



IMMUNISATION  
COALITION



## Influenza and COVID-19 effects of and on chronic diseases

7:30 pm

A/Prof Kirsty Short

The University of Queensland

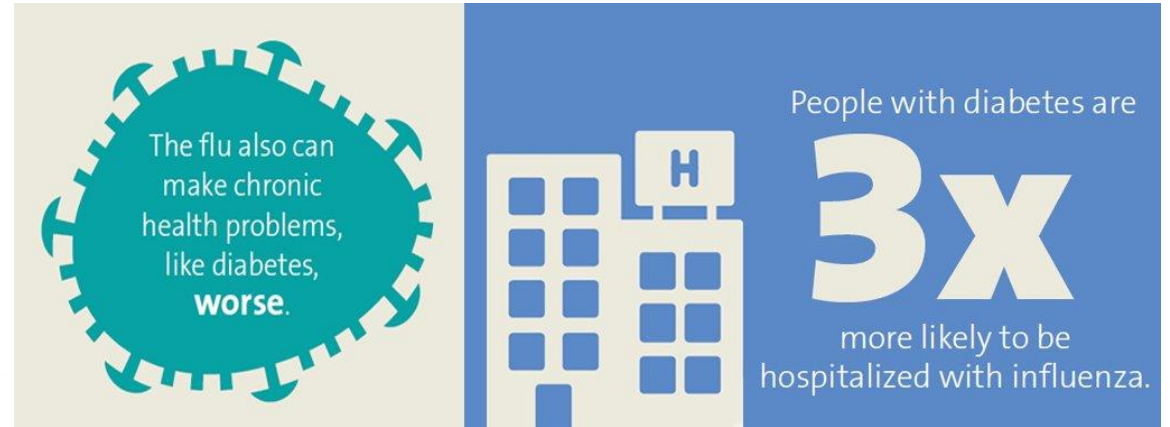




# Diabetes increases the severity of influenza

## High glucose levels increase influenza-associated damage to the pulmonary epithelial-endothelial barrier

Katina D Hulme<sup>1</sup>, Limin Yan<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca J Marshall<sup>1</sup>, Conor J Bloxham<sup>2</sup>, Kyle R Upton<sup>1</sup>, Sumaira Z Hasnain<sup>3</sup>, Helle Bielefeldt-Ohmann<sup>1,4</sup>, Zhixuan Loh<sup>5</sup>, Katharina Ronacher<sup>3,4</sup>, Keng Yih Chew<sup>1</sup>, Linda A Gallo<sup>2,3</sup>, Kirsty R Short<sup>1,4\*</sup>



## Rates of Severe Influenza-Associated Outcomes Among Older Adults Living With Diabetes—Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET), 2012–2017

Daniel Owusu,<sup>1,2</sup> Melissa A. Rolfes,<sup>2</sup> Carmen S. Arriola,<sup>2</sup> Pam Daily Kirley,<sup>3</sup> Nisha B. Alden,<sup>4</sup> James Meek,<sup>5</sup> Evan J. Anderson,<sup>6,7,8</sup> Maya L. Monroe,<sup>9</sup> Sue Kim,<sup>10</sup> Ruth Lynfield,<sup>11</sup> Kathy Angeles,<sup>12</sup> Nancy Spina,<sup>13</sup> Christina B. Felsen,<sup>14</sup> Laurie Billing,<sup>15</sup> Ann Thomas,<sup>16</sup> H. Keipp Talbot,<sup>17</sup> William Schaffner,<sup>17</sup> Ryan Chatelain,<sup>18</sup> Carrie Reed,<sup>2,\*</sup> and Shikha Garg<sup>2</sup>

## Diabetes and the Severity of Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) Infection

ROBERT ALLARD, MD<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
PASCALE LECLERC, MSc<sup>1,3</sup>

CLAUDE TREMBLAY, MSc<sup>1</sup>  
TERRY-NAN TANNENBAUM, MD<sup>1,2</sup>

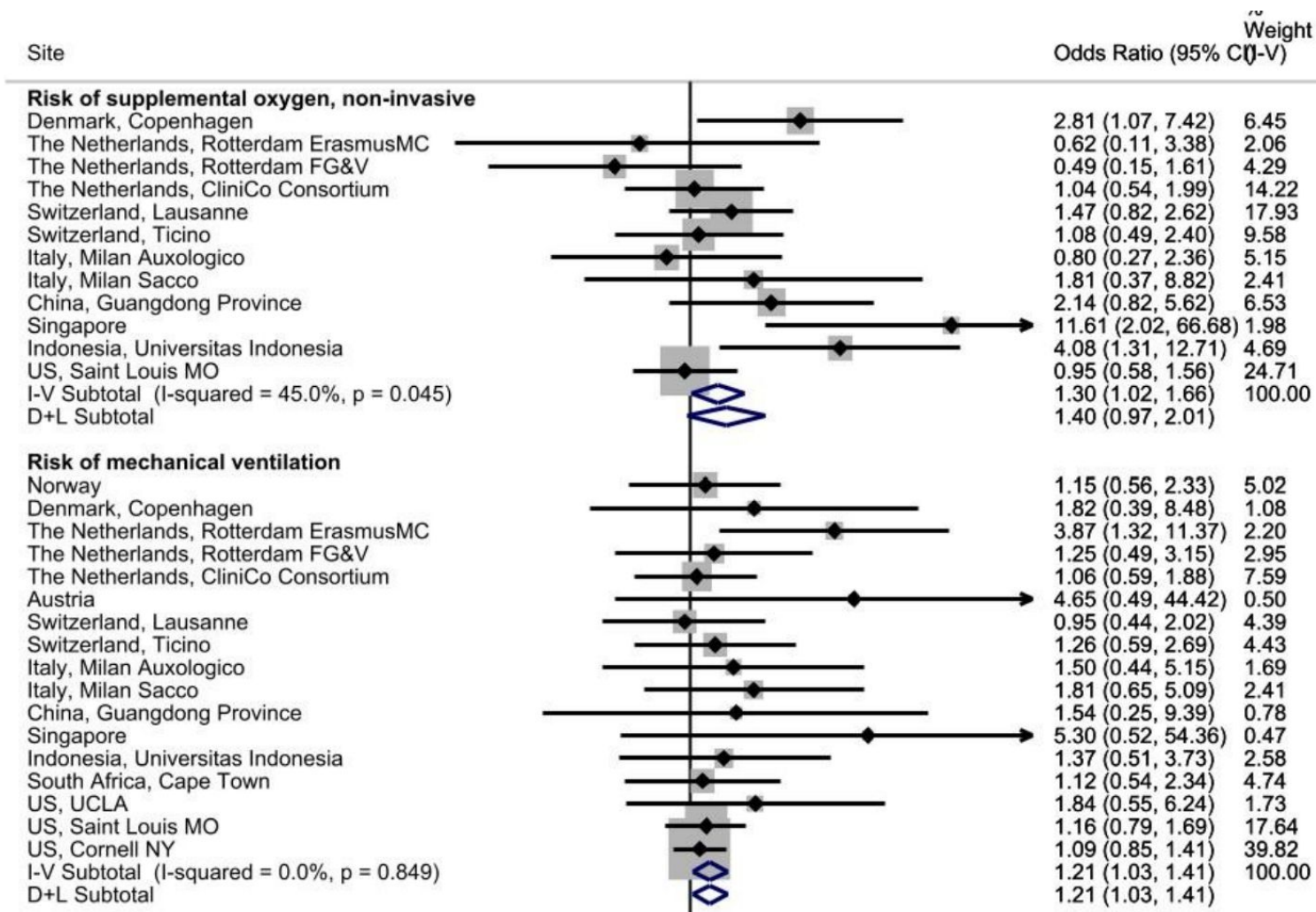
subjects, and those hospitalized without ICU admission, i.e., the control subjects. The associations between patient char-



# Diabetes increases the severity of COVID-19



IMMUNISATION  
COALITION



Models adjusted for: BMI categories; Age; Sex; Pre-existing cardiovascular disease; Hypertension and Pre-existing respiratory disease. Reference is patients without diabetes

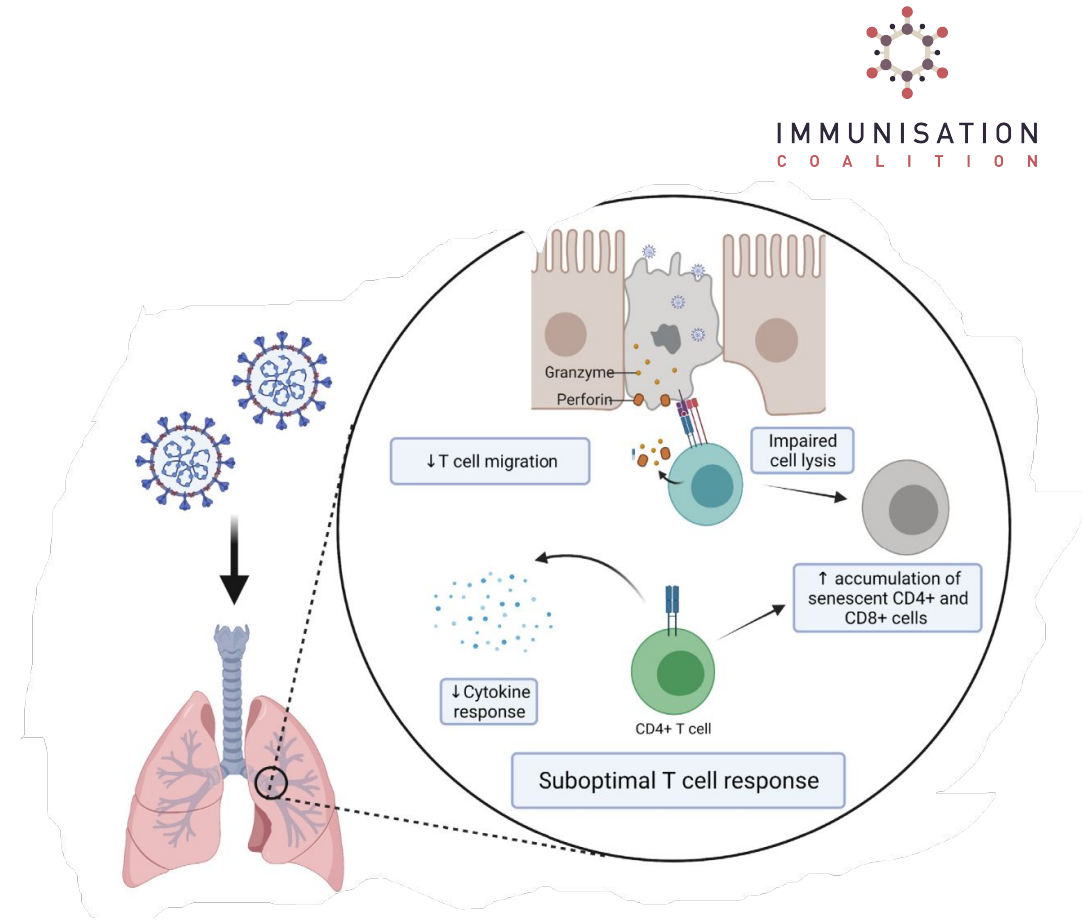
# Hypothesised mechanisms

- Chronic inflammation
- Metabolic disorders impairs T cell immunity

Decreased T cell migration

Reduced cytokine expression after stimulation

Accumulation of higher senescent T-cell numbers




IMMUNISATION  
COALITION

The FEBS  
Journal



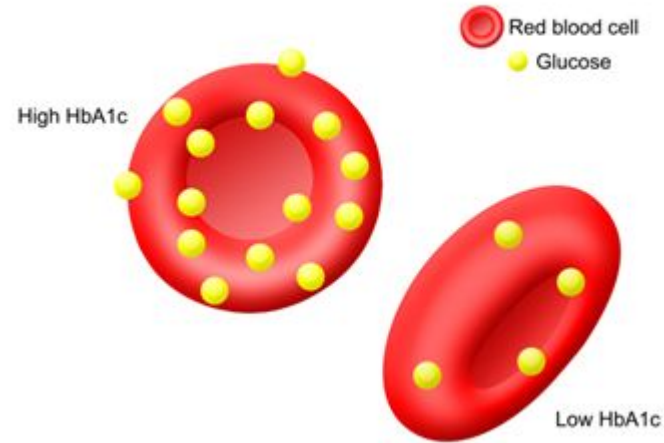
STATE-OF-THE-ART REVIEW

## The role of T-cell immunity in COVID-19 severity amongst people living with type II diabetes

Zhen Wei Marcus Tong<sup>1</sup> , Emma Grant<sup>2,3</sup>, Stephanie Gras<sup>2,3</sup>, Melanie Wu<sup>1</sup>, Corey Smith<sup>4</sup>, Helen L. Barrett<sup>5,6</sup>, Linda A. Gallo<sup>7</sup> and Kirsty R. Short<sup>1</sup>



# A causative role for hyperglycaemia?

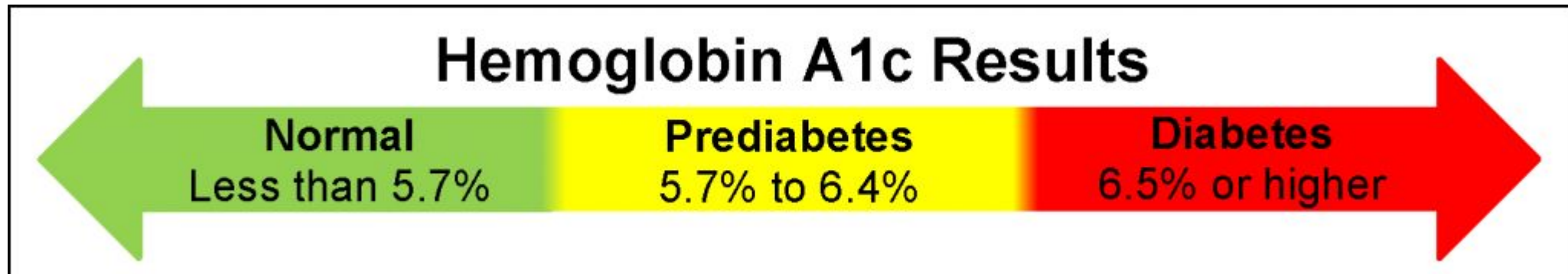


Diabetologia (2007) 50:549–554  
DOI 10.1007/s00125-006-0570-3

ARTICLE

## Influence of diabetes and hyperglycaemia on infectious disease hospitalisation and outcome

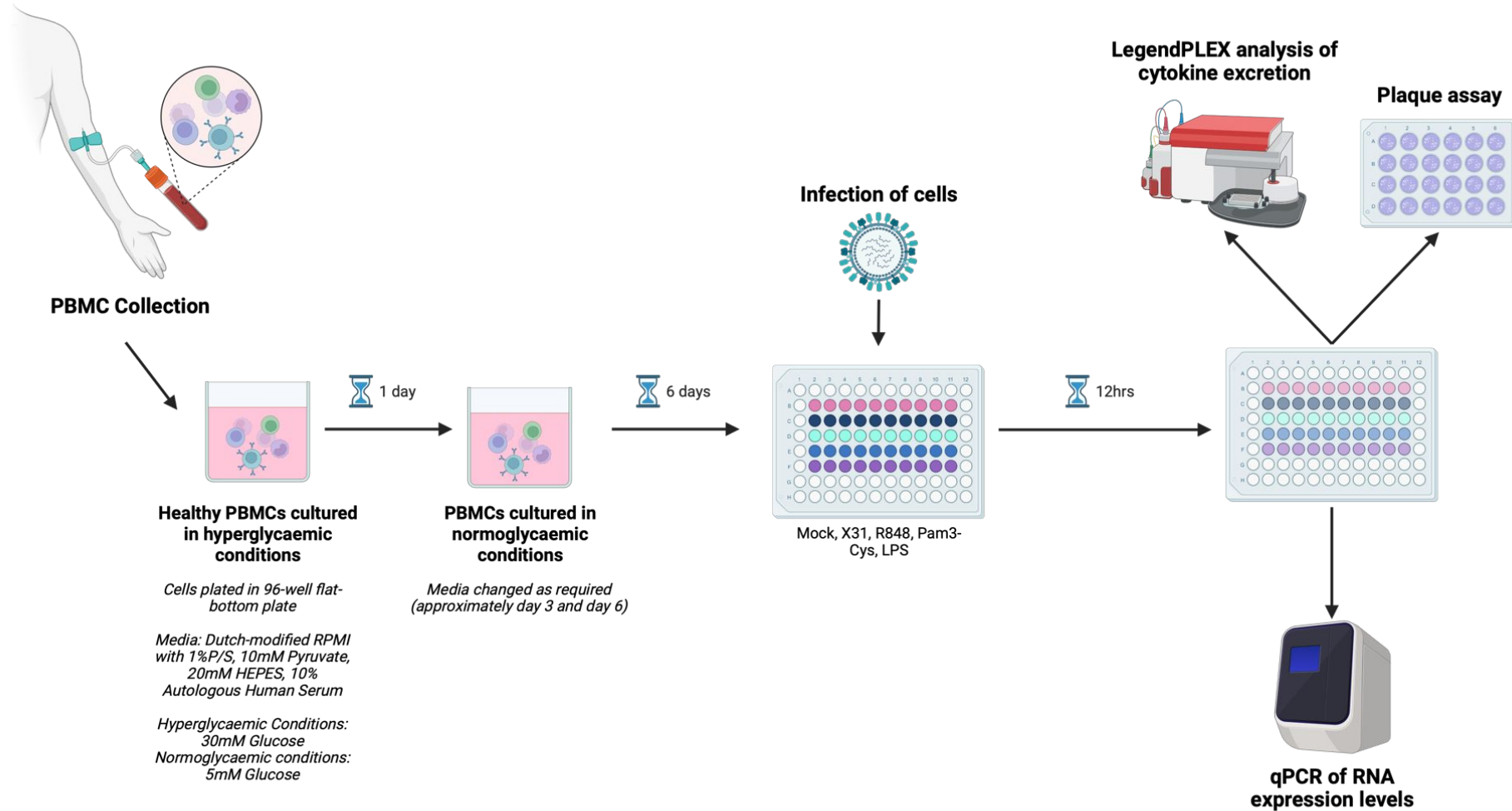
T. Benfield · J. S. Jensen · B. G. Nordestgaard



# Hyperglycaemia increases the innate inflammatory response to influenza



IMMUNISATION  
COALITION

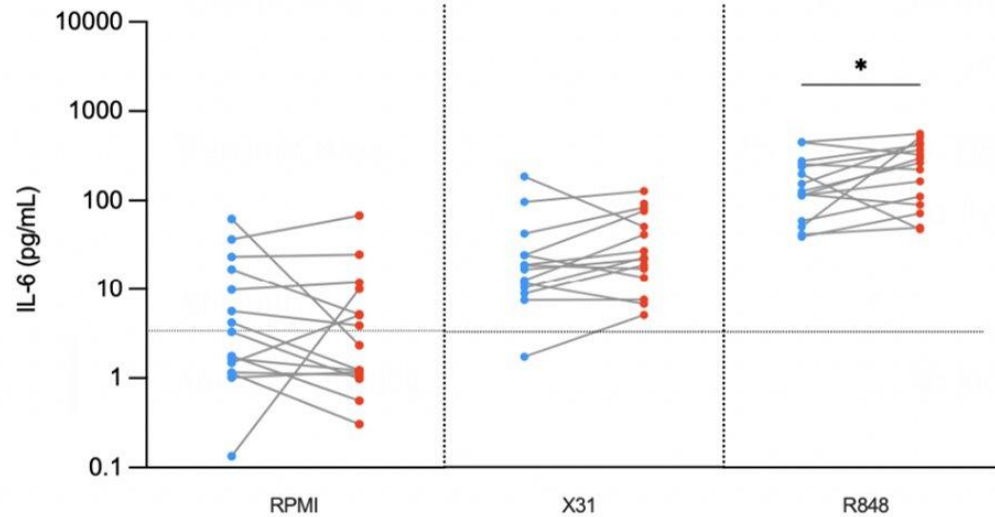
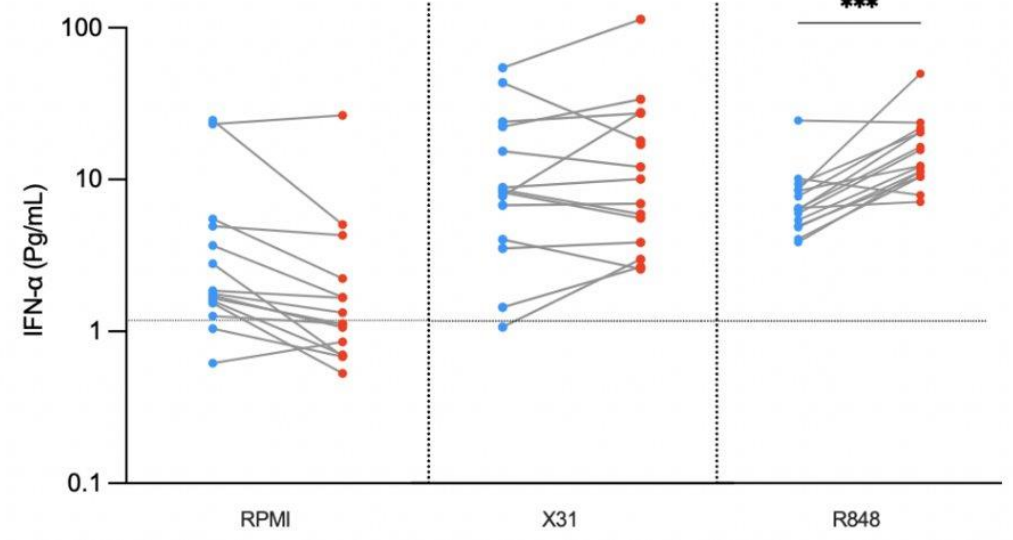
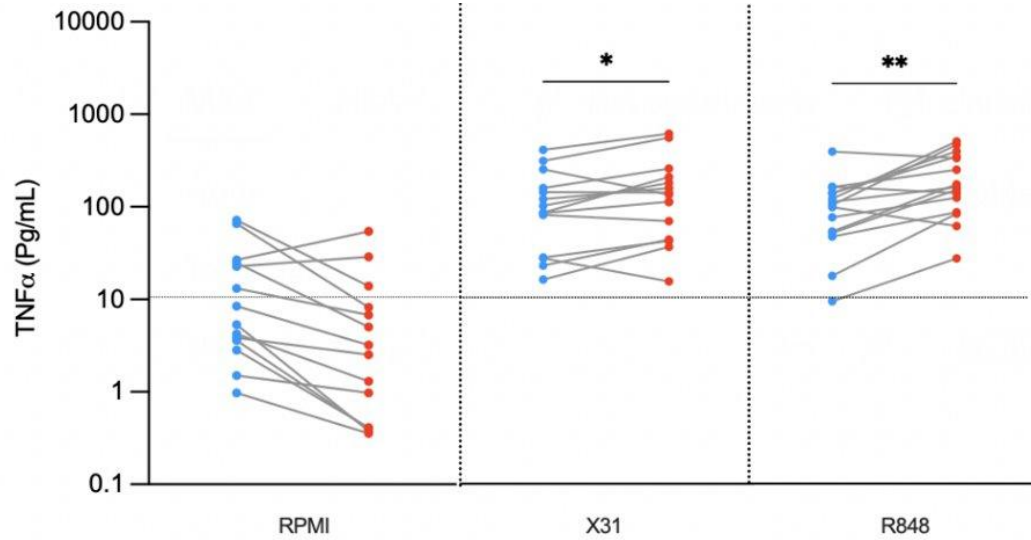


Hocking et al., unpublished

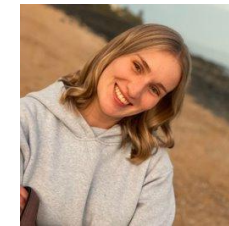




# Hyperglycaemia increases the innate inflammatory response to influenza



● Normoglycemic  
● Hyperglycemic



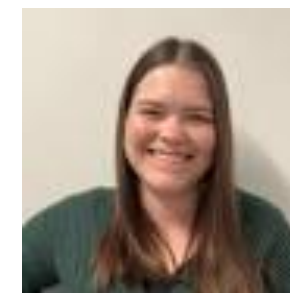
Belle Hocking



Elle Noye

# T cell responses and hyperglycaemia

	Donors without diabetes (n=16)	Donors with diabetes (n=72)	P-value
Age, years	28.1 ± 5.4	30.6 ± 11.6	0.874
Female/Male (% Female)	11/5 (68.8%)	44/28 (60.3%)	0.776
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23 ± 4.6	27 ± 5.4	<b>0.006 (*)</b>
Ethnicity, % Caucasian	68.8%	83.6%	0.157
HbA1c (%)	5.2 ± 0.3	8.4 ± 1.7	<b>&lt;0.0001 (*)</b>
T1DM/T2DM (% T1DM)	N/A	66/6 (90.4%)	N/A
Insulin treatment	N/A	66/6 (90.4%)	NA
Duration of Diabetes (years)	N/A	14.8 ± 7.2	N/A
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) use (% use)	0/16 (0%)	4/68 (5.5%)	>0.999



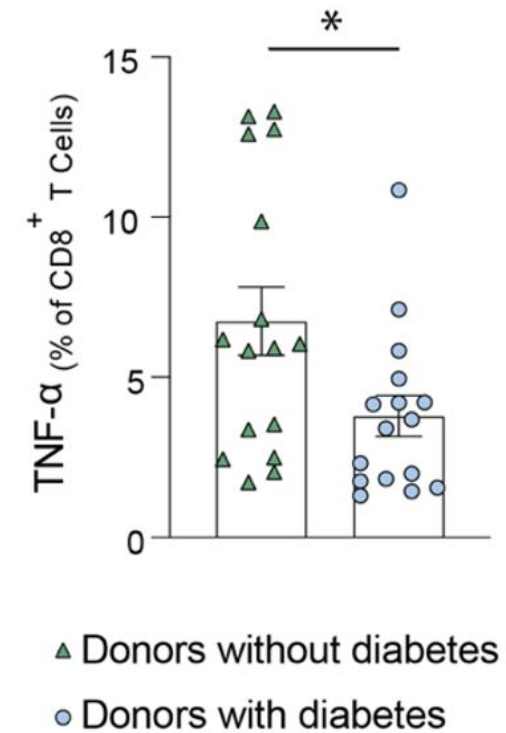
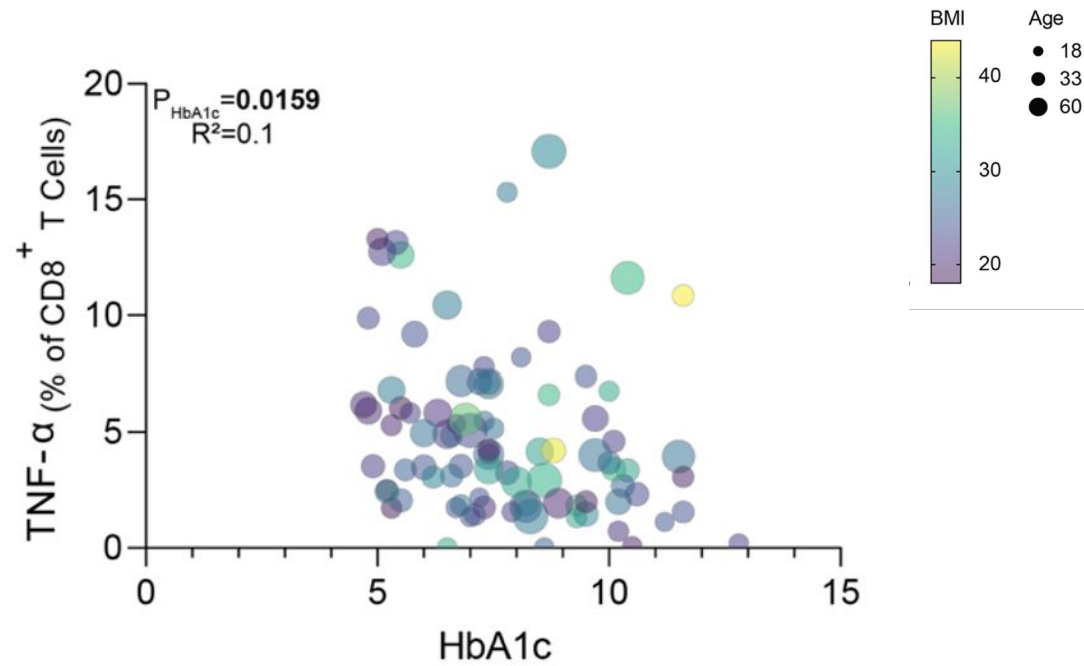
Katina Hulme



# Hyperglycaemia is associated with reduced TNF $\alpha$ production by CD8 $^+$ T cells



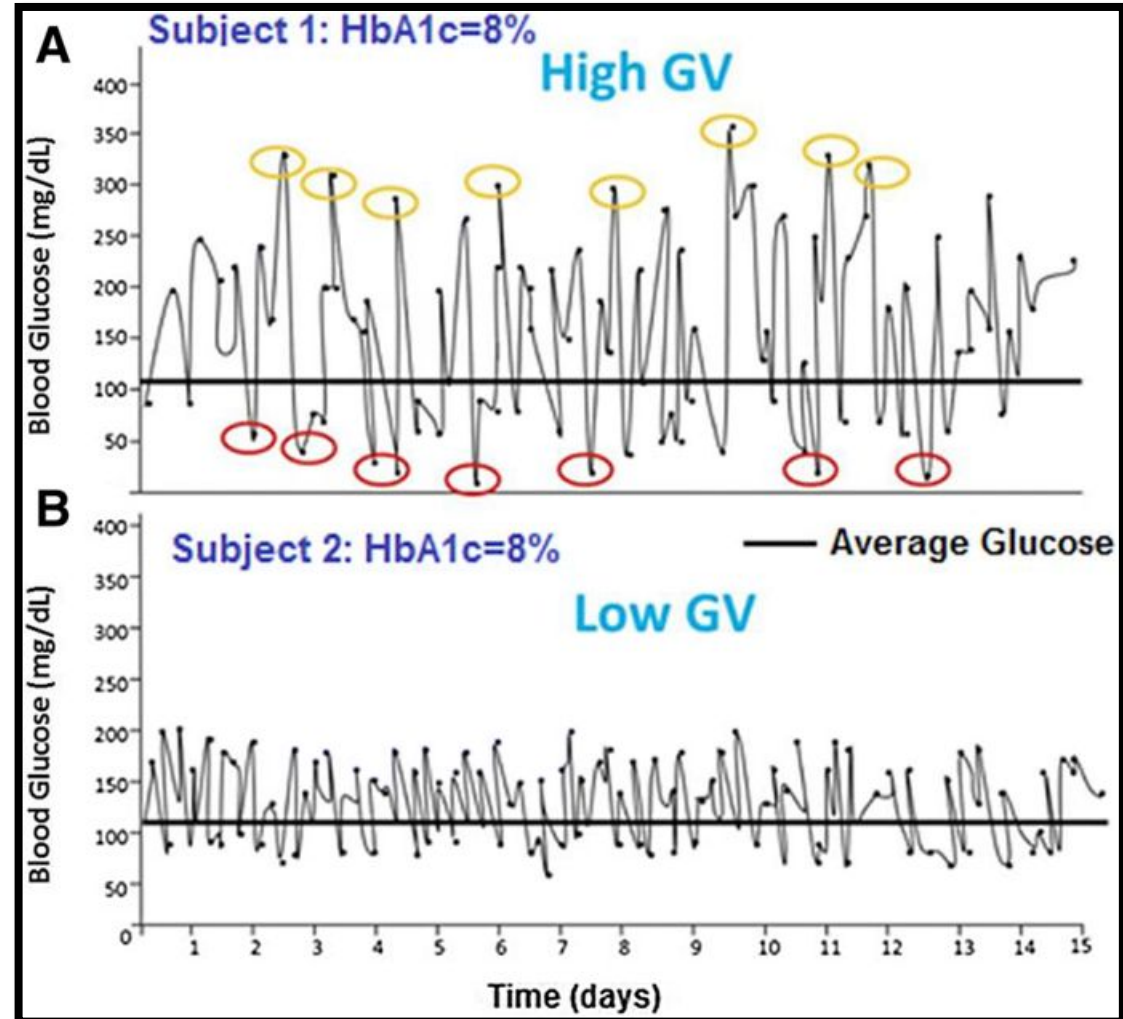
IMMUNISATION  
COALITION



Hulme et al., 2024



# Is hyperglycaemia an oversimplification?



$$\text{Coefficient of Variation (CV)} = \frac{\text{amplitude SD}}{\text{glucose mean}} \times 100\%$$

Acta Diabetologica (2021) 58:1701–1704  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00592-021-01779-7>

SHORT COMMUNICATION

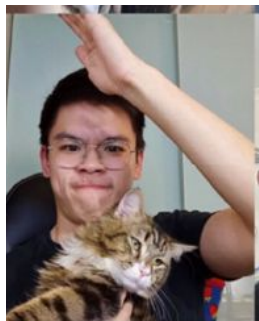
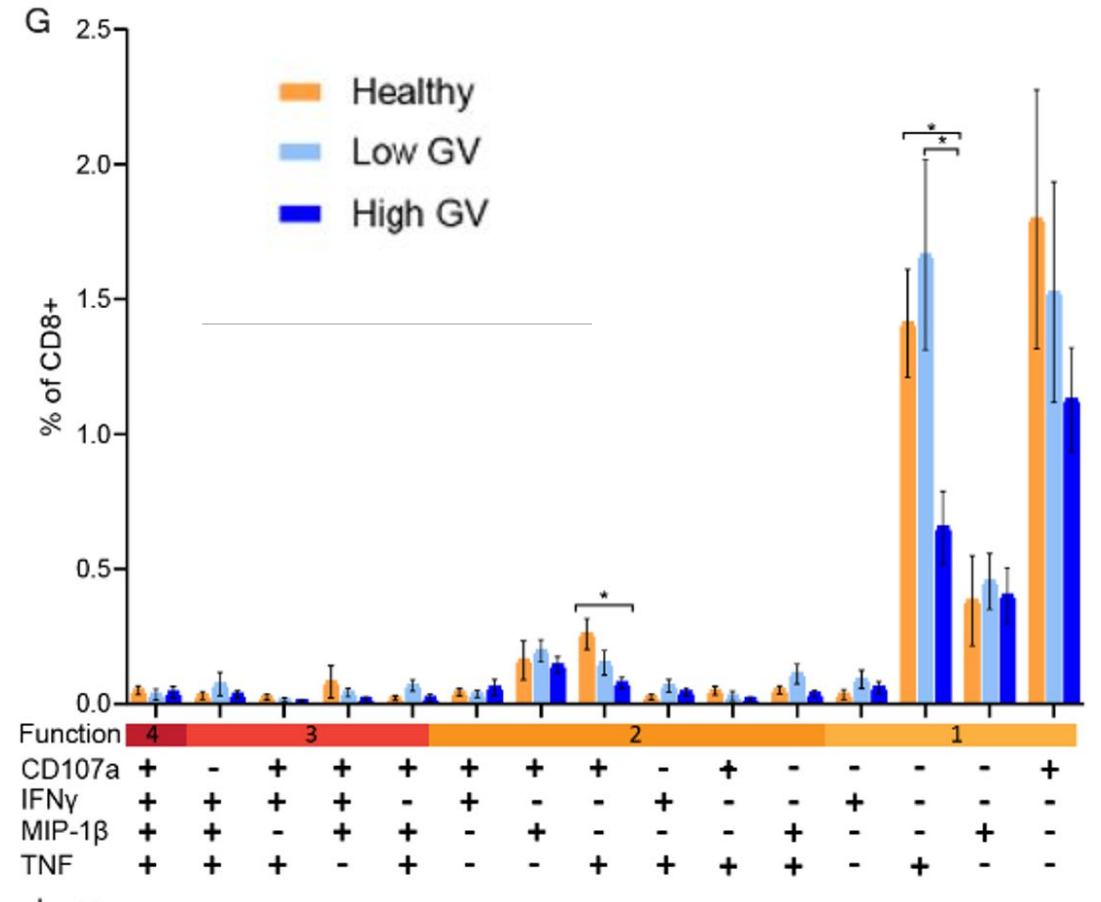
High glycaemic variability is associated with progression of COVID-19

Caroline Wei Shan Hoong<sup>1</sup> · Xier Emily Yeo<sup>2</sup> · Yi Lin<sup>2</sup> · Say Tat Ooi<sup>2,3</sup> · Ester Yeoh<sup>4,5</sup>



# High GV associated with reduced TNFa production by CD8+ T cells

	<u>Low glycaemic variability group (n=13)</u>		<u>High glycaemic variability group (n=19)</u>		<u>P value<sup>2</sup></u>
	Mean (SD)	%	Mean (SD)	%	
Age (years)	29.88 (±11.69)	-	26.49 (±6.67)	-	0.6172
Sex (male/female)	4/13	30.8%	6/19	31.6%	0.5993
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	26.33 (±4.79)	-	26.45 (±4.94)	-	>0.9999
HbA1c (%)	7.92 (±1.75)	-	7.75 (±1.42)	-	0.5505
Diabetes duration (years)	14.54 (±9.12)	-	15.15 (±5.24)	-	0.6151
Average blood glucose (mmol/L) <sup>3</sup>	11.83 (±3.54)	-	9.83 (±2.65)	-	0.0823
CV (%)	27.01 (±4.32)	-	39.15 (±3.25)	-	<0.0001 (****)
Type of insulin treatment (injection/pump) <sup>4</sup>	4/9	30.8%	9/10	47.4%	0.3477



Marcus Tong



## Vaccination in people living with diabetes

- General consensus is that people living with diabetes have equivalent humoral immunity and cellular immunity to mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccines and vaccination is highly effective in preventing disease severity
- However, this varies across diabetes subtype, time post-vaccination, type of vaccine, number of vaccine  
ities (e.g. renal function)

DIABETES AND COVID19 ARTICLES | AUGUST 21 2022

### Immunogenicity and Safety of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA Vaccines in a Cohort of Patients With Type 1 Diabetes FREE

Francesca D'Addio; Gianmarco Sabiu; Vera Usuelli; Emma Assi; Ahmed Abdelsalam; Anna Maestroni; Andy Joe Seelam; Moufida Ben Nasr; Cristian Loretelli; Davide Mileto; Giada Rossi; Ida Pastore; Laura Montefusco; Paola S. Morpurgo; Laura Plebani; Antonio Rossi; Enrica Chebat; Andrea M. Bolla; Maria Elena Lunati; Chiara Mameli ; Maddalena Macedoni; Spinello Antinori; Stefano Rusconi; Maurizio Gallieni; Cesare Berra; Franco Folli ; Massimo Galli; Maria Rita Gismondo; Gianvincenzo Zuccotti; Paolo Fiorina  

The majority of patients with T1D did not show any increase in the SARS-CoV-2-specific cytotoxic response compared with the robust increase observed in all subjects without diabetes

- General consensus is that people living with diabetes have equivalent humoral immunity to influenza vaccines (cellular immunity not as relevant) and vaccination is highly effective in preventing severe disease
- The effects of vaccination appear to be more effective when using higher dose and quadrivalent vaccines



# A Bidirectional Relationship



IMMUNISATION  
COALITION

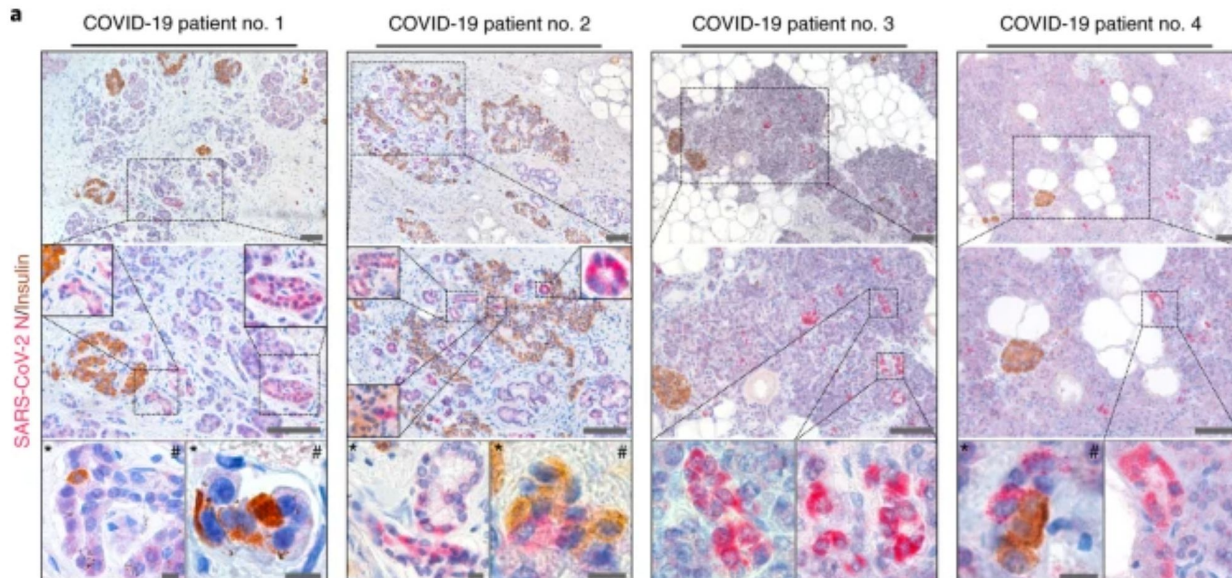
- A US Center of Disease Control (CDC) analysis of a large electronic health-care database of 353 164 adults with COVID-19 and 1 640 776 controls with no evidence of infection, suggested that people with COVID-19 had an increased risk of new onset type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes (*MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2022; **71**: 713-717)
- A German cohort study of 35 865 people with COVID-19 showed higher risk of newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes than an equal number of matched controls with acute upper respiratory tract infections (*Diabetologia.* 2022; **65**: 949-954)
- Data from the US Department of Veterans Affairs to characterise the risk and 12-month burden of diabetes in 181 280 people with SARS-CoV-2 infection versus two control groups: 4 118 441 contemporary controls who were enrolled during the same time but did not get infected with SARS-CoV-2 and 4 286 911 historical controls from before the pandemic (*Lancet Diabetes Endocrinology* 2022; **11**:11-13)
  - Compared with both the contemporary and historical controls, people with SARS-CoV-2 had increased risk of incident diabetes and incident use of antihyperglycemic therapy in the post-acute phase
  - Among people with COVID-19, the risk of diabetes increased in a graded fashion according to baseline risk

# A Bidirectional Relationship – Why?



IMMUNISATION  
COALITION

- SARS-CoV-2 infects cells of the human exocrine and endocrine pancreas ex vivo and in vivo.
- Human  $\beta$ -cells express viral entry proteins, and SARS-CoV-2 infects and replicates in cultured human islets.
- Infection is associated with morphological, transcriptional and functional changes, including reduced numbers of insulin-secretory granules in  $\beta$ -cells and impaired glucose-stimulated insulin secretion
- In COVID-19 full-body postmortem examinations, SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein was detected pancreatic



marker NKX6.1 and are in close proximity to the

nature  
metabolism

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42255-021-00347-1>

Check for updates



**SARS-CoV-2 infects and replicates in cells of the human endocrine and exocrine pancreas**

# Does a Bidirectional Relationship Exist with vaccination?



IMMUNISATION  
COALITION

## Incidence of diabetes following COVID-19 vaccination and SARS-CoV-2 infection in Hong Kong: A population-based cohort study

Xi Xiong , David Tak Wai Lui , Matthew Shing Hin Chung, Ivan Chi Ho Au, Francisco Tsz Tsun Lai, Eric Yuk Fai Wan, Celine Sze Ling Chui, Xue Li, Franco Wing Tak Cheng, Ching-Lung Cheung, Esther Wai Yin Chan, Chi Ho Lee, Yu Cho Woo, [ ... ], Ian Chi Kei Wong  [ view all ]

- There was no evidence of increased risks of incident diabetes following COVID-19 vaccination.
- The risk of incident diabetes increased following SARS-CoV-2 infection, mainly type 2 diabetes.
- Subgroup analysis revealed no evidence of increased risk of incident diabetes among fully vaccinated COVID-19 survivors.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Prior to SARS-CoV-2 Infection Reduced Risk of Subsequent Diabetes Mellitus: A Real-World Investigation Using U.S. Electronic Health Records

Tina Yi Jin Hsieh; Renin Chang ; Su-Boon Yong; Pei-Lun Liao ; Yao-Min Hung  ; James Cheng-Chung Wei 

- 65% higher risk of new-onset diabetes in SARS-CoV-2–infected individuals compared to noninfected counterparts.
- COVID-19 survivors who received COVID-19 vaccinations experienced a reduced risk of new-onset diabetes, with a dose-dependent effect

## Conclusions and implications for patient care

- Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2/influenza virus decreases the risk of severe respiratory viral infections in people living with diabetes
- Vaccination also reduces the risk of diabetes developing following SARS-CoV-2 infection
- Still numerous questions to answer about vaccine efficacy in people living with diabetes: diabetes subtype, time post-vaccination, type of vaccine, number of vaccine doses, infecting viral strain and co-morbidities (e.g. renal function)
- Severe respiratory viral disease in people living with diabetes may be driven by hyperglycaemia: importance of maintaining HbA1c targets
- Glycaemic variability may also play a role: added impetus to make CGMs available to people living with diabetes, including people with type 2 diabetes



# Acknowledgements

- **University of Queensland**
  - Kirsty Short
  - Keng Yih Chew
  - Katina Hulme
  - Ellesandra Noye
  - Nathalie Verzele
  - Melanie Wu
- **Mater Research**
  - Helen Barrett
  - Emily Dorey
  - Soi Law
- **University of Sunshine coast**
  - Linda Gallo
- **University of Melbourne**
  - Katherine Kedzierska
  - Louise C. Rowntree
  - Carolien E. van de Sandt
- **La Trobe University**
  - Stephanie Gras
  - Emma Grant
- **Sorbonne Université**
  - Fawaz Alzaid
  - Jean-Pierre Riveline
  - Jean-Baptiste Julla
  - Charline Potier

