Is it safe to drink?  
For her sake, we need to know. *And act.*

There is growing evidence that the environment is a much more significant cause of human disease than previously realized. Each day, all of us – adults and children alike, regardless of where we live and work – are exposed to toxic compounds, in our air and water, in the products we use and the byproducts of the industries that surround us.

Because the links between our environment and our health are complex, understanding and addressing those links requires a uniquely comprehensive approach: one that brings together experts in environmental science, molecular biology, medicine and environmental policy to elucidate how pollutants affect human health, and then to develop policies to eliminate those effects.

A program that goes from pollution to solution.

That’s why the Nicholas School of the Environment and the Duke University Medical Center have come together to build a new, transformational program in human health and the environment. No other institution in the country boasts this level of collaboration between environmental and medical researchers. And no other institution is as well-equipped to lead the way.

*Already, our partnership is paying off. But the need for this work is great, and while this problem won’t be solved overnight, it must be solved – for the sake of our children, and future generations. That’s where you come in.*

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**Health and the Environment Initiative**  
Protecting human health and well-being by finding pathways from pollution to solution

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…”the true burden of environmentally induced cancer has been grossly underestimated.”  
— President’s Cancer Panel, 2008-2009 Annual Report: Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk
Environmental scientists **identify toxic substances** released into the environment, and use state-of-the-art analytical tools to track these toxins through the environment to their point of human contact and potential health endpoints.

**Bill Pan DrPH** studies the impact of land use, climate change and human migration on the incidence of malaria in the Peruvian Amazon. With appointments in both the Nicholas School and the Duke Global Health Institute, he also applies his expertise in biostatistics and population-health-environment dynamics to uncover similar links to dengue fever, chronic disease and childhood diarrhea and nutrition.

**Heather Stapleton PhD**, an environmental chemist at the Nicholas School, studies the presence and movement of chemical flame retardants – which include known carcinogens and endocrine disruptors – in a variety of products for young children, including nursing pillows, cribs, strollers and other consumer products. She also explores the impact of these chemicals, which are used to reduce the flammability of common household products, when they are released into the environment.

**Duke Medical Center and Nicholas School EcoTox program scientists** work together to **establish a causal link** between the pollutant exposure and the observed health endpoint.

**Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions** works with government officials and the private sector to **develop policies and regulations** to eliminate the pollution and prevent disease.

Duke's program focuses on pollution sources of high concern and then works to eliminate this pollution by leveraging cutting edge scientific research to advance effective policy solutions.

The Nicholas School and Duke Medical Center also jointly sponsor lectures that bring national leaders in the environmental health arena to Duke to share their expertise and insights with our students, faculty and staff.

**Help us find answers – and solutions.**

- For $500,000, you can endow an annual Environmental Health Lecture at Duke
- For $2.5 million, you can establish an endowed professorship so that the Nicholas School can recruit and retain a highly regarded scholar in this area to lead this initiative

For more information – or to contribute – contact Nicholas School of the Environment, Office of External Affairs, at (919) 613-8003 or visit nicholas.duke.edu/giving.