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Welcome to Spora

Editorial Board

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Cover Page Footnote

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Abstract

This report provides a brief introduction to Spora and what you can expect from the articles included in this volume.

Keywords: undergraduate research, mathematical biology, faculty coauthors, open-access

1 Breaking ground in undergraduate research

With the completion of *Spora*'s second year in existence, we are proud of how far we have come and excited for what lies ahead. We remain the only journal dedicated to biomathematical research conducted by undergraduate researchers and their faculty mentors. *Spora* continues to publish high quality manuscripts from primarily undergraduate authors whose research describes mathematical and statistical techniques to solve problems in biological settings. Submitted papers may take various forms including development of a mathematical model of a biological system, possibly including experimental work; development of a particular solution or method related to biological systems; or computational, statistical, or theoretical analysis of existing mathematical models in biology. As can be seen from our first volume as well as this current volume, manuscripts demonstrate an appropriate range of interdisciplinary content and clear exposition at a level expected from graduate authors, proof that our student authors have gone far above and beyond what would be considered as typical expectations of undergraduates.

Spora publishes results from two categories: research and exposition. Regardless of the category, at least 50% of the authors must be undergraduates at the time the work was completed.

The research section publishes high quality articles, written (or co-written) by students during their undergraduate careers, of novel, as well as established, mathematical and statistical approaches to biological hypotheses. Manuscripts should employ an interdisciplinary approach and should be of interest to a wide spectrum of scientists from related fields. Interdisciplinary research from any sub-discipline within the life sciences in conjunction with any sub-discipline within the mathematical and statistical sciences is given full consideration.

The exposition section publishes high quality expository articles, written by students during their undergraduate careers, that describe particular areas of mathematical biology research. Manuscripts may consist of undergraduate capstone projects or reviews, consisting of critical and constructive analysis of the literature in a specific field. For reviews, it is also appropriate to include mention of relevant software or instrumentation.

2 Advantages of publishing in Spora

In addition to filling above listed gaps in the existing literature, this journal remains the only refereed journal in the world dedicated to undergraduate research in biomathematics.

A primary goal of *Spora* is to make undergraduate research in biomathematics freely and quickly accessible to the public. Thus this journal is further set apart from existing journals in its fast review and rapid turnaround (generally within two short months), open access to readers, and low publication fee.

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