The advancement of research into the causes of and local and generalised reactions to diseases resulted in a growing interest in the immune system. In modern medicine, profound knowledge of the rules governing that system seems to be of paramount importance for effective treatment.

In the organism, MALT is the main entry for antigens. Special attention should be paid to GALT, which contains as many as 80% of the cells that produce immunoglobulins in mammalian organisms. Effective functioning of the immunological mechanisms in the gastrointestinal tract is warranted by the cooperation of the epithelium and intestinal mucosa. This mainly leads to the activation of the IgA B lymphocytes as well as to the secretion of secretory IgA into the intestinal lumen. Humoral immunity mediated by other classes of immunoproteins is of minor importance as far as the gastrointestinal tract is concerned; however, it may play a part in anti-bacterial and anti-viral reactions as well as in combating infections inflicted by multicellular parasites. The specificity of GALT’s immunological reactions results in local induction, and may also cause generalised tolerance for non-proliferating food antigens, which are not hazardous for an individual’s health. This presentation touches on the morphological and functional structure of GALT, namely, on the division into the receptor and effector part, anatomic structures included. Moreover, GALT has been shown to have a connection with the nervous system by virtue of the activity of neuropeptides and neuromediators. Contemporary views are presented on the role of migration and the settlement of lymphocytes in the intestinal mucosa in the effective functioning of the immune system, as well as the phenomenon of “commitment”, or the production of IgA by B cells, the original task of which was to produce other types of antigens.