

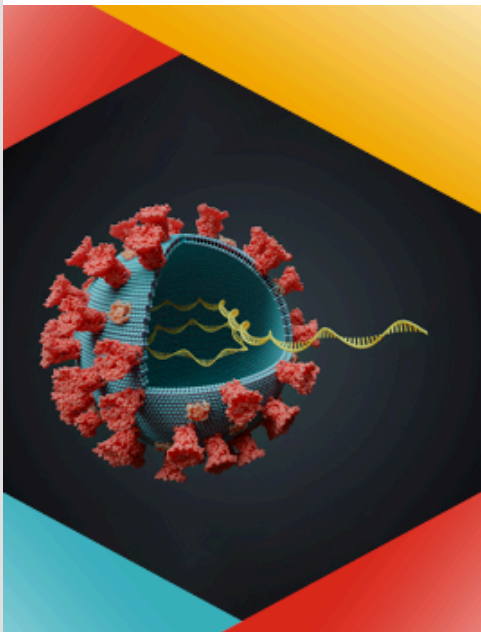


COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



CITF Events



COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
SUR L'IMMUNITÉ
FACE À LA COVID-19



CanCOVID

in partnership with  CoVaRR-Net

Seminar Series | Panel Discussion

Omicron and other variants
of concern: finding our way
forward



February 23, 2022 | 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

**SAVE THE DATE for our fifth CITF/CanCOVID
seminar**

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a panel discussion, held in collaboration with CoVaRR-Net.

Omicron and other variants of concern: finding our way forward

Our multi-disciplinary panel of experts include:

- Dr. Anne-Claude Gingras, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, University of Toronto; Functional Genomics & Structure-Function of Variants of Concern Pillar Lead, CoVaRR-Net
- Dr. Jeff Wrana, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, University of Toronto; Viral Genomics & Sequencing Pillar, CoVaRR-Net
- Dr. Mark Brockman, Simon Fraser University; Immunology & Vaccine Protection Pillar, CoVaRR-Net
- Dr. Ciriaco Piccirillo, Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre; Immunology & Vaccine Protection Pillar Co-Lead, CoVaRR-Net
- Dr. Jun Liu, University of Toronto
- Dr. Marc-André Langlois, University of Ottawa; Executive Director, CoVaRR-Net

Our moderator will be Dr. Catherine Hankins of McGill University, Co-Chair of the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force.

SAVE THE DATE



CITF-Funded Research Results

COVID-19 vaccine uptake in people with autoimmune diseases in Ontario

This CITF-funded study, led by Dr. Sasha Bernatsky from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre and published in the *Journal of Rheumatology*, found that the proportion of people with autoimmune diseases who had received two vaccine doses was higher (83.8-88.2%) than in the general population (77.9%). Researchers gathered information from all Ontario residents, 16 years and older, who were enrolled in the provincial health insurance plan as of December 14, 2020 (when vaccination started). They collected data on diagnosed autoimmune diseases (rheumatoid

arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), psoriasis (PsO), and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)) as well as vaccination status.

[Read More](#)

The COVENANT Study: COVID-19 cohort studies people experiencing homelessness in Toronto

Non-peer-reviewed data from the CITF-funded [COVENANT Study](#), exploring the impact of SARS-CoV-2 among populations experiencing homelessness in Toronto, found the majority of participants (80%) reported being vaccinated by September 2021, with 79% of them having two doses. 14% were hesitant to be vaccinated. The results were given by study lead Dr. Stephen Hwang, from the University of Toronto and Unity Health, as part of the [CanCOVID Speaker Series](#).

[Read More](#)



From Preprint to Publication

Boosting immunity in the elderly

In this study, led by CITF-funded researchers Drs. Andrew Costa and Dawn Bowdish at McMaster University and published in *JAMDA*, people in retirement and nursing homes were sampled to measure antibody mediated immunity after the second and third doses of mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. Researchers found that the third vaccine dose brought about levels of antibodies that neutralize COVID-19 were much higher than what was achieved post-second dose. People in retirement homes were found to have equal similar levels of neutralizing antibodies compared to nursing home residents.

[Read More](#)

How can serosurveys be used in the vaccine era?

In a study led by SeroTracker, CITF-funded researchers and CITF Secretariat employees, the authors present an approach to help interpret serosurvey results and distinguish between infection-acquired and vaccine-induced immunity. Making the distinction between how infection- and vaccine-induced immunity can help guide public health officials worldwide in their strategy for providing vaccines against COVID-19. The paper is published in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*.

[Read More](#)



CITF Announcement



Watch your in-box for the February issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*

The latest edition features a question & answer with our experts on Omicron and other topics of concern, an international research review article on long COVID, updated national data from Canadian Blood Services, and highlights of the latest results from CITF-funded projects.



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