

FAST FACTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

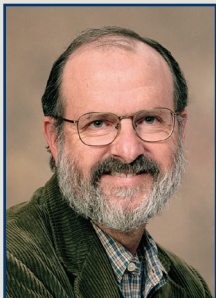
Valley Fever Center for Excellence



Established by the Arizona Board of Regents in 1996

One of 10 centers of excellence associated with the UA College of Medicine

Located at the Medical Research Building, Arizona Health Sciences Center, University of Arizona – Tucson



John N. Galgiani, MD
Director

Valley fever (*coccidioidomycosis*) is an often debilitating disease caused by the soil-borne fungus, *Coccidioides*, which is common in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

Each year, approximately 150,000 infections occur in the United States; two-thirds of them occur in Arizona. Pets, especially dogs, are susceptible, as well.

The Valley Fever Center for Excellence has as its mission to mobilize resources for the eradication of valley fever.

The Center:

- Provides information to the public, medical practitioners and health-care workers about valley fever, its diagnosis and treatment
 - Maintains an informational website (www.vfce.arizona.edu)
 - Presents programs and courses for risk management and medical practitioners; participates in poster presentations, health-fair exhibits and presentations to corporate and community groups
- Sponsors collaboration among clinicians and research investigators
- Engages in primary areas of research including the field of drugs to cure the disease, vaccines to prevent the disease, diagnostics to improve the diagnosis of disease, the biology of how the fungus causes disease, the immunologic responses to infection and the ecology of the fungus in its desert environment.

The Valley Fever Center for Excellence depends for its existence upon philanthropic, tax-deductible donations.