



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 this Thursday 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;
Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Global and Public Health at
McGill's School of Population and Global Health

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CITF-Funded Research Results

Characteristics of Quebec plasma donors used to study COVID-19 immunity

CITF-funded researchers at Héma-Québec published a preprint, not yet peer reviewed, reporting on the characteristics of the plasma donors whose samples are used to study COVID-19 immunity in Quebec. The 15,502 plasma samples collected in its COVID-19-focused biobank are representative of the general population, ranging in age from 18 to 84, with nearly a 50/50 split between males and females.

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