



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Grant Terminated: COVID-19 and Related Immunology Research

Matthew Charles Woodruff, Emory University

On March 24, 2020, I stood in a Biosafety Level 2+ facility at Emory University with six colleagues being taught best practices for working with the largely unknown pathogen, SARS-CoV-2. Other unknowns included where we would get masks (N95s were unavailable), risks of infection to our young kids at home and who would pay for the experiments needed to gain insight into the deadly new virus sweeping across the nation.

That last question was answered relatively quickly. Rapid investment by the first Trump administration's NIH launched [SeroNet](#), a five-year effort across 25 institutions to "expand the nation's capacity for SARS-CoV-2 serologic testing on a population-level and advance research on the immune response to SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 vaccination among diverse and vulnerable populations." We did just that. Over the coming years, taxpayer dollars funded more than 600 peer-reviewed publications, reflecting significant advances in disease pathology, treatment strategies, disease impact in immunocompromised patients, vaccine testing and more.