

A dark blue silhouette of the Charlotte skyline is positioned in the upper middle section of the page. The buildings are rendered in a solid dark blue color, with some white outlines for detail. The skyline is set against a background of a light blue, textured watercolor wash that extends across the width of the page.

**North Carolina Rheumatology Association  
2026 Annual Conference | March 14-15, 2026 | Charlotte, NC**

**Conference Sponsor/Exhibit  
Opportunities Prospectus  
Contributor Policies  
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Conference Sponsor/Exhibit Opportunities  
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## Policies for Contributors



**Purpose:** To establish a consistent policy for all contributors (corporate members, sponsors, exhibitors).  
The policies will be attached to all letters requesting funding for NCRA education sessions.

### Membership Policies:

1. The NCRA funding levels are described in the appropriate prospectus (corporate member or vendor). Please review carefully as they were updated this year.
2. All promised funds must be received within one month of agreement being signed.

### Conference Policies:

3. Contributors must follow instructions to upload documents into the Attendee Hub (mobile app) by due date or NCRA will not guarantee data will be visible to attendees.
4. Contributors **will not** plan any event that conflicts in any way with NCRA sponsored events, NCRA sanctioned events, or NCRA co-sponsored events at the NCRA 2026 meeting. Choosing to plan an event that conflicts with an NCRA sponsored, sanctioned, or co-sponsored event will result in the organization not being invited to join us at our next event.

***An event is any activity from dinner with one conference attendee to an event to which many attendees are invited.***

5. Contributors may not wear their corporate name tags in the meeting space.
6. Contributors may **NOT** attend the annual NCRA business meeting.
7. Contributor representatives may attend general sessions if space available. The representatives **must sit in back of room** and may not engage the speaker or attendees.
8. Contributors are provided a specific number of name badges as described in the attached document. **Name badges may not be traded among representatives.**

### Exhibit Hall Policies for 2026 Annual Conference

1. Each contributor will respect the exhibit set-up hours established by NCRA. Exhibit set-up and shipping information will be shared with all contributors by February 1, 2026.
2. The contributor will follow instructions regarding shipping items to the hotel. If instructions are not followed NCRA is not responsible for missing exhibit items.
3. Exhibit space will be provided as indicated in the prospectus.
  - a. Corporate members and sponsors may request a smaller space or to split their space. Request must be received by February 1, 2026.
4. Exhibits must be installed within the parameters of your exhibit space with no components extending beyond. Your installation may not block other exhibitors.
  - a. If your organization will not need the tables provided, your space will be noted on the floor.

- b. You must notify NCRA that you will not be using your tables no later than February 1, 2026.
5. No banners, signs or other material may be nailed, taped, hung to any hotel property. If a contributor defaces The Omni Charlotte, they are responsible for the damage.
6. While the exhibit hall will be monitored during the day and locked after our sessions end, exhibitors and sponsors are encouraged to insure their exhibits, merchandise, and display materials against theft, fire, etc at their own expense. NCRA is not responsible for any damage to or theft of the exhibits.

**Indemnification**

1. Contributors agree to abide by these terms, and any applicable provisions under NCRA's agreement with the management of The Omni Charlotte.
2. Contributors assume full responsibility and liability for any loss, damage or claim arising out of injury or damage to sponsor and exhibitor's displays/materials.
3. Contributors agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless The Omni Charlotte from and against all claims, actions, causes of actions, or liabilities, including reasonable attorney's fees arising out of or resulting from any act undertaken or committed by Contributor or any contractors hired or engaged by the Contributor in connection with the conference.
4. Contributors also agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless The Omni Charlotte from any liability resulting from any claim, action or action, which may be asserted by third parties arising out of the performance of the Contributor's obligations pursuant to this agreement, except those which are due to misconduct or negligence of the hotel.

## 2026 Agenda

Friday, March 13	
4:00pm – 7:00pm	<b>Registration</b> <b>Exhibit Hall Set-Up</b>
Saturday, March 14 6.5 Hours	
7:00am – 7:45am	<b>Breakfast in Exhibit Hall</b>
7:45am – 8:00am	<b>Welcome</b> A. Silvia Ross, MD
8:00am – 8:45am	<b>Approach to Difficult to Treat RA</b> (.75 credit hour) Bryant England, MD, PhD
8:45am – 9:30am	<b>CAR T Therapy in Rheumatology: Promise, Pitfalls, and the Path Ahead</b> (.75 credit hour) Sonali J Bracken, MD, PhD
9:30am – 10:00am	<b>CSRO and NCRA 2025 Federal and State Advocacy Update</b> (.5 credit hour) Firas Kassab, MD FACR
10:00am – 10:30am	<b>Break in Exhibit Hall</b>
10:30am – 11:15am	<b>Targets and Timings—risk and prevention of infection in rheumatic disease patients</b> (.75 credit hour) Kevin Winthrop, MD, MPH
11:15am – 12:00	<b>Interactive Knowledge Session</b> (.75 credit hour) Additional information available on next page
12:00pm – 1:00pm	<b>Lunch in the Exhibit Hall</b>
1:00pm – 1:45pm	<b>SLE Top Ten List</b> (.75 credit hour) Sheetal Desai, MD, MEd
1:45pm – 2:00pm	Award
2:00pm – 2:30pm	<b>Business Meeting</b>
2:30pm – 3:00pm	<b>Break</b>
3:00pm – 3:45pm	<b>The Evolving Face of Sarcoidosis: Where is there Rheum for Sarcoid?</b> (.75 credit hour) Arthur Yee, MD, PhD
3:45pm – 4:30pm	<b>Empathy and the Placebo response in Rheumatology: Why should we care?</b> (.75 credit hour) Leonard H Calabrese, DO
4:30pm – 5:15pm	<b>Interactive Knowledge Session</b> (.75 credit hour) Additional information available on next page
5:15pm – 6:15pm	<b>Reception &amp; Poster Session</b>

<b>Saturday, March 14</b> <b>Interactive Knowledge Sessions</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
<b>11:15am – 12:00pm</b>	
<b>RA</b>	Bryant England, MD, PhD Amanda Snyder, MD
<b>Car-T</b>	Sonali Bracken, MD Saira Sheikh, MD
<b>Infection Risk</b>	Kevin Winthrop, MD, MPH Rachel Wolfe, MD
<b>4:15pm – 5:00pm</b>	
<b>Lupus</b>	Sheetal Desai, MD, MEd Rupak Thapa, MD
<b>Sarcoid</b>	Arthur Yee, MD Jeffrey Shen, MD
<b>Gout</b>	Larry Edwards, MD Lena Eder, MD

<b>Sunday, March 15</b> <b>(4 hrs)</b>	
7:00am – 7:45am	<b>Breakfast in Exhibit Hall</b>
7:45am – 8:00am	<b>Welcome</b> A. Silvia Ross, MD
8:00am – 8:45am	<b>Unmasking IgG4 Disease: Clinical approach for diagnosis and management</b> (.75 credit hour) Leonard H Calabrese, DO
8:45am – 9:30am	<b>What We Should All Know About Gout and It's Treatment</b> (.75 credit hour) Larry Edwards, MD, MACR, MACP
9:30am – 10:30am	<b>Fellows Case Presentations</b> (1 credit hour)
10:30am – 11:00am	Break
11:00am – 11:45am	<b>Rheumatology Year in Review</b> (.75 credit hour) Bryant England, MD, PhD
11:45am – 12:30pm	<b>Top Ten List for APS</b> (.75 credit hour) Sheetal Desai, MD, MEd



## **SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES 2026 ANNUAL MEETING**

### ***Saturday Lunch with Vendor*** **\$6,000**

This sponsorship would allow you to be the sponsor of our lunch with the Vendors on Saturday. This event will be held in the exhibit hall. Funds and the logo (in EPS format) must be received no later than February 15, 2026. Your sponsorship would include:

- ✓ four (4) name badges which allow:
  - entrance into exhibit hall and general sessions,
  - entrance into the Saturday and Sunday breakfast and breaks, and Saturday lunch, and Saturday reception
  - ability to purchase 2 additional name badges for \$250/person, you will purchase when you register attendees
  - name badges are not transferable between representatives
- ✓ two tables, four (4) chairs and electricity,
- ✓ recognition in our conference materials, podium recognition, banner recognition, and
- ✓ ability to add information to the conference mobile app,
- ✓ conference notebook and access to conference app for each registered representative.

### ***Saturday Breakfast*** ***Or*** ***Sunday Breakfast*** **\$5,000**

This sponsorship would allow you to be the sponsor of either the Saturday morning breakfast or the Sunday morning breakfast. These meals will be in the exhibit hall each day. Funds and the logo (in EPS format) must be received no later than February 15, 2026. Your sponsorship would include:

- ✓ three (3) name badges which allow:
  - entrance into exhibit hall and general sessions,
  - entrance into the Saturday and Sunday breakfast and breaks, and Saturday lunch, and Saturday reception
  - ability to purchase 2 additional name badges for \$250/person, you will purchase when you register attendees
  - name badges are not transferable between representatives
- ✓ two tables, three (3) chairs and electricity,
- ✓ recognition in our conference materials, podium recognition, banner recognition,
- ✓ ability to add information to the conference mobile app, and
- ✓ conference notebook and access to conference app for each registered representative.

***Saturday Morning Break***  
***OR***  
***Saturday Afternoon Break***  
***OR***  
***Sunday Morning Break***  
**\$4,000**

This sponsorship would allow you to be the sponsor for the morning OR afternoon breaks on Saturday OR the Sunday morning break. The breaks are held in the exhibit hall and are 30 minutes. Funds and the logo (in EPS format) must be received no later than February 15, 2026. Your sponsorship would include:

- ✓ three (3) name badges which allow
  - entrance into exhibit hall and general sessions,
  - entrance into the Saturday and Sunday breakfast and breaks, and Saturday lunch, and Saturday reception
  - ability to purchase 2 additional name badges for \$250/person, you will purchase when you register attendees
  - name badges are not transferable between representatives
- ✓ one table, three (3) chairs and electricity,
- ✓ recognition in our conference materials, podium recognition, banner recognition,
- ✓ ability to add information to the conference mobile app,
- ✓ conference notebook and access to conference app for each registered representative.

***Exhibitor***  
**\$3000**

This exhibit level would provide space in our exhibit hall. Breakfast and breaks on both Saturday and Sunday, as well as Saturday's lunch are held in the exhibit hall. Funds must be received no later than February 15, 2026.

Exhibition at this level would include:

- ✓ two (2) name badges which allow
  - entrance into exhibit hall and general sessions,
  - entrance into the Saturday and Sunday breakfast and breaks, and Saturday lunch, and Saturday reception
  - ability to purchase 2 additional name badges for \$250/person, you will purchase when you register attendees
  - name badges are not transferable between representatives
- ✓ one table, two (2) chairs,
- ✓ recognition in our conference materials, podium recognition, banner recognition,
- ✓ ability to add information to the conference mobile app, and
- ✓ conference notebook and access to conference app for each registered representative.

