

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

We are incredibly excited to present the inaugural issue of the Cornell Undergraduate Research Journal (CURJ), Cornell's student-run bi-annual research publication featuring the exemplary scholarly work of Cornell undergraduates across all disciplines and fields. In creating this journal, we provide a platform for Cornell undergraduate students to showcase their exceptional scholarly work to the student body and to the general public, and offer the student body a wide range of academic perspectives, provoking intellectual pursuits and collaboration.

I would like to thank tremendously our fantastic team for their incredible work. This past academic year, our team has been hard at work building up this publication from the ground up, which is no easy feat. Our team has risen to the occasion and has overcome the many challenges along the way to create this publication.

This issue comes during a time of turmoil, from the ongoing Covid pandemic to the war in Ukraine. Throughout all this, research is a constant that continuously contributes to the betterment of society, the advancement of knowledge, and the improvement of lives. We are honored and proud to support and showcase the outstanding contributions of Cornell undergraduates to the world of research.

We received many excellent submissions spanning fields within STEM, humanities, and the social sciences. The selected submissions, presented here, have undergone an extensive review process by our editorial board, graduate student reviewers, and professors. We would like to thank immensely our authors, reviewers, and faculty advisors for their thoughtful contributions that greatly enriched this publication.

We would also like to express much gratitude to Ellen Hartman, Research Communications Director of Cornell Research, our organization's advisor, without whom this effort would not have been possible. Additionally, we would like to thank Gail Steinhart of the Cornell University Library for the library hosting and her advice and support.

We are thrilled to share with you this inaugural issue of CURJ and to present the outstanding research of Cornell undergraduates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Alkin". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Victoria Alkin  
Founder and Editor-In-Chief