

Foreword to first issue of the *Aresty Undergraduate Research Journal*

A unique resource for the Rutgers University community, the Aresty Research Center promotes the integral value of research in undergraduate education.

This inaugural issue of the journal expands the scope of research activities the Center offers to Rutgers undergraduates to include the peer-reviewed publication process – a crucial element of any structured research activity. Students can engage with the journal in a variety of roles that all professional researchers take at different times – those of the authors of scholarly publications, those of peer reviewers who ensure the quality and soundness of the published work, and those of editors who coordinate the review process.

It is gratifying to see this innovative concept come to fruition in the Fall of 2020. Seeded by the concept developed by a group of students and driven forward by their enthusiasm; shepherded through the stages of development through trials, and some inevitable errors, by the Aresty Center staff; enthusiastically supported by research and academic administrators; and made possible in its final form by the investment of personnel and resources by Rutgers University Libraries, the journal is an excellent example of what is possible at this great public research university.

Tireless efforts by students Prachi Srivastava and Frederic Kelada, patient guidance by the Aresty Center Director Tamiah Brevard, open-minded support by Dean Susan Lawrence, creative input from the Learning Centers Director Stacey Blackwell, and deep understanding of the publishing process both intellectual and practical by librarians Lily Todorinova and Rhonda Marker were all crucial for making this new Aresty Center initiative a success.

Congratulations, and with great hopes for the future of this endeavor,

Vadim Levin
Faculty Director of the Aresty Research Center
Professor, Earth and Planetary Sciences,
Rutgers University-New Brunswick