***Connecting Health Care to Public and Environmental Health***

Dr. Ted Schettler, OPHA 2013

As health care reform continues to unfold around the country, we are increasingly reminded of the urgent need to address the undeniable connections among individual, family, community, and environmental health. To be sure, we have benefited from remarkable advances in medical care during the 20th century. Nonetheless, we face waves of chronic diseases with often-overwhelming consequences not only for individuals and their families but also for the health care system and the socioeconomic well-being of communities. Using an eco-social framework, which integrates many aspects of contemporary environments into a complex set of system conditions, we can more easily see the multi-factorial origins of current disease patterns and the need for multi-level interventions to address them. Using several common complex diseases as examples, this presentation will address their origins and explore opportunities to respond. Reconnecting health care to public and environmental health guided by new models and aided by forging new relationships, holds promise for successfully addressing urgent challenges in health care as well as public and environmental health.