



**Carolinas**  
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## President's Message

Happy New Year! And what a year it will be as the United States will celebrate its 250th anniversary, or semiquincentennial, on July 4, 2026. The US wouldn't be where it is today without the selfless service and sacrifices of countless men and women. The same can be said of the AIHA Carolinas Section. We've been going strong for 54 years, have conducted upwards of 100 conferences and events that impacted thousands, have a solid financial standing, and have an outstanding membership who selflessly supports the Section.

With that, there are many opportunities for you to contribute to and serve with the AIHA Carolinas Section. When planning our semiannual conferences, we're always on the lookout for speakers to present on emerging or relevant topics. If you are interested in presenting, or know of someone who would present, please contact a Board member.

There are also opportunities to serve on the Board. At the upcoming Spring Conference, we will vote on a new slate of Board positions including: President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, SC Director, and NC Director. If you'd rather not serve in a Board position but still want to contribute, there are countless opportunities to serve on a Committee. If you are interested in any of these roles, please let one of the Board members know. Ushang Desai, who will assume the role of President for the next year, would appreciate your involvement.

With my term as President coming to a close, I've reflected on the outstanding Board members I've had the pleasure to serve with over the past 3.5 years. What a privilege and blessing it has been to be part of a committed team that accomplished so much! And I also look to those who will take the reins. I am confident that the future of the AIHA Carolinas Section is in good hands.

Best regards,

*Rich Cravener*

### President

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## AIHA Agenda

### Wednesday, March 11th

12 Noon - PDC Registration Opens

Professional Development Course

1:00-5:00 pm

Non-Ionizing Radiation

Ben Edwards, MS, CHP, CLSO

### Thursday, March 12th

7:30-8:00 am

Continental Breakfast

Professional Development Course

8:00 am-12:00 pm

Ototoxicity, Heavy Metals, and other Topics of Concern

Alex Cardone, MPH

DuPont Aramids

10:00 AM - Conference Registration Opens

12:00-1:00 pm

Lunch Buffet

Conference Opening Session

1:00-1:05 pm

President Welcome

Rich Cravener, MS, CIH, CSP

President - AIHA Carolinas

1:05-2:00 pm

The Importance of Inhalation Dosimetry in OEL Derivation

Corey Boles, PhD

Insight Exposure & Risk Sciences Group

2:00-2:30 pm

Vendor Introductions/Break

2:30-3:30 pm

Chronological Trends in Asbestos-Associated Diseases: Fiber Analysis of 1150 Cases Over 4 Decades

Victor Roggli, M.D.

Pathologist, Duke Health

3:30-4:00 pm

Vendor Break

4:00-5:00 pm

Ethics

Kevin Frye

NCDOL Retaliatory Employment Discrimination Bureau

5:30-7:00 pm

Presidential Reception

Happy Hour sponsored by Terracon

7:00 pm Dinner

### Friday, March 13th

7:30-8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:30 am

IH Challenge During Lab Exhaust System Design, Selection, and Commissioning

Mahdi Fahim, MS

Biogen

9:30-10:00 am

Break/Vendor Interaction

10:00-10:45 am

Drone Safety

Rich Cravener

EPRI

10:45-11:45 am

NC OSHA Update

Scott Mabry

NC DOL

11:45 am

Elections

Rich Cravener

12:00 pm

Closing Comments, Adjournment



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## PDC Spotlight

### PDC 1-Non-ionizing Radiation

Ben Edwards MS, CHP, CLSO is a health physicist with over 30 years of ionizing and nonionizing radiation safety experience in academic, medical, and industrial settings. Though now retired, he continues his decades of service on the ANSI Z136 Accredited Standards Committee and various Z136 subcommittees. He is also a member of the Health Physics Society and the American Society of Safety Professionals. He previously served (and for a time chaired) the Board of Laser Safety and currently serves on the North Carolina Nonionizing Advisory Committee to the NC Radiation Protection Commission.

### PDC 2-Ototoxicity

Alex Cardone is the Lead Occupational Health Specialist at Arclin\*, and an Adjunct Faculty member in Environmental Health at Brigham Young University-Idaho. His work spans noise and ototoxicant evaluation, regulatory strategy, and the development of high-performing OEHS programs. Beyond compliance, Alex blends technical depth with personal and professional development to drive lasting improvements, most notably leading a program praised by an OSHA Regional VPP Manager as "the best IH program in Region 8". As a recognized AIHA distinguished Lecturer and dedicated volunteer, Alex delivers globally ranked presentations and actively works to develop the profession's next generation of leaders.



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**Fall 2026**  
**September 23-25, 2026**  
**Myrtle Beach, SC**

**Spring 2027**  
**TBA**



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**Carolinan Section - AIHA**  
**Spring PDC and Conference March 11-13, 2026**  
Hilton Raleigh North Hills, Raleigh, NC

***;Registration Form***

**Conference Registration**

**Circle one**

Member (Advanced) \$250  
Nonmember (Advanced) \$270  
Member (After Feb 27) \$300  
Nonmember(After Feb 27) \$320

**PDC-Registration**

**Circle One**

Member (Advanced) \$250  
Nonmember (Advanced) \$285  
Member (After Feb 27) \$300  
Nonmember (After Feb 27) \$335

***Exhibit Space (each table) \$450***  
***After Feb 27 (each table) \$500***

**Carolinan Section Annual Dues**

Member \$35 Student \$10

**Method of Payment**

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**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check box if this is an address change**

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**Carolinan Section**

**Attn: Connie McElroy-Bacon**

**PO Box 37492**

**Raleigh, NC 27627-7492**

**Mobile: 919-608-1606**

**Fax: 919-233-8400**

**cbacon@mindspring.com**

**Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTER ONLINE AT**

**[www.aiha-carolinan.org](http://www.aiha-carolinan.org)**



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# Thanks to the AIHA Carolinas Spring Vendors



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eLearning

## ELEARNING

Welcome to the 2026 eLearning Subscription! Your group's access has been established for the 2026 eLearning Subscription program in the online classroom and you can begin viewing content now. Please note that this program runs from January 2026 through December 2026.

Here are the action items to take this month to maximize your participation in the program:

1. Login to the [online classroom](#) and verify that you see a tab to access your group's content. If you do not see this tab, please get in contact with us so we can research the issue. If you don't know your login credentials, please use the forgot password link on the login page to have them sent to you.
2. Review the information posted on the [2026 eLearning Subscribers page](#). Here you will find information about upcoming live webinars, OnDemand content already added to your classroom, accessing your AIHA transcript and FAQs about using the system. Bookmark this page in case you need to review it later.



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## The Pat Curran Memorial Scholarship

Pat began his career in North Carolina State Government in 1972 and worked in the Division of Public Health in various capacities until his retirement in 2004. Pat continued to consult with industry and teach during his retirement. Through his working and retirement years, Pat served on many boards and committees and his greatest pleasures were helping people with their occupational and environmental health concerns and mentoring the next generation of safety and health professionals. He served as an Adjunct Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill: Environmental Sciences and Engineering-Gillings School of Global Public Health. Pat also taught at ECU in the Master of Science in Occupational Safety Program-College of Engineering and Technology.

Pat's outstanding work and contributions did not go unnoticed and upon his retirement from the State of North Carolina, he received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from the Governor in recognition of his extraordinary service to the state. In 2010, Pat received the Warren Cook Award from the Carolinas Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association for outstanding contributions to the profession of industrial hygiene.

Most recently, Pat received the Robert T. Hughes Memorial Award from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists which recognizes outstanding individuals in the field of industrial ventilation.

### Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

In awarding the Pat Curran Memorial Scholarship, the recipient should be:

- Enrolled at the graduate or undergraduate level at a university in Carolina's Local Section geographic area in an ABET-accredited program with an emphasis in occupational health.
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0 scale, or a B average.

For more information, to donate, or to apply for the scholarship, please visit the [The Pat Curran Memorial Scholarship | AIHA](#) found on the AIHA website.



John "Pat" Curran