

Valley Fever Americas Foundation

Volume 10, Issue 2

August, 2007

11th Annual Valley Fever Benefit Golf Tournament - May 2007

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is always a pleasure to say thank you to the community sponsors who make our events successful! Obviously, your assistance makes the difference.

We know some supporters have met the disease "up close and personal" and others simply recognize and honor the hard work of the physicians and other volunteers working so hard to fund the promising vaccine research. Whatever your reasons, thank you from all of us.

If you'd like to get on board for next year, go to our website, www.valleyfever.com, and send us an email to pass on to someone raising funds in your area. In California, your message will go to Golf Tournament Chairman Dave Haynes. He already has a date and a committee for next year!

Thank you for your help in the past and in the future. It is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Michael W. Cooper, President of the Board of Trustees

INSIDE

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take a moment and
GO WINDOW SHOPPING

at the eScrip website.

details on page4

Looking for Federal Funds

Still no federal funds in sight. Congressman Kevin McCarthy continues to push for funds for vaccine research. He has requested appropriation of the funds authorized by the Tax Relief and Health Care Bill passed at the end of 2006. In that bill, \$40 million was authorized for grants from the Secretary of Health and Human Services through the year 2012.

No cash will be available unless and until Congress makes an appropriation.

Coccidioidomycosis Study Group meeting in Tucson, March 2007

For 51 years, the Cocci Study Group has served as a forum for the exchange of clinical and research findings on Valley Fever. The group met most recently in Tucson on March 31, 2007, and will meet next year in San Diego. There was a large attendance in Tucson. Mark Starr with the California Department of Health Services provided information about the rate of infection in California and also the reported recent infections in the prison population located in the endemic area. He also addressed the need for better mandatory reporting of the disease in California.

County Health Officers Support Vaccine Funding in California

As of the writing of this article, the State of California proposed budget did not contain funds for Valley Fever Vaccine Research. Among those on record supporting continued financial support by the State is the CCLHO (California Conference of Local Health Officers), a statutory body charged with advising the old California Department of Health Services.

Support For Better Mandated Reporting

A recurrent complaint heard from scientists and health officers is the feeling of frustration dealing with statistics based on incomplete information. A true picture of the impact of Valley Fever on our communities is not possible because mandatory reporting is not in place in California. The California state legislature could and should make this change. We must educate our representatives.

2007 Valley Fever Symposium in California

On May 24, 2007, Central California County Health Officers were invited to a symposium to discuss the challenge presented by Valley Fever. Health Officers from Kern, Kings, Fresno, Ventura, Tulare, San Joaquin and San Luis Obispo Counties were among those presenting "local snapshots" describing the impact of the disease in their area.

It was a surprise to some attending to learn that in recent years San Luis Obispo County, which is on the Coast and not in California's central valley, has had the third highest incidence rate in the state.

Dr. Hans Einstein presented a history of the disease. Dr. Royce Johnson and John Caldwell, both of Kern Medical Center, described the burden on individuals and societal costs.

Dr. George Rutherford, Principal Investigator with the Valley Fever Vaccine Project, presented an update on vaccine development, research and funding.

Speakers in the afternoon discussed epidemiology and testing, including the presentation of startling statistics on the problems with Valley Fever in some California prisons by Dr. Demosthenes Pappagianis of UC Davis.

The symposium was held in the Hans Einstein Education Center at the Kern County Department of Public Health.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Every year we publish a memorial list of those honored by a donation made in their name. We welcome these memorial contributions and will gladly notify family members of your gift if you provide the name and address for our response. A special card has been developed for this purpose. The annual list of memorial donations will be included in the next issue of this newsletter.

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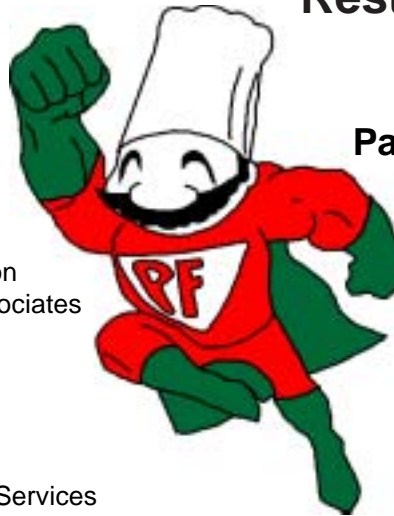
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Fresh Green Salad provided by:

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Pepsi

Many thanks to the loyal community sponsors of PASTA FEAST, a terrific annual fundraiser of the Rotary Club of Bakersfield East which benefits in part the Valley Fever Vaccine Project!

You know the damage Valley Fever can do. Your generous contributions are relied upon to help keep the promising vaccine research moving forward so that eventually we will be able to prevent this disease! Please help!

- I am making a tax deductible contribution in the amount of \$ _____
 My check payable to the Valley Fever Americas Foundation is enclosed.
 Please charge the amount above to my MASTER or VISA card.

Card Number _____ Expires: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- This is a memorial donation in the name of _____

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**Mail with your check payable to
Valley Fever Americas Foundation, P.O. Box 2752, Bakersfield CA 93303**

Valley Fever Americas Foundation

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Treasurer: Bob Parker

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**Valley Fever Vaccine Project of the Americas:
A Rotary District 5240 Project**

Valley Fever Americas Foundation

P. O. Box 2752
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Return Service Requested

IN THIS ISSUE

- Thank you sponsors!
- Better mandatory reporting needed!
- eScrip Window Shopping



GOLF AGAIN!

May 19, 2008

You can help us make it
the best year ever!



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Click and scroll to see what's available so you'll think first before you buy later elsewhere!

Are you planning a vacation or business trip? You can make your reservations through the eScrip Rewards Network. Visit participating restaurants and contribute 5% of your total bill!

Are you signed up yet for eScrip? A pull down menu makes it easy to see the wide variety of stores where your purchases will yield treasure through a contribution based on a percentage of the sale.

You can also check out the "on line" mall options. You will almost certainly find catalogs for stores you are already in the habit of using.

Thank you for taking the time to explore the opportunities eScrip opens for you to support vaccine research with the special and with the everyday purchases you make! We hope it works well for you and for the project we all care so much about!

If you haven't already done so, take a moment now to go to www.eScrip.com, click on "getting started", then enter "valley fever" in the search box. Look for the Valley Fever Americas Foundation listing and then follow further directions as you work through the three types of cards you may have!

What a difference this can make if we all do it.

