



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



CITF Events

SAVE THE DATE | 6th CITF/CanCOVID Seminar Series: Research Results & Implications - Pediatric Vaccination

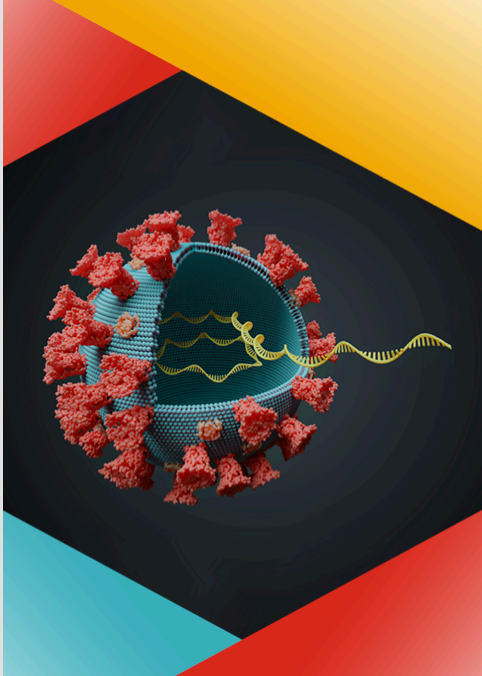
Please join us **Wednesday, March 23rd from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST** as we discuss:

- Research on how vaccines work for a child's immune system, which is different from that of an adult.
- Current seroprevalence among children.
- Why COVID-19 can be serious for children, especially the Omicron variant.
- Vaccine safety among children.

The registration link will soon be available, please consult our [website](#) for further details.

Seminar Series | Panel Discussion

Omicron and other variants of concern: finding our way forward



COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

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



CanCOVID

in partnership with



CoVaRR+Net

Watch the video of our seminar now!

Our panel of experts weighed in on Omicron and other variants of concern, novel new intranasal vaccines, and how global vaccine inequity can fuel further mutations of SARS-CoV-2.

[Watch the video](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Using multiple assays and models to help decipher true Canadian seropositivity

Using various serological assays in parallel on the same set of samples can produce inconsistent results. A solution is to use composite reference standards and latent class analysis to help decipher true seropositivity. Using these two analytical methods, Drs. Anne-Claude Gingras, from the University of Toronto, and Sheila O'Brien and Steven Drews from Canadian Blood Services, estimated true seropositivity among nearly 18,000 blood donors from April 2020 to March 2021 in a paper published in *Microbiology*

Spectrum. Both methods produced similar estimates and confirmed that Canadian seroprevalence was below 10% as of March 2021.

[Read More](#)

Uptake of third vaccine doses in people with inflammatory bowel disease

In this short correspondence published in *The Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, CITF-funded researchers Dr. Jessica Widdifield of the University of Toronto, Dr. Sasha Bernatsky of McGill University, and colleagues presented the frequency of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in Ontario patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Among 107,059 patients identified with IBD, 89.9% had one dose, 88.6% had two doses, and 58.3% had three doses as of January 9, 2022.

[Read More](#)

Study shows booster doses elicit strong antibody responses including against Omicron

While two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine can prevent serious illness in most cases, vaccine-induced immune responses decline naturally over time, increasing the risk of breakthrough infections. A pre-print, not-yet peer-reviewed, from CITF-funded researchers Dr. Mark Brockman of Simon Fraser University, Dr. Zabrina Brumme of Simon Fraser University and the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, and Dr. Marc Romney, from Providence Health Care and the University of British Columbia, showed that a third (booster) dose of vaccine elevated both the levels of antibodies and their neutralizing capacity above that of two doses of vaccine in all subjects, including older adults. The research team also shows that a third dose stimulates stronger responses against the Omicron variant than that which was seen after two doses.

[Read More](#)

Safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy: A Canadian National Vaccine Safety (CANVAS)

Network study

A pre-print, not yet peer-reviewed, from the CANVAS Network, by Drs. Julie Bettinger and Manish Sadarangani from the University of British Columbia and their colleagues, explored the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy among 15- to 49-year-olds and compared them to an unvaccinated control group, including unvaccinated pregnant people. Among the vaccinated participants, those who reported experiencing a significant health event sufficient to cause work/school absenteeism, a medical consultation and/or prevent daily activities within seven days of receiving a first dose of mRNA vaccine were slightly more likely to not be pregnant (pregnant: 4%; non-pregnant: 6.3%). The same applies after a second dose (pregnant: 7.3%; non-pregnant: 11.3%). Among 339 unvaccinated pregnant participants, 3% reported similar health conditions. This study offers reassuring evidence that there is no significant association between vaccination status and significant health issues in pregnant people. It also highlights pregnant women actually suffered fewer significant adverse events after vaccination than did similarly aged non-pregnant females.

[Read More](#)



CITF Announcement

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

The latest edition features an updated international review on the importance of pediatric vaccination, a summary of our panel discussion on Omicron and variants of concern, updated national data from Canadian Blood Services, highlights of the latest results from CITF-funded projects, and more.

[See Past Issues](#)



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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