2006 Clarke Prize Laureate

Philip C. Singer, Ph.D., P.E.
Daniel A. Okun Distinguished Professor of Environmental Engineering
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Dr. Philip Singer has devoted his career to increasing our knowledge of water chemistry and drinking water treatment. His research activities have spanned a broad range of water quality issues, from providing a fundamental understanding of the chemistry of ozone – allowing for the development of chemical oxidation processes as a safe, reliable, and cost-effective means to clean water – to understanding the formation and control of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in drinking water. Currently, Singer is the Daniel A. Okun Distinguished Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he has taught courses in aquatic chemistry and physical-chemical treatment since 1973.

Singer's pivotal work on DBPs has directly led to the development of water treatment and distribution practices to control DBP levels in drinking water distributed to consumers. His research results were used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in setting regulations for both trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, the two major classes of DBPs, and in identifying coagulation as a best available technology to control DBPs. He has also taken the lead in linking environmental engineering with epidemiological principles to provide an assessment of the effects of human exposure to DBPs in drinking water.