



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

### JOIN US ON THURSDAY!

Our 8th Research Results & Implications seminar brings 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. What do we know and what's next? Our presenters will report on:

1. The extent and nature of Omicron infection in Canada and around the globe;
2. How Omicron evaded existing immunity to spread so widely;
3. The notion of hybrid immunity, and how infection-acquired and vaccine-induced immunity can function together; and
4. 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

[Register Now](#)



## CITF-Funded Research Results

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**Third and fourth vaccine doses effectively raise antibody levels in older blood donors by mid-**

## May: Canadian Blood Services

Consistent with the ongoing transmission of the current Omicron variants, infection-acquired seropositivity (as measured by anti-N antibodies) increased in the blood donor community gradually through the beginning of May, from 40% at the end of April to 46% by mid-May, according to the latest data from Canadian Blood Services. Since January, median anti-S antibodies, which are indicative of either vaccination or infection with SARS-CoV-2, rose in older adults – especially those over the age of 60 – coinciding with the administration of 3<sup>rd</sup> and, eventually, 4<sup>th</sup> doses. This is consistent with policies adopted across Canada to vaccinate older age groups earlier. Younger donors (aged 17 to 24) continue to have the highest seroprevalence due to infection (65%) of all age groups.

[Read more](#)

## New data on COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy in Ontario

Among people who were pregnant in Ontario in March 2022, 81.3% had received one or more doses before or during pregnancy, according to a non-peer-reviewed report by the Better Outcomes Registry & Network (BORN) Ontario study. In comparison, 86.5% of eligible Ontarians over the age of five had completed their primary vaccine series (2 doses). Since April 2021, pregnant individuals have been recognized as a high-risk population for COVID-19 complications. Nonetheless, vaccine coverage among these individuals remains lower than in the general population.

[Read more](#)



## Preprint to Publication

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**People living with HIV show normal antibody longevity after full COVID-19 vaccination and have**

## strong third dose responses

A paper now published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, demonstrates that responses to COVID-19 vaccines in people living with HIV (PLWH) are similar to those without HIV. Following both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine dose, PLWH also exhibited similar total antibody and neutralizing antibody responses against the Omicron variant as those without HIV. Antibody responses against the Omicron variant were not as strong as those against the original SARS-CoV-2 strain in both healthy individuals and PLWH.

[Read more](#)



## CITF Announcement

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### ***Spotlight on CITF-Funded Research* moves to bi-weekly publication for the summer**

As we take the opportunity to refresh over the summer, our *Spotlight* will begin publishing every two weeks instead of weekly until the end of August. We will, therefore, return with our next edition on July 5, 2022.



## Share!

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