



P 303.347.6100 F 303.730.0851

[www.WaterRF.org](http://www.WaterRF.org)

6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver CO 80235-3098

## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

**For More Information Contact**

Adam Lang

303.347.6259

[alang@waterrf.org](mailto:alang@waterrf.org)

---

### **Water Research Foundation Announces the Winners of Its 2016 Outstanding Subscriber Awards and the Dr. Pankaj Parekh Research Innovation Award**

*Honorees Were Recognized for Significant Contributions to Water Research at ACE16*

---

DENVER, CO (June 20, 2016) - The Water Research Foundation (WRF), a leading sponsor of research supporting the water community, announced today that it has awarded the 2016 Dr. Pankaj Parekh Research Innovation Award to Dr. Bob Raucher from Abt Associates and two Outstanding Subscriber Awards for Applied Research to Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP). Dr. Raucher and both Outstanding Subscriber Award recipients were honored during WRF's annual subscriber breakfast at the American Water Works Association's annual conference, ACE16.

The Dr. Pankaj Parekh Research Innovation Award honors researchers and research teams who have made significant contributions to advancing the science of water through WRF-sponsored projects. The award is named after Dr. Pankaj Parekh, a tireless advocate of water research who dedicated over 40 years of his life to ensuring safe drinking water and protecting public health. WRF's Outstanding Subscriber Award for Applied Research honors subscribing utilities that have successfully applied WRF research to make notable improvements to their water treatment, delivery, and/or management processes. Both awards were created to celebrate the persistence and dedication of some of WRF's most influential partners.

"The Water Research Foundation's research success over the last 50 years wouldn't be possible without our partnerships with utilities and individuals like those honored here today," said Rob Renner, Chief Executive Officer of the Water Research Foundation. "Dr. Raucher and the professionals at MWW and LADWP have been key players in our mission to protect public health and the environment through the advancement of sound science. We celebrate their work and thank them for their contributions."

For 35 years, Dr. Raucher's research has focused on economics, risk management, strategic

planning, and regulatory policy analysis for the water, wastewater, and stormwater sectors. Dr. Raucher has been actively involved with WRF for many years, serving as the Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI on 23 different research projects. He has served on WRF Project Advisory Committees, Issue Groups, and is currently a member of the WRF Water Utility Finance Technical Advisory Committee.

Dr. Raucher is a noted expert on integrated water resources planning, water utility management, benefit-cost and triple bottom line analysis, water-related valuation issues, regulatory policy, affordability, and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies. He has been involved in water reuse and desalination planning and implementation issues, green infrastructure and stormwater management, and research assessing reliability values associated with water supply portfolio diversification through reuse and other nontraditional water options that offer drought-resistant yields. He is an active member of the water supply and wastewater communities, serving on numerous expert panels and committees, including three workgroups for the National Drinking Water Advisory Council.

“It is a great honor to be recognized with this award. I have been very fortunate to participate in a large number of very interesting research efforts with the Foundation, which has given me the unique opportunity to help move the water sector forward through its many challenges,” said Raucher. “My partnership with the Foundation has been extremely rewarding. In addition to the rewarding research inquiries, it also has provided me with a large network of professional peers—at water utilities, public agencies, associations, foundations, universities, and consultancies—with whom I have had the pleasure of collaborating. I feel especially grateful, and humbled, to receive an award honoring Pankaj Parekh. It is truly an honor to have my name associated with his, through this award.”

Established in 1871, Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) is the longest continuously operating water utility in Wisconsin. A WRF subscriber since 1989, MWW has participated in 30 WRF research projects during that time. In addition, MWW has applied WRF research findings to find innovative solutions. Most notably, MWW used WRF research in implementing its ozone treatment system. MWW was the first utility to use ozone on a large scale as a primary disinfectant.

“The Milwaukee Water Works marked the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its organization on April 18 of this year,” said Carrie Lewis, Superintendent of Milwaukee Water Works. “We have been able to evolve and respond to the changing dynamics of the world of drinking water thanks in very large part to the Water Research Foundation.”

The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP), began providing water system service in 1902, and sold 177 billion gallons of water in Fiscal Year 2013-2014. LADWP has been a WRF subscriber since 1987, and has participated in over 90 WRF projects during this time. Currently, LADWP is utilizing WRF’s research to investigate potable reuse options, vulnerabilities to extreme events, infrastructure enhancements, and strategies for effective conservation.

“It is very fulfilling to receive this award. Our involvement with the Water Research Foundation gives us access to the highly credible scientific information that’s available, and allows us to have facilitated research conducted for our specific urgent issues,” said Albert Gastelum, Director of the Water Quality Division at LADWP.

Award nominations are accepted from WRF's Board of Directors, staff, subscribers, researchers, and other water community partners. The Board of Directors' Awards Committee selects each year's winners. For additional information about WRF's annual awards and past award winners, please visit [www.WaterRF.org/awards](http://www.WaterRF.org/awards)

**About the Water Research Foundation**

The Water Research Foundation is the leading not-for-profit research cooperative that advances the science of water to protect public health and the environment. Governed by utilities, WRF plans, manages, and delivers scientifically sound research solutions on the most critical challenges facing the water community in the areas of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and reuse. Over the last 50 years, WRF has sponsored nearly 1,500 research projects valued at \$500 million, and serves more than 1,000 subscribing organizations. For more information, go to [www.WaterRF.org](http://www.WaterRF.org).

##