

An international journal dedicated to avian health

Avian Diseases

Published Quarterly by the American Association of Avian Pathologists

Vol. 66 No. 1 March 2022 Pages 1–130

www.aaapjournals.info



LEO RETTGER

aaap
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN PATHOLOGISTS

About the cover

DR. LEO FREDERICK RETTGER (1874-1954)

Dr. Leo Rettger was born in Huntingdon, Indiana on March 17, 1874. He received his B.A. and M.S. degrees from Indiana University in 1896 and 1897, respectively. He received the Ph.D. degree in 1902 from the Department of Physiology and Physiological Chemistry at Yale University for his thesis entitled "Experimental studies on the interrelation of the spleen and the pancreas." In the same year, he joined the faculty at Yale University, where he was promoted to the rank of Professor in Bacteriology in 1919. He served as Chairman of the Department of Bacteriology, Pathology and Public Health from 1928 to 1931 and as Chairman of the Department of Bacteriology from 1933 until his retirement in 1942. He served as President of the Society of American Bacteriologists in 1916-1917 and was member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Bacteriology from 1916 until 1948. The first article published in this journal was by L.F. Rettger, N. Berman, and W.S. Sturges, Further studies on bacterial nutrition: the utilization of proteid and non-proteid nitrogen, J. Bacteriol. 1 (1); 15-33, 1916. Dr. Rettger published over 188 papers in peer-reviewed journals and two books. He remains best known for his work on pullorum disease, which he first described in 1900. He isolated Bacterium Pullorum, now known as *Salmonella enterica* serotype Pullorum, as the cause of Bacillary White Diarrhea (pullorum disease). Subsequently, he showed that *S. Pullorum* can be vertically transmitted, which led to the way to eradicate this devastating disease. Dr. Rettger was one of the key founders of the Northeastern Conference of Laboratory Workers in Bacillary White Diarrhea, which started in 1928 and is now known as the Northeastern Conference on Avian Diseases (NECAD). He continued his involvement with NECAD even after his retirement from Yale University. Shortly before his death on January 7, 1954, Dr. Rettger was present at the 25th Annual Conference of NECAD in 1953 where he congratulated the participants for the progress they had made toward the eradication of pullorum disease.