



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

## Valley Fever Center for Excellence

### Annual Members Meeting

April 17, 2026

12:30-4:00 PM

MRB Room 102

- 12:30-1:00** Meet and Greet. Light refreshments.
- 1:00-1:30** Introductory remarks and discussion. Improving Valley fever awareness. John Galgiani and “Youth Against Valley Fever (Will Ruiz, Jeffrey Cai, and Ryo Ishi).”
- 1:30-2:00** Break and Group Photo.

### Research Presentations

**\*2:00-2:15**

“Rapid antigen-detection immunoassay for diagnosis of coccidioidomycosis”

Amanda Burnham-Marusich, Jacqueline Kelly, Audrey Rank, Althea Mayberry, Jacqueline Arevalo, John Galgiani, Fariba Donovan, Lourdes Lewis, Kathleen Zayac, Emma Culver, Joseph Walsh, Thomas Kozel.

**\*2:15-2:30**

“Utilizing Interferon- $\gamma$  as a marker of coccidioidal immunity.”

Fariba Donovan, Daniel Powell, Ian Wingerchuck, John Galgiani.

**\*2:35-2:50**

“Clinical isolates of *Coccidioides* induce a proinflammatory cytokine storm or no detectable humoral response in C57BL/6 mice.”

Katrina M. Jackson, Ana Braga, Kiana Khalighi, Marieke Ramsey, Ashley N Itagowa, Matthew M. Morales, Jaida Salois, Jason Sahl, John Galgiani, Bridget M. Barker.



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**\*2:50-3:05**

“Effect of pesticides on immune responses to *Coccidioides* spp.”  
Daniel Powell.

**\*3:05-3:20**

“Improving Serological Diagnostics for Valley Fever.”  
D. Mitchell Magee, Megan Koehler, Lusheng Song, Francisca Grill,  
Thomas Grys, Fariba Donovan, John Galgiani, Daniel Powell, Ken Knox,  
Mrinalini Kala, Mouhanned Eiliwi, Jin Park, Bihong Guo, Josh LaBaer,  
Douglas Lake.

**\*3:25-3:40**

“Differences in virulence of two closely related strains of *Coccidioides immitis*.”  
Lisa Shubitz, Marc Orbach.

**\*3:40-3:55**

“Inter-Lab Variability of Immunodiffusion Titers in Dogs.”  
Christine D. Butkiewicz, Lisa F. Shubitz, Jane E. Sykes.

*Room 102 will remain available until 5:00 pm for any additional discussions.*