



COVID-19 IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

# Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



## CITF Events



### Save the date! – DECEMBER 9, 2021

The third seminar in our Research Results and Implications series with CanCOVID will examine the effects of COVID-19 infection and vaccination on pregnancy and newborns. Join CITF-funded experts Dr. **Deshayne Fell** of the University of Ottawa and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute; Dr. **Deborah Money** of the University of British Columbia and BC Women's Hospital; and Dr. **Deborah O'Connor** of the University of

Toronto as they present their latest findings and discuss the policy implications of this crucial topic.

Mark **Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021** from **1:00 - 2:30 p.m EST**. in your calendars! Registration link to come!



Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

## Protecting Canada's long-term care residents from COVID-19: The evidence behind the policies



### Review the evidence behind the policies to protect Canada's long-term care residents from COVID-19

Our second CITF/CanCOVID seminar held last month focused on the immune response among residents and staff in long-term care homes, as well as older adults living in the community. View the interim results presented by our CITF-funded research teams, available on our website.

[View presentation in PDF](#)

[View summary](#)



## CITF-Funded Research Results

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## Low COVID-19 infection rate among Canadian dentists is reassuring to the profession

Due to the nature of dentistry, dental care settings have the potential to be high-risk environments for the spread of COVID-19. A study published in *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, and led by CITF-supported investigator Dr. Sreenath Madathil from McGill University, found that infection was lower among dentists (1084 per 100,000) than within the general Canadian population (1864 per 100,000).

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## Mental health and life satisfaction declined among Canadian paramedics during the COVID-19 pandemic

CITF-funded researchers Dr. Tracy Kirkham and PhD student Christopher MacDonald from the University of Toronto and colleagues found that the COVID-19 pandemic had negative effects on Canadian paramedics in 2021 including reduction in life satisfaction, mental and physical health, and the ability to cope with stress. The impacts were greater among female paramedics and/or those with risk factors for underlying mental disorders. These preliminary findings were presented in a poster at the 28<sup>th</sup> *International Symposium on Epidemiology in Occupational Health (EPICOH)* on October 25, 2021 and are not yet peer-reviewed.

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**CITF News**

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## New CITF-funded study investigates the causes of long COVID

The CITF is investing in a study of long COVID led by Dr. Manali Mukherjee of McMaster University, who is herself suffering from this condition. Up to 15% of Canada's COVID-19 survivors continue to exhibit symptoms, such as breathlessness and brain fog, six months or more after they are deemed recovered from the infection. This funding will allow researchers to understand if COVID-19 triggers immune responses that cause chronic symptoms and potentially increase the risk of future autoimmune diseases such as lupus. Researchers anticipate that long COVID, which tends to affect younger adults, could be the next health crisis of the pandemic.

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