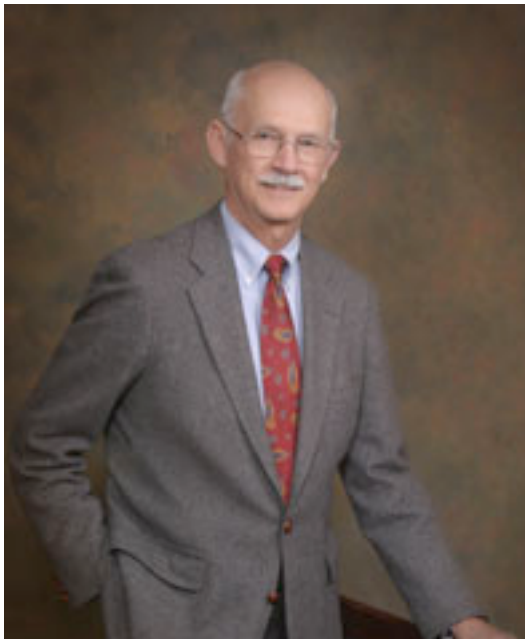
Robert L. Owen, M.D.

Chief, Cell Biology and Aging Section
Chief, Environmental Medicine (Agent Orange, Persian Gulf, Mustard Gas exposures, Ionizing Radiation injuries)
Professor of Medicine, Biostatistics and Epidemiology
SF VA Med Center

Academic Office and Clinic:
VAMC 11C1
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
San Francisco, CA 94121-1545
Phone: 415-221-4810 x3445
Fax: 415-415-750-2196
Email: robert.owen@va.gov
Website:
http://www.epibiostat.ucsf.edu/epidem/personnel/rowen.html



Career Narrative

My clinical work includes general internal medicine, intestinal infectious diseases, HIV infection and AIDS, travel medicine and medical effects of military occupational environmental exposures, especially in Persian Gulf, Vietnam (Agent Orange) and OIF veterans.

Research Interests:

My work has involved delineation of the structure and function of Peyer's patches and other mucosal lymphoid organs, using ultrastructure, immunohistology, morphometric analysis, and FACS analysis in immunocompetent and immunodeficient animal models. Clinical research interests include diarrhea and intestinal infections, identifying the role of opportunistic pathogens including *Giardia, Cryptosporidia, Microsporidia* and *Mycobacterium avium*.

Education

- 1966 MD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Training

- 1966 - 1968 Intern in Medicine and Junior Medical Resident, Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, MA
- 1968 - 1970 Medical Epidemiologist, Center for Disease Control, USPHS, Atlanta, GA
- 1968 - 1970 on loan as: Medical Epidemiologist, Louisiana State Department of Health, New Orleans, LA
- 1969 - 1969 on loan as: Medical Epidemiologist, International Committee Red Cross, Southeast State ("Biafra") Nigeria
- 1970 - 1971 Senior Medical Resident, University of California, San Francisco, CA
- 1971 - 1973 Trainee in Gastroenterology, University of, California, San Francisco, CA

Selected Publications (past 10 years)

- OWEN RL: New Perspectives on pathogenesis of *Cryptosporidium* biliary disease. Hepatology 1998;28:1159-1160.
- OWEN RL: M cells as portals of entry for HIV. Pathobiology 1998;66:141-144.
- Koch J, OWEN RL: Small intestine pathogens in AIDS - Conventional and opportunistic. Gastrointest Endosc Clin North Am 1998;8:869-888.
- Thoreux K, OWEN RL, Schmucker DL: Age-associated decline in GALT immunoblasts migration. The Gerontologist 1999; 39(1):143-144.
- OWEN RL: Uptake and transport of intestinal macromolecules and microorganisms by M cells in Peyer’s patches – a personal and historical perspective. Seminars in Immunology 1999;11:157-163.

- Fujimura Y, OWEN RL: The intestinal epithelial M cell: properties and functions. In Inflammatory Bowel Disease, 5th Edition. JB Kirsner, ed, WB Saunders Co, Philadelphia, 2000:33-44.
- Thoreux K, OWEN RL, Schmucker DL: Intestinal lymphocyte number, migration and antibody secretion in young and old rats. Immunology 2000;101:161-67.
- Schmucker DL, Thoreux K, OWEN RL: Aging impairs intestinal immunity. Mechanisms of Ageing and Development 2001;122:1397-1411.
- Fujimura Y, OWEN RL: Tacrolimus (FK506) and cyclosporine reduce the uptake and transport of particles into rabbit Peyer's patches. Transplantation 73:1049-1054, 2002.
- OWEN RL: Infections of the Gastrointestinal Tract. Book review. Gastroenterology 2003;125:1550-1551.
- Chin-Hong PV, OWEN RL: Gastrointestinal manifestations of AIDS in Encyclopedia of Gastroenterology. Johnson LR et al. (ed), Elsevier Science, San Diego, CA, 2004; Volume 1:12-15.
- Chin-Hong PV, OWEN RL: Sexually transmitted diseases in Encyclopedia of Gastroenterology. Johnson LR et al. (ed), Elsevier Science, San Diego, CA, 2004; Volume 3:351-356.
- Kato T, OWEN RL: Structure and function of intestinal mucosal epithelium. in Mucosal Immunology. Third Edition, J Mestecky,
- ME Lamm, W Strober, J Bienenstock, JR McGhee,L Mayer (eds), Academic Press, Orlando, FL. 2005:131-151.
- Kageyama M, Nakatsuka K, Yamaguchi T, OWEN RL, Shimada T: Ocular defense mechanisms with special reference to the demonstration and functional morphology of the conjunctiva-associated lymphoid tissue in Japanese monkeys. Arch Histol Cytol 2006;69:311-322.
- Fujimura Y, Haruma K, OWEN RL: Bombesin Prevents the atrophy of Peyer's patches and the dysfunction of M Cells in rabbits receiving long-term parenteral nutrition. JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2007;31:75-85.
- Thoreux K, OWEN R, Schmucker DL: Functional foods, mucosal immunity and aging: effect of probiotics on intestinal immunity in young and old rats. in Communicating Current Research and Educational Topics and Trends in Applied Microbiology, A Méndez-Vilas (ed.), Formatex, Badajoz, Spain. 2007, Volume 1:458-465.
- Morgan DR, OWEN RL: "Gastroenteritis" in Clinical Infectious Disease. . D Schlossberg, ed, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2008:349-357.