At the University of California Riverside, we pride ourselves in offering opportunities for hands-on research and other forms of humanistic expression to our undergraduates. From the classroom to faculty laboratories, from the stage to real world experiences with industry; our students are encouraged to pose fundamental questions, challenge current paradigms, construct new approaches, and design innovative devices. Some of our students are driven by curiosity, some are inspired by the natural world, and some by a passion to create or invent.

Whether it brings about a dramatic discovery, incremental progress, or even an unfortunate misstep, research advances knowledge while stimulating the imagination. The Undergraduate Research Journal will document these efforts at the University of California, Riverside, compiling them into a single periodical chronicling the discoveries, developments, and observations of UCR students. Through this, students learn the rigor of the scientific method, the discipline of writing, and the creativity of experimental design. This Journal will become their personal record and make its unique imprint upon the research community.

I applaud our students’ efforts in publishing the Undergraduate Research Journal and encourage them to continue to explore our universe.

France A. Córdova
Chancellor

I am delighted to inaugurate the First Annual UC Riverside Undergraduate Research Journal. Our intention for this journal is to provide a selective, peer-reviewed venue to feature the very best faculty-mentored undergraduate research and scholarship on our campus. We think the articles in this inaugural issue certainly meet that high standard, and provide a wonderful foundation for the future growth of the Journal in scope, visibility, and stature.

The peer-review process has been very ably led by our Student Editorial Board, with advice as needed from the Faculty Advisory Board. So, much like the research published here, we have established a culture in which the editorial activities of the Journal are managed by students in a faculty-mentored process.

Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity are integral to a high quality education at a major research university such as UC Riverside. We hope that the launch of the Journal will help to grow what is already a very vibrant undergraduate research environment on our campus, and provide a means to disseminate some of the most exemplary work from our undergraduate students.

Andrew J. Grosovsky
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Cellular Biology