

UVM Professor Proposes Sarcoidosis Research Study

December 21

Dr. Gerald Davis, MD, is a professor of medicine at the University of Vermont College of Medicine with specialties in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine. He has been researching sarcoidosis for over 30 years, and has provided the Health Department with consultation throughout the investigation of sarcoidosis among current and past occupants of the Bennington State Office Building.

Dr. Davis and colleagues at the UVM College of Medicine believe that the cluster of sarcoidosis cases among current and former building occupants presents an opportunity to learn more about environmental factors that may be related to the disease. Sarcoidosis is a disease of unknown cause, characterized by inflammation in one or more organs.

At the December 21 Bennington State Office Building Stakeholders Team meeting, Dr. Davis outlined plans for research. The researcher's plan is to collect blood samples from employees in order to test for evidence of inflammation, reactivity to possible causes of the disease, and inherited susceptibility to develop these diseases.

The Building Directors, the Stakeholders Team, and the VSEA have endorsed the proposal and are encouraging all staff members to participate in this study, which includes the blood draw.

Dr. Davis is working with the Health Department to set up a schedule for collecting blood samples.