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The Several Faces of

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With the convening of this International Symposium we mark the 25th symposium held in London, UK, the Tropics. After a quarter century devoted to reporting on the state of the art, appears to me that a few moments of reflection is in order. We stand with this discipline.

We can begin with an earlier commerce by microbiologists working individually. In 1927 Thayesson and Humann, with the book Hemicellulose, Pectins and Gums, motivated in writing the book on knowledge of 'the microbiological deterioration during World War II and the Korean conflict. In the tropics such damage were the loss of $40,000 per day and the reduction of approximately 10 days due to the situation was the motivating force. The research and development phase of preventing microbial corrosion of these items in the military, starting in the 1950s and also through contractual work and other government agencies has

* Keynote address.