



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



CITF Events



COVID-19 IMMUNITY TASK FORCE
GROUPE 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 our seminar TOMORROW

Social and economic inequities have contributed to how certain communities in Canada have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. For the 12th 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:

Catherine Hankins, MD, PhD, Former 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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Pulmonary embolisms can be prevented by screening patients who go to the emergency department with COVID-19 symptoms for blood clots

A CITF-funded study published in the *Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine* found that performing a D-dimer diagnostic test on patients who exhibit characteristic COVID-19 symptoms upon admission to the emergency department was very effective in ruling out the risk of pulmonary embolism within 30 days of admission.

[Read more](#)

A comprehensive and up-to-date pathogen surveillance system is needed, where blood donor surveillance would be essential

In a letter published in *CMAJ*, CITF-funded researchers argue that blood donor surveillance would make a valuable contribution to public health needs for monitoring emerging pathogens.

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