



Objective Lens

John L. McKillip, Managing Editor, Fine Focus

Professor, Microbiology, Ball State University



Fine Focus was not only the first international journal for undergraduate microbiology research, but also the Ball State University Chapter of the American Society for Microbiology (BSUASM) – that is, a campus recognized student organization, and an honor’s course at BSU. Students in both the club and the class manage the journal in all ways – from stewardship of our double-blind peer review system for manuscript management (via our OJS – Open Journal System) – to marketing, promotion, and design changes inside and out on the physical print copy of each issue. This new issue represents a completely new design for *Fine Focus*. For example, the artwork on the cover and on each title page is an original watercolor by one of our student Marketing Team conveners, Sharon Cung. This design represents the industrially important yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, as explained further inside the front cover. Since our inception in 2013, *Fine Focus* is managed as an “immersive learning” course at BSU – that is, a product-based course with the following unique attributes:

- A project offered to undergraduate students for academic credit
- Is conducted under the guidance of a faculty mentor
- Fills a need or solves a problem for a community partner
- Results in a specific outcome or deliverable
- Is conducted by a team or teams of undergraduate students (in classes of 10 or more) working collaboratively

These faculty-led, student-driven team model puts the students at the helm of day-to-day decision making (1). What better way to further introduce the effectiveness of this model than to introduce you to the team of students who put together the issue you are reading now. Their profiles are on the following pages.