



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

.....  
Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

### How social determinants of health affected the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada

.....



January 25, 2023 | 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST

## Register for the 12th seminar in our series

Social and economic inequities have contributed to how certain communities in Canada have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. For the 12<sup>th</sup> seminar in our *Research Results & Implications* series we have gathered CITF-funded experts to present their findings on how those factors - income or material deprivation, employment, education, and racialization, among others - have led to a higher likelihood of becoming infected and/or

suffering more severe outcomes (hospitalization and death) from COVID-19. Furthermore, these social determinants have had a measurable effect on access to vaccines and vaccine uptake across the country.

Casting light on these social drivers of COVID-19 disease risk and vaccine coverage clarifies the urgent need for policies and practices to redress these inequities.

**Panelists:**

- **Upton Allen O.Ont., MBBS, MSc, FAAP, FRCPC, Hon FRCP (UK), FIDSA**, Professor, Department of Paediatrics and Institute of Health Policy Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto; Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids); Senior Associate Scientist, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)
- **Sonia Anand MD, PhD, FRCPC, FRSC**, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Associate Chair Equity, Diversity, Department of Medicine, McMaster University; Vascular Medicine Specialist, Hamilton Health Sciences; Senior Scientist, Population Health Research Institute
- **Simona Bignami PhD**, Professor, Department of Demography, Université de Montréal
- **Jack Jedwab PhD**, President and CEO Metropolis Institute and the Association for Canadian Studies
- **Sheila O'Brien PhD**, Associate Director, Epidemiology & Surveillance, Canadian Blood Services; Adjunct Professor, School of Epidemiology & Public Health, University of Ottawa

**Moderator:**

**Tim Evans, MD, DPhil**, Executive Director, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

[Register Now](#)



**CITF-Funded Research Results**

---

## Illicit opioid consumption decreased among incarcerated people in Quebec during pandemic

A CITF-funded study, published in the *International Journal of Prisoner Health*, showed that approximately 59% of incarcerated people who use drugs reported decreased use of illicit opioids since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. This trend was most pronounced among those who reported living with others prior to being imprisoned or with a history of drug overdose.

[Read more](#)

## A novel method for developing low cost proteins for use in SARS-CoV-2 vaccines and assays

A CITF-funded study, published in *PLoS One*, demonstrated that agroinfiltration, a method to generate proteins in plants, could be used to produce the receptor binding domain (RBD) of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. This study is important because these plant proteins can be used to make protein subunit vaccines and serological and neutralization assays. They are low cost, massively scalable, and rapid to develop.

[Read more](#)



## From Preprint to Publication

---

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

A CITF-funded study published in *AIDS* 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](#)

## **Kidney transplant recipients do not produce as robust an antibody response to COVID-19 vaccines as otherwise healthy individuals**

CITF-funded research, now published in *Transplantation Direct*, found that over 50% of kidney transplant recipients lacked Omicron-specific neutralizing antibodies one month following a third vaccine dose. Antibody levels in those who did develop the Omicron-specific antibodies were well preserved at 3 months. The amount of anti-receptor binding domain (RBD) antibodies a person produces may identify patients with a detectable Omicron-neutralizing antibody response.

[Read more](#)



## **CITF Announcements**

---



## Now out! December issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*

The latest issue of the *CITF Monthly Review* features a research synthesis on **how social determinants of health affected COVID-19 in Canada**, a summary of our **seminar to introduce the new CITF Databank**, and highlights of some of our recently funded research, including **the low risk of myocarditis and pericarditis from COVID-19 vaccines**, and more!

[Read more](#)

## Our Frequently Asked Questions web page has been updated

- How long does immunity last in healthy adults after a SARS-CoV-2 infection?
- Why is hybrid immunity the “new normal”?
- Why are additional doses of vaccines important?
- What is long COVID and how many people are impacted by it?

Answers to these and many more questions can be found on our newly

updated FAQ page.

[Read more](#)



## Share!

---

Know policymakers or researchers who may be interested in our latest research results? Please share this email and encourage them to subscribe!

[Sign Up](#)

Have a publication we should review or know about? Please share with us at [research@covid19immunitytaskforce.ca](mailto:research@covid19immunitytaskforce.ca)

---

Missed an issue of Research Roundup? [View back issues.](#)

---

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.