

MIT Undergraduate Research Journal

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Undergraduate Research Journal

Table of Contents

Volume 8 Spring 2003

MIT Science News in Review

- 3 Architecture
- 3 Biological Sciences
- 7 Brain/Cognitive Sciences
- 7 Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences
- 8 Materials Sciences
- 8 Mechanical Engineering
- 9 Physics

World Science News in Review

- 11 Archaeology
- 11 Biological Sciences
- 13 Chemistry
- 14 Earth, Atmosphere, and Planetary Sciences
- 14 Materials Sciences
- 15 Mathematics
- 16 Physics

Features

- Aadel Chaudhuri*
- 17 Factory Health Services: An Innovative Method of Providing Health Care in Bangladesh

- Kelley Rivoire*
- 21 The Growing Threat to Research: Scientific Misconduct

- W. Victoria Lee*
- 27 Cloning: Where We Have Been and Where We Will Go from Here

- Farhan Merali*
- 35 Stem Cell Research: The Debate that Has Divided America

Reports

- Cameron Sadegh and Ronald P. Schreck*
- 39 The Spectroscopic Determination of Aqueous Sulfite Using Ellman's Reagent

- Oneil Bhalala*
- 45 Detection of Cotinine in Blood Plasma by HPLC MS/MS

- Alexander C. De Feo*
- 51 Probing Solar Panel Design Systems

- Angela S. Bassa*
- 55 Environmental Accounting: Project Financing and Strategic Interactions



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Welcome to the Spring 2003 issue of the *MIT Undergraduate Research Journal*. In this eighth issue of *MURJ*, we present diverse research reports in fields ranging from biological engineering to environmental accounting, in hopes that our readers will delve into the world of the scientific unknown. Within these pages we also include features examining topics such as stem cell research, cloning, factory health services, and scientific misconduct.

Our reports and features, as always, are written in such a manner as to make them accessible to all members of the MIT community. We hope that this interdisciplinary journal will provide an opportunity for our readers to learn of research in disciplines other than their own. We also hope that this journal will serve as a forum for debate and discovery through which our readers may explore arguments relating to the intersection of scientific research and public policy.

We extend our profound gratitude to those who have made this goal possible. We acknowledge the assistance of our advisor, Dean Les Perelman, the professors who reviewed our work, and the continued support of *The Tech*. We would also like to thank Dean Larry Benedict, the many academic departments at MIT, and the UROP and RLSLP offices for their financial support of *MURJ* this semester.

If what you read piques your interest, we invite your input for the Fall 2003 issue. Consider either joining the *MURJ* team or to submitting reports on your own research. Submissions will be due by the middle of September 2003. Please e-mail murj-public@mit.edu or visit our Web site, <http://web.mit.edu/murj/www>, if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

The Editors of *MURJ*