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# Letter from the Editors

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Greetings and a warm welcome to our second issue of the Journal of Undergraduate Research in Alberta! We are the new editors for JURA and couldn't be more excited to have the opportunity to grow the impact and reach of this journal. We are immensely proud of the submissions we received this year. The calibre of research being performed by undergraduate students at the University of Calgary is truly awe-inspiring and we are so happy to have the opportunity to showcase it.

For this year, we set out to create a new website, an efficient online submission process, and a more established presence at the University of Calgary. In this year's issue, we have contributions from undergraduate students in Dr. David Cramb's, and Dr. Walter Herzog's research groups. Dr. David Cramb's research involves a Nanoscience approach to understanding pain transduction, nanotoxicology, degenerative retinal disease and DNA repair. His lab is also part of Canada's first university led NanoProfessor Nanoscience Education Program, exposing students and researchers to cutting-edge instrumentation used to create nanomaterials.

Dr. Walter Herzog's research is focused on the neuro-biomechanics of the musculoskeletal system. His research is relevant to furthering nanotechnology research and development, while providing the basis for medical breakthroughs in treating diseases such as osteoarthritis.

Thank you to all of the authors and supervisors involved in this year's issue. We truly appreciate your support! As well, thank you to all of the faculty and graduate reviewers involved in the peer-review process of our submissions this year. Without your help, we would not be able to maintain such a high standard of published articles.

What you will find in the pages of this year's issue are scientific articles that reflect the integrity and dedication of undergraduates in research at the University of Calgary. In addition to this issue, you will find supplementary issues of published abstracts from the 2012 NSERC CREATE Undergraduate Symposium, and the 2012 Bachelor of Health Sciences Undergraduate Symposium on our website.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and are thrilled to have you as a reader of JURA.

Sincerely,

Swathi Damaraju & Emily Bishop  
Editors for the Journal of Undergraduate Research in Alberta