



COVID-19 IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

# Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



## CITF Events



Seminar Series  
Research Results & Implications

### The Eighth Wave

*Challenges and predictions for an  
uncertain future*



COVID-19  
IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

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

in collaboration with



CoVaRR+Net

**Thank you for making our ninth *Research Results & Implications* seminar such a success**

More than 500 people attended our seminar, *The Eighth Wave: Challenges and predictions for an uncertain future*, on September 19.

Thanks to all who participated and a big **thank you** to our presenters: **Dr.**

**Shelly Bolotin of the University of Toronto, Dr. David Buckeridge** of McGill University; **Dr. Charu Kaushic** of Canadian Institutes of Health Research and McMaster University; **Dr. Mel Kraiden** of the University of British Columbia; **Dr. Sarah (Sally) Otto** of the University of British Columbia and CoVaRR-Net; and **Dr. Tim Evans**, Executive Director of the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force.

[See the presentation](#)

[Watch the video](#)



## CITF-Funded Research Results

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### **New insights into immune response underlying long COVID**

A CITF-funded study on long COVID has found two things: that in most people with persistent COVID symptoms, long COVID does not last forever and a possible link between long COVID and autoimmune disease. The results are published in the *European Respiratory Journal*.

[Read more](#)

### **Three doses of vaccine offer effective protection against COVID-19 for patients with chronic kidney disease**

CITF-funded research published as a letter in *Kidney International* investigated COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness among non-dialysis dependent patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). Even though CKD patients produce lower antibody titers and have a less sustained humoral response that might result in lower protection after vaccination, the researchers found that 2 or 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were highly effective in preventing incident COVID-19 infection ( $\geq 71\%$ ) as well as COVID-19-related hospitalization and death ( $\geq 84\%$ ) between December 2020 and December 2021.

[Read more](#)

## **A systematic review and meta-analysis of seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in Africa**

In a systemic review published in *BMJ Global Health*, the CITF-funded SeroTracker team estimates that seroprevalence in Africa (due to infection or vaccination) was as high as 65.1% in July-September 2021. This seroprevalence estimate suggests there were 100 times more infections than the number reported to the WHO by national surveillance systems, highlighting that most infections go undetected.

[Read more](#)

## **Asymptomatic transmission of SARS-CoV-2 virus is not so common in healthcare students**

A CITF-funded study in preprint, currently under peer review, suggests that despite a high risk of exposure because of their age and the fact that they were studying in healthcare settings, an extremely low number of healthcare students in Kingston, Ontario tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 during the first three waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, even among those with no symptoms.

[Read more](#)



## **From Preprint to Publication**

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**Designing serological assays with improved diagnostic potential**

In the hopes of creating a more accurate and highly informative diagnostic test, CITF-funded researchers published in *Analytical Chemistry*, the design for a new generation of assays to measure the presence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. The assays combine two techniques: immunoprecipitation to enrich specific SARS-CoV-2 antibodies and a mass spectrometry-based assay with a near-absolute capacity to distinguish between very similar antibody molecules.

[Read more](#)



## CITF Announcements



### Looking for seroprevalence data?

We have launched a new [Seroprevalence in Canada](#) webpage, with data visualized with interactive graphs which will be updated regularly.

An even newer feature: we have added a download button for those looking for the population-level data shown in the graphs and need the data in Excel.

[Read more](#)



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