

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Reader,

Thank you for being a part of the fourth issue of the Challenger Research Journal. To provide you with a brief introduction to Challenger's history, the Challenger Research Journal was established in 2019 by UC San Diego undergraduate students, under the guidance of the Undergraduate Research Hub. Since then, four volumes have been published, including this one. Our foundation rests on a mission of inclusivity and advocacy for the advancement of student researchers, especially those who are minorities, underserved, and underrepresented in education and in research specifically. We take pride in publishing the works of Challenger scholars on E-Scholarship, along with other platforms, where their recognition and research are highlighted.

The collection of papers we received and accepted this year profoundly delves into and explores some of the most pressing issues in society and our rapidly evolving digital world. Starting with our current concerns regarding the battle against misinformation and the selective portrayal of information to the advantage or detriment of certain parties, student author Zerui Pan discusses the impact of state censorship in China and Japan during the 1930s and 1940s on culture and traditions. Pan underscores the adverse effects of censorship as it resulted in the suppression and attempted eradication of certain film subgenres in the respective countries mentioned. While this paper focuses on a specific segment of society subjected to censorship, it emphasizes the significance of freely expressing ideas without selective or complete censorship.

Furthermore, in light of the recent widespread introduction and accessibility of artificial intelligence (AI), student author Christian Flores explores the public perception of artificial intelligence in high-risk domains. As AI becomes increasingly integrated into various aspects of society, this paper significantly contributes to our comprehension of the discourse surrounding AI and the associated issues. Flores identifies areas for improvement in establishing more ethical AI systems.

Continuing with the scholarship and research into the utilization of gene editing techniques as a means of providing medicines and understanding diseases, student author Mohnish Alishala aims to understand the mechanism of a surface receptor present during tissue injury in macrophages through Cas9 gene editing. Gene editing has become a promising tool that alters our current scientific understanding, and Alishala's paper demonstrates an example of the myriad uses of gene editing.

This volume represents the culmination of a year's worth of tireless work by our board members, student authors, mentors, and advisors. Together, we are immensely proud to present this volume and all the individuals who have contributed to bringing it to life. We sincerely thank you for your support in reading and engaging with the papers authored by our talented students.

Sincerely,
Farah Haleem and Sally Guan
Co-Editors-in-Chief