

NGSS NOW

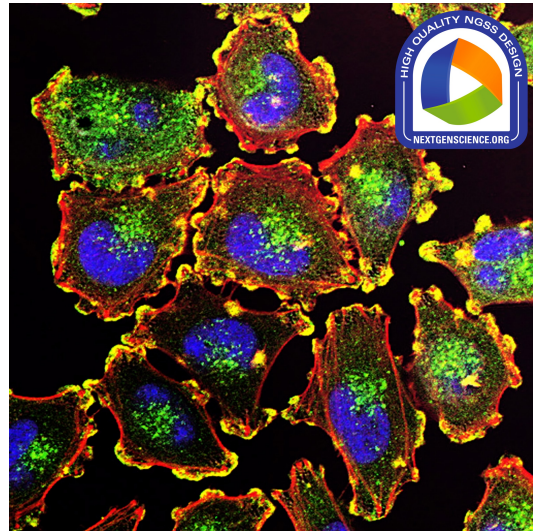
5 things to know in February 2024



1 New High-Quality High School Unit Posted

In the OpenSciEd *B.3 Inheritance & Variation of Traits* unit, students investigate the genetic basis of cancer. They explore what cancer is, how mutations contribute to its risk, and examine factors influencing cancer incidence, mortality, and access to treatment across the country. The unit was awarded the [NGSS Design Badge](#) by NextGenScience's Peer Review Panel.

See the unit and the corresponding EQUIP Rubric for Science evaluation report [here](#).



2 Blog post: Implementing Standards Takes a Long Time! The Power of Perseverance



When implementing new science standards, it's easy to get overwhelmed. A new [On the Same Wavelength](#) blog explores ideas for ensuring we keep moving toward our goals.

Read the NextGenScience February 2024 blog post [here](#).

3

The State of K-12 Science Curriculum

This article discusses challenges and opportunities for adopting and implementing high-quality science instructional materials that align to today's science standards. It describes criteria for quality science materials along with best practices for their selection and use, urging state leaders to maintain rigorous standards, provide guidance to districts to effectively evaluate high-quality resources, and invest in professional learning.

Read NASBE's State Education Standard journal article [here](#).



4

ICYMI: STEM Teaching Tool: How Can We Confront and Dismantle Systemic Racism Through Science Learning?



“Science teaching and learning often leaves untouched a status quo that threatens the physical, emotional, psychological, and intellectual well-being of historically minoritized learners, especially students from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Science educators must consider questions of racial injustice and anti-Blackness in the history of science, dominant assumptions about what counts as science, representations of who engages in scientific practices, and how we teach these topics.”

See STEM Teaching Tool 79 [here](#).



ICYMI: Culturally Relevant Engineering Design Framework

The Culturally Relevant Engineering Design (CRED) framework developed by the NSF-funded Project ExCEED (Exploring Culturally relevant Engineering Education Design) provides teachers and students a roadmap for implementing engineering problems that are relevant to their lives, communities, and experiences.

See the CRED framework [here](#) and student version [here](#).



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