolly, N. Kessler*

Current Methods for Assessing T Cell Responses to Influenza

*J.M. Katz*

*Session IV*

**Lessons Learned from Challenge Studies**

Immune Correlates of Protection Against Influenza in the Human Challenge Model  
*J. Treanor, P.F. Wright*

**Open Discussions**

Discussion 1: Systemic and Cellular Immunity  
Moderator: *J.M. Katz 7-109*

Discussion 2: Mucosal Immunity  
Moderator: *P. Brandtzaeg*

Discussion 3: Challenge Studies  
Moderator: *R.B. Couch*

Discussion 4: Immunological Assays and Correlates of Immunity  
Moderator: *J.-L. Virelizier*

Discussion 5: Licensing Procedures  
Moderator: *A. Kaufhold*

Discussion 6: Future Perspectives  
Moderator: *A. Hampson*