Greetings to each and every participant in the 2023 Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research! As a two-time alumnus of California State University, Fullerton and a member of this campus community for nearly four decades, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to one of the largest assemblages of undergraduate researchers and faculty mentors in the history of our campus. I look forward to seeing the wide array of projects – from creative expressions of the human spirit to intellectual challenges across the academic spectrum – that will be shared today. It is truly a day to Discover the Possibilities, and I look forward to taking in the magnificent panorama of scholarship on display right along with you.

Undergraduate research, in its many forms, is a high-impact and transformational activity that touches every corner of our society. It challenges us to explore, learn, and delve into mysteries that are seemingly unfathomable, and yet, with the bright minds and guiding hands of our students and mentors, it is a challenge we accept. It brings out the best in us, working together for a better future.

We at California State University, Fullerton are now in the process of developing Fullerton Forward 2024—2029, our next strategic plan. An essential part of that plan will be the continued strong commitment to student and faculty engagement in scholarly and creative activities, and today’s conference provides a timely reminder of just how significant and far-reaching these activities are. Indeed, undergraduate research is one of the great hallmarks of our university, and we are most proud to have this opportunity to showcase it.

I hope that you will take time today to reflect on the momentous event that this is. We are here to share with one another, to learn from one another, to challenge one another, and hopefully to leave this event just a little bit different than when we arrived. It could be just one idea, one question, or one conversation – there are so many opportunities to be inspired by the more than 600 student projects accepted at this year’s conference. I hope that you will find that inspiration here and count SCCUR 2023 as one of the impactful events along your academic journey of discovery and lifelong learning, no matter where you are on that journey today.

Thank you, and welcome to Cal State Fullerton!

Amir Dabirian, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs