



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



CITF Events



Seminar Series Research Results & Implications



COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
SUR L'IMMUNITÉ
FACE À LA COVID-19

Thank you for making our seminar on COVID-19's youngest victims such a success

More than 140 people attended the final seminar in our monthly series, which was about how COVID-19 has affected Canada's children.

Thank you to all who participated and to those who asked great questions. Of course, a big thank you to our panelists: **Stephen Freedman** of the University of Calgary; **Jim Kellner** of the University of Calgary; **Caroline**

Quach-Thanh of the Université de Montréal; and **Manish Sadarangani** of the University of British Columbia; and to our moderator, **Tim Evans**, Executive Director of the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force.

[See the presentation](#)

[Watch the video](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Lower risk of myocarditis observed after mRNA vaccine booster dose

A CITF-funded study published in the *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* reaffirmed that myocarditis following an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is rare. Furthermore, the myocarditis rate following a third mRNA dose is lower than after the second dose. There were no significant differences by booster vaccine type and myocarditis.

[Read more](#)

Establishing an immune protection threshold is essential to optimize and individualize SARS-CoV-2 vaccination

A CITF-funded study published in *Transplantation* aims to identify correlates of protection that would be necessary to safeguard against various SARS-CoV-2 variants. Researchers found that a binding antibody concentration of less than 752 binding antibody units (BAU/mL) resulted in poor immune protection against Omicron, whereas levels over 1357 BAU/ml resulted in 100% neutralization against Omicron.

[Read more](#)

Vaccinated mothers protect infants to a greater degree against Delta than Omicron

A CITF-funded study published in *JAMA Pediatrics* found that the infants of mothers who were vaccinated postpartum had moderately effective protection against Delta infection (73%), but little protection against the Omicron variant (13%). The study applied to infants below the age of six months and identified postpartum vaccination as important in cocooning, a strategy for conferring protection against many respiratory infections to infants. This practice is associated with limiting the infant's close contacts to vaccinated adults.

[Read more](#)

Seroprevalence studies are important for assessing the occupational risk of COVID-19

A systematic review published in *BMJ Open* drawing on data from the CITF-funded Serotracker initiative highlights that SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence varied widely across occupations during the first year of the pandemic. Seroprevalence estimates ranged from 22% among people in personal care and service occupations (based on 14 estimates) to 1% among those in arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations (based on 6 estimates).

[Read more](#)

Protocol: Strength and duration of immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines in people living with chronic kidney disease (CKD)

This CITF-funded paper, published in the *Canadian Journal of Kidney Health and Disease*, presents the protocol of a new study aimed at characterizing the strength and duration of immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines in people living with CKD. Such findings are expected to be useful in devising vaccination guidelines for the 4 million Canadians living with CKD.

[Read more](#)

Third and fourth vaccine doses broaden and prolong immunity to SARS-CoV-2 in adults with IMIDs

A CITF-funded study, published in preprint and not yet peer-reviewed, demonstrated that third and fourth doses of vaccine sustain and broaden immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 in adults with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMIDs). The authors assert that this supports the recommendation for three- and four-dose vaccine regimens in this population.

[Read more](#)

Different modelling approaches able to predict SARS-CoV-2 cases

In a preprint, not yet peer-reviewed, CITF-funded researchers found that machine learning and epidemic transmission modelling could accurately predict cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection during the Omicron wave.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcements



Now out! The final issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*

The March 2023 issue of the *CITF Monthly Review* features an international research synthesis about **pediatric infection and vaccination since Omicron**, an **overview of the CITF Scientific Meeting** in Vancouver, a link to dozens of **e-posters from the CITF Scientific Meeting**, spotlights on some of the **latest CITF-funded research**, and more!

[Read more](#)

CITF Scientific Meeting e-poster presentations: online now

More than 70 research posters were presented at the CITF Scientific Meeting in Vancouver this month, along with video narration. The majority are now available on our website and more will be added in the coming weeks.

[Watch](#)

New survey data reveals that between April and August 2022, 98% of Canadian adults had

antibodies to SARS-CoV-2

Statistics Canada, in partnership with PHAC and the CITF, recently released results from the second cycle of the Canadian COVID-19 Antibody and Health Survey (CCAHS). Between April and August 2022, 54% of Canadian adults – or about 16.4 million Canadians – had antibodies indicating a past infection to SARS-CoV-2 - more than 20 times higher than the 2.6% observed in early 2021. In addition, by the same time, four out of ten Canadians were unaware that they ever had COVID-19.

[Read more](#)



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