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This issue is likely our most substantial yet in terms of content volume and variety. This issue reflects the dedication of dozens of students, faculty, and collaborators who have been active in managing *Fine Focus*, all while developing new partnerships with universities in the US and Europe over the last several months. The primary visible outcome of much of this effort is reflected in the individual perspectives at the end of this issue, written by undergraduates at the University of Detroit Mercy, whom we have most recently adopted as a Campus Ambassador. The STEM outreach described in our summer 2017 issue (*Fine Focus* Vol. 3(2)) is the means by which these activities have been accomplished. This semester has been an intense but rewarding experience at many levels. The mini-documentary film produced by the most recent *Fine Focus* Editorial staff, captures many of these students' personal stories, and will soon be available and linked to our website—[finefocus.org](http://finefocus.org). We hope you find their spoken perspectives to be inspiring and memorable.

Last autumn, *Fine Focus* hosted our first annual Executive Committee Meeting at the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry ([www.bsu.edu/vbc](http://www.bsu.edu/vbc)). Our Executive Committee consists of Kyla Adamson, a scientist at Eli Lilly & Co., in Indianapolis, IN; Emma Kate Fittes, a journalist for the Indianapolis Star; Saara-Maria Kallio,

a Marketing and Salesforce Consultant at T-Systems Multimedia Solutions in Dresden, Germany; and Indira Komanapalli, who holds her Ph.D. in molecular biology and has agreed to join our team as a fundraising specialist. During our 2 ½ day meeting, we covered a great deal of material, and identified a few key priority areas that I would like to share with you here.

First, we would like to introduce prospective authors to the concept of Overleaf, a new platform that will allow submitting authors to format their manuscripts during submission to *Fine Focus* exactly how they will appear if published. This system is user-friendly, and will greatly streamline copyediting and proofing of the final manuscript after acceptance. Our next issue will contain additional information and instructions on how this new system will be used by authors.

Speaking of our web presence, we are in the midst of a complete website update to bring fresh content and a refined new look to the international microbiology research community. If this new site is not yet up by the time you read this issue, it will be within the next few weeks. With assistance from Saara Kallio and Emma Kate Fittes, we are also updating our marketing plan to incorporate aspects of the new Campus Ambassador Program (CAP). The CAP

will consist of selected universities around the world that maintain a strong emphasis on undergraduate research. We aim for this program to increase our submissions, enabling us to produce a more impactful journal as we progress. It is important to also note that while these partners will provide *Fine Focus* with submissions, they will also serve an important role as the extension of our global presence and will strengthen our domestic network.

Lastly, we organized a plagiarism task force over last fall and winter, and now have a standardized system in place to use for screening incoming manuscripts for plagiarism. These checks will be run as part of our standard vetting stage prior to each new submission going out for double-blind peer review.

We always welcome your suggestions and feedback by email at [finefocus@bsu.edu](mailto:finefocus@bsu.edu)

-JLM