

In 2016, the AAI Education Committee initiated a new session focused on improving immunology education: the Immunology Teaching Interest Group (ITIG). The ITIG is an informal group comprised of past speakers and attendees of the ITIG sessions, including current immunology educators spanning a range of institutions and levels. It serves as a resource for novel teaching tools and practices that can be implemented in courses to enhance immunology education. The session has grown from an audience of 20 in 2016 to more than 100 participants in 2019 (the last time the session was held in person due to the cancellation of IMMUNOLOGY2020™). Because of the great interest in this topic, the AAI Newsletter features “Teaching Tools” articles highlighting ITIG presentations.

P
A



Sara S. ..., Ph.D. (AAI '20)
Professor of Biology
Pomona College, Claremont, CA

We all know that movement is good for immune function. Here, I argue that movement can also be good for *learning about* the immune system. Below, I outline two examples from a recent paper that involve movement-based activities

in immunology instruction.¹ I have used these in an elective undergraduate lecture course with 20 to 25 students; the same principles could be adapted to almost any level of immunology teaching.

By definition, active learning employs a student-centered approach, where students are *doing things* and *stmj/T11 1*

We then discuss mate selection and the association between specific alleles and disease susceptibility or resistance (this can take upwards of 20 minutes). While I was able to adapt this activity to online learning using slides, it lacked the visual power of standing in a room with a rainbow of MHC allotypes on display!



Each time I teach immunology, we spend time acting out specific immune processes. Before doing this, we cover the mechanics of antigen processing, MHC presentation, plus B and T cell activation. However, I find that putting these ideas together into a sequence is challenging for most students. This activity asks students to practice “walking