Contaminated Water Results in Infection Case Study

Sometimes dedication to yourjob can get you in trouble. In 2004, a 56-year-old genetics professor at the University of Hawaii in Oahu was determined to continue working in his lab even though a local stream had overflowed and the campus was flooded. For 4 days, he slogged through standing water in his lab to keep his research going.

Some time afterward, the professor developed blisters on his feet. A few days later, he started having flulike symptoms: fever and chills, followed by nausea and vomiting. He began to feel better, but then developed another phase of illness that featured tremors, impaired balance, and illusions of color before his eyes.

* Do you know of any diseases that a person can acquire simply by walking through standing water?