

National Water Research Institute

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UCLA Student Receives NWRI-Southern California Salinity Coalition Fellowship

NWRI and the Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) are pleased to announce that Ms. Kari Varin, a first-year doctoral student in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), has received a 2-year \$10,000 NWRI-SCSC Fellowship. Her advisor is Dr. Yoram Cohen.

The purpose of the NWRI-SCSC Fellowship is to support graduate research that addresses the critical need to remove or reduce salts from water supplies and to preserve water resources in Southern California.

Varin received the fellowship based on the merit of her graduate research project on “Water Desalination by Reverse Osmosis (RO) with Nanostructured Polymers.”

The focus of this project is to develop high-performance membranes based on surface nano-structuring via atmospheric pressure plasma-induced surface graft polymerization, which will be integrated with the interfacial polymerization method of synthesizing thin-film composite membranes.

The goal is to advance the science and engineering needed to allow RO water desalination plants to operate at higher recovery without resorting to mineral scalents or other feed chemical additives, while reducing mineral scaling and biofouling propensity, resulting in lower costs for desalted water.

SCSC was founded in 2002 by a group of Southern California water and wastewater agencies to better manage salinity in our water supplies. SCSC's member agencies include the Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, and West Basin Municipal Water District. NWRI administers SCSC on behalf of its members. Learn more about SCSC at www.socalsalinity.org.

Coming Soon: Managed Aquifer Recharge Symposium (Jan. 25-26, 2011)

Seats are still available for the “2011 Managed Aquifer Recharge Symposium,” which will be held on January 25-26, 2011, at the Atrium Hotel Orange County Airport in Irvine, CA.

The symposium is being organized by the Water Research Foundation (WaterRF), Orange County Water District, and NWRI.

Symposium sponsors include:

- Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.
- GeoSystems Analysis, Inc.
- Pureflow Filtration Division
- Purifics ES, Inc.
- RMC Water
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

The sponsors will also be exhibiting at the symposium.

The purpose of this 2-day symposium is to discuss and exchange information about managed aquifer recharge issues. The focus will be on technical and policy issues regarding augmenting aquifers through **recharge basins** with surface waters, including river water, recycled water, and storm water.

A keynote presentation will be given by Richard Atwater, Executive Director of the Southern California Water Committee, who will speak on “History of Groundwater Conjunctive Use with MWD Imported Supplies and Future Opportunities to Increase Groundwater Storage in Southern California.”

Symposium sessions include:

- Utility Planning for Recharge
- Recharge Basin Performance and Operations
- Utility Experience in Basin Optimization
- Facility Planning and Engineering
- Innovative Recharge
- Measurement and Monitoring
- Modeling of Recharge Basin Performance
- Operational Experience in Arizona Systems
- Basin Recharge Research

For more information (including the preliminary program) or to register, please visit the symposium website at www.regonline.com/rechargesymposium.

Fourth IWA Specialty Conference on NOM – Abstract Deadline January 21, 2011

The deadline for abstracts for the Fourth IWA Specialty Conference on “Natural Organic Matter: From Source to Tap and Beyond” is **January 21, 2011**.

The purpose of the conference, which will be held on July 27-29, 2011, in Costa Mesa, California, is to better understand the dynamics and impacts of natural organic matter (NOM) in drinking water, wastewater, recycled waters, natural waters, and marine systems.

The conference is being hosted and organized by:

- International Water Association (IWA)
- Urban Water Research Center at the University of California, Irvine
- National Water Research Institute
- Southeast Environmental Research Center, Florida International University
- Centre for Water Science, Cranfield University

Applicants are invited to submit a 500-word (or less) abstract for an oral or poster presentation at the conference. Student oral and poster presentations are also welcome. An award will be given for the best student poster.

Complete guidelines for abstract submission, including the downloadable "Abstract Submittal Form," may be found at the conference website at www.regonline.com/NOM2011.

Sound Rate Setting Requires a Clear Process and Starting Early

The setting of utility rates is often very political and always interesting.

There is arguably nothing more important for utility managers than ensuring that a community invests appropriately in water resources, water quality, and infrastructure. However, deferring investment is all too easy, and the process for ensuring that policy makers feel "safe" to vote for necessary rate increases is often unclear.

The "Utility Branding Process Tool" released by the Utility Branding Network defines the process of building a strong brand (trust), supporting policy makers, and securing rates that fully fund needed investments. Having a defined process allows utility managers to improve planning and start early.

The branding tool can be downloaded at www.utilitybranding.net (under "News").

The Utility Branding Network is committed to ensuring that water and wastewater agencies are trusted and that the rate-setting process fully funds utility operating costs and needed capital investments. The Network is managed by NWRI on behalf of water and wastewater agencies. If you are not yet a member of the Network, or would like more information, please contact John Ruetten at john@utilitybranding.net or Jeff Mosher at jmosher@nwri-usa.org.

Job Opportunity - Director of California Water Resources Research Institute

Applications are being accepted for an inaugural director who can provide leadership and operational management for the California Water Resources Research Institute (CWRRRI).

CWRRRI is a special program within the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of California (UCANR), with the mission of supporting research and extension activities that contribute to the efficient management of California's water resources, in water quality, quantity and reliability.

The deadline for applications is January 26, 2011. For more information, please visit http://ucanr.org/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=86.

Call for Nominations – NWRI Clarke Prize for Excellence in Water Research

Nominations are now being accepted for the Eighteenth Annual NWRI Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke Prize for excellence in water research. The deadline for nominations is **March 1, 2011**.

NWRI established the Clarke Prize in 1993 to award outstanding individuals who are significantly contributing toward the discovery, development, improvement, and/or understanding of the issues associated with water quality, quantity, technology, or public policy.

The Prize includes a medallion and \$50,000 award. Additional information about the Clarke Prize, including nomination procedures, may be found at www.nwri-usa.org/nominations.htm.

Upcoming Events

Southwest Membrane Operator Association Annual Symposium

The Southwest Membrane Operator Association (SWMOA) will hold its 2011 Annual Symposium on February 7-9, 2011, at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sessions include:

- Pilot operations
- Wastewater operations/industrial reverse osmosis
- Interactive break-out session
- Drinking water/desalination operations

Attendees who complete the 2-day program will qualify for 12.25 Contact Hours for Water & Wastewater approved by the States of AZ, CA (Wastewater N/A), NM, and NV.

Register online at www.swmoa.org.

Multi-State Salinity Coalition 2011 Annual Salinity Summit

Multi-State Salinity Coalition will hold its 2011 Annual Salinity Summit on February 17-18, 2011, at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

Sessions will include:

- Financing Recycling & Desalination Facilities
- Brackish Water Salinity
- New Desalination Technologies
- Water and Energy
- Salt as a Regional Issue
- And others

Please visit www.multi-statesalinitycoalition.com for more information.

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