**Dr. Jesse Berman** is an Assistant Professor in Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Dr. Berman earned a doctorate at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) and served in postdoctoral positions at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and in Epidemiology at JHSPH. His training has been in environmental epidemiology with an emphasis on exposure assessment and spatial statistics, including the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to address public health problems. Dr. Berman has a particular interest in how weather events impact health. His past research has looked at the association between drought conditions and hospitalizations among older adults in the western United States. The project received national media coverage, and was highlighted by the National Institute Health (NIH) as a ‘Selected Extramural Publication’ for significance and public health importance. Dr. Berman has additionally performed a number of health based assessments looking at the impacts of weather and environment on health and behavior. He is familiar with existing weather and land use data sets, and employing GIS to understand how they relate to environmental change.

**The University of Minnesota and School of Public Health**

The University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities is the flagship campus of the state of Minnesota’s land grant university. The University houses 18-colleges and brings together a unique combination of agriculture, veterinary, medicine, law, liberal arts, engineering, public health, journalism, business, and design experts. Strong cross-disciplinary collaborations are common and strongly encouraged at the highest levels of University leadership. The School of Public Health is currently the 8th ranked public health school by US News and World Reports and 6th in NIH funding with about 130 full-time faculty and 1,500 enrolled students. It offers 19 graduate degrees (15 masters, 4 doctoral) and has 25 research centers collaborated across 4 academic divisions (Environmental Health Sciences, Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Community Health, and Health Policy and Management). We have close relationships with state agencies, including the Department of Health, Climatology Office, and Department of Natural Resources.

**The Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health**

The Division of Environmental Health Sciences provides a rich environment for conducting academic research. Faculty expertise includes exposure science, epidemiology, environmental chemistry, vector-borne diseases, tick-borne disease, industrial hygiene, and environmental and occupational policy. The Division faculty are extremely collaborative and have experience in applying multi-disciplinary approaches to complex environmental and occupational issues. One of the strengths of the Division is the expertise in the development and application of biomarkers to assess exposure. Weekly seminars in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences include nationally- and internationally-known speakers on a wide range of topics ranging from methodological issues to cutting edge approaches to investigate exposure and health effects. The Academic Health Center (including the School of Public Health, Medical School, School of Pharmacy, Nursing School, Veterinary School, and Dental School) and the University of Minnesota encourage multi-disciplinary research and offer many opportunities for such collaborative work.