A reliable time scale is a sine qua non of studies of historical processes in the earth sciences. By integrating data from the fields of planktonic biostratigraphy and isotopic ages, a geochronologic framework is established for the Cenozoic Era (65-0 Ma), which permits improved correlation between marine and terrestrial stratigraphies. That my work on Cenozoic geochronology has found widespread application is attested by the fact that I received the Mary Clark Thompson Gold Medal from the National Academy of Sciences in 1983.

To end this account on a personal and, to a certain extent, humorous note, this paper was originally rejected when submitted to an American journal. Re-submission to the journal Lethaia resulted in an immediate and enthusiastic acceptance because the editor at that time was president of the Commission on Stratigraphy of the International Union of Geological Sciences and saw the utility of the paper immediately. The rest is history.