



GSR Journal

Georgetown Scientific Research Journal

Letter From the Editors

Today, we bear witness to the manifestation of scientific investigation's interdisciplinary character. Insights and findings from disparate fields of research overlap to inform the progress of each other, allowing investigators around the world to pursue their research goals more rigorously than previously possible. Only by pursuing research in this style of combining methods and analytical techniques from different disciplines will we be able to challenge pre-existing paradigms and establish new principles for future work. Most importantly, fostering open dialogue between disciplines and prioritizing the goals that can be achieved from the synthesis of ideas have established themselves as the key drivers of the current exponential rate of scientific progress in all fields. In publishing Georgetown Scientific Research Journal's Spring 2024 issue after a brief hiatus, we aspire to contribute to the growing sense of appreciation for collaboration in the research community. Especially with respect to the authors of articles contained within this issue, we are grateful for their commitment to their research aims which seek to improve all realms of health: the physical, mental, and social. We hope that their passion for inquiry and their drive to contribute new ideas to their respective fields of research will stand out to you in reading the following articles. We are certainly inspired by the dedication of Georgetown's undergraduate researchers with each passing issue.

In this issue, we present three pieces of student research that consider new angles on established fields of research and contribute valuable perspectives on future avenues of investigation that will be meaningful to pursue. Included is a literature review that considers how biomarkers can be used to assess health risks and promote wellbeing in caregivers of people living with dementia, a study that evaluates the influence of public policy on case reporting of neglected tropical diseases, and a study that adds to the growing body of literature on model system development for the investigation of burn wounds. The inherent interdisciplinary quality of these articles struck us as a testament to the research community's increasing appreciation for collaboration across disciplines. Whether it be the synthesis of biology and psychology in evaluating biomarkers associated with stress stemming from caretaking, or that of public policy and public health in considering how state-level decisions can impact disease surveillance, or the repurposing of a chemotherapeutic drug to advance burn research, the authors have demonstrated that Georgetown's community of student researchers is in perfect alignment with the broader research community in realizing the power of intellectual synthesis.

We celebrate the work of authors published in this issue and recognize the value of their contributions, not only to the research community as a whole, but also to the Hilltop. Their work will serve as an inspiration for future classes of Georgetown students, demonstrating that Georgetown empowers its undergraduate student researchers to investigate pressing questions in styles that reflect the collective direction of science.

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