

## Immune system workshop

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Present: a/professor Graham Jones; Philip Franses; Daisy Allen  
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**Graham Jones** introduced the immune system as a cognisant network that establishes the integrity of the organism (the immune homunculus). The notion of the immunological homunculus was independently arrived at by Irun Cohen. Irun Cohen proposes a very solid test of health.

Where before the immune system was a mechanism with a particular function, that of protecting the body from the attack of bacteria and viruses, the immune system is presented as a very special player with a whole overview of the body, comparable to the neurological system and the 'mind'. In this way, it is possible to read the status of the body's health from the self-reporting of certain key (stress) proteins, that are monitoring the whole state of the organs and the body. Instead of the immune system being another functioning part, built from molecular foundations, the immune system is an inner mirroring of health at a high level of cognisance of the whole state of the body.

This simple translation of immunity from a mechanism into a living process, makes available the record of the immune proteins, (the article singles out 300 of them following work already done by Irun Cohen), for an almost **instant report of the body's health**. A check of these proteins could be as simple as taking a pinprick of blood and scanning the profile through microarray equipment to in fifteen minutes have the body's own diagnosis of health. Potentially the paradigm by which we understand health is turned on its head. For although the article presupposes a holistic perspective of the whole cognisance of the immune system, mirroring the way the neurological system results in 'mind', the simple test of the 300 proteins into the health of a patient, gives a way for research to test the truth or otherwise of this tenet.

Unusually the holistic proposition has an absolutely black and white test. This is of huge significance for the herbal and alternative health markets, where the test could highlight the beneficial effects, at the level of the whole patient, without having to reduce everything to a formula working at the molecular level. The test could in fact contrast the higher level efficacy of conventional drugs and their herbal equivalents.

The article presents a thrilling scientific challenge for further research.

**Philip Franses** further emphasised how the whole stimulus comes before the structure. In genetic microarray data, the same stimulus will produce remarkably consistent results. If one sits down and tries to reduce out of the data an explanatory model then one falls far short of a systematic programme of response. Rather it seems that there is a recognition of the whole situation which is translated into a characteristic quality of response. The genes trigger the operative acts within an assessment of the organism of the optimal response to context.

**Daisy Allen** showed how light, bio-photon emissions, gives evidence of this cohering of the organism, between its whole state and the individual local actions. The light is a medium between the whole and the distinction of the parts, which carries the dynamic.