



Life Sciences

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As the Trinity Student Scientific Review journal enters its second year of publication the notable splitting of the “Biology” category means that there is now a distinct “Life Sciences” category. Life Sciences is a suitable catch-all term for scientific work investigating living organisms, without ignoring technological, pharmaceutical, and even ethical considerations pertaining to that research. It is broad enough to provide scope for a vast array of research fields and indeed all of the submissions and the successful publications this year reflect that diversity.

This last year has seen amazing scientific advances in life sciences and many of the publications this year reveal that those novel developments are being taught in University and inspiring undergraduates to do their own research into those fields. This year TSSR addresses the novel, and somewhat controversial genome editing technology CRISPR/Cas9, which uses guideRNA to target specific genes. CRISPR technology has been in the news since the National Institute of Health, the major scientific funding body in the USA, announced that they would not be funding CRISPR technology research involving human development until further ethical discussions and concerns were addressed. Advancements in genetics, epigenetics, transcription and the broad spectrum of RNAs, including long non-coding RNA and competitive endogenous RNA, are other prominent areas of research that made the short list for publication. Research into biomolecular targets in oncology continues to be in demand, with the hunt for specific targets, and small molecules and biologicals to inhibit them. The immune system and immune-modulatory effects on organ systems remains a popular and ever growing area of research. The fact that authors captured some of the hottest areas currently in the life science field is a testament to their understanding and engagement with scientific academia, industry and the world of research.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to Prof. Rachel McLoughlin who is an unwavering support to the TSSR and makes sure always to consider the long term goals and vision for the journal. The editing and reviewing of the submissions were done by a dedicated team including David O’Driscoll, Ciaran Doyle, Proinnsias Fox, Mimmi Lundahl, Alexandros Rammos, Peter O’Byrne and Daniel Johnston. I am indebted to them for their support throughout the editing process.

Finally, all authors that submitted to the TSSR must be thanked. It is daunting submitting your own work for review and critique, and we do not underestimate the work and time that we are sure went into producing their submission, irrespective of whether they were published. We are proud to establish a constructive forum for feedback to authors that were not published and want to heavily encourage them to re-submit in the future.

Amy Worrall
Life Sciences Editor
Trinity Student Scientific Review 2016

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