



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



CITF Events



COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

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



CanCOVID

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

COVID-19 vaccine safety



May 5, 2022 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EDT

REGISTER NOW FOR THURSDAY'S SEMINAR

Our 7th CITF/CanCOVID research seminar brings together experts affiliated with the CITF to discuss vaccine safety – a topic of concern for everyone. Our presenters will report on:

- Results of ongoing vaccine safety monitoring in Canada, in both adults and children;
- Details about serious adverse effects in Canada, including their frequency after various vaccine doses;

- Measures to mitigate the occurrence of serious adverse events;
- The latest research on myocarditis and pericarditis;
- Vaccine safety in pregnant people;
- More!

Following the presentation, our experts will engage in a question-and-answer session with the attendees.

Presenters include:

- **Julie Bettinger, MPH, PhD**, Professor, University of British Columbia; Principal Investigator, Canadian National Vaccine Safety (CANVAS), Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN); CITF-funded researcher.
- **Scott Halperin, MD**, Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Microbiology & Immunology, Division of Infectious Diseases, Dalhousie University, IWK Health Centre; Principal Investigator, CIRN; member of the CITF Leadership Group and Chair of the CITF Vaccine Surveillance Working Party.
- **Jeff Kwong, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC**, Senior Scientist, ICES; Scientist, Public Health Ontario; Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto; CITF-funded researcher.
- **Karina Top, MD, MSc, FRCPC**, Associate Professor, Dalhousie University; Principal Investigator, Special Immunization Clinic (SIC) Network at CIRN; and co-PI, Canadian Immunization Monitoring Program, ACTIVE (IMPACT) Project; CITF-funded researcher.

And hosting:

- **Timothy Evans, MD, PhD**, Executive Director, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

[Register Now](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Growth in infection-acquired immunity levels off in early March

The latest data from Canadian Blood Services show the rapid increase in infection-induced immunity began leveling off by mid-March. The data show infection-acquired seropositivity increased moderately between the end of February and mid-March, up to 27.5% from 25.3%. The growth of infections continues to be concentrated in younger age groups with nearly half of all donors aged 17 to 24 (44.8%) showing evidence of a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection. The median concentration of spike antibodies acquired via immunization and/or infection, which increased substantially in January and February due to recent vaccinations and/or infections, decreased across all age groups by mid-March.

[Read more](#)

Vaccination in individuals living with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases is highly effective against SARS-CoV-2 infection and severe outcomes

New findings from the CITF-funded SUCCEED project, published in *The Lancet Rheumatology*, indicate that two doses of mRNA vaccines were 79 to 89% effective at preventing SARS-CoV-2 infection in individuals living with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases in Ontario. While vaccine effectiveness started to wane two months after the second dose, it rebounded after a third dose. The study, which collected data from almost all individuals living with these conditions in the province, took place between March 1 and November 22, 2021, when the Alpha and Delta variants of concern were circulating. Two-dose vaccine effectiveness against severe COVID-19 varied between 92 and 97%. SUCCEED is headed by Dr. Sasha Bernatsky from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, along with Drs. Jessica Widdifield and Jeff Kwong based at IC/ES.

[Read more](#)

Vaccine intentions and perceptions among public school staff within the Greater Vancouver Area

In a paper published in *Frontiers in Public Health*, CITF-funded researchers Drs. Pascal Lavoie, Louise Mâsse and Allison Watts, along with colleagues

from the University of British Columbia, explored the factors associated with the intention to get the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the sense of urgency to get vaccinated, among school staff. Education about the risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccines from a trusted source had the strongest relationship with vaccine intentions among this occupational group. Notably, those who expressed mistrust in information still intended to get vaccinated if they also perceived strong benefits of the vaccine.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcement



May issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*: Available now!

The latest edition features a review of how infection-acquired immunity is not as strong as vaccine-induced immunity, Canadian Blood Services data showing that the increase in infection-acquired immunity levelled-off by mid-March, CITF-funded research explaining vaccine hesitancy, and more.

[Read more](#)



Share!

Know policymakers or researchers who may be interested in our latest research results? Please share this email and encourage them to subscribe!

[Sign Up](#)

Have a publication we should review or know about? Please share with us at research@covid19immunitytaskforce.ca

Missed an issue of Research Roundup? [View back issues.](#)

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.