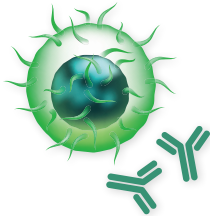


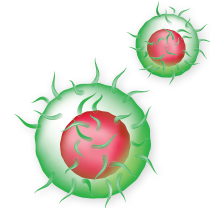
KEY PLAYERS IN THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

White blood cells are the cells of the immune system that work together to protect the body from pathogens. They can also cooperate to attack and destroy cancer cells. Here, we describe briefly the unique functions of the white blood cells that have a central role in these processes.

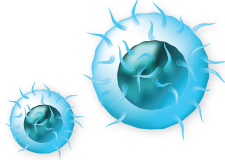
B cells make antibodies that help the immune system function. Some remain as memory B cells to make the same antibody again later, if it is needed



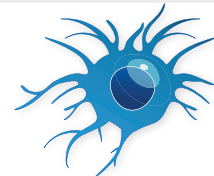
CD4+ T cells help manage the immune response. Some remain as memory T cells to fight again later.



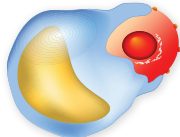
CD8+ T cells kill infected, damaged, and cancer cells. Some remain as memory T cells to fight again later.



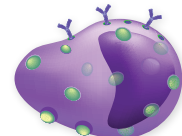
Dendritic cells educate T cells about what kinds of cells they should and should not attack.



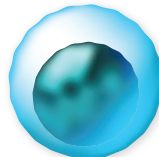
Macrophages eat foreign materials.



Mast cells release chemicals against pathogens and stimulate the immune system.



Natural killer cells kill infected, damaged, and cancer cells.



Neutrophils, basophils, and eosinophils release chemicals against pathogens and stimulate the immune system.

