

Preface

As part of the year-long celebration of the Centennial of the Entomological Society of America, the society sponsored two major symposia, one held in conjunction with its annual meeting in San Antonio, Tex., December 10–14, 1989, aimed at professional entomologists, and the Washington National Symposium, directed at the nonentomologist. The objective of this letter symposium was to heighten the awareness of the country's decision makers, the media, and the general public of the accomplishments of entomologists in the past, the problems faced today, and what the future holds for entomology.

We attempted to bring together the leaders in our profession to focus on the theme of the symposium, "Progress and Perspectives for the 21st Century." Most of the participants were able to provide us with manuscripts of their presentations, which were assembled for the *Proceedings*. We wish to emphasize that the comments of the participants were addressed primarily to a nonentomological audience. The symposium resulted in numerous news stories across the nation, as well as a major news article in *Science* dealing with the current and future status of entomology. Although it remains to be seen whether the symposium heightened awareness of entomology as a profession, we certainly hope that this will be the case.

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