

# Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health Research at a Glance



Scientists at the **Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health (CEEH)** are interested in the connection between genetics, human health, and the environment. They are working to understand how our genes can influence how we react to things in the environment. The ultimate goal of this research is to discover ways to better protect the public from exposure to a wide range of health hazards that are found in our air, water and food. The Center's organizational structure encourages collaboration and includes more than seventy investigators from disciplines such as Medicine, Public Health, Toxicology, Genomics, Law, and Pharmacy.

CEEH investigators conduct studies in order to help answer questions such as:

- What are the most effective ways to protect people who collect and eat shellfish, if those shellfish have been contaminated with toxins produced by harmful algal blooms?
- How are the children of farm workers being exposed to pesticides and how can we better protect their health?
- Can the mercury used in certain types of dental fillings be harmful to human health and does genetics play a role?
- Why do some people have a bad reaction to some medications, while others need to take higher or lower doses for the medicine to be effective?
- Is there a link between the preservative used in certain types of vaccines and increased rates of autism and other developmental disorders in children?
- Can air pollution caused by cars, trucks, and buses make people more likely to develop heart disease? Are some people affected more than others because of where they live?
- Can eating certain types of vegetables lower your risk of developing cancer?
- Are some people who work with pesticides more likely to get sick than others because of differences in their genes?