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Tech Talk.

Welcome to the spring 2002 issue of the *MIT Undergraduate Research Journal (MURJ)*. In this sixth issue of our interdisciplinary journal, we have included both research reports discussing new and exciting work in fields as varied as ecology and stem cell research and feature essays that explore several humanitarian and environmental crises such as the conditions of refugees in Eritrea and the dangers posed by the continuing use of land mines.

As always, the reports and essays in this issue are written in a manner that maximizes each report's accessibility to all members of the MIT community. We hope this will enable individuals from diverse fields to learn about research in disciplines other than their own and about the debates taking place both in the academic and public worlds on how science may be better applied to alleviate social concerns.

We strive to present to the MIT community a forum through which ideas about both scientific research and public policy may be exchanged and debated. We would like to thank all those who help us meet our goal: We acknowledge the thoughtful advice and assistance of our advisor, Dean Les Perelman, the professors who contribute valuable time and effort in reviewing our work, and the continued support of *The Tech*.

If you would like to contribute to future issues of *MURJ*, we invite you to join us or submit your reports for our Fall 2002 issue. All submissions for the next issue will be due at the beginning of September. Please e-mail murj-public@mit.edu or visit our web site, web.mit.edu/murj/www, if you have further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

The editors of *MURJ*