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Undergraduate Research Journal,
77 Massachusetts Avenue,
Cambridge, MA 02139

Welcome to the fall 2000 issue of the MIT Undergraduate Research Journal (MURJ). In this edition of our journal, we present to you a series of science and policy papers discussing often-controversial issues arising in academia. We have, as always, included along with our informational essays a series of research reports from students investigating questions from fields as distinct as anthropology and physics.

Those undergraduates who are familiar with MURJ will know that this issue's focus on science and policy reflects our wider goal to present national and international topics of concern to the MIT audience, allowing students to read about and discuss important ethical issues arising in science. In this issue, we explore topics as varied as Internet security and global warming, and urge students to read essays that affect more than just their primary field of study.

Given the specialization of many students, however, we have also chosen to continue presenting original research in each edition of our journal; what is included in our Reports section, however, has been written in a style comfortable to all undergraduates, unlike conventional research reports. As always, MURJ editors have attempted to orient the content of this journal toward the common undergraduate reader, allowing undergraduates studying nearly any discipline to read the research and analysis presented in our publication.

While introducing this third issue of MURJ, it is also essential that we give credit not only to broad national and international topics we discuss in this edition, but also to those that strike close to home. Science and public policy intersect right here in Cambridge, and in recognition of this fact, MURJ editors will be preparing a series of talks and conferences over the next few months to discuss science policy as it moves across the Cambridge-World axis. These talks and conferences will be announced to the entire MIT community, and all members of the public are welcome to participate.

Of course, this effort would not be complete without the assistance of many individuals who have guided us and have made MURJ a sustainable production. Thanks to our advisor, Dean Les Perelman, for his continued support, and to those professors who have spent their time reviewing our research submissions.

After reading this issue of MURJ, we encourage you to consider joining our group or perhaps submitting your own research to our next edition, which will appear on newsstands at the end of the spring term.

Sanjay Basu,
Editor-in-Chief

Table of Contents

News

- 5 Whitehead triumphs over human genome project
- 5 Unique biomaterial may revolutionize neural regeneration
- 6 Genetic culprit infecting animals apprehended in plant cousins
- 6 EyeGen wins \$50K for the dye to die for
- 7 MIT applies 'Star Wars' technology to breast cancer
- 7 Neural receptor affects breathing and memory
- 7 Miller models memory one neuron at a time
- 8 Ion-collision experiment uncovers Big Bang secrets
- 9 Rocket team fires up
- 9 Nuclear waste containers convert to clay given time
- 9 MIT scientists provide new spin on unique pulsars
- 10 Discover Magazine awards technological innovation
- 10 Manus robot rehabilitates stroke victims
- 10 Surgical disaster sparks innovation
- 11 Microvillages solve housing shortages in Turkey
- 11 Coaxial cables succeed to perfection through perfect mirrors
- 11 Feedback loops enhance electronic circuits to brain circuits
- 12 Powerful pulsed superconducting magnet passes initial testing
- 13 World Science News in Review
- 13 Genetic basis to alcoholism revealed
- 13 Key brain receptor controls response to opiates
- 13 Deadly spider toxins may protect plants
- 14 Natural antibiotics diversify protection
- 14 Synthetic molecule mimics hormones
- 14 Stem cells clear away the clouds for cornea patients
- 15 Cell fusions create genetically engineered sheep
- 15 Waste becomes clean energy source
- 15 Antibodies fight chemical warfare
- 16 Killer T cells lose their bite when HIV hits
- 16 'Super-aspirin' inhibits cancer
- 16 Gene driving metastasis discovered
- 17 Chocolate keeps arteries clean
- 17 Depression influences developing fetuses
- 17 Laser shines from chemicals in a beaker
- 17 Lightning misses the point
- 18 Potent sensor amplifies signal
- 18 Diamond yields to beta-carbon nitride in hardness
- 18 Synthetic surface binds proteins at will
- 19 Additives make carbon dioxide better solvent
- 19 Scientist plumbs gravity at atomic level
- 19 Telescope data confirms Euclidean nature of universe at the Big Bang
- 20 Scientists indirectly measure 'dark' matter
- 20 Brown dwarves flare like other stars
- 20 The search for aliens turns to Jupiter
- 21 Mother Earth may wreck anti-pollution drive
- 21 Volcanoes boil sulfur away
- 21 Molecular transistors show some 'gain'
- 21 Metal-binding peptides attract nanocrystals
- 22 Lasers stretch cells
- 22 Optical torch to distinguish single molecules soon
- 22 Atomic manipulation reveals possibility for quantum chips
- 22 Quantum logic gate structure proposed
- 23 Device detects the sound of breaking bonds
- 23 Miniature balance counts bacteria

Genetics in Focus

Martin Kurtev

- 25 Gene Patenting
A Threat to Science and More?

Technology in Focus

Minhaj Siddiqui

- 29 A Database Nation?
Security and New Challenges to Privacy

Reports

Jane H. Maduram

- 31 On the Structure & Discovery of Facial
Processes: Hidden Markov Models
Development through Entropy
Minimization Algorithms

Allen Chen and Stuart Jackson

- 39 SPHERES:
A Testbed for Spacecraft Formation
Flight Research in Microgravity
Conditions

David Foxe

- 47 Specificity in Context:
Selected Studies in Architecture and
Technology for Education

Robert W. Lin

- 61 Early Cost Estimation for the
Manufacturing of Tooling in Resin
Transfer Molding

Michael Manway Liu

- 65 Image Processing Issues with Fast,
Real-Time *In Vivo* Optical Coherence
Tomography Systems

Environment in Focus

Patsy Sampson

- 71 The Science and Politics of Global
Warming: The Climate of Political
Change at MIT

Health Care in Focus

Jasper James Chen

- 77 A Modernized Medicine for Our Times:
Reforming the American Health Care
System