

# National Water Research Institute

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## **Charles O'Melia, Expert in Filtration and Coagulation, Passes Away**

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Dr. Charles R. O'Melia, Abel Wolman Professor of Environmental Engineering at The Johns Hopkins University, who succumbed to brain cancer on Thursday, December 16, 2010, at age 76.

For over four decades, Dr. O'Melia made substantial contributions to the basic understanding of physical and chemical processes for water treatment and the behavior of particles in the natural water environment. He was widely acknowledged as one of the most outstanding water-quality engineers in the area of filtration and coagulation processes in engineered and natural systems.

In the field of environmental science, Dr. O'Melia was known for his intellectual leadership, as well as the highest personal standards in research, scholarship, and education. His work had earned him numerous honors and awards, including membership to the National Academy of Engineering.

He received the Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke Prize for excellence in water research from NWRI in 2000. The prize came with a \$50,000 cash award, which he promptly donated. Some of the award was donated to Manhattan College, where he received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering; the remainder to Fontbonne Hall, a Catholic girls high school in New York that his wife had attended.

A memorial mass for Dr. O'Melia will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 29, 2010, at St. Joseph's Parish, 100 Church Lane in Cockeysville, Maryland.

The Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins is also planning a service in Dr. O'Melia's honor; the date and location have not yet been determined.

[Please click on this link to view a Johns Hopkins news release regarding Dr. O'Melia's passing.](#)

## **New Salinity Coalition Report Available on "Water Softener Rebate Outreach"**

The Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) is pleased to announce the publication of a new final project report titled, "*Automatic Water Softener Rebate Program-Phase II: Public Outreach Program.*"

This report details efforts taken by the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County to develop and implement a residential automatic water softener rebate and outreach program that, to date, in combination with a water softener ordinance, has resulted in the following:

- Removal of over 7,050 water softener units from the District's service area.
- Decrease in chloride concentrations in the local recycled water by approximately 50 milligrams per liter.

Included in the report are activities and lessons learned from the outreach process, as well as how these lessons continue to direct outreach efforts in the community. The 107-page report was prepared by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

The final project report is available to download at SCSC's website at [www.socalsalinity.org](http://www.socalsalinity.org).

*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.*

## **Register Now for the “Managed Aquifer Recharge Symposium” (Jan. 2011)**

Registration is still open for the “2011 Managed Aquifer Recharge Symposium,” which is being held by the Water Research Foundation (WaterRF), Orange County Water District, and NWRI.

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.

Sessions include:

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

The symposium will be held on January 25-26, 2011, at the Atrium Hotel Orange County Airport in Irvine, CA.

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

## **Second Call for Abstracts: Fourth IWA Specialty Conference on NOM**

Abstracts are being accepted for the Fourth IWA Specialty Conference on “Natural Organic Matter: From Source to Tap and Beyond,” to be held on July 27-29, 2011, in Costa Mesa, California.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together a diverse group of scientists and engineers who are interested in better understanding 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. The abstract deadline is **January 21, 2011**.

Complete guidelines for abstract submission, including the downloadable “Abstract Submittal Form,” may be found at the conference website at [www.regonline.com/NOM2011](http://www.regonline.com/NOM2011).

## **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](http://www.nwri-usa.org/nominations.htm).

## **Give the Gift of Education: Support the NWRI Fellowship Endowment Fund**

This holiday season is the perfect time to make a 2010 tax-deductible gift to the NWRI Ronald B. Linsky Fellowship Endowment fund.

This fund supports graduate students at U.S. universities whose innovative research may one day advance the state-of-the-art in water/wastewater science, engineering, or policy.

Fellowship funding is specifically used by students to conduct needed experiments, learn novel research techniques, collaborate with experts, and publish the results of their research.

Online donations can be made at [www.nwri-usa.org/LinskyFellowship.htm](http://www.nwri-usa.org/LinskyFellowship.htm). For questions about the endowment, please contact Jeff Mosher at (714) 378-3278 or [jmosher@nwri-usa.org](mailto:jmosher@nwri-usa.org).

Thank you for your support and generosity.

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*You are receiving this email from NWRI, a non-profit public-private partnership founded in 1991 to promote the protection, maintenance, and restoration of water supplies through the development of cooperative research work. NWRI provides occasional information via email list serve on upcoming events and activities. If you would like to be removed from NWRI's email list serve, please respond to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line and specify the email address you wish to remove. For further questions, please contact NWRI at [enews@nwri-usa.org](mailto:enews@nwri-usa.org). Thank you.*

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