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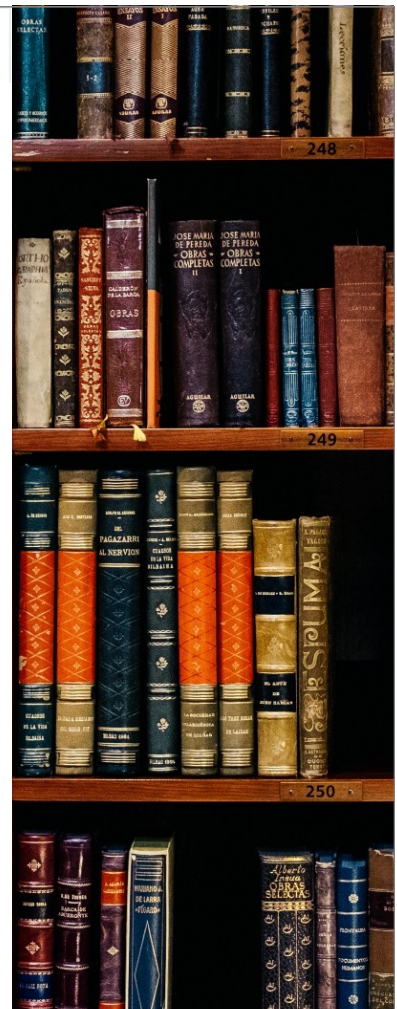


University of California Merced

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL
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The editorial staff of the *University of California, Merced Undergraduate Research Journal*, more commonly known as the *URJ*, is proud to present the Academic Year 2018-2019 edition of the journal. The *URJ* selectively publishes the works of UC Merced undergraduate students in an effort to give our best student researchers and writers the widest possible platform for exposure. In this issue of the *Undergraduate Research Journal*, we continue the tradition of publishing excellence in research by presenting ten projects from UCM students across our campus's academic disciplines. These authors' texts exemplify the high standards that all UC Merced undergraduates should strive to achieve in their scholarly endeavors.

- URJ Editorial Staff



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2018-2019 KAREN MERRITT AWARD WINNER

The Karen Merritt Award recognizes the author of the outstanding research essay published in a particular issue of the *UC Merced Undergraduate Research Journal*. The editors have selected Alexander Deary's "CRISPR V Culture" as the recipient of the Karen Merritt Award this issue. Deary's clear-eyed exploration of the recent radical advances in the science of germline gene editing is balanced by his trepidation regarding the ramifications of having crossed this scientific Rubicon. "CRISPR V Culture" issues a clarion call to the genetics community, urging it to consider the weighty ethical implications of pushing too far too quickly. For that reason, and for the clarity with which it explains the science of germline gene editing to lay readers, Deary's article is an exemplar of the type of scholarship that the Karen Merritt Award is intended to spotlight.

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