**Health in Our Hands: How Can Looking for Thrills Make Me Miserable?**

**Introduction and Acknowledgements**

This curriculum can be used with appropriate citations. To realize the full potential of the curriculum, professional development and support for teachers in the classroom is highly recommended.

**Project Description:** CREATE for STEM Institute at Michigan State University collaborated on the project, Health in Our Hands (HIOH), in partnership with University of Michigan School of Public Health, Flint Community Schools, Community-based Organization Partners of Flint, Sloan Museum, Flint Public Library, University Preparatory Science and Math Middle School, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Detroit Public Library, Michigan Science Center, Charles Wright Museum of African American History, and Friends of Parkside in Detroit, and the Concord Consortium in Massachusetts. The goal of HIOH was to produce a coordinated set of classroom and community activities intended to give youth and adults an understanding of modern concepts in genetics they can use to appreciate the importance of both genetic and environmental factors in their risk for disease. The project is funded by the National Institutes of Health Science Education Partnership Awards (SEPA).

“How Can Looking For Thrills Make Me Miserable?” is designed to meet the Next Generations Science Standards. Students investigate addiction, which connects them to real-world experiences and provides relevance for their learning. During the project-based unit, students build understanding of the biology of addiction. The unit starts with a video with teens’ testimonials about addiction to vaping (e-cigarettes). Students investigate the brain’s reward system from an evolutionary perspective and examine its role in addictive behavior. For their final project, students conduct a community action project to improve their school or neighborhood to help prevent or reduce addiction. After completing their investigations, students share their findings with their peers and broader community, draw conclusions regarding their inquiry question while addressing ethical issues, and suggest solutions and potential actions based on their findings.

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