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EDITOR'S NOTE



The Berkeley Scientific Journal proudly presents its Spring issue: the Science of Power and Control. On this semester's cover, we present a stylized rendering of the CRISPR Cas9 gene editing tool. CRISPR embodies all aspects of power and control: control over the human genetic code, the need to control technology to ensure its ethical use, and lately conflicts over control of intellectual property. And as many of you know, the CRISPR Cas9 revolution owes much to UC Berkeley's very own Jennifer Doudna, Professor of Chemistry and Molecular Biology. Beyond just CRISPR, control systems in biology are some of the most complex and highly regulated processes on the planet and humans are just beginning to possess the ability to mimic these in artificial systems. In this issue, we examine advances in bionic limbs and talk with new EECS Professor Anca Dragan about robot decision making processes.



In the age of instant communication and connection, one would hope that scientific information would be more easily accessed and absorbed. However, the opposite seems to hold true. With many of us on the Berkeley campus still reeling from the 2016 election, it can be disheartening to see just how easy it is to spread misinformation and for our country's leaders to reject scientific theories and methods. Moving forward, scientists must not only fight with facts but with stories and pictures, with more ethos and pathos. It is clear that BSJ's mission is more critical than ever: to educate young scientists and engineers in written and graphical communication and lead those specializing in the humanities to apply their skills in elucidating scientific concepts. We are succeeding grandly in this mission. In the 2016 – 2017 school year, the BSJ had over 70 participating undergraduate students. We hope you enjoy this visually stunning issue!

Harshika Chowdhary
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