

Neal W. Pollock, PhD



Neal Pollock was born in Edmonton, Canada. He developed an early passion for aquatics and outdoor adventure, juggling bicycle touring, skiing, white water kayaking and scuba diving by high school. He completed a Bachelor degree in zoology, the first three years at the University of Alberta (Edmonton) and the final year at the University of British Columbia (UBC, Vancouver), involved in scientific diving from the end of his second year. He stayed in Vancouver after graduating, working in the diving field, completing a diving-based Master degree and then serving as diving officer at UBC for almost five years. He was involved in a range of contract work during this period, allowing him to dive in many locations around the world, including Antarctica. He then moved to Florida to work on a diving research study directed by Dr. Richard Vann of Duke University and complete a doctorate in exercise physiology/environmental physiology at Florida State University (FSU). While at FSU he taught anatomy and physiology and exercise physiology to undergraduates and gross anatomy to first year medical students. He also continued seasonal research diving in the Antarctic. Upon graduation, he moved to North Carolina for a term professorial position at East Carolina University (ECU) and began to commute to Duke University for diving studies. The commuting continued for two years from ECU, one year from Georgia Southern University and, and then a brief return to FSU to teach gross anatomy preceded the offer of a full-time position at Duke and, over time, increasing involvement with Divers Alert Network (DAN) Research. He currently serves as Research Director at DAN and Research Associate in Anesthesiology at Duke University. He has reviewed for 13 peer-reviewed journals and sits on the editorial boards of both *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine* and *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine*. He still cycles, skis, kayaks and dives and is quick to accept invitations to interesting places.