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EDITOR'S NOTE



Yana Petri



Aarohi Bhargava-Shah

Crisis. In many ways, the theme of this issue evokes a sentiment that has been particularly salient in our community during the past few months. The 2018 wildfires that ravaged several parts of California for days on end—and personally affected many students right here on campus—were some of the most destructive and deadly on record. On a national scale, the continuing opioid addiction epidemic constitutes one of our nation's foremost public health crises. And, of course, the sustained political moment in which we have found ourselves of late has left citizens of all political persuasions feeling distrustful and disillusioned by our leaders.

But while these crises vary in magnitude and scope, they each, in their own way, have either been grounded in scientific phenomena or made an indelible impact on scientific discourse. In this issue, our dedicated team of writers and editors seeks to explore this intricate relationship between scientific progress and these critical moments in our society, by tackling a wide range of issues. What, for example, are the ecological and economic impacts of constructing dams in areas of great biodiversity? How are leading experts such as Professor Eva Harris, Director of the Center for Global Public Health at Berkeley, leading the charge in tackling massive global health epidemics such as Zika and dengue? Taking a look inward, how might scientists alter the way they communicate with the public to combat misinformation with facts? As ever, we find that even the most intractable challenges have solutions that lie in the fascinating discoveries being made by scientists all over the world every day.

The *Berkeley Scientific Journal* is proud to report that it continues to uphold its commitment to responsible science journalism while making innovative strides in its mission of improving scientific literacy and training students in producing clear written and visual communication. For the first time ever, our team of editors hosted a hands-on science demonstration at the Bay Area Science Festival, which garnered an enthusiastic response. And with the continued support of our community of readers, we raised over \$3000 this year through our Crowdfunding campaign, allowing us to pursue even more exciting projects such as the publication of this journal in print.

With these bright prospects ahead, we are thrilled to present this thought-provoking issue of the *Berkeley Scientific Journal*.

Aarohi Bhargava-Shah
Managing Editor