Original antigenic sin

- Original antigenic sin, also known as the **Hoskins effect**, refers to the propensity of the body's immune system to preferentially utilize immunological memory based on a previous infection when a second slightly different version of that foreign entity (e.g. a virus or bacterium) is encountered.
- This leaves the immune system "**trapped** by the first response" it has made to each antigen, and unable to mount potentially more effective responses during subsequent infections.
- The phenomenon of original antigenic sin has been described in relation to influenza virus, dengue fever, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and to several other viruses.