

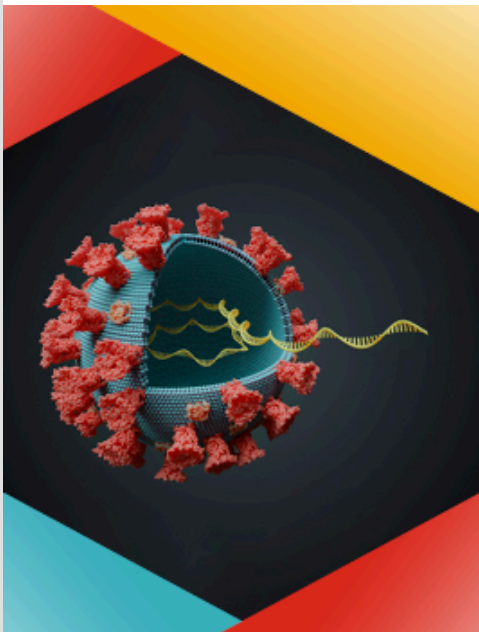


**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

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

REGISTER NOW!

Please join us for our fifth event with CanCOVID: a panel discussion with COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF)-funded experts researching variants of concern, held in collaboration with the Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net).

How we move forward through the next stage of the pandemic depends a great deal on how we manage the ongoing threat of emerging variants.

Our panellists will answer a series of COVID-19-related questions, including:

- Where do variants come from?
- Who is most at risk from COVID-19 variants?
- Will new vaccines be required to combat future variants?
- What could endemicity and a world with regularly emerging variants of concern look like?

Following the discussion, our panellists will answer your questions.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Canadian Blood Services December report: The advance of Omicron

The latest report from Canadian Blood Services, covering the early days of the Omicron wave, shows that the number of donors who had antibodies due to infection rose. In December, 6.4% of donors had had a previous infection, up from 5.1% in November. Importantly, this percentage increased over the 17-day study period from 5.6% to 6.6% to 7.5%, in accordance with the growing rise of infections due to Omicron. The data show most infections were among the unvaccinated and 17–24-year-olds, with the highest percentages in Alberta.

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Reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 rare among Canadian healthcare workers during pre-

Omicron days

In a pre-print that has not yet been peer reviewed, CITF-funded researcher Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh from the Université de Montréal and colleagues conducted a study among Canadian healthcare workers (HCWs) who had a previously documented SARS-CoV-2 infection to better understand vulnerability to reinfection. Over the course of 14 months, incidents of reinfection were rare (only 5 cases out of approximately 570 HCWs). The cohort that was studied included those with mild, moderate, and severe infections in the first wave. Although antibodies waned in those infected (prior to vaccination), subjects who experienced more severe infections retained antibodies for a longer period of time.

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Surveying COVID-19 vaccines safety through the Canadian National Vaccine Safety (CANVAS) Network

CANVAS-COVID tracks the safety of COVID-19 vaccines through electronic surveys sent to people who have been vaccinated. Over 1.3 million individuals have contributed data so far. The study team, led by Dr. Julie Bettinger from the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, has published their detailed protocol in *BMJ Open* outlining the study design and its objectives.

[Read More](#)



From Preprint to Publication

Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against VOCs in Canada

The race to vaccinate the world against SARS-CoV-2 became more urgent as variants of concern (VOCs) began to emerge. In a CITF-funded study originally released as a preprint and now published in *Nature Microbiology*, researchers from the Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN), including Drs. Deshayne Fell, Jeff Kwong, and Kumanan Wilson, estimated the effectiveness of vaccines given between December 2020 and August 2021 in protecting against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections caused by the Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta variants. This study affirmed that two doses of vaccine are necessary to provide adequate protection against these VOCs.

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Recruiting for CITF-Funded Studies

The **EnCORE study** is part of a pan-Canadian research project examining the immune response to the COVID-19 vaccine over time in children, conducted in partnership with the **Spring study**, **CHILD study**, and **TARGetKids**. The EnCORE study, led by Dr. Kate Zinszer at the Université de Montréal, is currently recruiting children in the Montreal area, who are between 4 and 11 years old and who have not yet received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Home visits can be arranged for blood and saliva collection, and a compensation to study participants is given. If you are interested in participating, or know someone who could be, please contact us at info@etudencore.ca or 1-866-362-6730 for further information.

MOSAIC is a pan-Canadian study examining the immune response to a third (booster) dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in adults, conducted in partnership with **CIRN**. The study, led by Dr. Joanne Langley at Dalhousie University and Dr. Manish Sadarangani at University of British Columbia, is currently recruiting individuals over 30 who have not yet received a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. MOSAIC is taking place in several cities across Canada (Halifax, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Penticton, Kamloops and

Vancouver). Visit <https://cirnetwork.ca/mosaic/study-sites/> to contact the study site nearest you.



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