



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



CITF Announcements

Exciting opportunity to work with the CITF!

The CITF Data Management and Analysis team is hiring a full-time Senior Databank Manager to manage a team of research assistants and research associates, and work with scientific advisors and Principal Investigators of CITF-funded studies. This is an ideal position for you if you have a background in epidemiology, biostatistics, biomedical informatics, or a closely related discipline, and have demonstrated data management experience. **Deadline: May 21.**

[Apply Now](#)

Rise in infection-acquired seroprevalence slows in Canada

Our Seroprevalence in Canada page has just been updated with data to March 15, 2023. The latest results from more than 20 studies show that infection-acquired seroprevalence among Canadians did not increase significantly as of the second week of March. Between January 4 and March 15, 2023, infection-acquired seroprevalence only increased from 72.9% (95% CrI: 64.8 to 79.8) to 76.9% (95% CrI: 70.2 to 82.8).

[Read more](#)

CITF Scientific Meeting: Breakout session presentations now available online

We held the CITF Scientific Meeting in Vancouver, B.C., in early March 2023. The goal was to share results from CITF-funded studies and to discuss lessons learned as well as the way forward. You can view many of the breakout session presentations given during the meeting, categorized by session theme.

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CITF-Funded Research Results

Almost 90% of the youngest blood donors (aged 17-24) had antibodies due to infection by mid-March

Despite all donors having vaccine-induced antibodies, the latest CITF-funded seroprevalence report from Canadian Blood Services showed overall seroprevalence due to infection was 78.3% by mid-March, consistent with the continued presence of circulating Omicron subvariants. This estimate was similar to the 77.6% estimate recorded in February 2023. Among the youngest donors (aged 17-24), almost 90% had antibodies due to infection by mid-March.

[Read more](#)

Incidental SARS-CoV-2 infections found in patients admitted to hospital increased during the Omicron wave

A CITF-funded study, published in *Scientific Reports*, found that the proportion of incidental SARS-CoV-2 infections increased substantially across the pandemic waves. In particular, the percentage of people who tested positive for COVID-19 upon admission to hospital for something else rose from 10% to 41% during the Omicron wave.

[Read more](#)

Antibodies produced in recovered individuals who received the COVID-19 vaccine showed a high degree of similarity in their amino acid sequences

A CITF-funded study, published in *Clinical Immunology*, found that individuals who were recovering from a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection and who were then vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine had high levels of SARS-CoV-2 neutralization. These individuals also generated similar B cells recognizing the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

[Read more](#)



From Preprint to Publication

HostSeq: A Canadian consortium collecting genetic data to identify risk factors for COVID-19 disease and health outcomes

The HostSeq platform, established in April 2020, is a national collaboration of population-based studies investigating genetic risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 disease and the health outcomes associated with COVID-19. HostSeq has

collected genomic and clinical information from 95% of the 10,000 Canadians of all ages with a positive SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis that it intends to include. Data collection is complete for 70%. The study, which was funded by CITF and includes many CITF-funded studies, had its results published in *BMC Genomic Data*.

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