Philippa Marrack, PhD
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Distinguished Professor, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Chair, Department of Biomedical Research
National Jewish Health

Hosted By: Janie Rae Byrum

"T and B cell roles in autoimmunity"

In collaboration with Dr. John Kappler, Dr. Marrack has been studying the nature of the lymphocytes and antigens involved in autoimmune disease. Recently, they have identified an unexpected population of B cells that might participate in disease both by contributing to production of autoantibodies and by presentation of self antigens to T cells. In a different set of studies, they, together with collaborators at the Barbara Davis Center for Juvenile Diabetes in Denver, have studied the "self" peptides that drive type 1 diabetes by stimulating CD4 T cells. These peptides may be modified forms of "self". Thus type 1 diabetes, like other diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, may not be true autoimmune diseases at all.