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Self-tolerance and autoimmunity in a minimal model of the idiotypic network

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Highlights

- The idiotypic model network evolves towards a highly organized modular architecture.
- In the presence of self this architecture generically provides self-tolerance.
- Autoimmunity can be induced by perturbations like an infection with foreign antigen.
- Stimulating the idiotypic control of autoreactive clones may lead to remission.
- Probabilistic and network aspects are important for autoimmune disorders.

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