



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



CITF Events



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



in collaboration with
CoVaRR+Net

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

The Eighth Wave

*Challenges and predictions for an
uncertain future*



September 19, 2022 | 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT

REGISTER NOW!

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?
- How many Canadians have been infected?

- 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?

Our panel discussion will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience.

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; Co-lead, CITF Vaccine Surveillance Working Party

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

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:

Tim Evans, MD, PhD, Executive Director, CITF

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Seminar Series
Research Results & Implications

The Omicron tsunami



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Now available! The summary from our **8th Research Results & Implications seminar, *The Omicron tsunami*.**

Our summary features an overview of presentations from our experts on how the Omicron variant swept around the world and across Canada, the mechanisms that enabled it to spread and break through vaccine-acquired immunity, the implications of hybrid immunity, and strategies for coping going forward.

[Read the summary](#)

[Watch the video](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Seroprevalence increases again in June but stabilizes throughout month: Canadian Blood Services

With the continued transmission of the Omicron variant in Canada, infection-acquired seroprevalence increased again within the blood donor community, from 46.3% at the end of May to 50.7% by the end of June. However, it was relatively stable throughout the month. An increase in the concentration of vaccine-induced (anti-S) antibodies in those over 60 was observed in May and continued into June, most likely due to high uptake of fourth doses within this older age group. Almost all the blood donors were still positive for vaccine-induced (anti-S) antibodies.

[Read more](#)

Young adults remain the primary vector of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in June: Latest data from Héma-Québec

The latest serosurvey conducted by Héma-Québec estimates that 45.3% of adults in Quebec developed infection-acquired antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 between December 2021 and June 2022, up from 27.3% in mid-March 2022. Antibodies against the nucleocapsid (N) protein of SARS-CoV-2, which is indicative of a previous infection, was highest among younger individuals (18-25 years, at 72.1%) and lowest among older individuals (>65 years, at 30.2%). This suggests that young people remain the primary vector for SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the province.

[Read more](#)

Immune responses to Omicron in immunocompromised patients

A CITF-funded study published in *Nature Communications* reported that partially and fully vaccinated transplant recipients who were infected with Omicron (the BA.1 variant) have BA.1-specific immune responses comparable to triple vaccinated individuals with uncompromised immune systems. Moreover, transplant recipients did show evidence of potent cross-neutralization against the BA.2 sub-variant.

[Read more](#)

High COVID-19 vaccine coverage for people experiencing homelessness in Toronto

A manuscript from a CTF-funded study, published in *Vaccines*, found that vaccine uptake among people experiencing homelessness in Toronto was high, with 80.4% of individuals having received at least one dose by summer 2021, and 63.6% received two or more doses. The researchers also assessed sociodemographic, behavioral, health, and housing factors associated with vaccine uptake.

[Read more](#)

Studying COVID-19 infections in people experiencing homelessness in Toronto

In a paper published in *BMJ Open*, CTF-funded researchers present a unique study protocol to estimate the prevalence and incidence of COVID-19 infection, and other related events, among people experiencing homelessness in Canada. They are also examining individual and shelter level characteristics associated with COVID-19 infection and related outcomes and will be developing a novel infection transmission model specific to people experiencing homelessness in urban settings.

[Read more](#)



From Preprint to Publication

No association between COVID-19 vaccination status and health issues in pregnancy: Canadian

National Vaccine Safety (CANVAS) Network study

A CITF-funded study published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, offers reassuring evidence that there is no significant association between vaccination status and health issues that prevent daily activity or necessitate a medical consultation in pregnant people. It also highlights pregnant individuals actually suffered fewer significant adverse events after vaccination than did similarly aged non-pregnant females.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcements



Now out! August issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*

The latest issue of the *CITF Monthly Review* features questions-and-answers with CITF-affiliated experts addressing **where the pandemic is likely headed this fall**, a CITF data and analysis report on **how the Omicron**

tsunami affected millions of Canadians in a matter of months, how **vaccines have been found to protect pregnant people and newborns**, and more.

[Read more](#)



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