

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910828524203321
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Titolo	At war within : the double-edged sword of immunity // William R. Clark
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Oxford University Press, , 1995
ISBN	0-19-770025-X 1-280-96563-0 9786610965632 0-19-802530-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (289 pages)
Disciplina	616.079
Soggetti	Immunologic diseases Medicine
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 267-269) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; 1 Overture to a Science Unborn: Smallpox and the Origins of Immunology; 2 The Anatomy of an Immune Response; 3 Living in the Bubble: Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases; 4 Hypersensitivity and Allergy; 5 Horror Autotoxicus: The Immunology of Self-Destruction; 6 When the Wall Comes Tumbling Down: AIDS; 7 Organ Transplantation: Exploring the Boundary Between Technology and Ethics; 8 Minding the Immune System's Business: The Dialogue Between the Brain and the Immune System; Appendix: Diversity, Tolerance, and Memory: The Politically Correct Immune System; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the seventeenth century, smallpox reigned as the world's worst killer. Luck, more than anything else, decided who would live and who would die. That is, until Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, an English aristocrat, moved to Constantinople and noticed the Turkish practice of "ingrafting" or inoculation, which, she wrote, made "the small-pox... entirely harmless." Convinced by what she witnessed, she allowed her six-year-old son to be ingrafted, and the treatment was a complete success--the young Montagu enjoyed lifelong immunity from smallpox.

