



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

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

## The importance of pediatric vaccination



March 23, 2022 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT

### REGISTER NOW!

The Public Health Agency of Canada estimates that immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health intervention. Join us on **Wednesday March 23, 2022 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT)** for our next *Research Results & Implications* seminar, ***The importance of pediatric vaccination***. CITF experts will address 1) how vaccines and infection work in a child's immune system, 2) recent estimates of seroprevalence among children, 3) why COVID-19 can be serious for

children, even if infected with the Omicron variant, and 4) vaccine safety among children.

**Panelists:**

**Timothy Evans, MD, PHD**

Executive Director of the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

**Jim Kellner, MD**

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist, Professor, Pediatrics, University of Calgary; Member, CITF Leadership Group; Leader, CITF Pediatric Network

**Jonathon Maguire, MD**

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto; Scientist with MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital; Pediatrician, Department of Pediatrics, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto

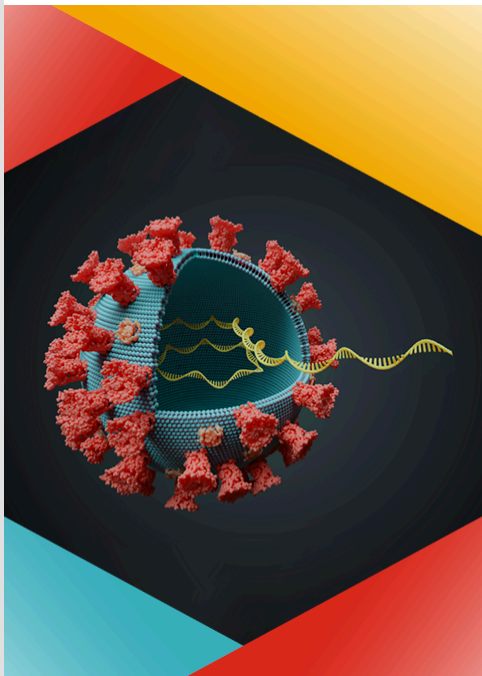
**Manish Sadarangani, BM, BCH, DPHIL**

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia; Director of the Vaccine Evaluation Center for the BC Children's Hospital

**Kate Zinszer, PHD**

Assistant Professor at l'École de santé publique, Université de Montréal; Researcher at the Centre for Public Health Research

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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

## Summary and video available now!

Read the summary report of our panel discussion, where CITF-funded experts offered their insights on Omicron and other variants of concern, novel new intranasal vaccines, and how global vaccine inequity can fuel further mutations of SARS-CoV-2. Also, see the recording of the event.

[Read the summary](#)[Watch the video](#)

## CITF-Funded Research Results

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### **Blood data from early 2022 reflect Omicron's impact prior to the holidays**

In the first of a series of biweekly reports, Canadian Blood Services revealed Omicron's traction in December 2021. While nearly all blood donors tested positive for the spike (S) protein, primarily due to vaccination, infection-acquired seropositivity (as evidenced by anti-N IgG antibodies) climbed from 7.5% to 10.1% from December 25, 2021 to January 15, 2022. This rate is roughly double the monthly average in 2021, further highlighting the impact of Omicron. Inequities persist among racialized donors, who are consistently twice as likely to have infection-acquired antibodies compared to white donors. Younger donors (aged 17 to 24) have the highest infection-acquired seropositivity rate, at 20.2%, continuing the trend seen throughout 2021.

[Read More](#)

### **COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness in the population on maintenance dialysis**

A CITF-funded study - led by Drs. Matthew Oliver from the University of Toronto and Peter Blake from Western University - looked at the

effectiveness of mRNA vaccines among 13,759 individuals receiving maintenance dialysis. It determined that one dose of vaccine reduced the risk of COVID-19 infection by 41% and the risk of severe outcomes by 46% compared to unvaccinated patients. Two doses of vaccine were significantly more effective, reducing the risk of infection by 69% and the risk of severe outcomes by 83%. The study, published in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, confirms that COVID-19 vaccination is protective in this high-risk population, although less so when compared with the general population.

[Read More](#)

## **Not all mRNA vaccines generate the same level of Delta-blocking antibodies**

New findings emerged from the CITF-funded COVID-19 Occupational Risks, Seroprevalence and Immunity among Paramedics (CORSIP) project led by Dr. Brian Grunau based at the University of British Columbia. They show that participants who were vaccinated with two doses of the Moderna vaccine have better protection, six months after the first dose, at blocking the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 from successfully binding to cells. This, compared to those who received two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech. The study is published in *Microbiology Spectrum*.

[Read More](#)

## **What is the optimal interval between mRNA vaccine doses?**

This pre-print study, not yet peer-reviewed, led by CITF-funded researcher Dr. Brian Grunau from the University of British Columbia, aimed to identify the optimal interval between mRNA vaccine doses to generate the maximum immune response. The research team found that 73 days or more between doses was associated with a higher concentration of antibodies than a short interval (defined as 30 days or less).

[Read More](#)



## CITF Announcement



### **March issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*: Available now!**

Our latest edition features an updated international review on pediatric vaccination data, new national data from Canadian Blood Services that accounts for the early days of the Omicron wave, highlights of the latest results from CITF-funded projects, and more.

[Read more](#)



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