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

COVID-19 and older Canadians: Where are we now?

October 18, 2022 | 2:30-4:00 p.m. EDT

JOIN US FOR OUR SEMINAR LATER TODAY!

The COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF) supports research projects looking at various aspects of COVID-19 infection and immunity in older Canadians. Our 10th *Research Results and Implications* seminar will assemble several CITF-funded researchers to update us on their latest findings and answer questions such as:

- How important are boosters for those aged 70+?

- Should older Canadians be masking, distancing, and limiting their social interactions indoors?
- Is the risk of getting COVID-19 higher if you're living in a long-term care (LTC) home, or, if you're 70+ living in the community?
- Will infection prevention and control measures implemented in LTC homes due to COVID-19 have a long-term positive impact in warding off other infections in these settings?
- Is it safe to put your loved ones in LTC homes these days in Canada?

Presentations from several CITF-funded studies will be followed by a panel discussion. Presenters will then take questions from the audience.

Moderator:

Samir Sinha, MD, DPhil, FRCPC, Director of Geriatrics, Mount Sinai and University Health Network Hospitals, Toronto; Provincial Lead, Ontario's Seniors Strategy; Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto; Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Panelists:

- **Zabrina Brumme, PhD,** Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University; Director of Laboratories, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS; CITF-funded researcher
- **Andrew Costa, PhD**, Schlegel Research Chair in Clinical Epidemiology & Aging and Associate Professor, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, McMaster University; Scientific Director, St. Joseph's Centre for Integrated Care, Hamilton; CITF-funded researcher
- **Timothy Evans, MD, PhD,** Executive Director, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force
- **Allison McGeer, MSc, MD, FRCPC,** Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto, and Senior Clinician Scientist and Infectious Disease Physician, Sinai Health System, Toronto; CITF-funded researcher
- **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; CITF-funded researcher
- **Sharon Walmsley, MSc, MD, FRCPC,** Senior Scientist, Toronto General Hospital Research Institute; Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto; CITF-funded researcher

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CITF-Funded Research Results

COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness against Omicron or Delta symptomatic infection and severe outcomes

A CITF-funded study published in *JAMA Network Open,* estimated that two doses of any COVID-19 vaccine were highly effective against a symptomatic Delta infection, but were lower and more short-lived against a symptomatic Omicron infection. Vaccine effectiveness (VE) against severe outcomes was high after the third dose of an mRNA vaccine for both Delta and Omicron.

Read more

Post-vaccine antibody levels reduce the risk of COVID-19, including from Omicron

A CITF-funded study published in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* shows that higher antibody levels against the original (wild-type) SARS-CoV-2 virus are associated with a significantly reduced risk of subsequent infections with SARS-CoV-2 variants, both preceding and during the Omicron era.

Read more

Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines over time prior to Omicron emergence

A CITF-funded study published in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases* highlighted that – prior to Omicron - the effectiveness of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine decreased over time against infection but remained high against severe

outcomes over 11 months (January to November 2021). This applied to all dosing regimens whether homogeneous or mix-and-match (heterologous) and taking into account varying intervals between doses.

Read more

COVID-19 cases among congregate care facility staff by neighbourhood of residence and social and structural determinants

A CITF-funded study published in *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance* found that compared with other healthcare workers, COVID-19 cases among facility-staff in long term care homes, retirement homes and shelters more closely mirrored neighbourhood-level heterogeneity and social and structural disparities. Some determinants (income, household density, other essential services) demonstrated greater inequality among facility-staff cases than community cases.

Read more

Third dose of vaccine enhances antibody response, particularly among older adults

A CITF-funded study in preprint, not yet peer-reviewed, demonstrated that a third dose of an mRNA vaccine significantly enhances the magnitude and durability of antibody responses, including among adults over the age of 70 who remained COVID-naïve (those who were not infected with SARS-CoV-2). Their antibody concentrations were comparable to those found in younger healthcare workers who were triply vaccinated.

Read more

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