

Valley Fever Research at the University of California

UC's Ongoing Leadership in Valley Fever Research

UC researchers have a long history of contributing to our understanding of this condition and developing innovative new technologies. Generally, these include:

- UC has over **60 faculty and researchers**, at **9 UC campuses plus UCSF-Fresno**, who conduct research directly related to Valley Fever. UC faculty co-authored a [leading review article on Valley Fever](#).
- Since 1969, the **UC Davis Coccidioidomycosis Serology Lab** has provided the most reliable, precise diagnostic test for VF and regularly receives and analyzes samples from around the nation and globe.
- **UC Merced's Valley Fever Network** is serving its surrounding community by bringing together researchers from UC, CSU, and community and patient groups to research the condition and its impact on children and adults in the central valley.
- UC's **5 Biosafety Level 3 laboratories (BSL-3)** at UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC San Francisco allow researchers to safely handle and study the fungus.
- **BSL-3 training** at UC Irvine prepares graduate students, postdocs, and faculty to conduct research at BSL-3 labs, making the labs accessible to researchers both inside and outside of UC.
- **Vaccine research:** UCSF along with collaborators from UC Davis, UCSF, and UC San Diego partnered with the Veterans Administration (VA), University of Arizona and other institutions on a multi-year vaccine development effort, funded jointly by the State of California and the California Healthcare Foundation.

Multicampus, collaborative research leverages the expertise and infrastructure of UC's 10 leading research institutions, 5 medical centers, and 4 schools of public health across California to advance research in Valley Fever. Sample projects include:

- The [UC Valley Fever Research Initiative](#) is a recently launched \$1.7 million, 4-year collaboration led by Dr. Anita Sil (UCSF) to study the fundamental biology of the fungus and its pathogenicity. The 5-campus team (San Francisco, Riverside, Berkeley, Merced and San Diego) will use cutting-edge genomics and genetics technology to understand why and how the fungus infects people, and how the body's immune system responds to infection.
- Another collaborative team has a 4-year grant to study the effects of drought and climate on VF. This team, which includes researchers from UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, and UC Merced, will combine environmental science with public health to predict how drought and [environmental changes](#) will impact Valley Fever outbreaks and Californians' health.
- A faculty across the system study all aspects of VF, including but not limited to: clinical research in diagnosis and treatment, the economic impact of the condition, the behavior of the fungus in the environment, how healthcare providers care for VF patients, and how the condition affects families and the community.
- UC faculty are active, and play leadership roles, in [regional and national networks of experts](#) devoted to addressing VF. (See, for example, the [Cocci Study Group](#).)

Additional UC resources

UC Davis Center for Valley Fever Research: <https://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/valley-fever/>

UC Merced California Valley Fever Network: <http://valleyfever.ucmerced.edu/>

For background on Valley Fever: <https://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medmicro/cocci-about.html>