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Note from the Editor

Consider that a mission to the Moon, nuclear power, and the Internet were each once thought of as heralding a new generation. Today, we live in that generation. We think instead about the impact of bigger and better ideas, like plans for a human colony on Mars, or the capacity to genotype thousands of consumers curious about their DNA. We are witnesses also to smaller and savvier advances: proteins and viruses that can reach intracellular targets with astonishing precision; smartphones, smart watches, and even smart fridges.

All of these topics and more are explored in the following pages, in which our writers detail not only the marvels of accelerated scientific progress, but also the unavoidable ethical and logistic dilemmas brought by such progress. In our interviews with three Berkeley professors, we ask about the implications of their pioneering work in the distinct fields of psychology, ecology, and neurobiology. Notably, as undergraduate students at UC Berkeley, we are lucky to attend a school that houses so many labs powering next-generation research.

What is considered 'next-generation' has always been a relative concept—an event or advancement that feels as if it could belong in another lifetime. By exploring today's 'futuristic' areas of science, this issue, I hope, will make them seem more familiar.

—Rachel Lew, Editor-in-Chief



Table of Contents

Features

Cancer Drugs: Targeting Undruggable Proteins (Yana Petri).....	pg.1
Drug Delivery: Steps Toward Replacing the Pill (Shivali Baveja).....	pg.4
The Road to the Red Planet (Matt Lundy).....	pg.7
The Future of Privacy and Cybersecurity (Jennifer Zeng).....	pg.10
Tackling Complex Diseases with Epistasis (Kara Jia).....	pg.13
Drawing the Line between Predators and Livestock (Lara Volski).....	pg.16
Going Public with Personal Genetics (Marie Balfour).....	pg.19
Crossing the Synaptic Cleft: Treating Autism Spectrum Disorder (Sanika Ganesh).....	pg.23
The Future of Work (Macy Chang).....	pg.27
Powering the Future with Hydrogen Fuel Cells (Mina Nakatani).....	pg.30
Nanomedicine and Its Various Applications (Nicole Xu).....	pg.33

Interviews

Shifting Power Dynamics: The #MeToo Movement (Arjun Chandran, Cassidy Hardin, Michelle Lee, Melanie Russo, & Yana Petri).....	pg.35
Explaining Patterns in Ecology: Climate Manipulation and Mathematical Modeling (Nikhil Chari, Rosa Lee, Phillip de Lorimier, Moe Mijjum, Sona Trika, & Elena Slobodyanyuk).....	pg.39
Adeno-Associated Viruses: Vehicles for Retinal Gene Therapy (Arjun Chandran, Cassidy Hardin, Michelle Lee, Melanie Russo, & Elena Slobodyanyuk).....	pg.44
Tips on Science Careers: Your Graduate Student Instructors Share Wisdom (Arjun Chandran, Nihikil Chari, Cassidy Hardin, Michelle Lee, Rosa Lee, Phillip de Lorimier, Moe Mijjum, Melanie Russo, & Sona Trika).....	pg.49

Research

The Mysterious Loss of the Third Molar in the New World Monkey Family <i>Callitrichidae</i> and its Relationship to Phyletic Dwarfism (Jeffrey L. Coleman).....	pg.53
Assessment on Interoperability of Health Information Exchanges (Varun Neil Wadhwa).....	pg.60

