October 17, 2016

On behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, I wish the Optical Society a very happy centennial!

America owes its legacy of progress to generations of scientists and researchers who have worked tirelessly to deepen our understanding of the world we live in. Through their efforts we have expanded our horizons and pushed back the boundaries of the unknown. Each advancement enables humankind to reach further and to take on problems previously dismissed as intractable or insurmountable.

The OSA has been a valuable part of this march forward. It has helped illuminate the way toward countless discoveries and advancements. In areas of defense and homeland security, medicine and health, telecommunications and consumer technology, the OSA has helped enhance the quality of life of citizens across our nation.

Under President Obama, this Administration has spent the last seven years pursuing and achieving scientific progress. From expanding the use of clean and renewable energy sources to helping develop the next generation of health care, the Administration has made significant investments in extending our knowledge of the world around us.

With your help, we’re putting science and technology to work to address the central issues of our time. We’re investing in the next generation of scientists, innovators, and explorers by supporting teachers with the tools and training they need to bring hands-on science and math into their classrooms. And thanks to the leadership of organizations like the OSA, we’re uniting people from all over the country to work towards a bright future.

I trust you take pride in the ways your work has impacted us all, and I wish you much success over the next 100 years.

John P. Holdren
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