

PROTECTING BOTH ENDS OF THE LEASH



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON
Valley Fever Center
for Excellence

FUEL WONDER
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**With an unwavering commitment to
where prevention is possible, diagnosis is**

A Silent Threat

Valley fever is an endemic respiratory disease caused by inhaling microscopic airborne fungal spores that lurk in the desert soil. Every year the disease affects tens of thousands of dogs and people, in the worst cases causing permanent disability or even death. There are medicines to treat Valley fever, but none are curative.

Protecting People, Protecting Pets

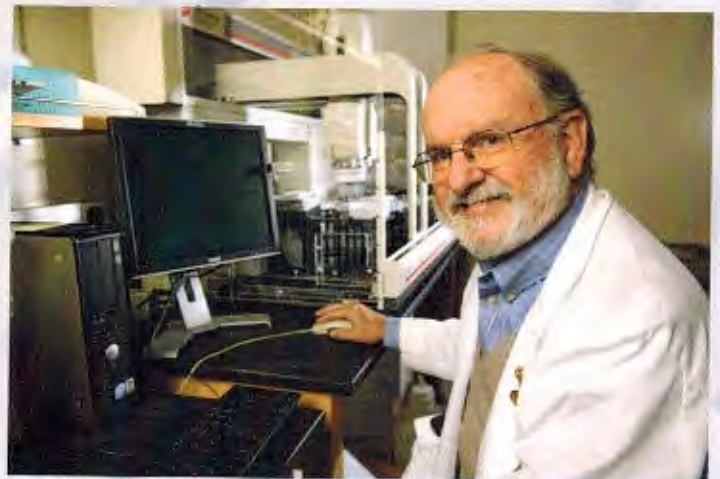
- Valley fever causes disability in **20,000 people** annually
- The annual death rate is **1 per 1,000** Valley fever infections
- The national annual economic impact of Valley fever is **\$1.5 billion**
- The annual economic burden from Valley fever cases in Arizona is **\$788 million**
- Valley fever affects **6-10% of dogs** annually in endemic regions
- Valley fever infects **60,000 dogs** annually in Arizona alone
- The combined cost to owners of dogs that contract Valley fever is **\$60 million**

Leading the Fight Against Valley Fever

Dr. John Galgiani has dedicated his professional life to researching Valley fever and caring for patients with the disease. As a physician-scientist, the prospect of finding a cure for Valley fever and a way to stop the shape-shifting fungus that causes it has captivated him and fueled his pursuits for over 45 years. In 1996, he founded the Valley Fever Center for Excellence at the University of Arizona. The Center has come to play a pivotal role in educating caregivers and the public, providing optimal care to patients, and advancing groundbreaking research.

At its core, the Center is built on collaboration— across the campus, across the state, and across the nation.

Because of the Center, UArizona faculty from many different disciplines have discovered a very safe and very effective vaccine that prevents Valley fever. In partnership with Anivive Lifesciences, this discovery is now on the brink of becoming a veterinary product to protect dogs as the world's first vaccine against any fungal infection, and research indicates it can be effective in protecting humans. Without the Valley Fever Center for Excellence, this dramatic advance would not have happened.



John Galgiani, MD, Director of the Valley Fever Center for Excellence

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**cating Valley fever, we will create a future
, treatment is optimized, and a cure is available.**

A Changing Landscape

Due to climate change, the fungus has been spreading in the western U.S., and as populations grow, so does the risk of infection among pets and people.

The Valley Fever Center for Excellence has the potential to reach new heights in research, patient care, and education, which can have a huge impact in the fight against the disease. Our greatest opportunity is in the following areas:

- **Expanded Research Capacity**
- **Advanced Diagnostics:** Develop point-of-care tests for immediate diagnosis. This will allow for precise and optimal management of a patient's Valley fever infection, and not for other illnesses for which it may be mistaken.
- **Innovative Therapies:** Invest in research to discover new, optimally effective treatments using evidence-based care and advances in regenerative medicine.
- **A Cure:** Develop a drug, gene-therapy, or immune-therapy to eliminate the fungus from those it infects.



How You Can Help Fuel Wonder

We're committed to investing in a future where Valley fever is prevented, cases are detected early and treated effectively, and those infected can be cured. With more minds working together to solve complex problems, solutions can be found more quickly. To escalate the fight against Valley fever, what's needed most is a larger team of researchers who can advance this work more quickly.

Sustain Leadership

Endowed directorships are the gold standard to sustain the legacy of a leader. An endowed directorship for the Director of the Valley Fever Center for Excellence will not only honor Dr. Galgiani's dedication for the past 45 years, but will provide sustainability for the future.

Enhance Faculty Recruitment and Retention

Funding additional research positions for specialists in human immunology, fungal genetics, veterinary studies, and more will increase the momentum of our research efforts. Because the field is extremely competitive, funding endowed positions and startup packages is crucial to our success in recruiting the best and the brightest minds.

Support Postdoctoral Research

The Valley Fever Center for Excellence is committed to training and supporting researchers who are beginning their careers. Postdoctoral opportunities facilitate innovative research, and support basic, translational, and clinical investigators.

Invest in Infrastructure

Funding lab renovations and capital expenditures will enhance research capability by giving researchers access to state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. Having such facilities and equipment is also critical in recruiting and retention of top-tier researchers.

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT:

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