

Editor's Note



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In Greek mythology, the Chimera refers to a fire-breathing creature with the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a snake—an impossible fusion which illustrates the harmony born through the union of disparate forms into a singular, awe-inspiring whole. Within the scientific community, this creative idea of hybridization and synthesis underlies modern innovation, where the fusion of diverse fields, perspectives, and technologies drives discovery and reshapes our understanding of what was once thought impossible.

In today's world, where the rapid spread of misinformation and attacks on science threaten public understanding, we at the *Berkeley Scientific Journal* (BSJ) believe the role of accessible, evidence-based science journalism has never been more critical. This semester, our team of science journalists worked to translate the intricate discoveries resulting from the chimeric convergence of ideas, methods, and disciplines to bridge the gap between researchers and the community at large. From examining the cancer-targeting potential of CAR T-Cells, a literal scientific chimera of engineered receptors with patient immune cells (Features Writer Harjyot Kaur), to investigating how inequitable systems perpetuate environmental racism and injustice through an interdisciplinary lens combining ecological science and policy (Interview with Dr. Michael Mascarenhas), we invite our readers to appreciate how collaboration between diverse ideas and perspectives may inspire creative solutions which address the complex challenges facing society today. Additionally, as part of BSJ's mission to inspire the next generation of scientists through accessible science communication, we are excited to share our first journal publication involving our new high school science journalism program—an initiative dedicated to fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and youth interest in STEM in the Berkeley community and beyond. Through this outreach project, we aim to empower young scientists with the tools to pursue a career in STEM and do our part in ensuring science education continues to resonate across future generations.

With this latest issue, our team at BSJ hopes to illustrate how the fusion of ideas and expertise—like the chimera itself—may provide the tools to illuminate the present and inspire the future. As you read through the articles, interviews, and insights within this Journal, we encourage you to examine how this chimeric spirit of interdisciplinary collaboration may form the foundation for confronting scientific and societal challenges of today.

For Spring 2025, we proudly present the latest edition of the *Berkeley Scientific Journal: Chimera*.

Staff

Features

Aimee Richards
Daphne Huang
Ellie Pitcher
Harjyot Kaur
Jamie Schwarz
Kalyani Puthenpurayil
Lakshya Alagan
Isabelle Cherry
Logan Roscoe
Norah Hom
Ruben Servin Leyva
Sania Moghe
Aditi Pangal

Interviews

Alma Razavilar
Ana Sofia Brito
Aneesa Mustafa
Brandon Bosch
Cali Bond
Catherine Tran
Grace Zhou
Haifa Maung
Isabella Monet Mendoza
Lara Nadine Potgieter
Rami Kabakibi
Rian Grant
Rohit Divekar
Samika Arun

Research & Blogs

Alex Shaw Jr.
Crystal Xu
Maanini Lakshmanan
Medha Madhav
Prajanya Kannan
Priyam Baruah
Emma Bi

Design

Aubrey Fife
Rohit Divekar
Prajanya Kannan
Harjyot Kaur
Grace Zhou

Copy

Rian Grant
Norah Hom