



# Collaborative on Health and the Environment

## December 2015



### Upcoming Partnership Events

CHE Partnership call:  
[Environmental Health and Complexity: Exploring the Ecological Model of Health](#)  
Fri, Dec 11

CHE Partnership call:  
[Chemicals without Harm: A Conversation about Safer Alternatives with Ken Geiser](#)  
Wed, Jan 13  
*Hosted by the CHE Alaska Working Group*



### Thin Places: Providing Space to Explore the Complexity of Health and the Environment

*Elise Miller, EdM*  
*Director*

*Thin Places*, a book written by Ann Ambrecht, an anthropologist friend who completed her doctoral research in northeastern Nepal in the 1990s, explores what it means for people to live close to the land--and how that, in turn, fosters greater intimacy with every other

CHE Partnership call:

[Is a Health Study the Answer for Your Community? A Guide for Making Informed Decisions](#)

Tues, Jan 26

Did you miss any CHE Partnership calls in 2015? Visit the [CHE Partnership call archives](#) and [CHE Working Group call archives](#) to listen to MP3 recordings of past calls.

### Special Announcement

#### [Partner Idea Forum](#)

As a major learning community for the field, CHE wants to do even more to serve our partners around the world. [Please take a few minutes to submit your thoughts to our Partner Idea Forum.](#)

The [Partner Idea Forum](#) will stay open only until December 15th, so please get your ideas in soon.

#### [New Ecologic Model of](#)

relationship in our lives and shapes our sense of home. In the tribal region Ambrecht studied, the people seemed to live with a stronger sense of connection to the natural world and to community. The conceptual walls often imposed by Western cultures between humans and the environment seemed thinner for those in this region--more permeable and multi-faceted.

Whether we choose to recognize it or not, the fact is we all live in thin places. Forward thinking segments of industrialized world now acknowledge that the boundaries and distinctions we have defined over centuries, whether between academic departments or cultural norms or forms of healing, are not so neatly segregated. Instead, what contributes to our health and well-being is far more complex and nuanced than we ever imagined. This of course raises more questions than answers. We can no longer retreat into our polarized perspectives. With emerging information and insights, we are instead forced to question our assumptions again and again.

Yet there are few forums where open discussion on these complex issues and concerns can take place. This is why CHE is valued by so many around the world. CHE insists on civil, constructive, non-polarizing conversations on our highly regarded [teleconferences](#) and our [multiple listservs](#). The vast majority of responses to our recent surveys indicate that

## Health and Disease Webpage

Health is wholeness. It's a concept that cannot apply solely to an individual since people and other beings have always lived within families, communities, ecosystems, and planetary-level conditions. The health of any part or the whole of this nested set of relationships is dependent on diverse, dynamic interactions among them all. Ecologic models of health attempt to portray this multi-level complexity.

CHE recognizes that the chemical, biologic, physical, nutritional, built, natural and socioeconomic environments combine to create conditions

CHE's services would be sorely missed if they were to no longer be available. Many indicated that CHE is deeply important to them--it enriches their professional and personal lives in ways that no other organization in the environmental health sector does.

CHE's partners engage in lively and robust dialogues through a wide variety of topical listservs.

Children's Health **Cancer** **Autism**  
Fertility/Reproductive Health Integrative Health  
*Breast Cancer* **Science** **Asthma**  
**Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum** **Mental Health**  
*Learning and Developmental Disabilities*  
**Cumulative Impacts** **Electromagnetic Fields**  
*Healthy Aging* **Climate Change**

In other words, CHE is a place where you can talk about thin places. The places that are not so clearly defined, but essential to ponder regularly with colleagues if we are to have a healthier future.

combine to create conditions that strongly influence the health of individuals and populations.

We explore issue of complexity on our new webpage: [Ecologic Models of Health and Disease](#).

## Resources

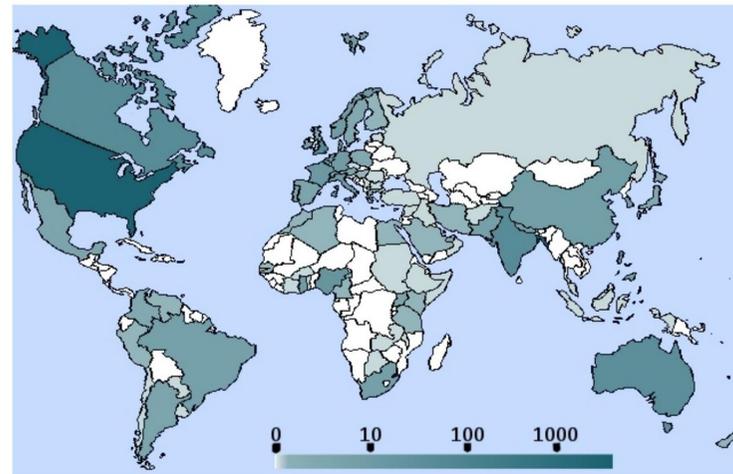
[CHE's blog](#) promotes dialogue on issues at the intersection of human health and environment.

[CHE's searchable calendar](#) of events related to environmental health.

[CHE's podcast](#) of teleconference call recordings.

[CHE's news feed](#) of news articles, studies, reports, calls for proposals, job openings and other announcements. Relevant items are sent to CHE's listservs several times each week, or visitors can subscribe via RSS.

Almost **5000** individuals and organizations from **87 countries** and **all 50 US states** are CHE partners.

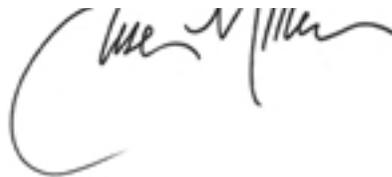


CHE promotes civil and science-based dialogue among our partners on all environmental contributors to human health.

Your support now will ensure that these critical conversations continue to take place so that we can collectively implement the most effective, well-informed, and prevention-oriented strategies possible. We recognize there are many organizations worthy and deserving of your support, but given what CHE uniquely provides in the environmental health field, **[please make a tax-deductible gift to CHE today](#)**.

Warmest wishes for the holidays and deep gratitude for your partnership in this effort,

Elise



## Working Groups and Initiatives

Visit the webpages of CHE's groups for the latest news, research, and announcements:

### Topic-based Working Groups

[Asthma](#)

[Cumulative Impacts](#)

[Integrative Health](#)

[Autism](#)

[Database](#)

[Learning and Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Breast Cancer](#)

[Diabetes/Obesity](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Cancer](#)

[Electromagnetic Fields \(EMF\)](#)

[Pet](#)

[Children's Health](#)

[Fertility/Reproductive Health](#)

[Neurodegenerative Disease](#)

[Climate Change](#)

[Healthy Aging](#)

[Science](#)

### State-based and International Groups

[Alaska](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Washington](#)

[Europe/HEAL](#)