

AT THE EDGE OF MYSTERIES

7 July 2022

THE DISCOVERY OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM FROM SMALLPOX TO COVID-19 SHANTHA PERERA

AT THE EDGE OF MYSTERIES

The Discovery of the Immune System from Smallpox to Covid-19

SHANTHA PERERA

(Holding Cover)

ISBN (Paperback): 9781915054524 ISBN (Ebook): 9781915054531 Price: £14.99 (Paperback), £9.99 (Ebook) Extent: 288 pages Format: 216 x 138mm Rights Held: World Genre: Popular Science / Immunology In December 2019 a new virus emerged, one that caused a global pandemic. Millions were infected. In the recesses of their fragile bodies a battle raged: between the immune system and the virus. But what is the immune system? What are its components? How do they work?

One way to understand this system, arguably the most complicated in human physiology, is by walking on the footprints of history, one observation and experiment at a time, beginning with the first written record of the concept of immunity in 430 BCE, through the ensuing centuries that gave the world vaccines, organ transplantation, novel therapies for cancer and now the understanding and tools to tackle the pandemic virus.

An entertaining and informative popular history, *At the Edge of Mysteries* introduces the reader to a compelling cast of characters, from Edward Jenner and Louis Pasteur to the Nobel laureates of the modern day. This book glimpses into their lives and times, seeking clues to their genius, their yearning for discovery, and asks the question of what can be learned from the past in the age of global pandemics.

Similiar titles published by Hero. *The Beat of Life* (2021), *The Unnatural Selection of Our Species* (2021)





Key Selling Points:

- No comparable book on the market that accessibly illustrates the immune system through the key discoveries
- Very topical subject in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Can appeal to the general reader and undergraduates studying immunology

Comparison Title:

The Gene: An Intimate History, Siddhartha Mukherjee. Between Hope and Fear: A History of Vaccines and Human Immunity, Michael Kinch

Authors:

Shantha Perera is a Senior Lecturer in Immunology at the School of Medicine, University of Wolverhampton, U.K. He has taught immunology to undergraduate and postgraduate students for over 25 years and is the principal author of *Integrated Medical Sciences: The Essentials,* Wiley 2007.