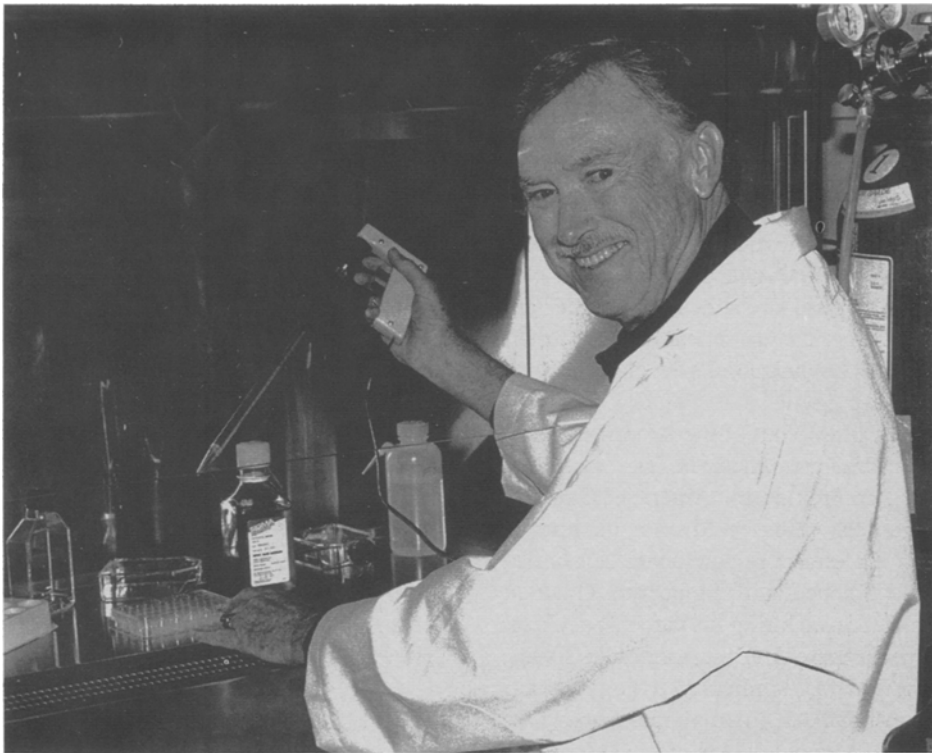


OBITUARY: **George C. Cozad, Ph.D.**



George C. Cozad, Professor of Microbiology at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, died Friday, September 29, 1995 at the age of 68 after a short but courageous battle with lung cancer. George is survived by his mother, Mary Ellen Cozad of Corning Kansas, his wife Dorothy of the home, two sons and daughters-in-law, two daughters and sons-in-law, and 10 grandchildren.

George obtained his high school education at Concord California High School and then served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. After completing his A. B. degree in 1950 in bacteriology at the University of Kansas, he was commissioned as an offi-

to the Laboratory of Dr. Michael L. Furcolow at the Kansas City Field Station of the Center of Disease Control where he did research and epidemiological studies on systemic mycotic infections for two years. From 1952 through 1954, George completed a master of science degree in microbiology at the University of Oklahoma under the direction of Howard W. Larsh. In 1954, George went to Duke University Hospital where he served as Director of the Tuberculosis Laboratory while working toward his Ph.D. degree under the guidance of Dr. David T. Smith. After completing his Ph.D. degree in 1957, Dr. Cozad returned to the University of Oklahoma as a Research Associate in Medical

immunization and infection of animals with systemic mycotic agents. In 1960, George joined the faculty in the Department of Botany and Microbiology at OU as an assistant professor. He was advanced to the rank of Associate Professor in 1965 and in 1970 became a full professor. During his teaching career, Dr. Cozad taught general mycology, medical mycology, and pathogenic microbiology to undergraduate and graduate students. He also directed the very successful Medical Technology Program at the University of Oklahoma for 11 years and obtained federal funding for the program during most of that period. From 1971–1973, George was Assistant Dean of the Graduate College. He was also active in the faculty senate and served on the Budget Council at OU.

During the summer months, Dr. Cozad held research appointments at Oak Ridge National Laboratories, at George Washington University Medical Center as a National Science Foundation fellow, and at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland. He conducted research in tropical medicine in Costa Rica and Columbia, South America. He served as a consultant for the World Health Organization's development programs in Tunisia and Egypt.

Dr. Cozad was a diplomat of the American Board of Medical Microbiology where he was appointed to the examining committee for American Board of Medical Microbiology. He served as a member of the Department of Defense review panel to evaluate National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship applications. During his career, Dr. Cozad maintained his membership in the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), Medical Mycology Society of the Americas (MMSA), International Society for Human and Animal Mycology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Oklahoma Academy of Science, Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and The American Thoracic Society.

Research performed by George Cozad and his more than 30 graduate students added significantly to the understanding of host responses to *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, and *Blastomyces dermatitidis*. Studies from Dr. Cozad's laboratory were the first to demonstrate the effects of removing T lymphocytes from mice with anti-Thy antibodies on the progression of infection with *H. capsulatum* and *C. neoformans*. The early work establishing that cryptococcal capsular polysaccharide induced immunological unresponsiveness came out of George Cozad's laboratory. Much of the basic knowledge on the cell-mediated immune response during blastomycosis was provided by Dr. Cozad and his coworkers.

Besides these many accomplishments in his professional life, George Cozad will be remembered by his friends, colleagues and students as a genuinely nice guy and superb educator. George liked the new and novel, and he made sure by his many questions that his students were also forward looking. He loved to discuss the application of new and creative methods to analyzing problems in medical mycology. Immunological responses of the host to fungal agents were his favorite subjects, and he spent numerous hours discussing the various aspects of the immune mechanisms with his students and colleagues. He always insisted on a complete explanation of any proposed theory, and he required that the theory be well supported by the current literature. George Cozad had a marvelous sense of humor, and he enjoyed people. Consequently, visits with George were some of the most pleasant experiences of his many students, friends, and colleagues. He will be greatly missed.

J.W. Murphy
University of Oklahoma,
Department of Microbiology,
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City
OK 73190, USA