

# FOREWORD TO VOLUME I, ISSUE IV

## ARESTY RUTGERS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL



Welcome to the fourth issue of the Aresty Rutgers Undergraduate Research Journal! This issue exhibits the accomplishments of a diverse set of bright minds emerging from the Rutgers undergraduate community. Their work focuses on tackling interdisciplinary challenges and contributing to dialogues at the frontiers of research in the sciences and humanities. Tracking the dynamic carbonate chemistry of our oceans, using *in silico* techniques to examine the pharmacological potential of specific medicinal plants, and assessing the social value of the American shopping mall - all of these topics and more - are explored within this issue. The Aresty RURJ is incredibly proud to showcase these students' achievements through their writing and is eager to see what they achieve next.

This issue marks the Aresty RURJ's first iteration with a significant change in student leadership; all students involved with the journal at its inception in 2020 have moved on. Just as our submissions receive rigorous peer review, the Aresty RURJ is undergoing its own version of peer review as new minds on the editorial team evaluate and revise the journal. We are constantly striving to streamline our standard practices and procedures while seeking and developing new initiatives for the Aresty RURJ to grow. We are confident that the future of the Aresty RURJ is abundant in these opportunities.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the many influential people whose efforts and commitment to the Aresty RURJ were paramount in the making of this issue. Thank you to the editorial team (Reviewer Program Director, Managing Director, Chief Copy Editor, and Marketing Director) for exceeding expectations in taking on and managing various responsibilities involved in running the Aresty RURJ. Thank you to the faculty and staff at the Aresty Research Center and Rutgers Libraries for their helpful mentoring and guidance throughout our transition. Lastly, thank you to all of our reviewers and copy editors who devoted their time to reading and polishing the manuscripts presented in this issue—undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty alike. Each and every reviewer is fundamental to the success of the peer review process.

We hope you follow our journey as we continue to capture a glimpse into the exciting and expansive world of undergraduate research hosted across Rutgers. Thank you for reading!

ARESTY RURJ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,

JASON KAWALEC