



Vaccines – Friend or Foe

Module Coordinator	Prof. Clair M. Gardiner, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
What will you learn from this Elective?	Vaccines have been one of the most beneficial immunological discoveries to date and have already proven global impact by saving millions of lives. However, there has been a backlash against vaccines in the public and unfortunately, almost all without any scientific basis or rationale. Therefore, it is really important that the general population understands how vaccines work, why they are important and what are the consequences of non-vaccination. In particular, this module aims to challenge students to think about some of the ethical issues relating to vaccination e.g. is it ethical to prescribe mandatory vaccination?
Student Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face-to-face lectures on Vaccines: 16 hours+16hours preparation/reading• VaccineView on-line activity: 2 hours on-line activity + 2 hours of on-line tutorial support• Vaccine Workshops: 2 x 2hour face-to-face workshops + ~25 hours supporting activities including individual preparatory work, topic research, on-line group discussions and personal reflection.• Research seminars & tutorial: 2 x 1hour seminars + 1 hour tutorial for ethical issue identification• Reading, project work (public message) and assessment activities ~30 hours
Assessment Components	<p>Assessment of understanding basic concepts in Immunology and in particular, vaccines using MCQ (40%) and VaccineView on-line assessment (10%)</p> <p>Group preparation of short public message on the importance of vaccination using a medium of your choice e.g. poster, video, leaflet etc. (20%)</p> <p>For the ethics activity, each individual will submit a short personal reflection (max 300 words) on their final decision, along with the group decision and justification (300words) including how it differs from their original and from their group decision (30%)</p> <p>Research Guest lectures: Small group presentations identifying ethical issues from research seminars (formative assessment)</p>
Indicative Reading List	Further reading list/material will be provided during module. https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/adult/hepb/ https://www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.c7452

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Explain the basic principles of vaccination.
2. Identify different types of immune responses and how they can be beneficial.
3. Evaluate the wider societal implications for (non)-vaccinations.
4. Reflect on how they personally make ethical decisions and how this may be influenced by others
5. Communicate to and inform a general audience about vaccines