

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

I am pleased to announce the 2016 issue of the Proceedings of the Manitoba Undergraduate Science and Engineering Research (PMUSER). This is the first PMUSER publication since the inaugural issue in 2013. Our small but dedicated team has worked hard over the past year to lift the journal from its hiatus and renew interest in PMUSER.

I want to give a special thanks to our layout editor Kyle Morris who worked tirelessly to transform each word document into formatted articles. Articles in this issue include the study of snowshoe hare populations in Churchill, MB, understanding a pathogenic bacterium known to cause life-threatening infections in cystic-fibrosis patients, and using laboratory toxicity testing to support outcomes of ecological risk assessments for herbicides. The 2016 issue highlights some of the exciting and game changing research undergraduate students are doing at the University of Manitoba.

A clear goal and benefit of this journal is to provide the opportunity for undergraduate student to publish and highlight their research in a formal, peer-reviewed venue. I want to congratulate all of the students who contributed their high-quality research to the 2016 issue of PMUSER. Fantastic job! As any researcher knows (and these students can now count themselves among these ranks) one of the most important steps in communicating scientific findings happens behind the scenes during the peer-review process.

As a For Student – By Student journal, all submissions to PMUSER are subjected to peer-review, including assessment by senior undergraduate students. This helps teach these young scientists to critically assess scientific studies and responsibly relay constructive criticism to the authors. I want to thank all of the volunteer reviewers without whom this journal would not be possible. PMUSER is proud to help foster these valuable and transferable skills in our student contributors, both authors and reviewers.

Lastly, I would like to make an appeal to the many scientific disciplines not represented in this issue of PMUSER. Physics, chemistry, engineering, soil science, computer science I know for a fact there is fantastic research going on in these departments and faculties, and much of it is done by undergraduates. I highly encourage you to consider PMUSER as a venue for your future student projects.

Sincerely,



Jonathan K. Challis
PMUSER Editor-in-Chief