INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Dear Reader,

We feel the need to open this letter with an acknowledgment of our absence. In 2020, the Covid- 19 pandemic shut down much of the world, and we were not left unaffected. We used that time to reflect and improve, and now we are honored to present the nineteenth edition of the Stanford Undergraduate Research Journal. Since its founding in 2001, SURJ has produced intellectually vibrant collections of outstanding undergraduate research to celebrate students' accomplishments, share their discoveries, and promote an investigative spirit among undergraduates. We hope this new edition of SURJ conveys not only that, but also the immense effort put in by the editorial team to sweep up the cobwebs and produce this issue. We are proud to present the nineteenth issue of the Stanford Undergraduate Research Journal- a rolling issue that will be publishing articles through the quarter.

2022 was a tumultuous year. Amid Russia's war on Ukraine, the overturning of Roe v. Wade, and the resurgence of Covid-19 in China, science and society got ever so more complicated. In this environment, research and science communication is critical. In this edition, our authors take on several contemporary issues, from the long-lasting impact of the Syrian Civil War on its refugees, to the notion of "American Values" being applied to Roe v. Wade, to luxury marketing in China, to healthcare accessibility during the pandemic, and so much more.

We would like to thank Professor John Willinsky, our journal's advisor and professor emeritus at Stanford's Graduate School of Education for his unwavering support. It is with his guidance that we are able to operate this journal. We would also like to thank Mr. Wilson Wang, the Assistant Director of Data Science at the Graduate School of Education, for all his help in running the journal smoothly. Lastly, a special thanks to Ananya Navale '25 for the amazing cover photo that captures the beauty of the newly filled Lake Lagunita.

On behalf of the 2020-2023 SURJ staff, thank you for reading this journal. We hope you enjoy the work ahead.

Sincerely,
Katie Dong
Aaron Adam
Julia Johannsen
Tom Quach
Claire Luo
&
Nikhiya Shamsher
Editor-in-Chief