**Dr. Jonathan Oliver** is an Assistant Professor in Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. He has a PhD in entomology from Iowa State University where his dissertation focused on tick surveillance and tick-borne diseases. He worked in the Department of Entomology studying tick-borne pathogens in the laboratory before becoming a professor in the School of Public Health. Dr. Oliver has 14 years of experience investigating the distribution of ticks and tick-borne diseases in the Upper Midwest as well as experience testing and identifying ticks in the lab. Dr. Oliver is active in the scientific community and has successfully managed projects funded by the NIH and intramural university initiatives.

**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). The U of M also has vast laboratory capacity, allowing researchers access to any equipment, personnel, or other resources necessary for completing this project.

**The Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health** provides a rich environment for conducting academic research. Faculty expertise includes exposure science, epidemiology, environmental chemistry, vector-borne diseases, industrial hygiene, and environmental and occupational policy. The Division faculty are extremely collaborative and have vast 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.