

# MIT Undergraduate Research Journal

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Undergraduate Research Journal

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Welcome to the Fall 2003 Issue of the *MIT Undergraduate Research Journal*. In this ninth issue of *MURJ*, we present a few research reviews in fields ranging from biological engineering to microlensing, 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 research funding and data overload.

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 access arguments relating to the intersection of scientific research and public policy.

We extend our profound gratitude to those who make this goal possible. We acknowledge the advice and assistance of our advisor, Dean Les Perelman, the professors who review our work, and the continued support of *The Tech*. We would also like to thank Dean Larry Benedict, as well as the UROP and RLSLP offices, for their financial support of *MURJ* this semester, which made this publication possible. Special thanks also go to the Departments of Materials Science and Engineering, Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Economics, Management, Aeronautics and Astronautics, Political Science, and Nuclear Engineering for their monetary contributions.

If what you read piques your interest, we invite your input for the Spring 2004 issue—to either join the *MURJ* team or submit reports on your own research. Submissions will be due by the middle of January 2003. Please email [murj-submit@mit.edu](mailto:murj-submit@mit.edu) or visit our website, <http://web.mit.edu/murj/www>, if you have any other questions or comments.

Sincerely,

The Editors of *MURJ*