

MURKIN Journal

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Undergraduate Research Journal

MIT Science News In Review

- 3 Materials Science and Engineering
- 3 Mathematics
- 4 Astronomy
- 6 Environmental Engineering
- 9 Brain and Cognitive Science

World Science News In Review

- 10 Astronomy
- 10 Medicine
- 12 Geology
- 12 Physics

Features

- 14 The Memory Pill: A Cure for Forgetfulness
Uta Maeda
- 17 e to the power of (i times pi) plus one equals zero
Sharon Chou
- 20 The Clean Air Mercury Rule: Understanding the Controversy
Michelle Zimmermann
- 25 The Future of Power
Ali Wyme

Reports

- 30 Applying Dynamic Markov Random Fields for Sensor Data Analysis
Jong-Moon Kim
- 37 Antitumor Effects of the Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor Suberoylanilide Hydroxamic Acid (SAHA) in Combination with the Microtubule-Stabilizing Agent Paclitaxel on Breast Cancer Cells
Hubert L. Roberts
- 44 Result of FASB 133 on Market Volatility in the Financial Services Sector
Andrew Alkon



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Welcome to the Spring 2006 issue of the *MIT Undergraduate Research Journal*. In this thirteenth edition of *MURJ*, we showcase research in sensor networks applied to forest fires, mathematically-induced poetry, new hope for memory pills, and look at a discussion on the future of world powers. Finally, this term our feature articles present a number of social and scientific issues in fields ranging from genetic engineering to digital music technologies.

As in the past, our goal is to make visible some of the research undertaken by members of the MIT community. We hope that this interdisciplinary publication 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.

Our profound gratitude goes to those who have helped us make this goal a reality again this year. We acknowledge Dean Larry Benedict and the MIT Fund, as well as the Undergraduate Association Finance Board, the UROP office, and Student Life Program office for their financial support of *MURJ*. Special thanks also go to the Departments of Materials Science and Engineering, Physics, Chemical Engineering, Aeronautics and Astronautics for their monetary contributions.

We are continually looking for dedicated staff members, and we encourage you to join our team of writers, editors, reviewers, and contributors. We hope this volume of *MURJ* will inspire you to join our journal by editing or by contributing your own work for the upcoming Fall 2006 issue. As a student-run, nonprofit journal that showcases the research of MIT undergraduate students, we do accept articles that have been published elsewhere. Submissions for the Fall issue are due on September 15, 2006.

To learn more about the *MIT Undergraduate Research Journal*, please email murj-public@mit.edu or visit our website, <http://web.mit.edu/murj>.

Sincerely,

The Editors of *MURJ*