



COVID-19 IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

# Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



## CITF Events



### Seminar Series Research Results & Implications



COVID-19  
IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

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



**Thank you for making our sixth *Research Results & Implications* seminar with CanCOVID such a success!**

Last week, almost 200 people attended our panel discussion, *The importance of pediatric vaccination*.

Thanks to all who participated and a big **thank you** to our presenters: **Dr. Jim Kellner** of the University of Calgary; **Dr. Jonathon Maguire** of the

University of Toronto; **Dr. Manish Sadarangani** of the University of British Columbia; **Dr. Kate Zinszer** of the Université de Montréal; and **Dr. Timothy Evans**, Executive Director of the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force.

[See the presentation](#)



**UP NEXT – Thursday May 5, 2022**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT**

**7th CITF/CanCOVID Seminar Series: *Research Results & Implications* – COVID-19 vaccine safety**

Our **7<sup>th</sup> seminar** will bring together experts affiliated with the CITF and members of the Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN) to discuss their latest data regarding vaccine safety – a topic of concern to everyone.

Presenters include:

- **Dr. Julie Bettinger**, Professor, University of British Columbia; and lead investigator, Canadian National Vaccine Safety (CANVAS);
- **Dr. Karina Top**, Associate Professor, Dalhousie University; principal investigator, Special Immunization Clinics Network at CIRN; Co-PI, Immunization Monitoring Program ACTIVE (IMPACT) Project
- **Dr. Scott Halperin**, Professor, Dalhousie University; and member of the CITF Leadership Group.

Details to follow.



## CITF-Funded Research Results

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### **Canadian study shows no significant association between COVID-19 vaccination and adverse peripartum outcomes**

In a paper published in *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*, CITF-funded researchers Drs. Deshayne Fell and Kumanan Wilson of the University of Ottawa and Dr. Jeffrey Kwong from the University of Toronto and colleagues found that COVID-19 vaccination was not significantly associated with an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes. This study found that COVID-19 vaccines were not significantly associated with increased risk of postpartum hemorrhage, chorioamnionitis, cesarean delivery, admission to neonatal intensive care unit, or low newborn 5-minute Apgar score.

[Read More](#)

### **Vaccine Hesitancy Among Adults during Quebec's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign**

Published in *Frontiers in Public Health*, the CARTaGENE research team, based at the Research Center at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Sainte-Justine and part of the CITF-funded CanPATH study, found that vaccine hesitancy among adults in Quebec was correlated with education levels, age and other socio-demographic determinants. These results by the team led by Drs. Rodolphe Jantzen, Mathieu Maltais, and Philippe Broet, were based on a well-characterized population-based cohort and offered a unique opportunity to identify the factors associated with COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy during the spring 2021 vaccination campaign.

[Read More](#)

## People with HIV show normal antibody longevity after dual COVID-19 vaccination, and strong third dose responses

In a pre-print, not yet peer reviewed, Drs. Zabrina Brumme and Mark Brockman from Simon Fraser University and the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, and members of the Canadian HIV Trials Network, led by Dr. Aslam Anis from the University of British Columbia, demonstrated that responses to COVID-19 vaccines in people living with HIV (PLWH) are similar to those in controls without HIV. Following both the second and the third dose of COVID-19 vaccine, PLWH also exhibited similar antibody and neutralization responses against the Omicron variant compared to controls without HIV, though anti-Omicron responses were not as strong as those against the original SARS-CoV-2 strain. The study was funded by the CITF.

[Read More](#)



## From Pre-print to Publication

### A Canadian platform to study the antibody response to SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination

In a paper now published in *Clinical and Translational Immunology*, a team of Canadian researchers partly funded by the CITF and led by Drs. Anne-Claude Gingras from Toronto's Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Marc-André Langlois from the University of Ottawa, and Yves Durocher from the National Research Council of Canada, has developed a set of standardized, high-throughput serological assays to detect antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. Multiple serosurveys underway in Canada – including over half of those funded by the CITF – use this platform, making it possible to harmonize and compare their results nationwide. The authors describe their multi-faceted detection of the antibody response to SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination.

[Read more](#)



## CITF Announcement

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

The latest edition features a review on the limitations of infection-acquired immunity, a summary of our recent seminar on the importance of pediatric vaccination, an update from Canadian Blood Services covering the peak of the Omicron wave, highlights of the latest results from CITF-funded projects, and more.

[See past issues](#)



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