



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE**

# Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



## **CITF Events**



**COMING SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Our 9th Research Results and Implications  
seminar - *The Eighth Wave: Challenges and  
predictions for an uncertain future***

Featuring experts from the CITF and CoVaRR-Net (Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network) for a panel discussion on:

- Three years and seven waves into the pandemic, where do we stand and what can we expect?
- What are the projections for the number of infections this fall?
- What does it mean to be “up-to-date” with vaccinations?
- Why is it so difficult to define *immunity*?
- What are the prospects for next generation vaccines?
- What measures should I take to protect myself against infection?
- How should we approach COVID-19 in the context of other health challenges?

**Panelists:**

**Shelly Bolotin, MSc, PhD, MScPH**, Director, Centre for Vaccine Preventable Diseases; and Associate Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto; Scientist, Public Health Ontario

**David Buckeridge, MD, PhD, FRCPC**, Professor in the School of Population and Global Health at McGill University; Scientific Lead, Data Management & Analysis, CITF

**Charu Kaushic, PhD**, Scientific Director, CIHR-Institute of Infection and Immunity; Professor, Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, McMaster University; CITF Leadership Group member

**Mel Krajden, MD, FRCPC**, Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of British Columbia; Medical Director of the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control Public Health Laboratory; CITF Leadership Group member

**Sarah (Sally) Otto, PhD**, Killam University Professor and Canada Research Chair, University of British Columbia; Co-Lead of CoVaRR-Net’s Computational Biology and Modelling Pillar 6

**Moderator:**

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



## CITF-Funded Research Results

---

### **Anti-SARS-CoV-2 assay proves nearly 90% effective in detecting COVID-19 infection**

A CITF-funded study, published in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*, tested the sensitivity of the Roche anti-SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid assay. The authors addressed the question of whether the sensitivity of nucleocapsid assays is compromised in vaccinated populations, potentially due to less vigorous antibody responses. The study found that the assay was equally sensitive regardless of an individual's vaccination status and this held true if the participant was infected pre-Omicron or during the Omicron era.

[Read more](#)

### **New vaccines, including a trivalent vaccine, trigger strong immune responses against all SARS-CoV-2 variants in animal models**

In a preprint, not yet peer-reviewed, CITF-funded researchers generated four spike-based vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus and measured antibody and cellular responses. All four – one based on the wildtype (original strain), one based on Beta, one based on Delta and a trivalent vaccine combining all three – produced a strong neutralizing antibody response against all SARS-CoV-2 variants in an animal model, including against the Omicron variant.

[Read more](#)



## Studying the immune response of immunocompromised children: CITF awards \$800,000 for new vaccination research

The Government of Canada, through the CITF, has provided over \$800,000 to Dr. H el ene Decaluwe at the Centre hospitalier universitaire (CHU) Sainte-Justine, supported by a team including Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh, to study the immune response of immunosuppressed children to COVID-19 vaccination. The Immune Response in Young ImmunoSuppressed children to COVID-19 vaccination research project (IRYIS) aims to determine the number of doses needed for optimal protection of this vulnerable population.

[Read more](#)



## Coming Soon! August issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*

The forthcoming edition will feature data assembled by the CITF Data and Analysis Team that illustrates **the impact of the Omicron tsunami in Canada**, a question-and-answer with our experts on **where the pandemic**

**is likely headed come the fall**, CITF-funded research results on **vaccination and immunocompromised populations**, and much 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](mailto: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.