Students were given two class periods to research the disease states and create the graphic novels. Students were required to describe their diseases in terms of inputs and outputs of other systems. There were 4 to 5 students in each group and each presentation was about 10 min long. All students were juniors and seniors at IMSA that had enrolled in my Physiology class as a Biology elective.

During the national Physiology Understanding Week (PhUN) sponsored by the APS, Dr O’Hagan visited my Physiology classroom at IMSA on November 5, 2018. Groups of IMSA students presented to Dr O’Hagan summaries of their understanding the pathophysiology of endocrine, neurological, cardiovascular and respiratory disease states through an entertaining comic-strip story format. In turn, Dr O’Hagan led the students through an interactive medical case, “Exercise is Exhausting”, which was adapted from a physiology small group exercise conducted with our first-year osteopathic medical students. In addition to exposing these talented high school students to the process of differential diagnosis, the history & physical, and diagnostic testing, the case reinforced the application of physiological principles learned in their cardiovascular unit to problem-solving in medical practice.