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Front Matter

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Dear Reader,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the 13th volume of *Pursuit: The Journal of Undergraduate Research at the University of Tennessee*.

In the past few decades, undergraduate research has become a core component of many students' college experiences, one that leads to exceptional and diverse careers. *Pursuit* is delighted to be able to celebrate and share the achievements of the six undergraduate authors contained within this issue. Articles come to us from universities across the globe, attesting to the aspirations and talent of young people worldwide, including at our own University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is rapidly increasing the number of its students participating in undergraduate research, in part due to the efforts of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (<https://studentsuccess.utk.edu/urf/>). *Pursuit* is fortunate to be a part of this growth in intellectual curiosity. We are optimistic about the continued growth of undergraduate research under the tenure of our esteemed faculty and university administration. *Pursuit* is the product of many undergraduates' efforts, from our Editorial and Review Boards to our authors themselves. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the students, faculty, and staff who have contributed to the production of this year's volume. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Janna Harvey and Dr. Charli Elder for their continued support and advice throughout the year. Finally, I would like to commend our undergraduate authors once again for their initiative and drive to engage in and publish their research. .



Best regards,

Presley Nichols
Editor-in-Chief



Volume 13, Issue 1 (2025)

Articles

The House of AI: Intellectual Property Law as it relates to Generative AI and Fashion
Abhilasha Praveen..... 7

Investigating corollaries between *Streptococcus gallolyticus* subsp. *gallolyticus* virulence and colorectal cancer
Tyler Myers..... 44

Conjoined Twins and Abortion Restrictions: Navigating ‘Ban State’ Challenges, a Case Report
Beau Morgan, NRP, Aaron Campbell, M.D., Leilah Zahedi-Spung, M.D., FACOG..... 64

Pedaling Through Discomfort: A Feasibility Study of Faculty-Led Spin Classes and Their Impact on Student Engagement, Resilience, and Faculty-Student Relationships
Gabriela Baza, Elizabeth Hathaway.....75

Insecure Attachment Predicts Poor Sexual Communication Among Emerging Adults
Carson O’Leary..... 87

