Our body is astonishing. As well as being alive, our body constantly protects us from bacteria and viruses that could make us unwell. The hero is our immune system, where white blood cells detect invaders and get rid of them to restore us to good health. Most of the time we never know that our body is protecting us.

This collection of drawings celebrates the unexpected beauty of our body at a tiny scale, starting with blood cells, including our protective heroic white blood cells. Most of the time they do a brilliant job but just occasionally it takes longer for our body to react which means we can get unwell. Drawings reveal some of the bacteria and viruses that can make us unwell. The collection includes celebrating how an unexpected finding by Edward Jenner in 1798 led to one of the greatest discoveries in medicine to help protect us from illness.

Drawings reveal a tiny world from the building blocks of our body, cells, to bacteria, viruses and molecules. Take a moment to ponder how beautiful we are, and the intricacy of life at a tiny scale. To explain how small these subjects are a scale is included, and compared to the width of a human hair. Scientists need to add colours and dyes to reveal structure and patterns. This collection of drawings is for all ages, to take time out to relax, chat, learn about ourselves and add colour to bring drawings to life.

About the author: Drawings and writing have been created for the British Society for Immunology by Dr Lizzie Burns. Following a doctorate, and research fellowship at the University of Oxford in cancer research, Dr Burns became a science-based artist in 2002 exploring the beauty and wonder of life. Lizzie runs workshops and events to inspire people of all ages to learn about the body as astonishing.

“I hope these drawings can inspire you to discover how extraordinary you are, and how medicines can help boost how we naturally protect ourselves from illness” – Dr Lizzie Burns