

Student Essay Contest, *Biomedical Breakthroughs and My Life*
Igniting Passion for Science

Excited students arrived at Amgen's Seattle facilities for a well-deserved Awards Day Ceremony on June 6th, 2014 to receive their awards for their winning essays. The "Biomedical Breakthroughs and My Life" essay contest encourages students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades to explore how biomedical research has impacted their life. The contest provides an opportunity for students to learn how new medications, medical devices, or surgical procedures are developed and tested in animals and human clinical studies.

Students consider a wide range of topics, including veterinary treatments, genetic screening, or research into conditions of family members or pets. The student's investigation acquaints them with the process of biomedical research that ultimately leads to the development of treatments and cures. The contest impresses upon them the importance of responsible research with animals and humans, and how it impacts us in our daily lives.

Three hundred and five students from Washington submitted essays in the 2014 Student Essay Contest. Ninety volunteer judges from the science community participated in three rounds of judging to identify winners. Winning students, teachers, and parents were invited to tour Amgen's world class research facility, where they met with scientists and participated in hands-on activities. Students learned about the process of pharmaceutical drug development, various careers in biomedicine and biotechnology, and conducted chromatography experiments. Additionally, students listened to keynote speaker, Carol Pawlak in Corporate Affairs and Philanthropy, who shared her story about her life-saving bone marrow transplant.

NWABR's student programs encourage students to thoughtfully explore the impacts of biomedicine in their daily lives, but the impacts of the Essay Contest go beyond the students themselves. During their research process students engage their family members, teachers, and peers, which, in turn, encourages awareness of the biomedical field. Parents and teachers who joined the students at Amgen were left with positive impressions and new knowledge about biomedical research. When one considers the reflective student essays, there is no doubt the contest is a valuable introduction to the research process behind biomedical breakthroughs and one more way NWABR promotes public trust in biomedical research.

Visit our website to read the award winning [student essays](#).

