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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the Spring issue [volume 23 (1)] of the *Inquiry Journal*. At the outset, we would like to thank Dr. Margaret Sova McCabe, Interim Vice Chancellor of the Division of Research & Innovation (DRI) for her unflinching support to the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) in all its endeavors to improve the quality of undergraduate research on this campus. We would also like to express gratitude to Dr. Cynthia Sides, Assistant Vice Chancellor of DRI, and her staff for their relentless behind-the-scenes efforts to support the multitude of activities undertaken by OUR. I would like to take this opportunity to personally offer my big thank you to Amy Epps, the Undergraduate Research Coordinator, for her untiring efforts to carry on the activities undertaken by OUR, especially for her role in coordinating the stringent peer-review of manuscripts submitted for plausible publication in the *Inquiry Journal*. This is no small feat, as the high standards she upholds significantly contribute to the *Inquiry Journal's* esteemed reputation. We hope to receive continued support of our faculty and the undergraduate student community to the *Inquiry Journal*.

We are pleased that the journal has been receiving high-quality research papers from undergraduate students and institutions abroad, as can be observed from the [Readership Dashboard](#) from January to June 2024. This issue features a research article from Neelabh Datta, an undergraduate student from the University of Kolkata, India, which elucidates the molecular mechanisms on how damaged DNA in cancer cells activate the cellular alarm system, cGAS-STING. We congratulate Neelabh on his outstanding undergraduate research and thank him for considering the *Inquiry Journal* as an avenue to disseminate his high-quality research. The issue also features a research article entitled “Assessing Teachers’ Dispositions Towards Culturally

Responsive Pedagogy in Northwest Arkansas High Schools” by Rylie Ford, an undergraduate student from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education and Health Professions, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Based on an extensive online survey, Rylie reports that NWA secondary teachers have a positive perception toward culturally responsive pedagogical practices. Further, Rylie’s research concludes that factors such as the subject area and working experience of the teachers significantly impact teacher dispositions. We congratulate Rylie for her interesting research. Finally, we congratulate Matt Coutts and coworkers, from the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, on their research article which analyzes different vision-language models for memory consolidation. Their research suggests interesting leads to effective memory consolidation operations. We applaud Matt and his coworkers for their fascinating and valuable research reported in this issue of the *Inquiry Journal*.

The visibility and access of the journal has significantly increased. In this context, we would like to congratulate both the undergraduate students and their faculty mentors for considering the *Inquiry Journal* as an avenue to publish their research. Given its global impact, we are quite hopeful that the faculty on this campus will seriously consider the *Inquiry Journal* as a venue for publishing their best research in the future. The *Inquiry Journal* is published as a digital repository (ScholarWorks@UARK) and is amenable to citation in research articles published in other research repositories. In this context, we would like to personally thank the faculty who had generously allocated their precious time to peer review research papers published in the *Inquiry Journal*. We believe that the academic rigor afforded *via* the peer-review process is one of the main reasons for the reliability and current high worldwide visibility of the journal.

Credit is also due to Sophia Nourani, a former undergraduate student worker, who tirelessly strived hard to interview the faculty who have shown significant interest to provide opportunities to undergraduate students to get involved with their high-quality research. This issue highlights two such outstanding faculty members, Dr. Jeffery Lewis (Department of Biological Sciences) and Dr. Xiangbo Meng (Department of Mechanical Engineering), who have a wonderful track record of working with undergraduate students. I salute these faculty members for their commitment to support high-quality undergraduate research on this campus.

Our special thanks also go to Dr. Suzanne McCray, Vice Provost, Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA), Emily Wright, Senior Associate Director, ONCA, and Dr. Chelsea Hodge, Director of Grants and Research Innovation, Honors College, for their contributions to material(s) published as the ONCA Notice and Honors Corner. It will be our endeavor to permanently feature both Honors Corner and ONCA Notice in the future issues of the *Inquiry Journal*. Lastly, we greatly acknowledge the help provided by Dr. Melody Herr for her constant encouragement and help in improving avenues to make the *Inquiry Journal* more accessible to a larger audience. We hope to continue working with all stakeholders in our pursuit to include additional new features in the *Inquiry Journal* which will be likely to be of broad interest to the undergraduate students on this campus.

Suresh K. Thallapuram

Director, Office of Undergraduate Research

Division of Research & Innovation