Contents

- Course Summary (3)
- Course Aims & Learning Outcomes
- Course Teaching Staff
- Blended Learning Overview (4)
- Assessments & Examinations
- Research Tutorial Spotlight (5)
- Details of Your Research Tutorial Spotlight Assessment (6)
- Scientific Writing (8)
- Avoiding Plagiarism
- Feedback (9)
- Guide to Writing
- Assessment of Written Work (10)
- Sample Assessment/Feedback
  MyAberdeen Rubric (13)
- Lecture Synopsis (14)
- Class Representatives
- Problems with Coursework (15)
- Course Reading List
- University Policies
- Academic Language & Skills support (16)
- Medical Sciences Common Grading Scale (18)
- Course Timetable IM4007: 2022-2023 (19)
- Campus and Floor Maps
Honours Immunology Option 1-The Immune Response and Disease

Course Summary
The aim of this course is to provide an in-depth understanding of selected aspects of immunology as related to infection and disease. Main areas of study will include: An overview of the complex cellular and molecular mechanisms of tolerance to non-infectious or self-antigens including the role of T regulatory cells and AIRE and the importance in tolerance for pregnancy; how tolerance can be broken to induce autoimmunity, asthma or other atopic diseases; an appreciation of how the immune system can be evaded to cause disease by e.g. by pathogens and in cancer; the role of gut metabolites, specifically short chain fatty acids in controlling diabetes; an understanding of the scientific process.

Course Aims & Learning Outcomes
The subject-specific learning outcomes are such that, at the end of the course you will be able to:

• understand the differentiation and roles of different T cell subsets in autoimmune disease
• understand the mechanisms of tolerance and how tolerance to non-infectious or self-antigens can be broken to induce autoimmunity and why failure of normal immune regulatory mechanisms can cause chronic inflammation
• gain an appreciation of how pathogens/cancer cells evade detection and elimination by the immune system and cause disease
• Understand the development and pathology of the atopic diseases including asthma and the current treatments and how they work.
• Be able to use your knowledge to write a short scientific report in the form of a lay summary.

Course Teaching Staff

Course Co-ordinator(s):
Professor Heather M Wilson (h.m.wilson@abdn.ac.uk)

Other Staff:
Dr Rasha Abu-Eid (rasha.abueid@abdn.ac.uk)
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Dr Donna MacCallum (d.m.maccallum@abdn.ac.uk)
Dr Virtu Solano (mariavirtudes.solanocollado@abdn.ac.uk)
Dr Frank Ward (f.j.ward@abdn.ac.uk)
**Blended Learning Approach**

The course this year will mainly have live in-person lectures/tutorials on campus. However, there are some exceptions to this which are highlighted in green on the timetable. These lectures in green will only be available for you to look at online in your own time but if you have any questions relating to them please do ask at the in-person classes or email the relevant lecturer. Students are expected to access and study **ALL** lectures whether they are online only or have been given in-person and this is all examinable material.

The live in-person lectures will have full recordings which have captions and powerpoint files, so that you can go over them later, as well, at your leisure. These may be in shorter sections and may include questions and additional material which aim to help you consider the material in more depth. At level 4 independent learning and critical thinking is important. Because the full captioned, recorded lectures have been prepared in advance for you, the in-person sessions may not be identical and may focus on certain aspects of the lectures to help with understanding but use the online recordings as the definitive version for revision.

**Assessments & Examinations**

This course is assessed via a written examination (worth 70% of the overall course grade) in the May exam diet and one piece of continuous assessment (worth 30% of the overall course grade).

The continuous assessment associated with this course is detailed below, with two other pieces of work being associated with your other “Option” course and the “Core” course.

It is vital that the deadlines for your continuous assessments are adhered to. Submit an incomplete piece of work rather than miss a deadline. Work not submitted on time will not be accepted unless accompanied by either a medical certificate or a written explanation justifying this.

A complete submission of your work consists of:

- uploading an electronic copy of the work via MyAberdeen before 12 NOON on the deadline date.

The deadlines for all four pieces of work are:

- **Core course (IM4005) Research Perspective**: 12 NOON, Monday 10th October.
- **Option 1 course Research Tutorial Spotlight**: 12 NOON, Monday 7th November.
- **Option 2 course Essay**: 12 NOON, Monday 28th November.
- **Core course (IM4005) Advanced Molecular Techniques**: Ongoing assessment Monday 21st Nov - Monday 5th Dec (this will be explained in more detail at the introductory session for this module).
Research Tutorial Spotlight

This exercise aims to create a lay summary of the topic covered in the research tutorials contained within this course. A lay summary is often used in grant applications and is also appearing more frequently when submitting research articles for publication. It is a brief summary of a research project or a research proposal that has been written for members of the public, rather than researchers or professionals. Something similar to the style encountered in a New Scientist article would be a good term of reference. It should be written in plain English, avoid the use of jargon and explain any technical terms that have to be included. Overall, this piece of work should have a more journalistic style and be engaging.

Your submission should be short, should use a simple figure to summarise the work (a visual abstract), and have a concise list (3-5 articles) of relevant references. As guidance, you should take the reader through the following:

The background: what did we know before; why were the studies conducted? In particular, place the subject matter in a broader context for a lay reader – explain why they should pay attention to the topic – what is important and why?

The subject/topic itself: what did the researchers do and find; some strengths and limitations; what are the implications?

The future: what are the next steps; are there unanswered questions?

You are welcome to use subheadings to structure the article as you see fit, but the following should be included on a title page.

-  Title (8 words maximum)
-  Name
-  Student ID
-  Word Count

Word count for your Research Spotlight is 800 words and you can use a maximum of one figure. The word limit does not include text in the figure or references.

As an excellent resource and some guidance on writing for a lay audience, see the link below to the “Make it Clear” campaign, aimed at making scientific writing and research as clear and understandable as possible.

http://www.invo.org.uk/makeitclear/
Details of your Research Tutorial Spotlight Assessment

The research tutorials are group teaching exercises at which, supported by a staff member, you will discuss a specialist subject, based upon self-directed reading of the literature. Five papers have been chosen that reflect the development of a particular topic, and you must have read the papers before attending the first research tutorial.

IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH TUTORIAL

Role of the microbiome in the pathogenesis of immune disease

Tutor: Prof Heather M Wilson (h.m.wilson@abdn.ac.uk)

Introduction

The human gut microbiota is made up of trillions of cells - including bacteria, viruses and funguses that produce metabolites and vitamins important to human health. Diet can alter the gut microbiota and shift its production of metabolites such as short chain fatty acids (SCFA), which can affect systemic immune function. The gut microbiota benefits humans via SCFA production from carbohydrate fermentation, and deficiency in SCFA production is associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus. We will explore the mechanisms by which bacterial SCFA influence immune responses. SCFA can bind to specific G protein–coupled receptors (GPCR) in colonocytes and immune cells, leading to antimicrobial immune responses. The metabolites also influence gene transcription in T reg cells through their inhibition of histone deacetylase (HDAC) expression or function to promote colonic homeostasis. Here we review the advances in our understanding of how the gut microbiota regulates innate and adaptive immune homeostasis, which in turn can affect the development of autoimmune diseases e.g. diabetes.

Tutorial 1. Will provide an overview of the principle of gut microbiota and how an unhealthy microbiota leads to autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. The production SCFA from microbes will be introduced as will the fact that feeding a diet high in fibre can increase the abundance of bacteria producing SCFA and this can improve the outcome of diabetes. Thus changing diet to increase fibre is beneficial. We will discuss how germ free mice reared in a sterile environment and thus have never been exposed to any microorganisms, are a powerful approach that reveals the importance of the microbiota in shaping both innate and adaptive immunity. The concept of microbiota produced SCFA binding to GPCR on immune cells to drive Treg cell responses in the colon will be discussed. Moreover an overview will be given on how changing the activity of HDAC enzymes through this signalling pathway can increase the expression of FoxP3 in Treg cells to enhance the proliferative and functional capabilities of Treg cells to maintain immune homeostasis.


Key papers:

**Tutorial 2.** Will review and further discuss the relevance of microbiome produced SCFA to manipulate B cells, Teff cells and Treg function in the gut and systemically and the mechanisms involved. Protection from type 1 diabetes in non-obese diabetic mice fed diets that promote gut microbiota-dependent generation of the SCFA acetate and butyrate will be covered.

**Key papers:**


**Your Preparation for the Tutorials**

1. It is important that you read all the papers.

2. Prepare a written summary of the papers with bullet points on the key findings and contribution of the paper.

3. Pay attention to the rationale and objectives of the work, the methodologies used and importantly the results and their interpretation.

4. Try to identify areas of the paper which could be strengthened or followed up with additional experiments.

5. Come prepared to discuss all the papers during the tutorial.

6. Importantly have questions ready and also be prepared to debate points and offer answers to the other students.
Scientific Writing

Writing is an important scientific skill. Its function in the Honours courses is to provide you with training in finding, reading, analysing and communicating scientific ideas. Although it is usually necessary to start your reading from reviews that provide an expert overview of a topic, it is critical to your development that you read a significant number of original papers that describe the experiments underpinning key scientific advances. Central to these skills is the development of the ability to judge the important points made in a paper and what are the central pieces of evidence that support those points. Finally, it is important for all graduates to have a working knowledge of the key experimental procedures and techniques that generate the data that we use to test hypotheses.

Word Limit: Adhering to a word limit (excluding figure legends, tables and the reference list) requires you to be disciplined in the preparation of the piece of work; being able to write to a required length is a very useful skill, so we expect you to stay within the limit set. Your computer will give you a word count; this must be included at the end of the work submitted. We reserve the right to return work exceeding the word count for shortening. Submissions returned for shortening must be re-submitted within 24 h. Having to resubmit your work again will delay marking and subsequent feedback.

Assessment: The continuous assessment for Honours will be assessed by two members of staff, using criteria that will be published in MyAberdeen alongside the submission links for each piece of work. This assessment is not open to negotiation, although if asked, the markers will clarify any points of constructive criticism. Please use the assessment criteria as a guide and read them with care; the notes on scientific writing also give you guidance on what we judge to be important in a well-written piece of work. If you have particular doubts about your ability to write scientifically, either in terms of organising material or in the mechanics of good scientific writing, seek help from a member of staff or the Honours Coordinators during the first term. Do not wait until your first assignment is causing you anxiety.

All submissions should make reference to the latest literature on the subject you have chosen. While you may be guided through an unfamiliar subject area by reference to a review, your work should specifically not paraphrase the review article, but should be a synthesis of your own views of the subject, written in your own words arrived at by reading of the original research papers from resources such as Web of Science/Medline/PubMed/Google Scholar. This will give insight into how information is derived (one criteria assessed) as well as helping in preparation for the Data Analysis exam at the end of the year, where understanding of a research paper is tested.

Avoiding Plagiarism

The definition of Plagiarism is the use, without adequate acknowledgement, of the intellectual work of another person in work submitted for assessment. A student cannot be found to have committed plagiarism where it can be shown that the student has taken all reasonable care to avoid representing the work of others as his or her own.

The instruction given above to write assignments in your own words and not to copy whole sentences from articles is crucially important to avoid plagiarism.

The University views this offence extremely seriously; indeed, it can have dire consequences, including the awarding of no higher than a pass degree.
Continuous assessment assignments and your thesis are all submitted as electronic copies via MyAberdeen so they can be checked for originality. The programme will detect passages of text copied from other sources, and also if sentences from various text sources were used throughout the text, both indicators of plagiarism. MyAberdeen accepts most common formats, but it is advised that you submit your work as PDF files to avoid problems with re-formatting of figures and/or text during the submission process. Any evidence of copying from other sources that is detected in your final submissions will be brought to the attention of the Head of School, who will investigate and determine whether cheating has occurred and take the appropriate action.

Feedback
As for all elements of continuous assessment, you will be given feedback on the Honours classification your work has attained, with the grading on the University Common Grading Scale (CGS). Feedback is normally given within 3 weeks of submission.

Guide to Writing
Students should refer to "A Guide to Scientific Writing" by David Lindsay (Longman Cheshire) for more general guidance on writing. What follows is not a substitute for reading this book, but gives general guidance on writing and on how we assess your work.

PLANNING YOUR WRITING
Think
- What do I know already?
- Where will I find the information needed to develop my views on this issue?
- Where can I find more information?
- What are the best examples to illustrate the points that I want to make?
- How many words do I devote to each example?

Prepare
- Read a mix of reviews and use these to identify the major original scientific papers that have resulted in our current understanding of the topic.
- Read these papers and make notes on: research strategy use to analyse the problem, key experimental procedures that generate the data and critical controls that validate the data.
- Devise a set of themes and ideas for your work using the core information from above.
- Organise evidence under the theme headings: remember that arguments pro and contra are equally important.
- Select illustrations (diagrams/schemes) that reflect the themes and ideas.

Plan
- Place themes in a logical order, and have a clear, and planned, introduction and conclusion.
- Start simply and develop towards more complex arguments.
- Do not hop from one theme to another and then back again.
- Identify the links between themes as a mechanism of ensuring continuity.

Execute
• Write short sentences and keep clauses simple.
• Use appropriate tenses.
• Be consistent in the organisation of sections.
• Have diagrams in front of you when writing about them.
• Support statements with evidence, usually a citation; ensure your citation style is consistent

Complete
• Read over what you have written - can you read it out loud without stumbling?
• Have you answered the question?
• Have you done what you said you would do at the start of the assignment?
• Have you checked it carefully for typographical errors?

Assessment of Written Work

Every piece of work in your Honours year will be assessed in a standardised manner. An example assessment form is shown below. You will get useful feedback on your written work. The Continuous Assessment form covers the following criteria.

Content and Presentation

Each piece of work will be judged on content and also on style of presentation. More marks are given for the content of the work than are given for the presentation. Look at the structure of the feedback form to see what the priorities are in giving marks. However, remember also that a written piece of work must always be more than a collection of facts and ideas. Good presentation is central to clear communication.

Knowledge: It is expected that any piece of work will contain a substantial body of facts gleaned from appropriate original literature, which should be cited within the text (Citations). The length of the work and its intended audience will dictate how many facts can be given in support of a given statement.

Analysis: Students are expected to develop their analytical skills. This is most readily demonstrated by use of carefully selected examples, which should show a good understanding of the material. Remember that examples may either support or undermine an argument.

Understanding: Students are expected to display a clear grasp of fundamental concepts in the context of the work and their discipline. This is sometimes illustrated by the lack of mistakes about fundamentals of the cell and cellular processes, but it is also expected a student will develop, through their reading, an understanding of the subject area and display this by writing logically about it.

Techniques: Scientific information is derived from experimentation. It is important to understand how information is derived. For example what technique was used, how was the experiment conducted etc.
**Figures:** An argument can often be supported by Figures or Tables that present information more effectively than text alone. Figures and Tables should not be an add-on, but must be an integral feature of the text and must be described and discussed. A poor or inappropriate figure or table will usually detract from the work. Appropriate figures prepared by hand or using a drawing programme are preferred to reproductions of complex diagrams from other people's work (if used, make sure you acknowledge the source).

**Citations:** Papers and reviews used as source material should be cited in the text. Direct quotes should be indicated by quotation marks, although their use should be kept to a minimum, and they must be referenced (see University Web page on plagiarism). Use of the Harvard style of citation is essential and a list of citations should be presented at the end of the work (referencing of EMBO Journal articles is a good example). The reference list does not have to be included in your word count.

In the text a reference should be cited by author and date; e.g. 'Water is known to boil at 100°C (Jones and Brown, 1872; Brown *et al*, 1873) and freeze at...'. Not more than two authors may be cited per reference; if there are more than two authors use *et al*. References should be listed alphabetically according to the initial letter of the surname of the first author. Where the same authors have published more than one paper, list them in the order in which their papers appeared. If necessary use a and b, e.g. 1990a., with the authors' surnames and initials inverted.

References should include, in the following order:

- authors' names; year; article or chapter title; editors (books only); journal or book title; name and address of publisher (books only); volume number and inclusive page numbers.

The name of each journal should be abbreviated according to the World List of Scientific Periodicals (see an EMBO J. paper for reference) and italicised. References should therefore be listed as follows:


**Structure:** A good piece of writing will be clearly structured by division into appropriate sections, including an introduction, which provides a clear and concise statement of the issue to be discussed, and a conclusion, which briefly sums up the issues discussed.

**Introduction:** a clear and brief introduction of the topic of the work that describes the specific areas questions or issues that the reader should focus on.

**Viewpoint:** Students should form a view on the subject about which they are writing and should be able to support their views with balanced use of appropriate examples. A balanced piece of work will consider the relative strengths of the arguments for and against a particular point of view.
Conclusions: this section is used to pull the main themes of the work together and to briefly state the principal outcome of the analysis that you have performed. It should leave the reader with a clear impression of what you think about the subject matter presented.

Sentence construction, spelling, grammar: Students are expected to spell correctly and to follow the basic rules of grammar. Short, clear sentences are preferable to complex, tortuous, rambling constructions. You should be able to pick up the eight clear grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors in the sentence that follows. If you can’t, then revise your grammar/spelling rules. “It’s clear to the company that there commercial targetted young people of the same age as Johns friends who where clearly able to recieve it’s message.”

Organisation: A written assignment is easier to read if it is attractively set out on the page (wide margins, double spaced, font size ≥12) with a logical progression and structure.

Specific comments: This section is provided for the staff to make comments that amplify the box assessments in the top half of the form.

Note that computer failure is not accepted as a reason for late submission - it is good practice to maintain at least two copies of computer files.
### Assessment/Feedback MyAberdeen Rubric

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<th>1st class (18-22)</th>
<th>2.1 Class (15-17)</th>
<th>2.2 class (12-14)</th>
<th>3rd class (9-11)</th>
<th>Fail (0-8)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content (30%)</strong></td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good grasp of</td>
<td>Basic information</td>
<td>Limited, partial</td>
<td>Little or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>demonstration of</td>
<td>concepts and use</td>
<td>without evidence</td>
<td>knowledge,</td>
<td>no relevant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>knowledge and</td>
<td>of examples to</td>
<td>of appreciation</td>
<td>poorly developed</td>
<td>content,</td>
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<td>understanding,</td>
<td>illustrate points</td>
<td>of the topic,</td>
<td>and lacking</td>
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<td>grasp of</td>
<td>and justify</td>
<td>lacking</td>
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<td>fundamental</td>
<td>arguments</td>
<td>examples.</td>
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<td>arguments not</td>
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<td>and examples.</td>
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<td><strong>TECHNICAL INSIGHT (15%)</strong></td>
<td>Excellent use of</td>
<td>Good use of</td>
<td>Basic technical</td>
<td>Minimal technical</td>
<td>Lacking insight</td>
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<td></td>
<td>examples, clear</td>
<td>examples showing</td>
<td>understanding,</td>
<td>insight,</td>
<td>and demonstration of</td>
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<td>recognition of</td>
<td>technical insight.</td>
<td>demonstrating</td>
<td>limited</td>
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<td>how information</td>
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<td>some insight into</td>
<td>demonstration of</td>
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<td>was derived.</td>
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<td>how information</td>
<td>how information</td>
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<td><strong>STRUCTURE (10%)</strong></td>
<td>Excellent, clear</td>
<td>Good structure</td>
<td>Reasonable, basic</td>
<td>Limited ability</td>
<td>Poorly</td>
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<td>and logical</td>
<td>with meaningful</td>
<td>attempt at</td>
<td>to argue logically</td>
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<td>structure with</td>
<td>introduction,</td>
<td>structuring essay,</td>
<td>and structure</td>
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<td>main text and</td>
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<td>introduction and</td>
<td>conclusion</td>
<td>key topics.</td>
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<td>poorly</td>
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<td>conclusion section.</td>
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<td><strong>FIGURES (15%)</strong></td>
<td>Excellent, original figures. Clearly illustrated and well integrated with text, with appropriate legend,</td>
<td>Relevant figures clearly drawn and labelled, clear integration with text.</td>
<td>Basic design and use of figure, legends with some relevant information, reasonable integration with text.</td>
<td>Figures and legends with limited relevance and content, limited connection to text.</td>
<td>Figures not appropriate or missing. Poorly integrated, or legends irrelevant or missing, untidy, poorly labelled.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REFERENCING (10%)</strong></td>
<td>Excellent use of a range of appropriate key references,</td>
<td>Figures and legends with limited relevance and content, some connection to text.</td>
<td>Basic use of small range of relevant references,</td>
<td>Limited range and relevance of references, inconsistent use of citations.</td>
<td>Citations lacking or erroneous, format inconsistent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESENTATION (10%)</strong></td>
<td>Excellent presentation. Visually attractive, well organized.</td>
<td>Well presented and organised.</td>
<td>Reasonable attempt at organisation and presentation.</td>
<td>Limited ability at organisation and presentation.</td>
<td>Untidy, badly organised, illegible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION, SPELLING AND GRAMMAR (10%)</strong></td>
<td>Sentence construction good, readability high, spelling and grammar correct.</td>
<td>Sentence construction basic, readability good, with frequent errors.</td>
<td>Sentence construction poor, incoherent, many errors.</td>
<td></td>
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Lecture Synopsis

In this course students will study immune function in the context of disease to understand how immunological dysfunction can lead to a pathological immune or inflammatory response. We will examine how tolerance to non infectious or self-antigen is broken and the role of T lymphocyte subset differentiation/T regulatory cells and bias in autoimmunity and atopic disease; we will also consider how pathogens and cancer subvert the immune response to avoid immune detection and establish chronic infections and disease processes.

The role of immunological tolerance will be examined especially in the context of autoimmune disease where therapies that selectively switch off damaging anti-self immune responses are urgently required. Also relevant to a number of autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes and psoriasis, is the T cell subset Th17, which will be discussed.

We will look in detail at the complex cellular and molecular immune mechanisms underlying the recognition of and responses toward microorganisms and cancer. We will examine how specific bacteria, fungi and viruses and cancer cells can evade the immune system to cause disease and potential therapeutic strategies to overcome this. We will explore how immune dysregulation leads to disorders such as sepsis and the therapeutic options.

Allergies are usually driven by immediate hypersensitivity responses to common environmental proteins and chemicals rather than infection. Immunoglobulin-E, mast cells, eosinophils and basophils are central to the pathology. The mechanisms governing cell recruitment and the effects of mediators produced in allergy will be described. Asthma will be used to illustrate how a chronic inflammatory disorder can develop. This will include the signals controlling the accumulation of cells such as eosinophils, the contribution of the bronchial epithelium and other structural lung tissues to asthma pathogenesis and the significance of apoptosis in the resolution. How disease is initiated and ultimately controlled by underlying Th1/Th2 cell activity and the potential for allergen de-sensitisation will be described.

Class Representatives

We value students’ opinions in regard to enhancing the quality of teaching and its delivery; therefore, in conjunction with the Students’ Association we support the Class Representative system.

In the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition we operate a system of course representatives, who are elected from within each course. Any student registered within a course that wishes to represent a given group of students can stand for election as a class representative. You will be informed when the elections for class representative will take place.

What will it involve?

It will involve speaking to your fellow students about the course you represent. This can include any comments that they may have. You will attend a Staff-Student Liaison Committee and you should represent the views and concerns of the students within this meeting. As a representative, you will also be able to contribute to the agenda. You will then feedback to the students after this meeting with any actions that are being taken.

Training

Training for class representatives will be run by the Students Association. Training will take place within each half-session. For more information about the Class representative system visit www.ausa.org.uk or email the VP Education & Employability vped@abdn.ac.uk. Class representatives are also eligible to undertake the STAR (Students Taking
Active Roles) Award with further information about this co-curricular award being available at: www.abdn.ac.uk/careers.

Problems with Coursework

If students have difficulties with any part of the course that they cannot cope with, alone they should notify the course coordinator immediately. If the problem relates to the subject matter general, advice would be to contact the member of staff who is teaching that part of the course. Students with registered disabilities should contact the medical sciences office, (medsci@abdn.ac.uk) (based in the Polwarth Building, Foresterhill) to ensure that the appropriate facilities have been made available. Otherwise, you are strongly encouraged to contact any of the following as you see appropriate:

- Course student representatives
- Course co-ordinator
- Convenor of the Medical Sciences Staff/Student Liaison Committee (Professor Gordon McEwan)
- Personal Tutor
- Medical Sciences Disabilities Co-ordinator (Dr Derryck Shewan)

All staff are based at Foresterhill and we strongly encourage the use of email or telephone the Medical Sciences Office. You may have a wasted journey travelling to Foresterhill only to find staff unavailable.

If a course has been completed and students are no longer on campus (i.e. work from second half session during the summer vacation), coursework will be kept until the end of Fresher’s Week, during the new academic year. After that point, unclaimed student work will be securely destroyed.

Course Reading List

As this is a level 4 course you are expected to read the primary research literature. Some will be suggested and mentioned throughout the course, but you should also get used to accessing this for yourself, to follow up on a topic, via databases such as PubMed and Web of Science. However, your previous texts from third year will be useful for revising basic and fundamental knowledge and as a starting point for some topics e.g. Cellular and Molecular Immunology, 9th Edition, Abbas, Lichtman, Pillai. There is now a 10th Edition but we don’t expect you to buy this if you already have the 9th Edition.

University Policies

Students are asked to make themselves familiar with the information on key education policies, available here. These policies are relevant to all students and will be useful to you throughout your studies. They contain important information and address issues such as what to do if you are absent, how to raise an appeal or a complaint and how the University will calculate your degree outcome.
These University wide education policies should be read in conjunction with this programme and/or course handbook, in which School specific policies are detailed. These policies are effective immediately, for the 2022/23 academic year. Further information can be found on the University’s Infohub webpage or by visiting the Infohub.

The information included in the institutional area for 2022-23 includes the following:

- Assessment
- Feedback
- Academic Integrity
- Absence
- Student Monitoring/ Class Certificates
- Late Submission of Work
- Student Discipline
- The co-curriculum
- Student Learning Service (SLS)
- Professional and Academic Development
- Graduate Attributes
- Email Use
- MyAberdeen
- Appeals and Complaints

**Where to Find the Following Information:**

**C6/C7-** University of Aberdeen Homepage > Students > Academic Life > Monitoring and Progress > Student Monitoring (C6 & C7)

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/academic-life/student-monitoring.php#panel5179

**Absences** - To report absences you should use the absence reporting system tool on Student Hub. Once you have successfully completed and sent the absence form you will get an email that your absence request has been accepted. The link below can be used to log onto the Student Hub Website and from there you can record any absences you may have.

Log In - Student Hub (ahttps://www.abdn.ac.uk/studenthub/loginbdn.ac.uk)

**Submitting an Appeal** - University of Aberdeen Homepage > Students > Academic Life > Appeals and Complaints

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/academic-life/appeals-complaints-3380.php#panel2109

**Academic Language & Skills support**
For students whose first language is not English, the Language Centre offers support with Academic Writing and Communication Skills.

**Academic Writing**

- Responding to a writing task: Focusing on the question
- Organising your writing: within & between paragraphs
- Using sources to support your writing (including writing in your own words, and citing & referencing conventions)
- Using academic language
- Critical Thinking
- Proofreading & Editing

**Academic Communication Skills**

- Developing skills for effective communication in an academic context
- Promoting critical thinking and evaluation
- Giving opportunities to develop confidence in communicating in English
- Developing interactive competence: contributing and responding to seminar discussions
- Useful vocabulary and expressions for taking part in discussions

More information and how to book a place can be found [here](#)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>% Mark</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Honours Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td></td>
<td>First</td>
<td>• Outstanding ability and critical thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Evidence of extensive reading</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Superior understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The best performance that can be expected from a student at this level</td>
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<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>First</td>
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<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Upper Second</td>
<td>• Able to argue logically and organise answers well</td>
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<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Lower Second</td>
<td>• Shows a thorough grasp of concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td></td>
<td>Third</td>
<td>• Good use of examples to illustrate points and justify arguments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Evidence of reading and wide appreciation of subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Repetition of lecture notes without evidence of further appreciation of subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>64-66</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lacking illustrative examples and originality</td>
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<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Basic level of understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>57-59</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Limited ability to argue logically and organise answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>54-56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Failure to develop or illustrate points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50-53</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The minimum level of performance required for a student to be awarded a pass</td>
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<td>D1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>47-49</td>
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<td>• Weak presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>D2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>44-46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Tendency to irrelevance</td>
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<tr>
<td>D3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>40-43</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Some attempt at an answer but seriously lacking in content and/or ability to organise thoughts</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>37-39</td>
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<td>• Contains major errors or misconceptions</td>
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<td>E2</td>
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<td>34-36</td>
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<td>• Poor presentation</td>
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<td>E3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30-33</td>
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<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26-29</td>
<td>Clear Fail</td>
<td>Not used for Honours</td>
<td>• Contains major errors or misconceptions</td>
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<td>F2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21-25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Poor presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>F3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>G1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>Clear Fail</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Token or no submission</td>
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<td>G2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>Fail/Abysmal</td>
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# IM4007 Course Timetable: 2022-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19 Sep</td>
<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td>1:154</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr I Crane, Prof H Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>MyAb</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Danger signals and the immune response</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr I Crane</td>
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<td>Tue 20 Sep</td>
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<td>Wed 21 Sep</td>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
<td>FLT</td>
<td>Mechanisms of Tolerance</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr F Ward</td>
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<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td>FLT</td>
<td>Regulatory T Cells and the immune response</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr F Ward</td>
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<td>Thu 22 Sep</td>
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<td>Fri 23 Sep</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9</strong></td>
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<td>Mon 26 Sep</td>
<td>15:00-16:00</td>
<td>1M:001</td>
<td>Tolerance: Foetal Maternal Interaction</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr F Ward</td>
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<td>Aire: the identity of &quot;Self&quot;</td>
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<td>Tue 27 Sep</td>
<td>15:00-16:00</td>
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<td>Mechanisms of autoimmunity/autoimmune disease</td>
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<tr>
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<td>16:00-17:00</td>
<td>1M:001</td>
<td>T(_) subsets in Autoimmune Disease</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr F Ward</td>
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<td>Wed 28 Sep</td>
<td>MyAb</td>
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<td>Autoimmune Disease Case Study (Questions)</td>
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<td>Thu 29 Sep</td>
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<td>Fri 30 Sep</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10</strong></td>
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<td>Mon 3 Oct</td>
<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td>1M:001</td>
<td>Molecular mechanisms of immune evasion</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr V Solano</td>
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<td>15:00-16:00</td>
<td>1M:001</td>
<td>Immune evasion: Viruses</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr V Solano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 4 Oct</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>1M:001</td>
<td>Immune evasion: Salmonella</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr V Solano</td>
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<td>MyAb</td>
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<td>Immune evasion: <em>Candida albicans</em></td>
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<td>Dr D MacCallum</td>
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<td>Wed 5 Oct</td>
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<td><strong>Week 11</strong></td>
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<td>Mon 10 Oct</td>
<td>15:00-16:00</td>
<td>1M:001</td>
<td>Host adaptation? Malaria and the sickle cell</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr P Cao</td>
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<td>MyAb</td>
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<td>Immune evasion: Cancer</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr R Abu-Eid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 11 Oct</td>
<td>MyAb</td>
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<td>Asthma: immune response and therapy</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr I Crane</td>
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<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>1M:001</td>
<td>Atopic march and other atopic diseases</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Dr I Crane</td>
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<td>Wed 12 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 17 Oct</td>
<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>Explanation of Research Spotlight Assessment. Role of Microbiota in the Pathogenesis of Immune Disease 1</td>
<td>Research Tutorial Prof H Wilson</td>
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<td>Tue 18 Oct</td>
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<td>Role of Microbiota in the Pathogenesis of Immune Disease 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Oct</td>
<td>12:00-14:00</td>
<td>Research Tutorial Prof H Wilson</td>
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<td>Thu 20 Oct</td>
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<td>Fri 21 Oct</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 7 Nov</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Research Tutorial Spotlight: deadline</td>
<td>Assessed</td>
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</table>

Green – material which is online only for you to study in your own time.

Yellow – assessment deadline

**Venues**

All venues are in Polwarth, Foresterhill.
Campus Maps - Foresterhill