Dear Rochester Community,

As we progress in our increasingly specialized academic careers, it becomes especially important to understand how our work fits in a larger framework of knowledge. Insight often comes from unexpected places; Jorge Luis Borges found literary genius in the paradoxical nature of time, while Kekulé conceived the structure of benzene by dreaming of a snake. Some of our greatest thinkers have come to their insights by setting their current problems aside and allowing their minds to roam. The *Journal of Undergraduate Research (jur)* editorial board envisioned a non-technical, cross-disciplinary forum that would enrich our knowledge – through primary research – of the subjects we know best, and afford us the opportunity to greater understand those we know least. Our intentions are to foster a culture of research and academic exchange by reading about the accomplishments of our peers, and inspiring others to continue or begin their own. In this spirit, we present the premiere issue of *jur*.

We have included an array of articles that range from topics in poetry to protein biochemistry written by freshman through seniors. We have tried to represent as many disciplines as possible through the excellence and commitment of our contributors. In addition, this journal features a general review, allowing a broader overview of a specific field.

*jur* is a student organized and produced publication, and I would like to thank our staff for the substantial time and effort required to produce this journal. This has been a tremendous learning experience, and we received excellent advice, guidance and resources from Professor Thomas Krugh. With his encouragement, Deepak Sohrai and I were able to initiate this endeavor. Financial support from the Dean of the College, Students’ Association, and numerous academic departments has enabled us to provide *jur* free of charge.

We invite the University of Rochester undergraduate community to contribute their original research, letters, or reviews to the Spring 2003 issue of *jur*. Also, we are actively looking to expand the *jur* staff. Please e-mail journal@rochester.edu or visit our website jur.rochester.edu for further information.

Sincerely,

Prabhjot “Jot” Singh Dhadialla ’03
Editor–in–Chief

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From the Editor