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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the new issue [volume 21 (2)] of the Inquiry Journal. This issue contains several interesting features. This issue highlights two outstanding faculty members (Drs. Tim Muldoon & Michelle Gray) who have a wonderful track record of working with undergraduate students. I salute these faculty members for their commitment to support high quality undergraduate research on this campus.

This issue also features a research paper published by an undergraduate student, Salem Jackson, and her faculty mentor, Dr. Fiona Goggin. Their paper is focused on Plant elicitor peptides (Peps), that are produced in plants in response to many stresses and can activate defense responses (i.e., plant “immunity”) against pests and pathogens. Their research is likely the first step towards risk assessment using an exciting new approach to pest management. The Office of Undergraduate Research congratulates Dr. Goggin and Ms. Jackson for their high-quality research. We are grateful that these researchers have decided to publish their top notch research in the Inquiry Journal. We urge the other research-active faculty to choose the Inquiry Journal as an avenue to communicate their high impact research.

The publication of this issue of the Inquiry Journal would not have been possible without the help of our devoted faculty who dedicated their time to peer-review manuscripts submitted for publication. Credit is also due to Sophia Nourani who has worked hard with us to prepare this issue of Inquiry. Our special thanks also go to Dr. Suzanne McCray, vice provost for enrollment services and Director of the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA), and Dr. Chelsea Hodge, Director of Grants and Research Innovation, Honors College, who contributed the material, published as the Honors Corner and ONCA Notice at very short notice. It will be our endeavor to permanently feature both Honors Corner and ONCA Notice in the future issues of the Inquiry Journal.

Lastly, we greatly acknowledge the help provided by Ms. Melody Herr and Ms. Cedar Middleton for working closely with us to get this Issue of Inquiry published in Scholarly Works in a timely manner. There has been a significant turnover of administrators on this campus. In this context, Dr. John English, Vice Chancellor, Division of Research and Innovation, has decided to return to the Industrial Engineering faculty beginning January 1, 2023. Dr. English will be definitely missed at the DRI. He has been a great leader and a strong proponent of promoting high quality of undergraduate research on this campus. We, at the OUR, will dearly miss Dr. English for his compassion and encouragement. We wish him all the best in all his future endeavors. OUR looks forward to the leadership of Margaret Sova McCabe and welcomes her into the interim VCRI role.

Suresh K. Thallapuram

Director, Office of Undergraduate Research

Division of Research & Innovation