

IMMUNOLOGY ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to explore an important form of information in medicine: grand rounds presentations. You are not expected to master the analysis of the information presented, but you should demonstrate that you have made an honest attempt to understand and interpret it. The assignment is worth a possible 10 points (maximum).

The assignment is due any time on, or before, midnight on **March 21, 2011**. Assignments turned in late will only receive a maximum of half credit. Completed assignments are to be turned into the Health Education Office (MSB 2.133). Assignments are not accepted via e-mail.

YOU MUST TYPE YOUR ESSAY. THE ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE APPROXIMATELY TWO-THREE PAGES FOR YOUR ANSWER. THIS IS NOT A SHARED ASSIGNMENT; DUPLICATE ESSAYS (TURNED IN BY MORE THAN ONE STUDENT) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Examples of the essay assignment can be found posted at:

<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/pathology/medic/immunology/Immuno/Ex1.Essay.Assignment.pdf>
or on Blackboard.

ASSIGNMENT: Grand Rounds Review. Attend one of the City-Wide Infectious Disease Conferences held every Wednesday at Noon in the auditorium behind the elevators on the ground floor of the DeBaakey Building, Baylor College of Medicine (BCM Rm M112). (This building is the white building next to the new Baylor Graduate School Building and across the street from the Jones Library). Usually three cases are presented as unknowns, a differential diagnosis is made, and the outcome and ramifications of the case are discussed. The presenters often provide handouts for the case, but you may wish to record the conference to help you glean out the information. **Note that the infectious disease and microbiology aspects are generally covered in detail, whereas the immunology is often not discussed. Your job is to investigate the immunologic aspects of the disease and incorporate them into your interpretation and case description. This is an Immunology assignment; limit your discussion of Microbiology to pertinent information only.**

Choose only ONE of the cases presented. The case must have an immunologic implication. (e.g. The infection was cleared by immune mechanisms, or the patient was immunodeficient and thus developed an unusual infection).

- a) Briefly describe the case, concentrating on the clinical manifestations (patient's symptoms + findings from examination and tests) that are most relevant. Use medical terms where you can, but define them in a few words. Include the diagnosis, treatment, and outcome (if presented). **USE YOUR OWN WORDS.** Include a copy of the handout for the case, if one was provided.
- b) Using your microbiology and immunology texts, describe the organism(s) which caused the infection in this case. What is the normal course of disease, and how did they differ in this case? What treatments are generally effective, and were they effective in this patient?
- c) The major portion of the essay should be devoted towards discussion of the immunologic implications and principles of the case. **Describe in as much detail as possible the normal immune mechanisms to combat this infectious agent and how they affect the course of infection.** (e.g. Macrophages phagocytose and process the antigen and present antigen

fragments in association with MHC Class II proteins to antigen-specific CD4+ helper T cells, role of complement, cell phenotypes involved, etc.) How was the immune response of this patient different (if this is applicable)? Did the patient have an underlying condition that contributed to the development of this infection? (Did the patient have cancer, AIDS, hereditary immunodeficiency or some other condition affecting the immune response?) How did the immune response (or lack thereof) affect the outcome of this case? Did the immune response contribute to the pathogenesis of disease (i.e. is immunopathology involved)? Describe immunization or other immunologic procedures (such as passive transfer of antibodies) used in the prevention or treatment of this disease.

d) **Cite references used in your analysis of the case.** You will need to refer to published articles to obtain specific background information or methods needed to comprehend the case. *Points will be subtracted if relevant citations are absent.* **You must include at least 2 primary publications (meaning: journal articles) published within the past 4 years.** Web pages are not considered as primary references. You may also include syllabus chapters as references, but must also include additional references that demonstrate you have expanded your discussion to materials outside the lecture presented materials. Syllabus chapters are NOT primary references. Up to 1 point is subtracted if the references are missing, incomplete, or inadequate to support your discussion.

e) **You must include a copy of the handout from the Grand Rounds session.** 1 point is subtracted if the handout is missing.

f) **The length of the essay should not exceed 3 pages (including references).** 1 point is subtracted for going over the set page limit.

In summary, make sure you:

- **Describe clinical manifestations of the case.**
- **Discuss immunological aspects of case.**
- **Give full citations to cite your ideas, including use of current references from journal articles.**
- **Attach a copy of the Grand Rounds handout for the case.**
- **Turn in your assignment on time.**

Essays may be submitted anytime prior to the stated deadline. Late submitted essays will receive a 5 point deduction.

Policy on Exam Grading (MS1 and MS2 courses) and Exam Review Sessions

Recommended by the Educational Policy Subcommittee: August 12, 2010

Approved by the Curriculum Committee: August 25, 2010

Revised by Educational Programs: August 31, 2010

Approved by the Curriculum Committee: September 15, 2010

The following policy delineates procedures related to exam grading and review/protest sessions to be followed by all first- and second-year courses.

1. Course directors will score examinations through LXR and post results on MS-Gradebook as soon as possible.
2. Course directors will use item statistics generated by LXR to identify problematic questions. Upon review, if a course director determines that a question was written incorrectly (e.g. had more than one or no correct answer), then the director will give all students credit for that particular question.
3. Post-exam review sessions: course directors will provide feedback on difficult examination topics, in a manner deemed appropriate by the course director. Copies of the examinations will not be returned to the students during these sessions.

ESSAYS: Essays will be returned to students as quickly as grading allows. Inquiries regarding essay assignment grading must be submitted within one week after receipt of returned assignments. Requests for review of essays past the one week period will be denied.