



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

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

Antibody responses to the first four doses of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in patients with IBD

A CITF-funded study published in *The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology* showed individuals with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) mounted a robust antibody response after the fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine, similar in magnitude to their response following the third dose. The research team also outlined predictors for vaccine-induced immune responses.

[Read more](#)

Third mRNA vaccine dose induces strong antibody response against Omicron regardless of the interval between the first and second doses

A study, partially funded by the CITF, published in *Cell Reports*, shows that a third vaccine dose elicited strong antibody responses regardless of the interval between the first and second doses. Furthermore, this research group confirmed their previous observations that, unlike the rapid decline seen months after a booster dose in those individuals never infected with SARS-CoV-2, hybrid immunity led to stronger and longer lasting humoral responses.

[Read more](#)

Risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity and seroconversion among children and adolescents in Montreal

In a preprint, not yet peer-reviewed, CITF-funded researchers in Montreal identified a variety of factors that contributed to an increased risk of seropositivity and seroconversion in children and adolescents. These included being from a racial or ethnic minority group, with high bedroom density, and/or having a lower household income. They reported, as well, that infection-acquired SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence among children increased during the study period from 5.8% (October 2020 – March 2021) to 10.5% (May – July 2021) and 10.9% (November 2021 – January 2022).

[Read more](#)

Health inequalities by income have persisted in Canada throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

A CITF-funded study, published in preprint, not yet peer-reviewed, indicated that public health interventions implemented since the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic did not sufficiently address income-related health disparities. Among the risk factors that contributed to exposure to SARS-CoV-2 are household size and crowding, the necessity of being in the workplace, and systemic barriers to prevention and care.

[Read more](#)

Vaccine-induced immune responses are as durable in people living with HIV as in people without HIV

A CITF-funded study, published in preprint and not yet peer-reviewed, showed that the antibody responses induced by a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine were as durable in people living with HIV who were receiving antiretroviral therapy as in individuals without HIV.

[Read more](#)



From Preprint to Publication

Is one vaccine dose enough for individuals who have recovered from a SARS-CoV-2 infection?

Research stemming from the CITF-funded RECOVER study, published in *Frontiers in Immunology*, indicates that a two-dose primary series of vaccination is paramount for protection against COVID-19, even for those who were previously infected. Individuals who did not experience symptoms during their SARS-CoV-2 infection and had no antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 (negative serostatus) prior to vaccination show weaker immune responses to each vaccine dose than their symptomatic counterparts.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcements



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

The latest issue of the *CITF Monthly Review* features a research synthesis on **COVID-19 in people with other health problems**, a summary of our seminar and latest research on **COVID-19 among older Canadians**, and data on **Omicron-induced seroprevalence across Canada**.

[Read more](#)



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