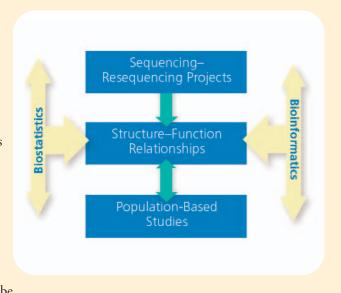
## Environmental Genome Project Develops a New Bioinformatics Tool

The NIEHS Environmental Genome Project is founded on the sound scientific concept that an individual's genetic makeup is a major factor in human disease resulting from exposure to environmental agents. The project is a long-term effort to characterize specific genetic variations, or polymorphisms, that contribute to either resistance or susceptibility to environmentally induced diseases.

The NIEHS has, through the Environmental
Genome Project, funded the
development of a new bioinformatics
tool created by the University of Utah
Genome Center. This Web resource,
known as GeneSNPs (short for "single
nucleotide polymorphisms") integrates
gene, sequence, and polymorphism
data for nearly 500 human genes
implicated in cellular responses to
exposures to environmental toxicants.
The list of human genes included in
this resource is not exhaustive; new
environmentally responsive genes will be



added to GeneSNPs as information on their roles in vulnerability to environmental exposures becomes available.

GeneSNPs is both a process and a tool for integrating up-to-date public gene resources for single nucleotide polymorphism discovery and analysis. It provides current, integrated, sequence-based views of genes using cDNA sequence, genomic sequence, and SNPs. Current gene categories include cell division, cell signaling, cell structure, gene expression, homeostasis, and metabolism.

Visit the Environmental Genome Project home page at http://www.niehs.nih.gov/envgenom/home.htm.