

Valley Fever Americas Foundation

Volume 8, Issue 4

Quarterly Newsletter

October, November, December 2005

ARIZONA'S VALLEY FEVER AWARENESS WEEK

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

STILL AVAILABLE ON THE WEB!

November 14 - 20, 2005

Dr. John Galgiani, Director, Valley Fever Center for Excellence, led the committee coordinating these activities. Thank you!

NEW MEDICATION TO BE TESTED

Channel 6 (KUAT) devoted a program with host Bill Buckmaster to discuss the impact of Valley Fever and new drugs to combat the disease. Buckmaster spoke with Dr. John Galgiani, and with Dr. Raymond Woosley, President and CEO of The Critical Path Institute (C-Path). That program can be found in the archives of KUAT for Thursday, November 10, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

MORTALITY STATISTICS 1989-1994

The 10th Annual Farness Lecture was delivered by Demosthenes Pappagianis, MD, PhD, University of California, Davis at noon on Tuesday. His topic was the importance of coccidioidomycosis to the public health of the southwest. He raised a statistics comparison as worthy of investigation -- the **significantly higher mortality rates in Arizona compared to Kern County, California for the years 1989-1994.** <http://video.biocom.arizona.edu/video/videolibrary/CoPH/PHGR/default.htm>



SERVICE CLUB PRESENTATIONS

As part of the Valley Fever Awareness Week in Arizona, Jim and Lynn Rodal of the Rotary Club of Del Sol set up presentations at the Rotary Clubs of Glendale Noon, Del Sol, Surprise, Wickenburg, Bullhead City and Sun City. Lynn Rodal is shown above at a

SERVICE CLUBS, continued on page 2

MAINLY FOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Friday, November 18th, featured a telemedicine Lecture "**Coccidioidomycosis for Arizona physicians**" moderated by Peter Kelly, MD, AZ Department of Health Services (AZDHS). Presenters included Peter McKellar, MD, Infectious Disease Practitioner, Shauna Anderson, AzDHS, John Galgiani, MD, VFCE and Kenneth Ryan, MD, Dean, Academic Affairs, College of Medicine. This teleconference was recorded and is available on the web: <http://video.biocom.arizona.edu>.

Kelly's advise to doctors: In Arizona, if it's in the lung, think cocci!

VALLEY FEVER FACTS PRESENTED IN SUN CITY BY DR. CRAIG RUNDBAKEN

Getting things started in Sun City on November 7th, Dr. Craig Rundbaken, D.O., spoke to the community about the causes, symptoms, risk factors, complications, prevention, prevalence, diagnosis and treatment of Valley Fever. Dr. Rundbaken established a Valley Fever Clinic in Sun City last year.

MANY THANKS TO THE TEJON RANCH COMPANY



Tejon Ranch is a 270,000-acre working ranch located about 60 miles north of Los Angeles and 30 miles south of Bakersfield on Interstate 5 in California. They have presented a check for \$5,000 and will give \$10,000 more over the next two years for vaccine research..

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meeting in Bullhead City. Dr. Craig Rundbaken joined them to discuss medical aspects of Valley Fever to the Del Sol Club which had already heard the story of the disease and the Vaccine Project. Sandra Larson, Communications Coordinator for the Valley Fever Americas Foundation, traveled with them to the Rotary clubs of Surprise, Wickenburg and Bullhead City.

One central theme emerged from these presentations: **until a vaccine is developed, awareness and early treatment are the major weapons in the arsenal to guard against the development of serious disease.** Lynn Rodal, who served as one of the few non-medical persons on the Valley Fever Awareness Week planning committee, said she asked committee members if Arizona residents should be advised to ask their physicians to consider valley fever when they are ill. The response was a resounding YES, especially when antibiotics or other treatments are not working.

A member of the Rotary Club of Surprise, shown below taking a picture of Lynn Rodal, was seriously ill for months with difficulty breathing, severe fatigue and other symptoms that baffled his physician. As a military person new to the area, he knew



nothing about Valley Fever. Finally the military doctor mentioned it as a possibility and "started over from scratch" with all the tests and found out that indeed valley fever was the problem. He is one of the believers in helping others to be aware of the possibility!

Several club members indicated after the presentations that they will help make information available by arranging presentations to other organizations, by showing the valley fever story video to students and parents, by distributing informational flyers to patients, and making donations to the vaccine project. If you would like to help, materials are available by contacting the Valley Fever Americas Foundation at www.valleyfever.com or 1-800-VAL-FEVR.



Funds for Canine Valley Fever Research

A beautiful homemade quilt is offered to help raise funds for canine Valley Fever research. The picture below doesn't do justice to the 500 hours of handcrafting donated by Jean Tuff of Gold Canyon in honor of Marta Saint-James's beloved golden retriever who died of complications of Valley Fever. **For more information, go to <http://www.goldcanyondog.org/valleyfever.html>, or call 480-982-1690.** All proceeds will go to the University of Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.



THANK YOU

AARP

**FIRST MAJOR SPONSOR SIGNED UP FOR
10TH ANNUAL
VALLEY FEVER BENEFIT
GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAY 22, 2006**

**CAN YOU HELP TOO?
Chairman David Haynes**

661-832-1456 or 800-825-3387



Thanks to Griffin Communications for logos!

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I WANT TO 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: _____

Card Holder Code: _____ (The cardholder code is the last three digits on the back of the card printed in the signature block area)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (please print) _____ Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number(s) _____ City/State _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL: _____

- In recognition of the donation enclosed, I would like to receive a WE FIGHT THE FEVER pin!
- Here is my idea of how I can help the Valley Fever Vaccine Project.

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

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES IN ARIZONA PAPERS

On November 17th, 2005,, the Daily News-Sun (East Valley Tribune) published Joy Slabowski’s story focusing on the vaccination research efforts. Dr. Craig Rundbaken told the reporter that “Valley fever is the most common cause of community acquired infection in Sun City and Sun City West.”

Rundbaken suggested that mortality rates from Valley Fever could be higher than reported, because the statistics depend on what the doctor enters on the death certificate. He mentioned that he was treating a woman who had valley fever, but also had lymphoma. He does not know what was listed as the cause of death but wonders. He said it would have been easy to ignore the valley fever and put lymphoma down as her cause of death.

Rundbaken also pointed out that Arizona despite the current epidemic has yet to support the vaccine effort financially.

Arizona papers carried Beth DeFalco’s November 18, 2005 associated press article reporting what we already know -- **half of all Valley Fever cases reported in the country are in Maricopa County, Arizona.** Her article focuses on the dramatic increase which has brought the Center for Disease Control to send a team of researchers to investigate.

IN MEMORIAM

Jeffrey Jue
Dr. George Singer

Valley Fever Americas Foundation

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WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP VACCINE RESEARCH FUNDED

Through our website I hear from people from all over the United States who know the devastation of Valley Fever. Let me tell you of just a few that have touched my heart in 2005 and renewed my own dedication to the drive to develop a vaccine.

In 2005 I spoke to a woman in Sacramento who lost her husband to valley fever in February. They drove to San Diego to visit their daughter for Christmas. He became ill upon their return.

I heard from devastated Arizona grandparents who flew east to visit family. Their grandson, whose immune system is compromised due to chemotherapy, became ill with valley fever, probably caused by valley fever spores that traveled east with them.

I heard from a desperately ill woman with 4 small children who wanted me to reassure her that she

wouldn't die. I heard from a woman unable to provide Christmas for her children. She is unable to work because of the disease. And how about the mother who begged her son not to accept a job in an endemic area -- and yes, he got the disease.

On the other hand, I also heard from Gary Slade, the truck driver who has added "symptom cards" to his arsenal of information that he distributes on his travels! I rode hundreds of miles with Jim and Lynn Rodal in Arizona who have volunteered more hours and energy to awareness of Valley Fever in Arizona than could ever be expected! I've watched a friend with Valley Fever work through pain finding a way for other victims to help one another.

I know we are fighting this problem. I know we need help. If you can, I know you will.

Sandra Larson,
Newsletter Editor

