

#THERAPEUTIC

Potential Dog-Allergy Vaccine

Scientists have identified a series of molecular candidates for those parts of dog allergens that cause immune reactions in people - the first step in developing a vaccine against most causes of dog allergies.



There have been many research efforts describing the nature and progression of dog allergies, but there have been very few applied studies that use this information to try to cure people of dog allergies entirely by artificially inducing immune tolerance. But recent dog allergy researchers have now for the first time identified candidates for those parts of the molecules that make up dog allergens that could give us precisely that: a dog allergy vaccine.

Being allergic to dogs is a common malady and one that is growing worldwide. Over the years, scientists have been able to identify several different dog allergens-molecules or molecular structures that bind to an antibody and produce an unusually strong immune response that would normally be harmless.



These seven are named Canis familiaris allergens 1 to 7 (Can f 1-7). But while there are seven, just one, Can f 1, is responsible for the majority (50-75 percent) of reactions in people allergic to dogs. It is found in dogs' tongue tissue, salivary glands and their skin.

Researchers have yet to identify Can f 1's IgE epitopes-those specific parts of the antigens that are recognized by the immune system and stimulate or 'determine' an immune response (which is why epitopes are also called antigen determinants). More specifically, epitopes are short amino acid sequences making up part of a protein that induces the immune response.

Epitopes bind to a specific antigen receptor on the surface of immune system antibodies, B cells or T cells, much



The Tale of Two Countries (...1)

As told by Maroof Raza



For most Indians, while Pakistan has been about love and hate, China has been an enigma of sorts. They gorge on the Indianised versions of the Chinese foods; love buying cheap Chinese trinkets and gadgets and even watch dubbed versions of Chinese movies. However, China is much more than what meets the eye, as is evident by Maroof Raza's latest book 'Contested Lands'.

#CONTESTED LANDS

al military and security issues. The book was an eye opener and so was the candid tet-e-tat with the author:

An Old-time Friend or Foe

In your book you have stated that Nehru considered China as an 'old time friend' and wanted to build friendly relations with India's aggressive neighbour. In fact in the Panchsheel Treaty which was signed between India and China in 1954, India accepted Tibet as a part of China and gave up its extraterritorial rights over Tibet and legitimised the Chinese claims over Tibet when the entire non-communist world was condemning China's occupation of Tibet. India also surrendered its three extraterritorial Indian Army outposts, stationed since 1904, under the treaty of Lhasa, when it agreed to withdraw its troops from Yatung, Gartok and Gyantse in Tibet. Moreover, India also offered China the India-run post and telegraph facilities in Tibet. The question is why wasn't Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru interested in liberating Tibet or siding with them?

From what I understand, firstly Panditji had a belief that being friendly to a new emerging country like China is a better way to establish new equations with China. He was happily oblivious of China's historical animosity towards India. Please remember in the initial years when China came into being, Lord Mountbatten was the head of Indian state. So, China saw India as

the extension of the British Raj. Britain was also talking in terms of India being centre of the commonwealth and the dominion status that they wanted to extend to India like they had to in Australia and Canada.

Secondly, Nehru in his idealism believed that if you are nice to a new country which is still finding its feet, it was a better way to go about building better future relationships and ensuring your security with your large neighbour. At that point in time, he had no idea about Mao's ambition to take over Tibet. He felt that Tibet was a buffer enough. China and Nehru both were engaging with the Soviet Union. So, he thought that both India and China were in the same boat. It is typical of people who are western educated to become anti-west.

Nehru was running the policy for foreign relations. Gandhiji was known for non-violence and Nehru wanted to be known for non-alignment. So, he thought his way was the right way. When you are so obsessed with your vision you don't tend to look right or left. He went for a visit to China and came back from there with all sorts of false promises by the Chinese. Nehru was in a way like what our prime minister Narendra Modi is today. He was so powerful that no one could stand up to him including Sardar Patel. So, he must have told the latter, to handle the integration of the states and let him handle the foreign affairs. Mao Zedong (President of PRC - People's Republic of China) wanted to cut Nehru down to the size because his profile was becoming larger than life in the international arena. Today, Modi is also being

BABY BLUES



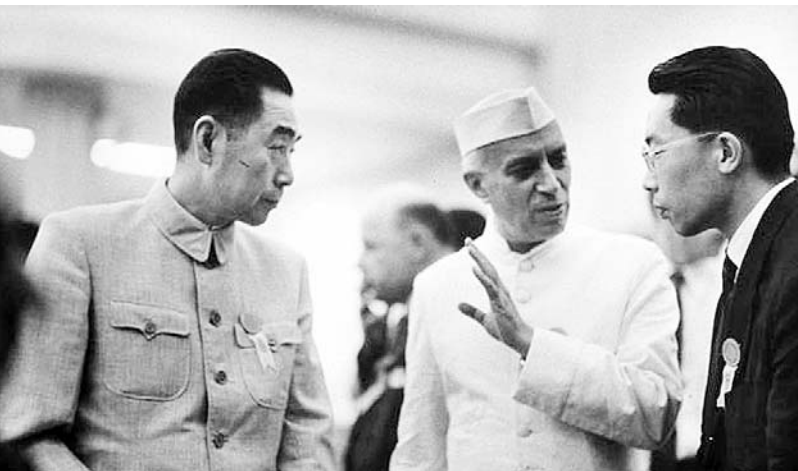
By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



Nehru with Chinese premier Zhou enLai.



India China War

war. British were concerned about the Suez crises. So, China was slowly occupying Tibet while everyone was busy elsewhere.

The Skirmishes Unfold

The book talks about the 'Longju incident' of 25 August 1959, which marked the first armed encounter between Indian and Chinese forces. It says that Longju was an Indian border post, directly located along the McMahon Line, when it was attacked by Chinese border troops forcing Indian troops to withdraw. Yet, Indian troops from Assam Rifles continued to patrol the location until the Sino-Indian war in 1962. Today, it is controlled by China, but claimed by India.

was quite evident from the reconnaissance flight by Wing Commander Jaggi Nath. And if India would have known, US would have also known because people in Nehru's office were passing on all the classified information to the Americans. Had Americans come to know about it, they would have gone with hammer and tons to knock off that facility like Israel did with Iraq. Where Israel was in 1982, America was in 1952. Mao wanted to make China the world's most respected country and he used to often say that power comes from the barrel of a gun.

Despite all these reconnaissance missions, why was it that India was caught unawares by the Chinese? This was because Mao had planned the 62 operations in a way that he would hit India when the world was preoccupied. So, he had planned it in that one-month time where everyone was involved in the Cuban crises because this was a situation which could have resulted in a nuclear war between Russia and America. Mao attacked in 1962, because after the debacle of the 'cultural revolution', which killed 45 million people, he wanted to give China something to be proud of and hence he attacked India. Also, he was encouraged by Russia to attack India as that time Russia was on China's side. Nikita Khrushchev gave the go ahead to Mao and told him that now was the time to attack India. Mao was not a good leader except for his India policy. He killed 45 million people in his great experiment of the 'cultural revolution'. I am not saying if the historians have recorded it. He had no value for human life or anything except to make a point.

Some people feel that Nehru was too busy in his own affairs and liaisons with women to worry about India and China or other such issues.

That's utter nonsense! He may have had affairs, so what? Find me a global leader who didn't have affairs. Mao's own doctor, at the time gave a statement and said that Mao lived a vulgar life and every other day he had a new Chinese woman. That didn't distract him from his agenda. Kennedy also had his own share of affairs. Most leaders have been like that. That is not the reason why Nehru didn't see the writing on the wall.

To be Continued...

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It is evident that China was slowly and steadily increasing its step into India. But what was the cause of this build up which resulted in the war of 1962?

From what I can understand, China was getting quite insecure as India was becoming too close to finding their nuclear facility which

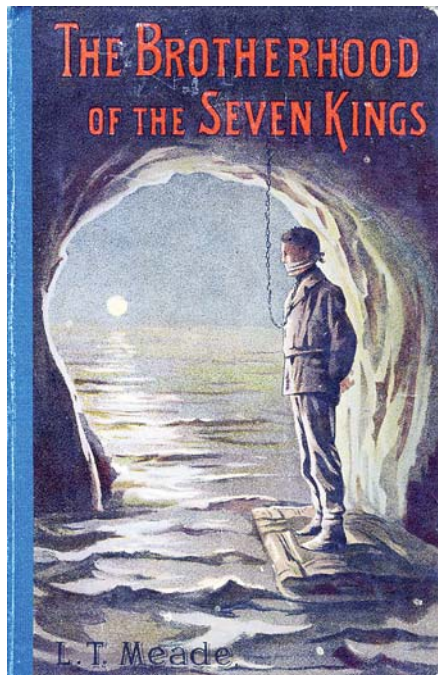
World Vegan Month

January Month is a month-long celebration of all things vegan and was created to encourage non-vegans to try out the lifestyle. Often referred to as a lifestyle and not a diet, vegans who practice veganism aim to reduce the suffering of animals, help the planet and improve global health by not eating any animal products, such as meat, dairy or eggs, and also by abstaining from contributing to animal exploitation such as honey production, creation of leather goods and industrial farming of animals.



#BOOKWORM

Detective Fiction



Five Victorian detective stories to read that are not Sherlock Holmes mysteries



A Prince Of Swindlers

Guy Boothby

A vast treasure trove of detective stories was published in periodicals, newspapers and magazines between 1893 and 1900.

In December 1893, just six years after his first appearance and at the height of his popularity with the late-Victorian reading public, Sherlock Holmes, the world's most famous fictional detective, was killed by his creator Arthur Conan Doyle. In 'The Final Problem', published in The Strand magazine, Sherlock plunged over the Reichenbach Falls in a struggle with master criminal Professor Moriarty and both were swallowed by a cauldron of swirling water and seething foam. His body was not recovered.

At the time of the story's publication, Doyle firmly believed that this would be the last of Holmes. He considered his detective fiction a lower stratum of literary achievement and felt that with Holmes out of the way, he could capitalise on his celebrity and attract an audience for his long historical novels. Authors are not always the best judges of their own work.

For fans of Doyle's detective stories, the good news is that they found dozens of detectives to take his place. A vast (and largely uncharted) treasure trove of detective stories has been published in periodicals, newspapers and magazines between 1893 and 1900, as Holmes rivals, clones and parodies emerged to fill the great detective's deerstalker hat and cape. Here are five of the best:

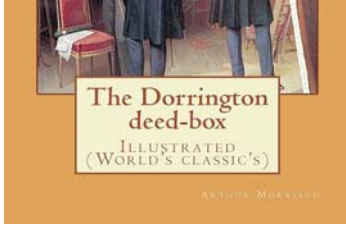
1. The Experiences of Loveday Brooke, Lady Detective (1894) Loveday Brooke is the first female detective created by a male author (Catherine Louisa Pirkis). Appearing more than 25 years before female detectives were officially employed by the Metropolitan Police, private investigator Brooke is frequently asked by the police to assist with cases where a 'feminine' perspective is required.

Pirkis's gendered twist on the



Victorian detective genre sees Brooke's 'female methods' - such as gossip and gaining the trust of servants - trouncing those of her male contemporaries and exonerating wrongly-suspected women.

2. The Dorrington Deed-Box (1897) Sherlock Holmes often asserted that he would have made a 'highly efficient criminal'. In this collection of short stories, Arthur Morrison's Horace Dorrington takes this notion to its furthest extreme.



Dorrington is a charming East End criminal with a very successful private detective business in the prosperous West End of the Victorian metropolis. Throughout his adventures, he lies to, steals from, poisons, blackmails and attempts to kill various clients and criminals. This is a thrillingly chaotic and unsettling portrait of a late-Victorian London pervaded by greed and crime.

3. A Prince of Swindlers (1897) Guy Boothby's collection of six short crime stories follows the adventures of Detective Klimo, the most famous of Victorian detectives in London. Working from his Park Lane mansion, his clients include the cream of London society who consult him when their jewels or paintings are stolen.

The twist is that Klimo's alter-ego is gentleman burglar Simon Carne, a master of disguise who has travelled to England from India to profit from the wealth collected in the imperial metropolis of the Queen's jubilee celebrations.

4. Ghosts: Being the Experiences of Flaxman Low (1899) As E and H Heron, mother and son team Kate O'Brien Prichard and Hesketh Prichard co-authored 12 stories featuring Flaxman Low, 'the Sherlock Holmes of the ghost world'. They were first published as 'Real Ghost Stories' in Pearson's Magazine from 1898 to 1899. While Sherlock Holmes emphatically disavowed



the supernatural - 'the world is big enough for us, no ghosts need apply' - Low is open to its place in the world of modern crime fiction.

By the series' close, Low has seen off an array of ghosts, mummies, occult societies, killer plants and diabolical master criminals.

Low is not the first 'occult detective' in the detective genre that accolade belongs to LT Meade and John Eustace's John Bell, who appeared in 1896 - he is the first investigator whose work accepts or proves, rather than disavows, the existence of the ghostly and occult forces behind the crimes he investigates.

5. The Brotherhood of the Seven Kings (1898) While The Strand had many regular contributors who stepped in to supply detective fiction after Holmes's death (notably all men), Irish writer Elizabeth Thomasina [LT] Meade went on to become the magazine's most prolific contributor of crime stories in the late-Victorian and early Edwardian period, with six series published between 1893 and 1903.

In this series of stories, Meade adds a gendered twist to the master criminal narrative, with the creation and portrayal of a powerful female antihero, Madame Koluchy. Much like Doyle's Moriarty, Koluchy is a scientist and a doctor, as well as the chief and queen of the Brotherhood of the Seven Kings, a nebulous Italian political organisation responsible for terrible crimes on English soil.

She harnesses her scientific skills to carry out a series of deadly crimes utilising, among other things, x-rays, untraceable poisons and a virus carried by the tsetse fly, challenging the skills and authority of the very best British detectives.

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