Mission

New and re-emerging diseases impact Florida’s tourism, health and economy, which are particularly vulnerable due to the state’s mild climate and diverse agriculture. Weather patterns, commercial plant imports and annual global visitors all have the potential to unwittingly carry pathogens from other countries into our state. The University of Florida Emerging Pathogens Institute fuses key disciplines to develop research, education and outreach capabilities designed to preserve Florida’s health and economy, and to prevent or contain new and re-emerging diseases.

The Emerging Pathogens Institute was created in 2006 to provide a world-class research environment to facilitate interdisciplinary studies of emergence and control of human, animal and plant pathogens of concern to Florida, to the nation and to the world.

EPI Goals

- To understand the genetic changes and evolutionary drivers that lead to the emergence of new pathogens
- To appreciate the complex interaction of environmental and host factors that permit these pathogens to spread within plant, animal and human populations
- To use these data to develop and implement interventions to minimize risk of disease transmission
- To disseminate information about emerging pathogens, and their control, to the people of Florida
**Major Areas of Research**

- Vectorborne diseases
- Influenza, other viral pathogens
- Tuberculosis/drug-resistant TB/non-TB mycobacterial disease
- Enteric and foodborne illnesses
- Plant pathogens
- Antibiotic resistance/hospital infection control

**Interdisciplinary Research**

- EPI researchers work in more than 50 countries
- More than 150 faculty members across nine University of Florida colleges are affiliated with the institute
- Research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- More than $19 million in research funding in 2013

**Facilities**

- 88,000 square feet of building space
- BSL-2 lab
- BSL-3 lab, greenhouse and an insectary for housing insects