

Letter From The Editor

Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.

- Albert Szent-Györgyi

Over the years, my involvement as an editor in *Aleph* has been nothing short of eye-opening. Witnessing the breadth and depth in the level of research conducted by fellow undergraduates at UCLA has truly been inspiring. *Aleph* has served as a gateway, providing a platform for students to share their intellectual pursuits and showcase their discoveries to a wider audience. It has been a deep honor to be part of the organization as an editor and later Editor-In-Chief and witness the incredible scholarship that emerges from our vibrant academic community each year.

The 20th anniversary of *Aleph* is not just a celebration of time passed; it is a testament to the dedication and passion of countless individuals who have contributed to its growth and success. From its earliest members who laid the groundwork two decades ago to the current generation of editors, staff, and authors, each person has played a pivotal role in shaping this journal into what it is today. It is a collective effort, driven by a shared commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of undergraduate research at UCLA. Engaging in scholarly inquiry opens our minds to new perspectives, challenges preconceived notions, and pushes the boundaries of our understanding. We have the opportunity to delve into unexplored realms, asking questions that lead to profound insights and breakthroughs. It is a journey that not only enriches our own intellectual growth but also contributes to the wider body of knowledge, shaping our disciplines and society as a whole.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the entire *Aleph* team—our dedicated staff, board members, faculty advisor Dr. Kelly Kistner, and graduate mentor Jason Araújo. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have been instrumental in ensuring the continued success of *Aleph*. This year, in particular, has been marked by numerous challenges, and yet, through our collective resilience and determination, we have persevered, producing an exceptional edition that showcases the very best of undergraduate research.

To our authors, I offer my deepest admiration for your scholarly endeavors. Your passion, curiosity, and intellectual rigor shine through in the pages of this journal. Each of your individual articles is a testament to your dedication and the profound impact of your research. Your contributions serve as an inspiration to future generations of students, encouraging them to pursue their academic endeavors and make meaningful contributions to their fields of study.

As we embark on the next 20 years of *Aleph*, I hope we may continue to foster a culture of intellectual curiosity, innovation, and collaboration to push the boundaries of our knowledge and make a lasting impact in our undergraduate community. I invite you to explore the expanse of research within these pages, as we celebrate the achievements of our remarkable contributors and the vibrant legacy of *Aleph*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Biona Hui', with a stylized, cursive script.

Biona Hui
Editor-in-Chief, 2022-2023