

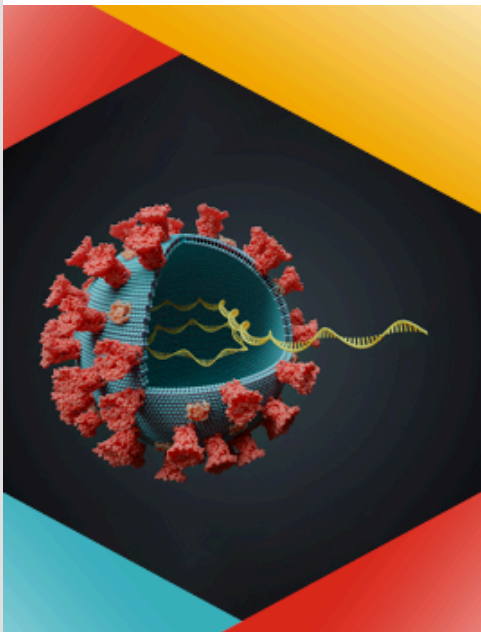


**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

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

Join our panel discussion tomorrow!

Please join us tomorrow 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?

Our multi-disciplinary panel of experts includes: **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; and **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.

Following the discussion, our panellists will answer your questions.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

STOP-CoV study results highlights importance of completing primary vaccine series

In a preprint, not yet peer reviewed, the team from the [STOP-CoV](#) study, led by Dr. Sharon Walmsley from the University Health Network in Toronto, described their most recent findings: younger adults (30-50) generate higher levels of vaccine-specific antibodies compared to older adults (70 and above) after both the first and second mRNA vaccine doses. They also found that antibody levels after the second dose were generally higher for people who received two doses of Moderna or a Moderna/Pfizer mix compared to those who received two doses of Pfizer or other vaccine combinations, irrespective of age. Regarding reactions to vaccines, their data show that younger adults are more likely to experience temporary minor adverse events following immunization than the older cohort.

[Read More](#)

Action to Beat Coronavirus (Ab-C) Study newsletter presents Phase 3 data

In a [recent newsletter](#) released on their website, CITF-funded researcher Dr. Prabhat Jha and his Action to beat Coronavirus (Ab-C Study) team report findings on the third phase of their study covering data up until October 2021, prior to the Omicron wave. The researchers acknowledge that a lack of testing across Canada has likely resulted in under-estimating the rate of infection. Preliminary Ab-C data from early February 2022, during the Omicron wave, shows that 9% of participants reported testing positive in January 2022 with another 5% potentially infected based on symptoms.

[Read More](#)



From Preprint to Publication

SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence during the 1st and 2nd pandemic waves in Canada

In their CITF-funded research, Dr. Prabhat Jha and his team leading the national Action to Beat Coronavirus (Ab-C) study estimated cumulative seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 during the first two viral waves. They found that among adults across Canada, seropositivity at a time when vaccines were not widely available rose from less than 2% after the first wave to up to 6.5% after the second. The study, first covered as a preprint, is now published in *JAMA Network Open*.

[Read More](#)



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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