



A Global Immunology through Interconnections, Civilizations, and Structures

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Abstract

This research urges greater focus on the numerous layers of social context responsiveness of immune function, of typical infectious disease symptoms. After earning his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Georgia in 2005, Eric went on to earn his M.S. in Biomedical Anthropology from SUNY Binghamton in 2009, where he collaborated with Dr. Chris Reiber on a project about prosocial behaviours after vaccination. He worked as an intern at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Infectious Disease Pathology Branch in Atlanta, Georgia, while getting that degree. While researching with Professor Michael Muehlenbein and his Evolutionary Anthropology Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin, he supervised a Ph.D. student and supervised a Master's thesis. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Keywords: Social networks; Illness behavior; Social immunology; Culture; Immune response

Introduction

Health and illness are social phenomena in socially living animals. Infectious disease is one area where this is especially true. Pathogen exposure frequently follows social network patterns. When an individual becomes infected, complex, integrated immune responses are triggered at the level of the person, who is also a part of relationships that can affect the type and amount of resources (such as food) required to sustain an effective immune response as well as the capacity to express behaviors [1-4] that may also have an impact on the course of the infection. Being the most socially complex species, we have extremely complex and varied interpersonal connections and social networks in addition to being rooted in sociocultural environments that influence every part of our life. In order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of human immune function with subsequent effects on morbidity, mortality, and pathogen transmission, I contend that psychoneuroimmunology and related fields can benefit from embracing the complexity and culturally contingent nature of our social lives. I provide "social immunology" as one such study framework in this article.

Case presentation

This method seeks to comprehend the ways in which 1) an individual's social networks affect immune function and vulnerability to infection, 2) immune responses during infection affect social relationships, and 3) larger social contexts, such as the structure of society and cultural values and norms, are capable of influencing immune function and vulnerability to infection. Eric Shattuck is an interdisciplinary scientist with training in psychoneuroimmunology, evolutionary medicine, and biological and cultural anthropology. His work focuses on the biological and cultural determinants of health in various social contexts, with an emphasis on infectious disease. The ultimate goal of this research is to (Figure 1) advance our comprehension of inflammation, immunity, and its psychological and behavioural correlates in the context of the wide range [4-9] of human cultures and social groups. Other ongoing initiatives investigate the relationships between discomfort, rage, and opiate use and abuse, as well as the relationships between sleep, social stress, and inflammation in the developing world, and they also investigate Indigenous perceptions

of typical infectious disease symptoms. After earning his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Georgia in 2005, Eric went on to earn his M.S. in Biomedical Anthropology from SUNY Binghamton in 2009, where he collaborated with Dr. Chris Reiber on a project about prosocial behaviours after vaccination. He worked as an intern at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Infectious Disease Pathology Branch in Atlanta, Georgia, while getting that degree. While researching with Professor Michael Muehlenbein and his Evolutionary Anthropology Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin, he supervised a Ph.D. student and supervised a Master's thesis. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

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