A welcome from the SURG Editor-in-Chief

It is my pleasure to present to you the Fall 2016 issue of Studies by Undergraduate Researchers at Guelph (SURG), the 17th installment of the University of Guelph’s multidisciplinary, faculty-reviewed undergraduate research journal. With contributions from students of the College of Arts, College of Biological Sciences, College of Social and Applied Human Sciences, Ontario Agricultural College, and Ontario Veterinary College, SURG continues to highlight the undergraduate research conducted in all disciplines at the University of Guelph. While the current issue speaks to the breadth and diversity of undergraduate research, many of the articles deal with topics of regional and local interest. A study by Adrian Helmers et al. examines the impacts of human activity on plant species richness in the lakes of Ontario’s Algonquin Provincial Park. Tara Sutton probes the relationship between income inequality and public support for welfare spending, both in Ontario and across Canada. The next two articles delve into local hydrogeology and history. Andrew Wicke et al. investigate and model groundwater flow at the University of Guelph’s Arboretum. Tasha Falconer explores women’s wartime education at the Macdonald Institute, one of the University of Guelph’s three founding colleges. Although regional and local in their investigative focuses, these studies have implications relevant to environmental management, public policy, and to our understandings of the Canadian home front during the First and Second World Wars.

Following these studies, a review article by Suzanna Tai discusses the literature concerning mitochondrial replacement therapy and the so-called “three parent baby.” Her article provides a timely assessment of the novel techniques currently being developed and implemented in this innovative (and controversial) area of assisted reproductive technology. Concluding the issue is a Special Series containing a selection of research abstracts from the Ontario Veterinary College’s Summer 2016 Career Opportunities and Research Experience (CORE) Program.

I am grateful to the SURG editorial team, the staff at the Office of Research, and the faculty reviewers at the University of Guelph, who all play an integral role in SURG’s operations. In preparing this issue, I have benefitted from the advice and guidance of Anita Acai, Karl Cottenie, Liz Snyder, Owen Roberts, and Wayne Johnston, and I extend my thanks to each of them. Finally, I thank the authors whose work comprises the current issue, and our readers, both at and beyond the University of Guelph.

I hope that you enjoy your reading.

Sincerely,

Jack McCart
Editor-in-Chief, SURG.