

# Letter from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are thrilled to present the inaugural issue of the Indiana University Journal of Undergraduate Research (IUJUR), an exciting endeavor reflecting the excellent learning, research, and creative activity undertaken by undergraduates. We wish to thank you for your support through readership and invested interest in furthering our mission to foster a culture of curiosity across the Indiana University community.

Volume I highlights the remarkable depth of thinking and creativity that represents some of the most important characteristics defining the undergraduate experience. Encouraged by outstanding faculty mentors who present opportunities for hands-on experiences, the featured student authors develop their ideas and analyses with impeccable detail and depth using critical, evidence-based approaches. Each selected work demonstrates the associated student author's mastery of the skills and knowledge base cultivated from engaging in undergraduate research. Collectively, these outstanding published works represent an interdisciplinary array that reflects the diversity of thought and intellectual curiosity at IU.

Since its inception in 2013, IUJUR has crossed typical lines of roles, disciplines, and institutions in academia. In doing so, IUJUR has sought not only to create an interdisciplinary, student-run, and faculty-mentored publication to showcase cutting-edge undergraduate research, but to moreover spark a culture of curiosity across the Indiana University community. With a talented staff, dedicated Faculty Advisory Board, and wonderful faculty sponsors, we have begun an exciting journey toward fulfilling this objective.

We hope you are excited by students' curiosities in Volume I and that, ultimately, this first issue serves as a catalyst for IUJUR and IU's undergraduate research community to help each other flourish. Our aim is that year to year, the publication will be an exceptional reflection of Indiana University's vibrant and diverse culture of curiosity.

Sincerely,  
Kristie Hsu & Janit Pandya  
*Editors-in-Chief*

