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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the new issue [volume 22 (1)] of the Inquiry Journal. At the outset, we would like to thank Dr. Margaret Sova McCabe, Interim Vice Chancellor of the Division of Research & Innovation (DRI) for her unflinching support to the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) in all its endeavors to improve the quality of undergraduate research on this campus. We would also like to express its gratitude to Dr. Cynthia Sides, Assistant Vice Chancellor of DRI and her staff for their relentless “behind-the-scene(s) efforts to support the multitude of activities undertaken by OUR, including the publication of the *Inquiry Journal*. We hope to receive continued support from all the members of the DRI family!

This issue features a research paper published by an undergraduate student, Gabriel Kupovics. His research paper reports the novel supramolecular assemblies formed by natural aromatic amino acids. Understanding, the mechanistic details of the supramolecular assemblies formed by the natural aromatic amino acids is likely to provide valuable clues for the rational design of new therapeutic design(s) against dilapidating inherited disorders such as, phenylketonuria, tyrosinemia, and hypertryptophanemia. We would like to congratulate Gabriel for his excellent undergraduate research in the Thallapuram group.

The Office of Scholarly Communications, University Libraries, kindly shared with us the current visibility of the articles published in the Inquiry Journal from Jan-May, 2023. We are pleased to share with the readers the statistics of viewership of articles published in the Inquiry Journal worldwide. In this context, we would like to congratulate both the undergraduate students and their faculty mentors for considering the Inquiry Journal as an avenue to publish their research. Given the impact of the Inquiry Journal, we urge the faculty on this campus to seriously consider publishing their best research in the Inquiry Journal. The Inquiry journal is published in the digital repository (ScholarWorks@UARK) is amenable to citation in research articles published in other research repositories. In this context, we would like to personally thank the faculty who had generously allocated their precious time to peer review research papers published in the Inquiry Journal. We believe that the academic rigor afforded *via* the peer-review process is one of the main reason(s) for the reliability and current high worldwide visibility of the Inquiry Journal.

OUR has funded the research of about 10 non-honors undergraduate students in the past academic year. We hope to continue funding the research of the bright and motivated non-honors undergraduate students on this campus. In this issue, we are sharing the blog post of David Heinrichs, an undergraduate student who received research funding (from OUR) to work with Dr. Rebekah Samsonraj, an assistant professor in the Biomedical Engineering department. We thank Dr. Samsonraj for enthusiastically working with David to increase his exposure and interest to work on the cutting-edge areas of stem cell research in her laboratory. David's blog truly epitomizes the quality of undergraduate research on this campus. We intend to publish these types of research blogs, as a motivation to other non-honors undergraduate students to engage in research, in the future issues of the Inquiry Journal.

Credit is due to Sophia Nourani, an undergraduate student worker, who has tirelessly strived hard to interview the faculty who have shown their interest in providing opportunities to

undergraduate students to get involved with their high-quality research. This issue highlights two such outstanding faculty members (Drs. Geebo Song and Robert Coridan) 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.

Our special thanks also go to Dr. Suzanne McCray, Vice Provost, 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 ONGC notice and Honors Corner, 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. Credit also goes to Mr. Phuc Phan, a graduate student in Dr. Thallapuram's research group for meticulously organizing the different features published in this issue of the Inquiry journal. Lastly, we greatly acknowledge the help provided by Dr. 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. We hope to continue working with the University Libraries in our pursuit of including additional new features in the Inquiry Journal which will be likely of broad interest to the Undergraduate students on this campus.

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