



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

COVID-19's youngest victims



March 27, 2023 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST

Register for our final seminar

At the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 was generally very mild in young children, creating a sense that most were not at risk.

Once Omicron struck, the millions of people infected led to increased numbers of serious cases, including in children. This included some rare yet serious and lingering complications. Furthermore, the rigorous process

before vaccines were approved for children caused delays in pediatric vaccination. Coupled with poorer vaccine uptake in young children, this has led to gaps in immune protection against COVID-19.

The CITF has funded several studies examining the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on pediatric populations, as well as vaccine efficacy and the durability of immune responses in children. Join our CITF-funded experts for an informative discussion about the current state of research on COVID-19 and pediatrics in Canada.

Panelists:

- **Stephen Freedman, MDCM, MSc**, Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Professor in Child Health and Wellness & Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary; Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician, Alberta Children's Hospital.
- **Jim Kellner, MD**, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist; Professor, Pediatrics, University of Calgary; Leader, CITF Pediatric Network.
- **Caroline Quach-Thanh, OQ, MD, FRCPC, MSc**, Professor, Department of Microbiology, Infectious Diseases and Immunology and Department of Pediatrics, Université de Montréal; Pediatric Infectious Diseases & Medical Microbiologist, CHU Sainte-Justine; Medical Lead, Infection Prevention & Control, CHU Sainte-Justine.
- **Manish Sadarangani, BM, BCH, DPhil**, Director, Vaccine Evaluation Center, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute; Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Pediatrics, UBC; Physician Lead, Family Immunization Clinic, BC Children's Hospital.

Moderator:

Timothy Evans, MD, PhD, Executive Director, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

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More than three-quarters of Canadian blood donors had infection-acquired antibodies in the first weeks of the new year: Canadian Blood Services

Despite all donors having vaccine-related antibodies, seroprevalence data from Canadian Blood Services suggested that 76.2% of donors had infection-acquired antibodies by mid-January 2023. This estimate was slightly higher than the 73.5% estimate recorded at the end of December 2022. Close to 90% of young (aged 17 to 24) Canadians recorded seropositivity due to infection by mid-January. Donors declaring themselves racialized continued to have higher seroprevalence due to infection than self-declared white donors.

[Read more](#)

Four doses of mRNA vaccine benefit people living with HIV receiving anti-retroviral therapy

A CITF-funded study published in *AIDS*, demonstrated that fourth COVID-19 vaccine doses, irrespective of whether they are monovalent or bivalent, benefit people living with HIV (PLWH) who receive anti-retroviral therapies (ART), including those who have already experienced SARS-CoV-2 infection.

[Read more](#)

Booster doses are efficient at mounting strong T-cell immune responses in people living with HIV

In a study published in *Viruses*, CITF-funded researchers found that a third dose of COVID-19 vaccines induced robust polyfunctional T-cell immune responses in people living with HIV that are comparable to what is observed in individuals without HIV.

[Read more](#)

Vaccine hesitancy among parents of children and teens 5-18 years old

A CITF-funded study published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* discussed how parents' experiences making decisions regarding SARS-CoV-2 vaccines for their children were complex, even for those who were supportive of vaccination.

[Read more](#)



Preprint to Publication

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

CITF-funded research, now published in *BMJ Open*, reported on the characteristics of the plasma donors whose samples are used to study COVID-19 immunity in Quebec.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcement



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

The latest issue of the *CITF Monthly Review* features information about data in the **CITF Databank** allowing more researchers to study the risk from frontline work, new seroprevalence data on **younger Canadians having higher seroprevalence** across the country, spotlights on some of the latest CITF-funded research, including how hybrid immunity is most effective against the **latest Omicron variants**, and more!

[Read more](#)



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