

WUORJournal

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Undergraduate Research Journal

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Welcome to the Fall 2006 issue of the *MIT Undergraduate Research Journal*. In this fourteenth edition of *MURJ*, we showcase a variety of neuroscience research taking place at MIT and around the world. In recent years MIT has become increasingly focused on understanding the human brain. The new Brain and Cognitive Science Complex, the largest neuroscience research center in the world, officially opened in December 2005 and the Brain and Cognitive Science major is rapidly growing in size. Additionally, newly elected President Susan Hockfield, a neuroscientist by training, has made significant contributions to the field through her research in monoclonal antibody technology. Considering the unprecedented promise and progress occurring in the field, we felt that it was particularly important to highlight MIT's recent contributions to the ever-increasing body of knowledge about the brain.

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 Spring 2007 issue. As a student-run, nonprofit journal that showcases the research of MIT undergraduate students, we do accept articles that have been published elsewhere.

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

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