



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

Register Now!

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

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CITF-Funded Research Results

Third doses lead to high antibody responses among people living with inflammatory bowel

disease (IBD)

Close to 100% (99.6%) of individuals living with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) mounted an antibody response after their third vaccine dose, according to a letter published in *Gut*. Age, sex, IBD type, vaccine product, and vaccine schedule were not found to influence the generation of antibodies. However, individuals taking corticosteroids had lower spike antibody concentrations compared to those who did not.

[Read more](#)

Cytomegalovirus infection does not hinder immune response to COVID-19 vaccines in older adults

A preprint, not yet peer-reviewed, affirms that infection with cytomegalovirus (CMV) does not alter antibody and memory T cell responses to COVID-19 vaccination in older adults. CMV is a chronic and mostly asymptomatic viral infection, which has been shown to influence immune competence in older adults, that affects 60-90% of the adult population worldwide.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcement

Coming Soon! June issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*

The forthcoming edition will feature a review on hybrid immunity, the latest data from blood donation organizations across the country, and some of the most interesting CITF-funded research results from the past month, including about the prevalence of Omicron infection, the limits of infection-

induced seroconversion, and antibody production among the immunocompromised.



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