

Letter From the Editor

It is with great honor that we welcome you to the inaugural issue of Georgetown Scientific Research Journal. Since the journal's founding in the fall of 2020, our mission has been to provide a professional, open-access platform for student researchers to publish their work in order to celebrate the scientific accomplishments of the Georgetown student body. We aim to provide a space for researchers to learn from each other, collaborate with one another, and reach a broader audience. Our semesterly issues, along with weekly student highlights, biweekly faculty highlights, and research-oriented events, strive to encourage members of the Georgetown community to pursue and explore research both in and outside of the classroom.

We would like to acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has been an incredibly difficult challenge for people all over the world. Scientists and non-scientists alike have had to adjust to the virtual environment, overcome potential changes in employment status and housing, and cope with the tragic death of many of our loved ones. The dedication and perseverance of our authors and editors have been a true testament to their passion, character, and resilience. These authors have shown that even during this unprecedented global emergency, while physically isolated, we can come together and collaborate through science.

These articles underwent an extensive and rigorous double-blind editorial process, including edits from our student editorial board, our faculty advisory board, and Duke Vertices editors who served as our outside-of-institution review board. We hope that you find this issue full of research papers that pique your interest and broaden the breadth of your scientific knowledge. In this issue, you will find authors both from the undergraduate and graduate levels presenting research on various topics ranging from a discussion of the healing properties of performing arts to determinants of cancer. Please join us in commending the work and contributions of these authors.

Sincerely,



Danya A. Adams
Editor-in-Chief



Nesreen Shahrour
Executive Editor