



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



CITF Events



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

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

People at higher risk due to other health conditions & COVID-19



November 24, 2022 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT

Join us for the 11th seminar in our series

People who suffer from health conditions and/or take medications that leave their immune systems compromised are at greater risk of more severe COVID-19.

Our 11th *Research Results and Implications Seminar* brings together CITF-funded researchers studying people with **HIV, immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMID), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD),**

chronic kidney disease (CKD), and solid organ transplant recipients (SOTR). They will discuss their findings and address questions of concern including:

- What are the risks that individuals with immune problems face from SARS-CoV-2 infection?
- Are vaccines safe and effective for these individuals?
- How do medications that impair the immune system affect COVID-19 and vaccine effectiveness? Are all medications alike?
- What added precautions should people with these health conditions take to prevent themselves from being infected with SARS-CoV-2?

Panelists:

- (IMID) **Sasha Bernatsky, MD, PhD**, Professor of Medicine, McGill University; Senior Clinical Investigator, Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre
- (HIV) **Ann N. Burchell, PhD**, Scientist, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto; Associate Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto; Adjunct Scientist, ICES
- (IMID) **Vinod Chandran, MBBS, MD, DM, PhD, FRCPC**, Associate Professor, University of Toronto; Staff Rheumatologist, University Health Network and Sinai Health
- (HIV) **Cecilia T. Costiniuk, MD, MSc, FRCPC**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, McGill University; Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, McGill University Health Centre; Scientist, Research Institute, MUHC
- (IBD) **Gilaad Kaplan, MD, MPH, FRCPC, CAGF, AGAF, FCAHS, Killam Laureate**, Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences, O'Brien Institute for Public Health and Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary
- (SOTR) **Deepali Kumar MD, MSc, FRCPC, FAST**, Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto; Transplant Infectious Diseases Consultant, University Health Network; Director of Transplant Infectious Diseases, University Health Network
- (CKD) **Matthew Oliver, MD, MHS, FRCPC**, Associate Professor, University of Toronto; Staff Nephrologist & Division Head of Nephrology, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Regional Medical Lead – Toronto Central – Ontario Renal Network, Ontario Health
- (CKD) **Sara Wing, MDCM, FRCPC**, Clinical Associate, Division of Nephrology, St Michael's Hospital, Toronto

Moderator:

Catherine Hankins, MD, PhD, Co-Chair, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force;

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CITF-Funded Research Results

Vaccine side-effects among those with a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection

A CITF and Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN) funded study, published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, showed that adults who had a previous moderate or severe SARS-CoV-2 infection were more likely to experience side effects from the first vaccine dose. More specifically, they were more likely to have a health event sufficient to impact routine activities or require medical assessment in the week following each of the first three vaccine doses.

[Read more](#)

Severe COVID-19 results in stronger hybrid immunity following vaccination

A paper published in *NPJ Vaccines* from a CITF-funded study shows that, in a group of individuals who had been infected with SARS-CoV-2, the immune response induced by the subsequent rounds of vaccination was stronger when the COVID-19 symptoms were more severe.

[Read more](#)

Understanding community perceptions related to

vaccine acceptance

A preprint, not yet peer-reviewed, from a CITF-funded study focused on the South Asian community, demonstrated that understanding factors such as community dynamics, language, and cultural context can help build vaccine confidence and acceptance among diverse population groups. Developing tailored outreach strategies can guide approaches to serve different communities during the current and future pandemics.

[Read more](#)

Infection-acquired seroprevalence continues to increase in September: Canadian Blood Services

Consistent with the continued prevalence of the Omicron variant and its subvariants, infection-acquired seropositivity increased among blood donors to 62.4% by mid-September, up from 60% in the last week of August. These data come from Canadian Blood Services. The lowest rate of infection-acquired seroprevalence was in donors over age 60. The gap between the most and least materially deprived groups appeared to decrease.

[Read more](#)

Infection-induced seroprevalence among blood donors rises during the Omicron wave

CITF-funded researchers at Canadian Blood Services published findings in *Viruses* stating that infection-induced seroprevalence increased with the emergence of the Omicron variant from September 2021 to June 2022.

[Read more](#)

The methodology of the CHILD sub-study to examine the effect of SARS-CoV-2 infection on children

In a pre-print, not yet peer reviewed, CITF-funded researchers with the CHILD cohort outlined their study design and cohort profile for research that examines the impact of COVID-19 on children. Their study investigates the prevalence and predictors of SARS-CoV-2 infection and transmission, as well as the predictors of the health and psychosocial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic among Canadian children and their families.

[Read more](#)



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