

Eureka is a student-founded and student-run initiative whose mission is to promote the world class undergraduate research done in the faculty of science. This journal offers undergraduate scientists the unique opportunity to share their discoveries with the scientific world, while learning the peer review process. Most undergraduate students do not get to experience the publication process as part of their scientific education. *Eureka* is an educational institution, with a diverse team of reviewers from many scientific backgrounds. Through clear, effective scientific writing students will be able to work together with faculty members to promote University of Alberta science.

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EUREKA: A BEACON FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Many undergraduates consider research and graduate school as a possible next step after graduating with their BSc. However, many of these students have never tried research prior to embarking on this journey. Considering that getting a Master's degree is a major life decision, one should do their best to ensure that research is right for them.

Rather than postponing this journey until graduate school, 'inspired' undergraduates may want to begin early and try their hand at research while still an undergraduate. Most departments offer fourth year (usually '499') and even second year ('299') independent study courses, as well as Honour's degrees, where students can sample what research is like, rather than diving right into a Master's degree. Nonetheless, many students do not know what undergraduates can do within a research environment – and that's where *Eureka* steps in.

Eureka's purpose is to showcase the research that undergraduate science students at the University of Alberta have done. First and foremost, I hope that *Eureka* serves to educate junior undergraduates of the possibilities available to them, by seeing what their slightly older peers have accomplished. As an added benefit, by publishing their work in a lightly peer-reviewed venue, senior undergraduates can experience the peer review process firsthand and include the publication on their CV, as well as in graduate school applications, potentially tipping the admissions committee in their favor.

Research done by undergraduates can range from such diverse topics as advances in islet transplantation (page 28), evaluating empathetic communication in Pharmacy students (page 10), and developing new technologies for interacting with computers (page 24). You can never start research too early, as demonstrated by one review paper by a Science 100 student (page 43). Additionally, *Eureka* also features several interview and editorial pieces done by our staff, such as on the role of the pharmacist in society (page 2) and on how to choose a graduate school (page 4). *Eureka* itself is also growing, as an article in our previous issue of *Eureka* sparked an undergraduate in Argentina to also submit his work to us (page 35).

If you are a senior undergraduate just finishing a research project, or are starting to work on one over the summer – talk to your supervisor about publishing your research work in *Eureka*.

Please visit <http://www.eurekajournal.com> for more details on publishing your research with *Eureka*.

Hopefully you feel inspired to do research after reading through this issue of *Eureka* – I know I sure am.



A handwritten signature of Christopher Madan in black ink.

Christopher R Madan
Eureka Editor-in-Chief