



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



CITF Events



COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

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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CITF-Funded Research Results

COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy is not associated with adverse birth outcomes

A CITF-funded study published in *BMJ* showed that vaccination against COVID-19 during pregnancy was not associated with any increased risk of overall preterm birth, spontaneous preterm birth, or very preterm birth. As well, vaccination was not associated with small-for-gestational-age at birth or stillbirth. This study provides further evidence about the safety of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy.

[Read more](#)

Third dose of vaccine enhances antibody response, particularly among older adults

A manuscript from a CITF-funded study, in preprint (not yet peer-reviewed), demonstrated that a third dose of an mRNA vaccine significantly enhanced the magnitude and durability of antibody responses in individuals who had not yet had COVID-19 (COVID-naïve), and particularly among older adults. However, the findings also suggest that COVID-naïve individuals would benefit from a fourth dose within six months of the third. By contrast, those who contracted their first SARS-CoV-2 infection following three doses of vaccine may derive less benefit from a fourth dose within this timeframe.

[Read more](#)

A novel method for detecting SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence

In a preprint, not yet peer-reviewed, CITF-funded researchers developed a novel approach to detect SARS-CoV-2 anti-nucleocapsid antibodies. The

ratio-based approach had a 95.2% sensitivity among both previously vaccinated and previously infected donors compared with 63.3% for the conventional approach.

[Read more](#)

Drivers of COVID-19 vaccine uptake and hesitancy among people experiencing homelessness in Toronto: A study protocol

In a paper published in *BMJ Open*, researchers outlined their study protocol for characterizing COVID-19 vaccine uptake and hesitancy among people experiencing homelessness in Toronto. This protocol applies to a new qualitative study that expands on the CITF-funded *Ku-gaa-gii pimitizi-win* study, focused on the prevalence and incidence of COVID-19 infection in this priority population.

[Read more](#)



From Preprint to Publication

Pre-Omicron effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against hospitalization and death across Canada

CITF-funded research, published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, found that two doses of mRNA or viral vector ChAdOx1 (AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria or COVIDSHIELD) vaccines provided excellent protection against severe outcomes (hospitalization or death) from COVID-19 during the period before the emergence of the Omicron variant.

[Read more](#)



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