

FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

The humble publication that you are about to delve into began with quite a simple goal in mind: to promote and celebrate undergraduate research. Reflecting on the six compelling articles we now present you with, we would put forward that we have accomplished that goal, or at least made a very good start. But going beyond the pages of this journal, we also hoped to foster a more integrated science community at Simon Fraser University. This is more challenging to quantify, but we will do our best now. Over the past year, we worked with a team of 14 hardworking, passionate undergraduate editors from six different departments. We had over 65 graduate students, professors, and researchers from nine different institutions agree to be peer reviewers. Our blog, X & Y, featured thoughtful posts from a wide variety of students on a wide variety of topics.

So yes, we are featuring undergraduate research, and giving these students the opportunity to experience a peer review process. We also hope that we have offered our editors the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the journal publication process alongside us, and graduate students the opportunity to conduct a peer review.

This project has been met with excitement and support, fueling us as we navigated the adventure of publishing our first issue, and driving us forwards into our second year with energy to improve and build upon what has been started.

It is with pleasure that we introduce you to the first edition of the SFU Science Undergraduate Research Journal.

Sincerely,

Emma Atkinson, Tomas Rapaport, and Kiera Warren

Executive Editors