



Immunological Nudging – Maintaining Vigilance and Reactivity

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Message from the Guest Editor

Immunology is regulated with regulatory systems that are fine-tuned in a constant homeostasis. The prerequisite of the ability to react immediately as needed in this system of defense is a constant availability of regulative mechanisms turning on and off in interaction with each other. Swift effective response requires anticipation. Only by constant availability of all components necessary for effective functionality of each regulatory unit is a swift immunological response in full coordination with all regulatory units possible. It is suggested to introduce the term immunological nudging, for the constant subclinical external stimuli that keep all components of the system in good functional condition and reactive capacity. Due to the constant soft push on the activation of autoregulatory mechanisms, such immunological nudging guarantees the availability of immediate immunological response ability by constantly, usually subclinically, activating and silencing each regulatory unit. It is suggested that the constant activation and deactivation of major regulatory circuits in perfect harmony maintains the readiness to immediate immunological reaction.





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