

DR HANS EINSTEIN HIGHLIGHTS COCCI CONFERENCE

For 53 years, the Cocci Study Group (CSG) has provided an opportunity for health care professionals, epidemiologists and scientists interested in coccidioidomycosis to gather and learn from one another. This year the meeting was held on the campus of Cal State University, Bakersfield. Moderated by Dr. Antonio Catanzaro, CSG President, the day was packed with the presentation of scientific papers on topics ranging from cocci in the soil to cocci in living bodies.

A highlight of every conference is the Saturday evening dinner which allows casual exchange of ideas and discussion of the materials which have been presented during the day.

This year, the conference participants were presented with a special treat. World recognized cocci expert Dr. Hans Einstein reviewed the history of cocci research.

In a tour de force presentation accompanied by power point slides, Dr Einstein began with the first cases diagnosed, continued with the stories of William Offuls, C.E.Smith, Myrnie Gifford, William Winn, and others who contributed during the early years, and swept on describing early treatment efforts, the development and testing of a first vaccine, concluding with his

perspective on the current vaccine effort and the need to ensure that promising research is supported.

Dr. Einstein received a standing ovation for the presentation and for the friendship and leadership he has provided the cocci community.



VACCINE PROJECT RESEARCH PUBLIC FORUM

by Pauline Larwood

Researchers gathered at California State University Bakersfield in April 2009 to take a deep breath and move forward on their efforts to develop a vaccine to combat Valley Fever. Above, left to right, are John Galgiani, Mitch Magee, Demosthones Pappagianis and Garry Cole representing four of the original members of the vaccine project academic consortium.

While vaccine development efforts can be traced back to the 1950s, it was the formation in 1995 of the Valley Fever Vaccine Project, which cooperatively links researchers in several universities with donations from individuals, as well as grants from local, state and federal government sources that has provided a focused and forceful boost.

The meeting was sponsored by the Valley Fever Vaccine Project, the Valley Fever Americas Foundation (a project of Rotary District 5240) and Cal State Bakersfield. It was the

(“PUBLIC FORUM ” continued on page 6)

WHO WROTE “VALLEY FEVER EPIDEMIC” AND WHY?

VALLEY FEVER EPIDEMIC was written and published in 2008 by Sharon Filip and David Filip, mother and son. Sharon Filip visited Arizona in September, 2001, and in October was diagnosed with what her doctor in Seattle believed was a typical case of bacterial pneumonia.

(“WHO WROTE” continued on page 6)



GOLF TOURNAMENT HONORS HERNANDEZ AND PRELLER AND THEIR FAMILIES

Rotarians Carl Leech (Past President, Bakersfield Breakfast) and Dusty Wagoner (Past President, Bakersfield North) had a lot to do installing a multitude of tee signs on Monday morning, May 18, 2009, the day of the 13th Annual Valley Fever Benefit Golf Tournament. The above photo shows installation of two very special signs honoring Jacalynn Hernandez and Edith Preller, victims of Valley Fever in 2008.

The tournament which is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Bakersfield chose to honor these two ladies because of the work their families have done to increase public awareness of the impact the disease can have on victims and their families. Below, Jacalynn's uncle and Edith's sister go over the mulligan sales procedures.



VALLEY FEVER BENEFIT TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

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LUNCH SPONSOR: San Joaquin Hospital

GLOVE SPONSOR: Independence Medical Group

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Kern County Firefighters Local 1301

The Marcon Group

Lloyd and Patty Plank



May 24th, 2010

Mark your calendar! Plans are already in the works. Dave Haynes (right) repeats as chairman and Bob Parker (left) as treasurer.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Printed below are the names of those who have been honored with a memorial donation to the Valley Fever Vaccine Project of the Americas. Many were victims of Valley Fever. Others were intensely interested in the project. Still others have been honored by friends and loved ones determined to support Valley Fever vaccine research.

The dates shown identify the first year a donation was received in that person's name. Many have been remembered continuing donations made year after year. Each victim's name reminds us of the need to develop the vaccine to prevent suffering and loss.

The Foundation is honored to have received these donations. Memorial funds are used to further vaccine research and awareness of the disease. Thank you to all for thinking of our organization at a time of personal loss

Amado "AL" Amorao	2008	2006	Stacy Rae Kelsheimer
Ann Bandics	2005	2003	Bernard Kinley
John B. Bentley	2001	2005	Louise Lake
Faribah Bozorgi	2007	1999	Raymond B Lucas
Antonio D Carbonell, MD	2005	2004	Pat Matts
Taylor Carr	2009	1999	Rob McKean
Jim Carter	2002	2006	David Meacham
Michael Clark	2008	2003	T.H. Mettler
Alvin Cohen	2001	2009	Joey "Biggin" Nelson
Ed Creer	2008	2005	David Neumann
Lucy Cunningham	2007	2002	Kathryn A. Noroian
Ralph Cunningham, MD	2003	2002	JoAnn Paladini
Errin Maureen DiMaggio	2002	2006	Amy Esther Robinson Palmer
Paul Dodane	2007	2001	John B. Park, MD
Henri Pierre Duhart	2008	2006	Leo J Pierucci
Raymond B Eyherabide	2006	2008	Edith Preller
Mark Allen Fry	2005	2005	Bill Quinlan
Phil Granados	2005	2006	Orville Reitz
Joy Sorci Hall	2001	2006	Reg Robinson
Larry Halpern	1999	2004	Luzminda Rosales
Helen Hamilton	2007	1997	Mildred Ruddy
Richard Hamilton	2002	2004	Bettyann Rummans
Wayne Harms	2007	2006	Jim Saba
Bettyann Hazell	2007	2007	Fred Schwab
Tanya Heal	2007	2005	George M. Singer, PhD
Jacalynn Hernandez	2008	2006	Helen Solomon
Johan Hinse	2003	2005	Freda Steele
Don and Michael Hisey	2008	2003	Seymore Strongin, MD
Gail Hoetker	1998	2008	Jere N. Sullivan
Charles W. Holeman, MD	2002	2005	David Wai
Milton Jacobson	2006	2003	Darrell Weddell
Jeff Jue	2005	2004	Elizabeth "Kay" Yeager
Hal Kavern	2004	2001	Michael S. Youngblood

FESTA DI PASTA

The Rotary Club of Bakersfield East changed the venue and title of its annual pasta event in 2009 to a sparkling "indoor" evening event. There was no change however to the donation of a portion of the profits for vaccine research.

THANK YOU to the sponsors who helped ensure the success of the 2009 Festa Di Pasta!!

PLATINUM

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GOLD

Bakersfield Memorial Hospital
Dan Giordono
Varner Brothers
San Joaquin Bank
Union Bank

SILVER

B.C.Laboratories
Frank Colatruglio
Ira and Carole Cohen
Grimmway Farms
John Wilson, DDS
Mercy Hospital
Doug Amstutz
Mid-State Development
San Joaquin Hospital
W.A.Thompson

BRONZE

Bill Wright Toyota
California Electric
Comprehensive Pulmonary
Gary Stanfill
Gregory Bynum & Associates
Klein, Denatale, Goldner
Lloyd Plank
Mission Bank
Platinum Mortgage
Rand Personnel
Richard and Sandi Schwartz

SUPPORTERS

Bruce Keith
Batey Homes



INVITATION: WALK TO SAVE LIVES IN PHOENIX

Join the volunteer team of the Valley Fever Alliance for the **Inaugural Walk to Save Lives**

Sunday, November 1, 2009 with activities from 8 am til noon
Downtown Phoenix

Start at 550 E. Van Buren near the Medical Center of the
University of Arizona

Canine companions are welcome! Especially Valley Fever survivors.

(Be prepared to pick up after your dog)

\$25 Entry Fee/ \$20 if prior to October 15, 2009

Early entry deadline is October 15, 2009

Register online or send a check to benefit:

University of Arizona Foundation - College of Medicine -
Valley Fever Center for Excellence
Valley Fever Corridor Project

<https://www2.uafoundation.org/>

TAX ID # 86-6050388

Valley Fever Center for Excellence
Medical Research Building, Room 124
1656 E. Mabel St.

P.O. Box 245215

Tucson, Arizona 85724

For questions, please call 520-626-6517

vfever@email.arizona.edu

The **Valley Fever Center for Excellence** at the University of Arizona provides education and support to physicians and the general public, and needs funds to continue research into a new drug to treat, a vaccine to prevent, & new diagnostic tests to more accurately diagnose this disease. Proceeds from this walk will benefit the Valley Fever Center for Excellence.

Each registration includes an official **Walk for Valley Fever** race cap and bandanna in a variety of colors: turquoise (for those who have had Valley Fever), red (for those who have had pets with Valley Fever), or white (for all other supporters) - as well as giveaways on the day of the event.

To register your group, please complete registration online.

Hurry, EARLY registration ends October 15, 2009!

Immediately prior to the walking event, Dr. John Galgiani will present facts of Valley Fever in Arizona, and Dr. Lisa Shubitz will discuss what pet owners need to know about the disease.

This event is part of activities marking Arizona's Valley Fever Awareness month, November 2009.

Cocci Study Group Proceedings Available ONLINE

The Coccidioidomycosis Study Group first met as a group in San Francisco 1956. A complete list of meeting dates and locations is available at the Valley Fever Center for Excellence website www.vfce.arizona.edu. All available meeting proceedings can be accessed at this website, the earliest posted being 1983.

For those with an interest in the topic, the abstracts are a treasure trove of facts and theories, as well as a quick stroll down memory lane. The names of all the scientists in the photo below will be seen as authors and presenters, as well as many others who have contributed over the years..

Most articles are highly technical and of interest only to the medical and research professionals for whom they were written, but some are of interest to the layperson as well. How about a followup on coccidioidomycosis cases resulting from the California Central Valley dust storm of December 1977 submitted by D. Pappagianis and S. Lindsay in 1983.

In 1996, T.R.Larwood submitted a report of 58 years of coccidioidin skin testing in Kern County documenting a drop from 96% probability of a positive skin test in 1937 to 40% by 1996.

The 54th annual Coccidioidomycosis Study Group meeting which will be held in Surprise, Arizona Saturday, March 27, 2010, is sure to add even more items of interest to the scientists paying attention to Valley Fever!

Below left to right, Antonino Catanzaro, MD, Hans Einstein, MD, John Galgiani, MD, Mitch Magee, PhD, Garry Cole, PhD, Tom Larwood, MD and Demosthenes Pappagianis, MD.



What's happening with the science?

Currently, the Project is sponsoring efforts to address the solubility of the Ag2/PRA-CSA vaccine, and is evaluating a new adjuvant.

Dr. Jennifer Laurence, of the University of Kansas, is manipulating the CSA portion of the vaccine by putting different amino acids for cysteine molecules in the CSA. Cysteines have the property of cross-linking with other cysteines, often causing cross-linking and aggregation between different molecules. But putting different amino acids in place of the cysteines, it is hoped that the molecule will become soluble, yet will retain its ability to serve as a good vaccine.

Once enough of the soluble material has been produced, Dr. John Galgiani, of the University of Arizona, will evaluate it in comparison to the un-modified vaccine in mouse experiments to verify the activity of the preparations.

Dr Galgiani is also currently evaluating a new adjuvant in mouse experiments. As has been reported in previous issues of the newsletter, the availability of good adjuvants for use in cell-mediated diseases (like Valley Fever) has been a limiting factor in the efforts to advance the vaccine. Fortunately, a new adjuvant that has been evaluated in Phase I trials in humans has been made available to the Project for testing.

If the experiment now in progress confirms that the adjuvant provides sufficient potency to the vaccine, then additional experiments can be performed to optimize the combination of the new adjuvant and the vaccine.

Lastly, the Project has received proposals from four of the original research investigators of the Project for new antigens that could be added to the existing vaccine, or replace the existing vaccine if they prove more potent. These research efforts will be funded from the new funding made available by the State of California, through the Department of Public Health, and greatly enhance the ability of the Project to advance the vaccine into development.

The above notes were provided by Dr. Richard Hector, Vaccine Project Director.

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS -- CME

Saturday November 14, 2009, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Coccidioidomycosis for Primary Care Physicians: a Half-Day Course for CME

[University of Arizona Bio5 Institute](#), Room 103

1657 E. Helen Street, Tucson AZ

This is part of Arizona's VF Awareness month activities.

VALLEY FEVER IN THE PUBLIC EYE

The illness of Arizona Diamondback's outfielder **Conor Jackson** has served to keep "our" disease in the news for several months in Arizona and among fantasy baseballers throughout the nation. Only a few years ago, the idea that fantasy baseball could contribute to educating folks about the potentially serious impact of Valley Fever would have been considered bizarre, at least by this newsletter editor.

Now an even more bizarre situation is developing with entertainment industry publications reporting that convicted murderer **Phil Spector** is terrified by a proposed transfer to Coalinga State Prison because 16 inmates have died of Valley Fever there in the last 4 years. His "frantic" wife, Rachelle Short, says "they are sending Phil there to die," according to comments quoted in the New York Post's Page 6 celebrity news. The story was picked up by AP writer Linda Deutsch and has gone mainstream as well!! -- Sandra Larson

What we hear on the phone and at the website!!

My friend has been battling this disease for 2 years. She now has cocci lesions on her brain, in her spine and throughout her bones. She is a mother of 2 (ages 15 and 5).
(Tracy, CA)

The toe had to be removed and the biopsy results showed that the infection in the toe was Valley Fever.
(Peoria, AZ)

My big strong son (age 33) died of Valley Fever two days after his illness was finally diagnosed
(Bakersfield. CA)

How can I make the doctors in this state understand how important it is for me to get my medicine.
(Pennsylvania)

I ended up in the hospital in the Sacramento area on a ventalator in an induced coma for almost a month.
(Vacaville Ca)

A year later we are still experiencing this same symptoms of headaches for weeks at a time and not being able to get out of bed
(Bakersfield, CA)

www.valleyfever.com
and phone (800)VAL-FEVR

(“WHO WROTE” continued from page 1)

Sharon’s struggle to recover is told at their website, www.valleyfeversurvivor.com. Initially she was given antibiotics but continued to get worse. The disease nearly killed her.

David nursed Sharon night and day through her illness, and when she decided to become an advocate for public awareness he was eager to help.

They built the website from scratch and are constantly refining its message and adding to it. They have helped establish support groups in Arizona. They work hard to provide useful information to victims, and have provided email or phone assistance to thousands.

The book is a major product of their work together and is the first and only book of its kind. It is a compilation of information about the disease as well as personal stories of victims. The personal stories included are particularly meaningful to those who are currently suffering from the disease, and their families.

You will find very practical information such as what you need to know before you see a doctor, and a 465 word glossary of medical terms to help you understand what the doctor says!

The book is also a great source of reliable statistics that can be very helpful when trying to educate the leaders of your community on the actual impact of the disease.

David Filip’s newest goal is to be an Amazon bestseller on a single day by encouraging purchases for that day. He believes this will help demonstrate the extent of public interest in valley fever. David and Sharon will donate a portion of all proceeds for books purchased through the special link on September 29 to the Valley Fever Americas Foundation. Use this link: <http://Special.valleyfeverepidemic.com>

You can sign up to get an email reminder for the one day special and learn about the free bonus downloads that are available after purchasing the book. **GO TO PAGE 7 OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INSTRUCTIONS.**

Your purchase of the book **VALLEY FEVER EPIDEMIC** on **Tuesday, September 29, 2009** can benefit everyone.



Sharon and David Filip, authors of **VALLEY FEVER EPIDEMIC**



(“PUBLIC FORUM” continued from page 1)

first public assemblage of the researchers to discuss their progress and challenges, and determine how to proceed since the Bakersfield-based campaign was launched.

Although efforts over the past 15 years have not yet resulted in the development of a vaccine sufficiently potent to evaluate in humans, researchers agreed that the project has yielded many benefits. Scientists are closer today than ever before to achieving their vaccine goal. In addition, much has been learned about the disease that improves treatment of infected people and that alerts the public to the presence of the disease.

Marcus Horwitz, a professor of medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles, who is renowned for his work on developing tuberculosis vaccines, applauded those who are supporting the Valley Fever vaccine project and the discoveries that have been made. He urged researchers and supporters to push forward with what he assessed as “cutting edge research.” He noted that “a tremendous amount of progress has been made.”

Obviously, without funding the project cannot keep moving ahead. We must look for increased corporate and foundation donations. Fortunately the State of California continues to invest in the future with \$1 million in the budget for vaccine research in fiscal 2009/2010. It would be great to see some State of Arizona and Federal money placed in the pot as well!



Anyone wanting to help with the effort, don’t be shy! There is plenty of information at our website, www.valleyfever.com to let you know how to make a donation.

Pauline Larwood of Bakersfield is chairwoman of the Valley Fever Vaccine Project. She is a former Kern County Supervisor and now serves on the Kern Community College Board of Trustees. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Bakersfield.

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MARK YOUR CALENDER for SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

ONE DAY ONLY SPECIAL

A portion of the proceeds from the purchase of *Valley Fever Epidemic* on that date will go to support Valley Fever research. **Everyone** needs the facts, information, and help that this book provides.

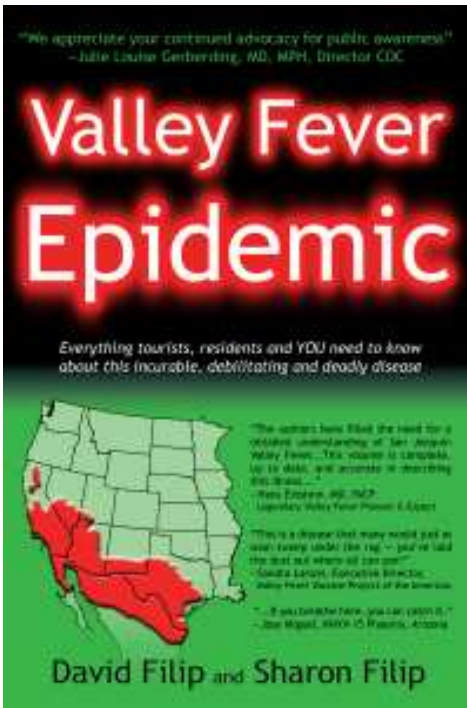
Valley Fever Survivor at www.valleyfeversurvivor.com is proud to announce that for **one day only**, Tuesday, September 29, 2009, all *Valley Fever Epidemic* books purchased through a special link at <http://special.valleyfeverepidemic.com> can get you **free downloadable bonus gifts!** Better yet, the Valley Fever Vaccine Project of the Americas is one of the organizations that will benefit from your purchase. It is a win/win for everyone.

Valley Fever Epidemic has rave reviews from Valley Fever experts and customers alike. <http://special.valleyfeverepidemic.com> has the link to our Amazon.com page and every customer has given the book a five star review.

Go to <http://special.valleyfeverepidemic.com> (no "www" in the link) to learn about the promotion, see the valuable gifts that will be offered free, and find out how you can download them after you get the book. We will be adding more bonuses all the way up to September 29, 2009. **You can sign up to get an email reminder for the one day special and also sign up for the free Valley Fever Survivor newsletter at the site as well.**

Don't forget the date: Tuesday, September 29, 2009. Your purchase of *Valley Fever Epidemic* on this day can benefit everyone. With your help, one day Valley Fever can become a thing of the past. Please help us so we can donate significantly to Valley Fever research.

David Filip and Sharon Filip, Authors



Valley Fever Americas Foundation

President:

Michael W. Cooper

Treasurer: Bob Parker

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Sandra Larson

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661-832-1456

This newsletter was printed by
DB & Company in Bakersfield

Valley Fever Vaccine Project of
the Americas:

A Rotary District 5240 Project

Valley Fever Americas Foundation is fully qualified under IRS 501(c)(3).
PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING YOUR SUPPORT!!

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the Valley Fever Americas Foundation in the amount of

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$1000 _____ Other _____

This gift is sent in memory of _____
Please notify the family at the address enclosed.

My name (please print)

Mailing Address

Telephone Number(s)

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EMAIL: _____

Mail with your check payable to
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FREE September 29
STUFF Look on page 5

**WALK TO SAVE LIVES IN
PHOENIX - NOV 1 2009**
Information on page 4

Dear Friends of the Vaccine Project,

We are proud to have helped sponsor the Valley Fever Vaccine Day held in conjunction with the Cocci Study Group meeting in Bakersfield in April 2009. The day was planned by Dr Hans Einstein, Dr. Tony Catanzaro and Dr. Tom Larwood. It was the first time to bring the researchers together in public forum to present their research and respond to questions.

When the day was done, we asked this question: We have spent a lot of money and don't have a vaccine to evaluate in humans yet; do we keep going or quit. One of those responding was Marcus Horwitz of UCLA who is very highly regarded because of his work on tuberculosis vaccines. Dr. Horwitz was very plain in his assessment of the reports he heard during the day. He said the research being done is on the cutting edge and has shown more progress than he expected to hear. He said there are no guarantees in vaccine research, but that as a believer in vaccines he definitely felt we should continue, and that it appears to him we are going about it in the right way.

Also responding was Dr. John Galgiani, one of the project researchers, who spoke to the advantages he had found being able to work cooperatively on this project, rather than competitively. Dr. Galgiani feels this approach is responsible for many of the gains which the project has been able to make.

The Valley Fever Americas Foundation remains committed to continued support for vaccine research and development, and we look forward to continued support from the communities which suffer from this disease

Sincerely,
Michael W. Cooper
Foundation President and Chairman of the Board