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For over four decades, Dr. O’Melia has 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 is widely acknowledged as one of the most outstanding water-quality engineers in the area of filtration and coagulation processes in engineered (water treatment plants) and natural (lakes and estuaries) systems.

In the field of environmental science, Dr. O’Melia is known for his intellectual leadership as well as the highest personal standards in research, scholarship, and education. He has advised more than two dozen doctoral students and has authored over 100 technical publications, including Watershed Management for Potable Water Supply: Assessing the New York Strategy (2000). His work has earned him numerous honors and awards, including membership to the National Academy of Engineering. Currently, Dr. O’Melia is the Abel Wolman Professor of Environmental Engineering at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.