

## FAST FACTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

# Valley Fever Center for Excellence



**Established:** 1996 by the  
Arizona Board of Regents

**Location:**  
Medical Research Building,  
The University of Arizona  
Health Sciences, Tucson

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.

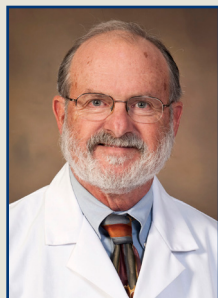
Each year, approximately 150,000 infections occur in the United States; two-thirds of them occur in Arizona. Pets, especially dogs, are susceptible, as well.

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](http://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.



**John N. Galgiani, MD**  
Director

[www.vfce.arizona.edu](http://www.vfce.arizona.edu)

*Microscopic view courtesy of  
Sharon Dial, DVM, PhD*