

End-Of-Term Reflection

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One thing I learned in this class that strongly connected to my other coursework was the process of how antigens activate T cells. This finally helped me understand why the immune system responds the way it does when the body's natural biome is threatened by virulent microbes. As a Biomedical Science student who has taken courses like microbiology, I was already familiar with concepts such as inflammation, pathogens, and general immune mechanisms, but this course really tested my understanding. And allowed me to dive deeper into these concepts and fill in the molecular details I was missing. For instance, learning how dendritic cells present peptides on MHC molecules made many of the concepts I had previously learned come full circle. It also helped me better understand areas like vaccine production and viral evolution and adaptation, which I feel are essential for my long-term goal of becoming a Physician Assistant. Although the material at times felt overwhelming, I believe in the end it strengthened my ability to think critically, and make connections across my courses that I was unable to do before. Additionally I have gained a deeper understanding of how the body defends itself.