

It is my pleasure to present the ninth volume of *Pioneering Neuroscience: The Grinnell Journal of Neurophysiology*. The articles collected in this volume represent original contributions to the field of Neuroscience offered by students in Biology 150 -- Introduction to Biological Inquiry: the Language of Neurons. For most of these students, Bio 150 was taken during their first semester in college. For all of the students, this was their first college-level biology course!

The articles in this volume explore several themes: the use of kiss-and-run fusion during neurotransmitter release, the modulation of neurotransmitter release by the gasses NO and H₂S, the role of glutamate uptake and recycling and the possible involvement of endocannabinoids in synaptic function. There was even a highly novel attempt to observe the process of hormesis (if you don't know what this is, you can read about it on page 17). Of course, all of this was done using the wonderful model system of the crayfish neuromuscular junction. I hope you enjoy this volume and trust you will be as impressed as I am with what these students have accomplished in such a short time.

I wish to thank the students of Biology 150 for their hard work and collegiality. None of this would have been possible without the major contributions of Sue Kolbe, the lab instructor for Biology 150, Abby Griffith '07, curricular assistant, and Courtney Smith '08, student mentor and lab assistant.

Clark Lindgren, Editor
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