

**LTRC Concept Sheet # 08-99-0008**

**The Role of Platelet Endothelial Cell Adhesion Molecule (PECAM) in  
Interstitial Lung Disease**

**ABSTRACT**

The family of human diseases known as the Interstitial Lung Diseases (ILDs) affect nearly 100,000 Americans. Mice lacking the gene Platelet Endothelial Cell Adhesion Molecule (PECAM) are also susceptible to a chronic interstitial pneumonia. This project will explore PECAM in human disease. Although there isn't a known PECAM deficiency in humans, there may be functional alterations based on different PECAM gene variations, with at least four known alleles and many potential splice variants that may affect function. Some of these alleles have been tentatively linked a variety of human diseases, such as coronary artery disease and atherosclerosis. This study will examine the prevalence of different PECAM alleles in human ILD in comparison to normal controls.