

*"For a research worker the unforgotten moments of [their] life are those rare ones which come after years of plodding work, when the veil over nature's secret seems suddenly to lift and when what was dark and chaotic appears in a clear and beautiful light and pattern."*

**- Gerty Cori**

## FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

We created the SFU Science Undergraduate Research Journal in 2015 with goals that reached beyond the scope of a publication released once a year. We ambitiously hoped that we would foster a community of undergraduates who value research while engaging students in science communication and education. To cultivate such a community takes time and much more than a collection of papers published every so often. Reflecting on the past year, we are proud to have contributed to the broader undergraduate research community at Simon Fraser and we are honoured to have a team of 16 tirelessly working editors involved in this issue.

The past year marked the beginning of our series featuring undergraduate researchers on our blog. We met 28 young scientists from a broad range of departments at SFU. It was remarkable learning about these driven, insightful, and creative students diligently navigating the world of research. We were overwhelmed by the diversity and quality of undergraduate research quietly happening in pockets around SFU, and we are excited to introduce you to more undergraduate researchers in the coming year.

In September, SFU SURJ hosted the first annual SFU Science Undergraduate Research Poster Competition that brought together 17 researchers from six departments to present their research posters to the SFU community. Not only did the day remind us of the depth of research conducted by undergraduates, but professors and graduate students echoed our impression, approaching us to remark on the high calibre of the work presented. These initiatives strive to provide an avenue for hardworking researchers to present their work, make connections with fellow researchers, and stimulate collaboration.

This journal embodies the process of learning, whether it be as an editor, author, or reviewer. As executive editors, it continues to be an immeasurable pleasure to facilitate that process, and here's to more years (and journals) to come. With delight, we present the second edition of the SFU Science Undergraduate Research Journal.

Sincerely,

**Emma Atkinson, Sean La, and Christine Wang**

Executive Editors