

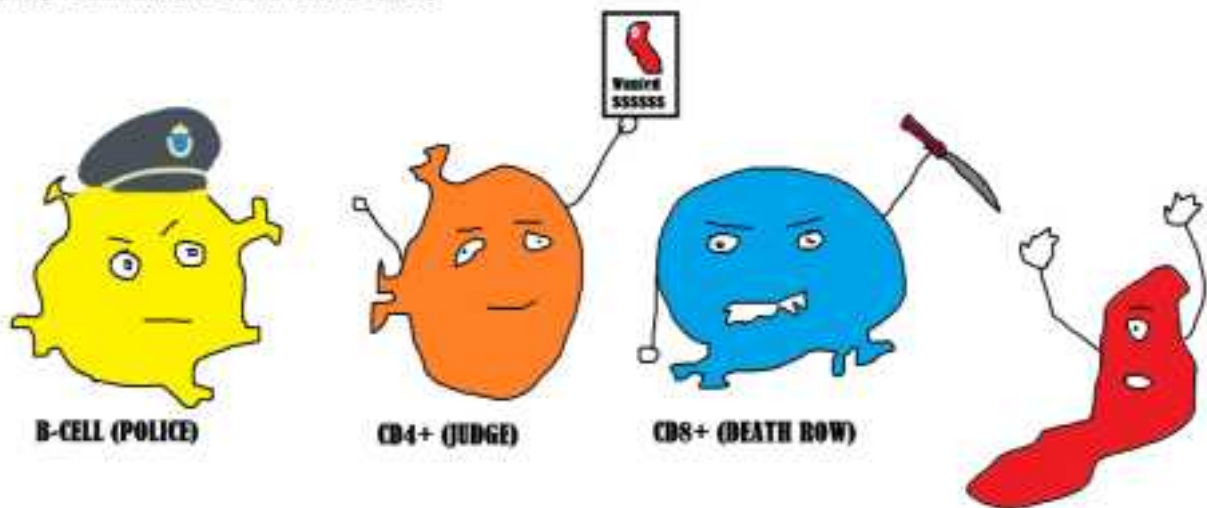
# The Hat Club



Thursday 8pm  
21st November  
Pavilion Room  
Hughes Hall

## Nick Cooper (Cambridge Institute of Medical Research) The immune system, friend or foe?

Almira Osmanovic Thunström 2011



It is important to have a strong immune system, right? A weak immune system can certainly lead to problems. However, disorders where the body's immune system attacks itself, are becoming increasingly common, with roughly 3% of the UK population diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. Autoimmune diseases you may know of include: type 1 diabetes, celiac disease, Crohn's Disease, MS, arthritis, thyroid disease, lupus and perhaps even asthma. This talk aims to give an overview of the immune system for non-scientists, from what happens when you get a cold, to autoimmunity, to your relationship with your gut flora. Squeamish people be warned!

## Jessica Luise Sorge (Department of Pharmacology) Pain caused by chilli, English mustard and even temperature



*Image courtesy of the Julius lab (UCSF)*

We all know how hot chillies can be... The tongue starts burning, then the whole mouth gets hot, some even start getting warm and we just want a drink to quench that “bonfire” in our mouth. If we belong to the very unfortunate people, our face might even turn bright red! English mustard is somehow different: not the same burning sensation, rather a tickle in nose if not too much is eaten. In this talk, I will try to explain how and why we experience these two ingredients in a completely different way.

*The evening is organized by the Hat Club, Hughes Hall's Society for talks and debate. For further enquiries, contact Jürgen Jänes — the acting Hat Club Co-President — at [hatclub@hughes.cam.ac.uk](mailto:hatclub@hughes.cam.ac.uk).*