

Local Small Business Wins 5-Year Science Education Partnership Award

3D Molecular Designs to develop classroom materials and professional learning courses focused on infectious diseases

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (May 29, 2023) – 3D Molecular Designs (3DMD) receives \$1,283,020 of grant funding from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) [Science Education Partnership Award \(SEPA\)](#). The Milwaukee-based small business will develop educational materials and professional learning experiences focused on infectious diseases. This is 3D Molecular Designs' first SEPA grant.

[3D Molecular Designs](#) is a family-owned science education company that develops interactive kits and models focused on core ideas in biology, chemistry, and life sciences for students. Funds from the NIGMS SEPA Grant will be used for material development and professional learning for secondary science teachers focused on infectious diseases.

"We are so pleased to receive this NIH SEPA funding. Now it's possible for us to quickly translate current cutting-edge infectious disease science into manipulative kits and models that can be field tested in high school classrooms within two years," said Tim Herman, PhD, principal investigator. "At the same time, we'll be providing professional development in this area for high school science teachers. The Covid-19 Pandemic illustrated how important it is for people to understand therapies for emerging diseases."

This summer, half a dozen educators from the [3DMD Model Teacher Program®](#) will come together in Milwaukee to collaborate and advise on material development which includes student activities, classroom resources, kits and models, and more. Each summer, 3D Molecular Designs hosts over two dozen science educators from across the country for a weeklong professional development course, **Modeling the Molecular World**. This annual summer course is a prerequisite for participation in the advanced SEPA course, which will be offered beginning Summer 2024.

[The National Institute of General Medical Sciences](#) supports basic research that increases understanding of biological processes and lays the foundation for advances in disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. The NIGMS SEPA program is awarded annually and supports educational activities that encourage pre-college students from diverse backgrounds to pursue further studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). 3D Molecular Designs' grant will fund the classroom-based project geared towards first- and second-year high school biology students.

Applications are now being accepted for 3DMD's Modeling the Molecular World summer course, additional details can be found at 3dmd.3dmoleculardesigns.com/summer-courses.

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About 3D Molecular Designs

3D Molecular Designs (3DMD) is a Milwaukee-based company established in 1999 and develops interactive kits and models focused on core ideas in biology, chemistry, physical and life sciences for students. Kits support STEM, NGSS, IB, PLTW and can be incorporated into the existing curriculum. 3DMD collaborates with teachers across the U.S. in developing products, field testing, hosting sessions, and more.