



Welcome

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Welcome to the fourth volume of *OUR Journal*! It is hard to believe that this issue is also my last as editor-in-chief. I have learned so much during my period of involvement with the *Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal*; it has been my first foray into academic editing and publishing, an opportunity to learn about fantastic research happening in many disciplines across campus, and above all, an incredible leadership building experience and a chance to work with similarly motivated, driven, compassionate, and hard-working undergraduates.

I want to particularly recognize the work of two of our senior editors, Alex Fus and Vishesh Khanna, who have been on the editorial board since the journal's inception. They provide excellent mentorship to the new editors and truly exemplify what it means to lead by example. Vishesh, amidst a busy spring of medical school visits and decisions, managed to still Skype into meetings when he had to be absent, worked tirelessly on his editing and figure-layout duties, and is a tireless, enthusiastic advocate for undergraduate research and the journal. He is an accomplished researcher himself, earning the highest level of honors, passing with distinction, on his thesis for the Clark Honors College titled "Sources of Genotoxicity in a Zebrafish Model of Fanconi Anemia." Alex is a premier editor, interested in pursuing a career in publishing, which she will surely excel at. Authors who receive her feedback through the double blind peer review and copy editing process are lucky to have her thorough, thoughtful, and probing suggestions. Like Vishesh, she is a tireless advocate for the journal, fully embracing social media and all forms of outreach and publicity. Thank you Alex and Vishesh! You have left your permanent mark on *OUR Journal*.

The publication of this journal truly would not be possible without the support of many dedicated individuals. First, the editorial board, Alex, Vishesh, Meredith, Zeph, Charlotte, Lauren, and Mari, participated in the entire process of publication with smiles on their faces. I am so appreciative of the kind atmosphere and comraderie of the editorial board. The faculty advisors, Dr. Barbara Jenkins and Dr. Kevin Hatfield, gracefully advise the journal's trajectory. It was a pleasure to meet Lee Rumbarger, who wrote the faculty editorial to this issue, this spring and participate in facilitated dialogue about how faculty can support undergraduates in their research endeavors. Finally, this issue would not have been published without the tremendous support provided by the University of Oregon Libraries, especially Deb Carver, Karen Estlund and John Russell. Thank you!