



On Tuesday, February 2, the Middle School and 6th year students engaged in a hands-on laboratory, *Chances Are*, studying Sickle Cell Anemia at the Biogen Community Lab. Our students received an informative introduction to genetics and the relationship between DNA and proteins.

ASM students became genetic researchers for a set of prospective parents who both have a family history of sickle cell and wanted to find out the chances of passing the disease onto their children. Testing a sample of hemoglobin from both the mother and father, students needed to determine their genotypes (whether they carried only sickle cells or a healthy cell), make a calculation, and then inform the couple of the findings.

This was a unique opportunity for ASM students to collaborate with Biogen scientists while learning how to use sophisticated equipment found in scientific research labs. Throughout the day, they performed research and analysis and ended the lab experience by documenting their findings.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Biogen for providing our students this wonderful learning opportunity and for their effort in promoting STEM education for middle and high schools students.

