To the community,

The Asian American Research Journal (AARJ) was founded in 2020 as the first Asian American research journal at UC Berkeley. We continue to honor this legacy of student activism by providing a space for students to engage with scholarship. Although our journal was unable to publish the previous academic year, it has since been rebuilt with the goal of creating a more sustainable avenue for student engagement and research. While the world around us continues to shift quickly and shape who is welcomed into certain spaces, student voices remain vital in understanding the needs of our communities and creating change.

In response to these influences, the AARJ remains committed to creating an outlet for students to share research centered on Asian American and Asian diasporic communities far and wide. Our journal's fifth volume, *Bodies of Belonging*, explores how belonging, exclusion, and identity are experienced through the body. Our bodies carry deep histories molded by institutions and social conditions. The works in this volume examine questions of visibility, marginalization, care, health, identity, and community across disciplines. We recognize and highlight experiences that have often been overlooked in academia.

In times of uncertainty, communities organize and learn from one another. This volume is a reminder of the power of our individual voices within the broader world. I am truly grateful for the sincere dedication of every author, editor, faculty member, and individual from the broader AARJ community that has supported this journal. This volume would not have been possible otherwise. I hope *Bodies of Belonging* serves as both a collection of meaningful scholarship and a reminder that exclusion has never meant silence.

In Solidarity,

Harnoor Gill
Editor in Chief, 2025–2026