

NWRI ATHALIE RICHARDSON IRVINE CLARKE PRIZE 2018 Clarke Prize Recipient

Janet G. Hering, Ph.D.
Director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag)

NWRI is pleased to announce that **Janet G. Hering, Ph.D.**, an American aquatic biogeochemist, has earned the 2018 NWRI Clarke Prize for outstanding achievement in water science and technology. Hering currently serves as the Director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) and holds professorships in environmental biogeochemistry and chemistry at ETH Zurich and EPFL, two of the top universities in continental Europe.

Hering will receive the Clarke Prize on October 26, 2018, at the Twenty-Fifth Annual NWRI Clarke Prize Award Ceremony in Orange County, California. NWRI presents the prize – which consists of a medallion and \$50,000 award – annually to recognize research accomplishments that solve real-world water problems and to highlight the need to expand funding for research that addresses water supply challenges.

Hering has been instrumental in advancing access to safe drinking water in the United States and abroad. Early in her career, she focused her efforts on understanding the chemistry of drinking water treatment. While receiving a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology-Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program, she conducted “elegant work on the surprisingly slow kinetics of some reactions between trace metals and organic complexing agents in natural water,” said her former Ph.D. advisor, François Morel, then at MIT, now Professor of Geosciences at Princeton University. Morel noted she carried out “cleverly designed experiments” and created a theoretical framework to document and quantify the previously-unknown phenomenon. Her insights continue to inform studies of the behavior of trace metals in natural waters.



Hering’s current investigational efforts at Eawag focus on advancing research in the areas of water quality and management, as well as on promoting collaboration among universities worldwide. For example, she has helped establish interdisciplinary and international collaboration by inviting Professors from the U.S. for guest professorships and lectureships. In addition, Eawag is an international partner with the National Science Foundation’s Engineering Research Center for Re-inventing the Nation’s Urban Water Infrastructure (ReNUWIt). Hering also balances water science with water policy, supporting the synthesis between academic research and its real-world applications. She advocates that water researchers focus on the broader impact of their studies by addressing issues directly related to the well-being of the public while also creating benefits for governments and funding agencies. A thoughtful and prolific writer, she has written for various scientific journals, and her works have been cited extensively (for example, a 2004 article for *ES&T* has been downloaded over 19,000 times).

www.ClarkePrize.com

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