

FOREWORD TO VOLUME I, ISSUE III

ARESTY RUTGERS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL



Thank you for reading the third issue of the Aresty Rutgers Undergraduate Research Journal! I hope you enjoy exploring the variety and richness of the undergraduate research happening at Rutgers, from the analysis of 19th-century female writers to the binding of the vitamin D receptor, and everything in between.

The Aresty RURJ was established to uplift, connect, and showcase the incredible undergraduate research community at Rutgers. Undergraduate students are vital to the backbone of the research happening at this university and we are excited to provide a platform for students to share their work with the Rutgers community and beyond.

This issue, and the past year and a half, has been undeniably marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our authors and reviewers have gone above and beyond to continue their incredible work with our journal even throughout the challenges they faced during the lockdown and pandemic. Our authors had to adapt to conducting remote research and many wrote their manuscripts based on combinations of remote and in-person research findings. Our undergraduate reviewers participated in the fully virtual Reviewer Program and put their skills to work with their outstanding reviews on submitted manuscripts. Our graduate student and faculty reviewers were remarkably flexible and generous with their time and were instrumental in the growth of our authors and their manuscripts.

I would also like to acknowledge the faculty advisors and principal investigators who served as mentors for our authors in their journey in research. Please continue to encourage your students to share their hard work and support them in their endeavors!

Finally, this issue would not have been possible without the key contributions and fantastic work by the editorial team (including the Reviewer Program Director, Managing Editor, Creative Director, and Chief Copy Editor), copy editors, Aresty Research Center administrators, and the Rutgers Libraries team. Thank you everyone for your hard work!

We hope the Aresty RURJ continues to grow and cement itself within the Rutgers research community and that our readers continue to follow our journey.

ARESTY RURJ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,

TANVI BANOTA