



## Innate immunity

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Author: Jules Hoffmann

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A lively book by a major biologist opens the door to immunology.

As with all vertebrates, adaptive immunity among humans develops when lymphocytes present in the blood have already been in contact with a pathogenic agent and learned to defend themselves from it. Jules Hoffmann worked with insects and noticed they never developed infections. He theorized the presence of an "innate" immuno-response whose existence was later identified in humans. Only then was the "missing link" in our account of the human immune mechanism discovered.

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