

Like other years, the 2016-17 DCE SMART team has so much for which to be grateful. We were so fortunate to interact with a number of different people who most certainly enhanced our understanding of globin biochemistry and interactions. We would like to shout out **special thanks** to the following individuals and groups.

To **Mr. Robert Mannino** of Georgia Tech (who we were so fortunate to interact with via telepresence on a couple of different occasions) whose insight into beta thalassemia and, even more importantly, his positive outlook were so inspirational. **Thank You!**

To **Dr. Daniel Bauer** of Boston's Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School (who we were so fortunate to interact with via telepresence) who, despite giving to the world everyday in pioneering potential gene therapy cures for numerous blood disorders, took the time to share with us his expertise, **Thank you!** Your presence motivated us to greater efforts not only this year, but, hopefully, far in the future,

To **Mr. Craig Butler** of the Cooley Anemia foundation. Your efforts helping us interact with the experts were obviously greatly appreciated. As we learned more about the disease, your daily efforts in working toward a cure or helping people cope with disease became increasingly more valued. **Thank you!**

To **Dr. Diane Munzenmaier**, **Dr. Tim Herman**, and **Mr. Mark Hoelzer** (and the entire gang) of the Center for Biomolecular Modeling at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, **Thank you!** Your efforts with us and students throughout the country provide opportunities about which students in the past only dreamt. It would really be interesting to see just how many individuals' interest in biochemistry was sparked because of your initiatives. **Thank you!**

To the numerous unnamed researchers, who we were so fortunate to read and use some of your work,

Thank you! Like the people named above, you, too, give so willing of your lives so that others may live. Kind of like hemoglobin and red blood cells... Thank you!

To our local area organizations such as the **D.C. Everest Education Foundation** and the **University of Wisconsin Marathon County** for supporting academic achievement and exploration and providing venues for projects such as ours at your Imagine Event and the UWMC Research and Discovery Symposium. **Thank you!**

Last, but not least, a shout out to the students, **our colleagues**, who gave of their time so that we, as a group, could put the project together. Hopefully, you have also learned that the more that you have put into your work, the more you get out of it. **Thank you!**