



immune responses between SARS-CoV-2 infected and uninfected pregnant women were not different with exception of higher frequencies of low-density neutrophils in COVID-19+ pregnant women. Analysis of serum cytokine and chemokine levels illustrated increased levels of inflammatory antagonists in COVID-19+ pregnant women compared to uninfected pregnant women (see figure). Additionally, none of the SARS-CoV-2 infected pregnant women experienced complications associated with infection, thus suggesting that if COVID-19 remains asymptomatic and mild, it may have no risk to pregnancy.

Characterisation of immune responses in aged individuals (<60 vs >70 years old) with COVID-19 illustrated lower levels of central memory CD4+ T, naïve CD8+ T and B cell memory cells, and higher levels of plasmablasts in > 70-year-olds compared with < 60-year-olds. Additionally, they observed differences in cytokine and chemokine levels between the two age groups which were characteristic of increased inflammation in > 70-year-olds compared with < 60-year-olds. Thus, suggesting that inflammaging likely potentiates COVID-19 associated inflammation resulting in further damage to tissues and organs.

*Summary by Cheleka AM Mpande*

Principal Component Analysis allows clustering of COVID groups and controls.

