

Chapter 8: The Dialogue Between the Brain and the Immune System
Biol 194 Seminar Questions

This is a stamped assignment to be completed *before* attending seminar. Pay attention to the following discussion questions as you read chapter 8 and pages 3-5. Write responses to each question on *separate paper* along with the page number(s) where you found that info.

1. What is the premise of psychosomatic medicine?
2. Why are many physicians and scientists uncomfortable with psychosomatic medicine and dispute many of the claims of psychosomatic medicine?
3. Cite specific evidence that supports the “mind-body connection.” That is, give specific examples that indicate that the state of mind can indeed influence human health and immune system function.
4. Describe what Rheumatoid factor is and how the over-production of RF may lead to the development of rheumatoid arthritis (RA).
5. What evidence does the author give that suggests that RA is due to the interplay of both genetic and emotional factors?
6. Briefly describe the Carnegie-Mellon University study that found a near perfect correlation between developing a clinically verifiable cold and an individual’s level of stress. What conclusion(s) can be made from the study?
7. What is the greatest potential negative effect of anticipatory nausea in women undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer?
8. What is the neuroendocrine system? How does it work?
9. Cite the evidence for two-way communication between the brain and the immune system.
10. Interleukin-2 (IL-2) and other lymphokines have a very potent and positive stimulatory effect on T cells, but their use in immunotherapy in tumor therapy has severe limitations. Why?
11. The chapter ends with several unanswered questions. Which do you find intriguing/interesting?