Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the University of Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum. As a cross-disciplinary undergraduate research journal, we aim to showcase the wide range of student research activities situated on our campuses. As this issue premiers, more than ten thousand undergraduates are engaged in research through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), individual departments, or independently. It is the goal of the Forum to join various local symposia, poster sessions, and lecture series in making this research more accessible to all.

We intend the Forum neither to act only as an outlet for experienced student researchers, nor a gateway for newcomers, but rather as an anchor to pull both types of undergraduates together. It is our hope that while laboratory veterans fine-tune their written presentations for publication, freshmen will flip through these pages to catch a glimpse of future opportunities. For every student who seeks to explore an unfamiliar discipline, a peer seeks an opportunity to teach it and to form fresh perspectives on familiar topics.

We encourage active student involvement in the Forum: students of any field of research are invited to submit letters, articles, and reviews for publication. We also welcome diverse talent to our staff.

We hope readers can find something in these pages to spur fresh insights and participation in the broader academic dialogue.

Sincerely,

Wei Gu
Editor-in-Chief