



**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 FOR OUR SEMINAR ON MONDAY

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

[Register Now](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Infection-acquired seroprevalence increased in July: Canadian Blood Services

Due to continued transmission of the newer Omicron variants (BA.4 and BA.5) in Canada, infection-acquired seropositivity increased within the blood donor community, from 50.7% at the end of June to 54% by the end of July, with a modest week-to-week change throughout July. Donors aged 17- to 24-years-old had the highest infection-acquired seroprevalence rate of any age group, at 71.2%. The increase in the concentration of vaccine-induced antibodies in those over 60 observed in May and June – most likely driven by the uptake of fourth vaccine doses – levelled off in July. Almost all blood donors were still positive for vaccine-induced antibodies.

[Read more](#)



From Preprint to Publication

A case of an Omicron reinfection despite up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination

A case report, now published in *Frontiers in Immunology*, indicates that Omicron reinfections - that is, two distinct infections with the Omicron variant at least 90 days apart - are possible, even in fully vaccinated individuals with an average immune response.

[Read more](#)

Third dose improves immunity to SARS-CoV-2 in immunocompromised patients

In a letter published in *RMD Open*, CITF-funded researchers found that SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels and T cell responses increased following a third dose of vaccine in immunocompromised patients.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcements

New Seroprevalence in Canada page on the CITF web site

We have expanded our analysis of seroprevalence estimates across Canada by incorporating data from over 20 studies that are funded or partners of the CITF and have represented it graphically on our new webpage [Seroprevalence in Canada](#). The studies included in the estimates can be grouped into three categories: 1) blood donors from Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec; 2) anonymized discarded, or residual, blood samples from provincial laboratories; and 3) participants in CITF-funded research cohorts. Together, they allow for regularly updated estimates of the magnitude and trends in SARS-CoV-2 infection across the county that will help tailor public health strategies.

Updated Tools & Information webpage for our funded researchers

We have updated our [Tools & Information for Researchers](#) webpage to reflect the newest versions of the CITF's Core Data Elements and documents required for data sharing. The CITF's mandate includes harmonizing research about COVID-19 immunity to inform Canadian policymakers and support evidence-based decisions. We therefore ask our funded researchers to share three types of research products with the CITF: 1) metadata, 2) results, and 3) where ethically and legally possible, individual-level data.



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