



Letter

Dear Readers,

Founded in 2006, the *Columbia Undergraduate Science Journal* was created by a team of graduate students who wanted to provide a collegiate platform for undergraduates to publish their scholarship and to educate students about the academic publication process. With guidance from advisors and faculty, the editorial board strove to produce a professional-level, open-access science journal that provides participants with a valuable experience in publication. Since then our board has shifted to being solely composed of undergraduates. While still maintaining our core editorial standards, the journal has evolved to more explicitly try and foster a supportive student research community on our Morningside campus. It is this notion of community that can help us cope and process the unfamiliar circumstances of a global pandemic.

In quarantine, student researchers can reflect on the utility of science and its capacity to contain and eradicate this crisis. The collegiate scientists of today should recognize this moment for its affirmation in the power of collaboration and community. Recall this moment as you go onto make the next breakthroughs in the natural and applied sciences.

This year, the *Columbia Undergraduate Science Journal* formalized our intentions for community building, made inroads in connecting previous authors and alumni of our publication, and developed our editorial process further with open journal infrastructure. I was impressed by the quality of our submissions this year and I want to thank each of the authors for their cooperation in the compilation of our journal.

I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished this year. Thank you all for your support in the growth of the student research community.

The *Columbia Undergraduate Science Journal* editorial board is proud to present the 14th annual *Columbia Undergraduate Science Journal*. Congratulations to the authors, thank you to our readers, and enjoy!

Sincerely,
Jason Mohabir
President CUSJ