2013 Clarke Prize Laureate

R. Rhodes Trussell, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, NAE
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Rhodes Trussell was selected as the 2013 Clarke Prize recipient because of his extraordinary accomplishments in using fundamental scientific principles and current research findings to solve the most challenging water quality problems and improve the designs of new water treatment plants and technologies.

Trussell has worked for over 40 years as a consulting civil and environmental engineer. Unique within the industry is his unusual breadth of expertise, as he is considered an authority on a vast number of treatment technologies, ranging from conventional treatments such as filtration, disinfection, and biological processes, to advanced treatment such as membranes and advanced oxidation. He is the author of peer-reviewed articles and technical reports on all of these topics, and has worked on hundreds of water and wastewater engineering projects across the globe, including developing the process design for treatment plants ranging in size from 1 to 900 million gallons per day in capacity. Because his focus is on implementing practical solutions to improve water quality and meet regulatory and public health needs, his efforts have resulted in better water policy and the widespread adoption and acceptance of many new treatment technologies.

Recently, Trussell has been engaged in assisting water and wastewater utilities with managing complex water supply projects involving the use of advanced treatment technologies for applications such as desalination, groundwater replenishment, and potable reuse. He has also taken the lead on a groundbreaking project funded by the WateReuse Research Foundation to develop treatment process combinations necessary to employ the direct potable reuse of highly purified wastewater as a new and reliable method to meet future water needs.

Because of his considerable knowledge and expertise, Trussell has been invited to serve on numerous prominent boards and committees throughout the water industry. For instance, he served as Chair of the Water Science and Technology Board for the National Academies, Chair of the Research Advisory Committee for the WateReuse Research Foundation, and Chair of the Editorial Advisory Board for Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. He was also active with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board for 17 years, including serving as Chair of the Committee on Drinking Water.

At present, Trussell serves on the NWRI expert panel to review the development and implementation of the Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System, the largest indirect potable reuse project of its kind in the world. He is also Chair of the National Research Council Committee on Water Reuse, which published the report *Water Reuse: Potential for Expanding the Nation's Water Supply through Reuse of Municipal Wastewater (2012)*. Trussell has led the effort to disseminate the findings of this report, which is helping to advance water reuse practices in the U.S.