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

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

The Omicron tsunami

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for our 8th *Research Results & Implications* seminar. It will bring together CITF-affiliated experts to discuss how the Omicron variant changed the course of the pandemic by rapidly infecting hundreds of millions of healthy people around the globe, spurring the distribution of additional vaccine doses to boost immunity. Omicron has brought a new set of challenges, including reinfections and immune evasion. What do we know and what's next?

Our presenters will report on:

- The extent and nature of Omicron infection in Canada and around the globe.
- How Omicron evaded existing immunity to spread so widely.
- The notion of hybrid immunity, and how infection-acquired and vaccine-induced immunity can function together.
- Those at greatest risk of COVID-19 and why.

Presenters include:

- **David Buckeridge, MD, PhD, FRCPC,** Professor in the School of Population and Global Health at McGill University; Scientific Lead, Data Management & Analysis, CITF.
- **Harriet Ware, MSc**, Data Scientist, University of Toronto, on behalf of CITF-funded SeroTracker.
- **Ciriaco Piccirillo, PhD**, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, McGill University, CITF-funded researcher.
- **Michael Grant, PhD,** Professor of Immunology and Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland, CITF-funded researcher.

And hosting on behalf of the CITF:

- **Catherine Hankins, MD, PhD,** Co-Chair, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

Registration coming soon!

Save the date

CITF-Funded Research Results

Incidence of Omicron SARS-CoV-2 infection

among vaccinated Canadian adults

In a letter published in the *New England Journal of Medicine,* the CITF-funded Ab-C Study quantified SARS-CoV-2 incidence during the Omicron (BA.1/1.1) wave among Canadian adults and found an increase in infection-acquired antibodies, from 11.2% pre-Omicron to 36.9% during the Omicron era.

Read more

COVID-19 infections don't always induce an immune response

Published in the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal,* this CITF-funded study found that approximately 1 in 8 individuals with COVID-19 did not develop antibodies detectable in blood serum (a process known as seroconversion) as a result of infection. Children, particularly the youngest, were approximately half as likely to seroconvert compared with adults. The paper also points out that the absence of fever/chills was the only strong symptomatic predictor of an inability to create antibodies.

Read more

Omicron found in similar amounts to other variants of concern among nasopharyngeal and oral swabs

A letter published in *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* reported that either a nasopharyngeal swab or an oral rinse is able to detect the Omicron variant in those who were infected, even if the amount of virus detectable by the former is ten times greater than the latter. This is important because sometimes the oral rinse may be the only acceptable method of testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Read more

HostSeq: A Canadian consortium collecting genetic data to identify factors associated with COVID-19

The CITF funds three of the studies included in the HostSeq platform, a national collaboration that is 60% of the way to collecting genomic and clinical information from 10,000 Canadians of all ages with a positive SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis. Data amassed by HostSeq are made available through two open portals or through a controlled data access request. This article introducing HostSeq has been released in pre-print and is, therefore, not yet peer reviewed.

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.**