NUCCA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION - NUCCA

PRESIDENT'S Letter

Winter Has Arrived

Chill is in the air, but it wasn't just a short two months ago. The Fall Conference was busy and as hot as could be with 150 doctors and students in attendance!

Conference Highlights:

Drs. Tym Flory and **Jack Stockwell** started the conference off with inspirational talks on different cases and lessons learned over their many years in practice.

The number of students is slowly but surely growing. There are several who have connected with doctors and are learning from them while still in school. This was a terrific group of students who asked great questions and fully participated in each of their classes.

Dr. Cha, (neurologist from University of Minnesota) also spoke on how NUCCA and the medical profession are not that far apart and how working together for the patient's best outcome needs to be in the forefront of everyone's minds.

Thursday evening was a beautiful and fun filled **"Kerry-Oke"** night celebrating the life, contributions and friendship of our dear colleague **Dr. Kerry Johnson**. It was a heartfelt tribute with a video of Dr. Johnson, his family, and his associates. We also had an open mic where many wonderful stories were shared about who he was and how he lived his life!

During the banquet, doctors were recognized who are advancing in the different levels of the certification program. It is truly inspiring to see the new faces who are stepping up to develop their skills within the Certification Program.

Drs. Allen Harrison and **Jason Chesney** were presented with their Certification plaques for completing all levels of the Certification Program. These doctors demonstrated their persistence,

Inside this issue:

1 > President's Letter
3 > Spring Conference Update
> Student Essay Contest
4 > UCRF Update
5 > NUCCA Student Club Reminder
> Small Steps Update
6 > Fall Conference Recap
7 > NUCCA ONLINE Modules
> Certification Update
8 > Dr. Robert J. Goodman Memorial Scholarship
> Settleback Sessions
9 > 2025 Gregory Circle Members
> Nucca 2026 Membership Renewal Reminder
10 > Thank you to our 2025 Annual Sponsors

NUCCA
www.nucca.org

PRESIDENT'S Letter

focus, and respect, by their pursuit of attaining maximum ASC corrections for their patients.

Two special doctors, who received awards from the ICA were also recognized at the banquet. Drs. **Jeff Scholten** for the Unsung Hero award and **Phil Arnone** for Researcher of the Year. Both doctors help spread NUCCA to the rest of the chiropractic profession through their many passions.

Congratulations to **Luca Biglioli**, from **Barcelona Chiropractic College** in Spain. He received the **Bobbie and Linda Goodman $500.00 Scholarship Award**. Luca had saved money over one year to come to the conference. He therefore put the money he received toward purchasing, from the **Upper Cervical Store**, a set of calipers and a portable adjusting table. He is the type of dedicated student who will help NUCCA continue far into the future.

Your Board in Action

All the committees have been laser focused on advancing our 2026 Strategic Plan. Our first goal is to increase student membership and attendance at both conferences. To achieve this objective our focus is to create a one year calendar for doctors to speak at our six target colleges at the beginning of each quarter (virtual unless there are volunteers who wish to visit Spain). The more times we are in front of the students at schools the more students have an opportunity to learn about NUCCA. The schools we are targeting are Palmer Davenport, Palmer Florida, Sherman, Northwestern, Life West, Life Omaha, Barcelona. If you are interested in participating at one of the schools please contact Dr. Barbara Read at bkreaddc@hotmail.com.

NUCCA is sending out our first **NUCCA Student Newsletter**. This will go out quarterly. A big thank you **Dr. Catherine Zabelin** and the Communication Committee for the content, the Fundraising Committee for the concept, and the Jaffe team for the formatting of the newsletter.

Our other main strategic objectives are to see how we can better **brand and market NUCCA** to the public and students. Currently, we are in discussion with a marketing and branding expert. This is a work in progress.

Finally, **Drs. Cory Burt** and **Catherine Zabelin** are working with a company updating and streamlining the NUCCA website. I think we all agree this is overdue. A big thank you for taking this on!

There are many other items your board is working on, and we will continue to to update the membership as things transpire.

Again, thanks to all who attended the Fall Conference! I look forward to hearing from, and seeing you, at the **NEW VENUE** in beautiful **San Diego, April 23-25** for the Spring Conference!

Stay well,

Dr. Glenn Cripe, D.C.

President, NUCCA Board of Directors

NUCCA Board Certified

NeckCare

You Focus on Upper Cervical Care. So Do We.

Capture functional movement with The Butterfly Test™

Trusted by industry leaders.

UFC PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE · TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS · Harvard Medical School · U.S. AIR FORCE

SPRING CONFERENCE Update

NUCCA Spring Conference is April 23-25 in San Diego, California!

Whether you are a seasoned NUCCA practitioner or new to the field, the 2026 Spring NUCCA Conference is a must-attend event for anyone committed to the highest standards of upper cervical chiropractic care.

Join us for education, networking, workshops, and more!

Registration and more information will be coming soon!

STUDENT ESSAY Contest

Deadline: April 1, 2026

NUCCA's Education Committee would like to give our student members an opportunity to attend conference on us!

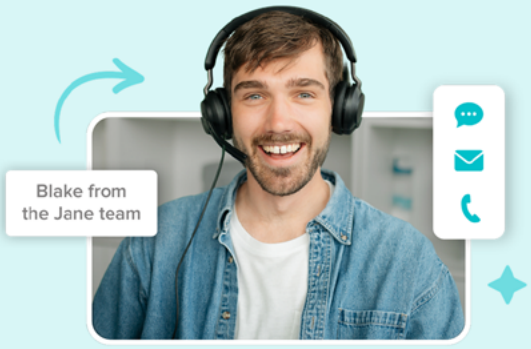
All student members attending the Spring 2026 Conference are welcome to submit an essay about "What NUCCA Means to Me?" Please submit your essay to info@nucca.org **by April 1, 2026.**

Our Education Committee will select one winner who will be notified at the start of conference.

Jane

Get help from humans who care as much as you do.

Jane is a practice management software and EMR backed by award-winning support.



Book a demo

UCRF Update

As we move into the next phase of UCRF's research agenda, we are excited to share updates on several key projects that will strengthen the scientific foundation of NUCCA care. This year's research efforts reflect a commitment to precision, reproducibility, and clinical relevance—ensuring that NUCCA continues to be recognized as a measurable, evidence-based approach to spinal and neurological health.

One of the highest-priority initiatives is the **validation of NUCCA's posture measurement** tools, specifically the Anatometer and Gravity Stress Analyzer (GSA). These devices are central to evaluating postural change and clinical outcomes. Current validation studies are designed to confirm that these tools produce consistent, reproducible measurements, reinforcing confidence in both everyday practice and published research. Many of you saw the third edition of "Manny" at the conference from the labor of Dr. Russamano.

Significant progress has also been made in the **Radiographic Positioning Agreement Study (R.A.S. System).** This project examines the reliability of NUCCA pre- and post-x-ray positioning across clinicians with varying levels of training and experience. Findings highlight the importance of standardized protocols, and the research team—Drs. Jaimie Johnson, Gordon Hasick, Craig Lapenski, and David Vasquez—are finalizing a peer-reviewed publication that will help further define and strengthen NUCCA imaging procedures.

Another core research priority is the investigation into the **Optimal Correction of the Atlas Subluxation Complex (ASC).** This project evaluates long-term spinal stability, neurological outcomes, and quality-of-life changes associated with precise NUCCA corrections. By measuring both structural and patient-centered outcomes over time, this work aims to refine the definition of "optimal correction" and support evidence-based clinical decision-making.

This year also marks the launch of one of UCRF's most ambitious projects to date: a **landmark prevalence study on ASC Syndrome in the general population,** developed in alignment with recommendations from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Establishing a scientifically supported prevalence rate has the potential to significantly elevate NUCCA's visibility within broader healthcare research and policy discussions.

To expand our research capacity, UCRF is actively developing a **Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN)**—a collaborative of NUCCA clinics across North America. This network will accelerate multi-site data collection, support large-scale research initiatives, and produce evidence that more accurately reflects real-world patient populations and clinical practices.

Additionally, UCRF continues to invest in the future of NUCCA through the **Student Research Mentoring Scholarship Program**. Each year, five research-focused students are paired with NUCCA practitioners to conduct meaningful projects that contribute to the peer-reviewed literature. These scholarships help cultivate the next generation of upper cervical researchers and strengthen the long-term growth of NUCCA science.

Work also continues on the **Blood and CSF Flow Migraine Study,** one of the most comprehensive and technically advanced research efforts in NUCCA's history. The current phase involves reviewing imaging data, evaluating migraine outcomes, and examining how NUCCA corrections may influence vascular and neurological function. This study holds significant potential for future collaboration and broader scientific recognition.

Together, these research projects represent important steps forward—not only for NUCCA practitioners, but for the entire field of upper cervical healthcare. The work being done today will shape standards, inform clinical protocols, and contribute to the global understanding of spinal biomechanics and neurological function.

We appreciate the ongoing support of the NUCCA community as we advance these initiatives and continue our commitment to high-quality research.

Dr. Craig Lapenski
President, UCRF

NUCCA STUDENT CLUB Reminder

This is a reminder that NUCCA wants to continue to support the efforts of the NUCCA Student Clubs at participating Universities and Colleges. If your NUCCA Student Club will be holding an upcoming event that is focused on NUCCA or needs to purchase NUCCA supplies or equipment, you can be reimbursed!

NUCCA will reimburse up to $500 per event/request ($1,000 calendar year max per University/College). Reimbursement will be granted and approved upon submission of receipts and satisfactory report from the University/College within two (2) weeks of event conclusion or purchase of supplies/equipment. *

Please click the button below to access the form. Provide as much information as you can to ensure the NUCCA Board has everything they need to grant approval.

Request Form

Questions? Please contact the NUCCA office at info@nucca.org.

**If it is a challenge for your club to wait for reimbursement, please email the NUCCA office. We are happy to work with you on alternative arrangements to ensure your club activities and expenses are as seamless as possible.*

UCM
PRACTICE GROWTH SYSTEMS

Systems and tools to help the upper cervical practice GROW

(877) 252-1230
uppercervicalmarketing.com
tony@uppercervicalmarketing.com

SMALL STEPS Update

SMALL STEPS TO SUCCESS Flexible Giving Program

2025 UCRF Fundraising Campaign

Update on the 17th Annual Small Steps Fundraiser for UCRF Research for 2026

We are pleased to report that this year's Small Steps campaign raised **$7,600 in the United States** and $**6,100 in Canada, for a total of $13,700** to support ongoing UCRF research initiatives.

Thank you to everyone who participated—whether through personal contributions, engaging your patients, or helping spread awareness. Every gift, big or small, strengthens our shared commitment to advancing the science and clinical understanding of the NUCCA work.

The projects we are advancing—ranging from imaging validation and biomechanical studies to quality-of-life outcomes and student research mentorship—are only possible because of a community that believes in the long term: that steady, collective steps lead to meaningful progress.

Your support is more than just raising funds; it is a declaration of belief in NUCCA's future, in rigorous research, and in the patients whose lives are transformed through this work.

Thank you for working alongside us—one small step at a time.

With appreciation,
UCRF Leadership

FALL CONFERENCE Recap

The Fall Conference was time well spent with many new and returning doctors, students and sponsors. Thank you to everyone who joined us in Minneapolis October 23-25 at the new venue, Hyatt Regency Bloomington. During our three days together, there were many CE credits earned, memories shared, adjustments made and doctors celebrated and honored. We brought back the Settleback Brewery event, which was a hit, in honor of the late Dr. Kerry Johnson and enjoyed an evening of reminiscing and "Kerry-Oke." Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Fall Conference. Save-the-Date for our Spring Conference being held April 23-25, 2026 at the Westin San Diego Bayside.

NUCCA ONLINE Modules

The NUCCA Online Modules are designed for doctors and students at any level of experience. A perfect example is how these modules are currently being utilized by a study group at Palmer College in Davenport! The module topics encompass all aspects necessary to become a successful NUCCA Doctor. From aligning your X-ray machine and analyzing images to examining patients and delivering adjustments.

The modules are intentionally concise and focused. You can access specific content when needed and proceed at your own pace. If you are new to the field, it's advisable to follow the topics in the recommended sequence. For those more advanced, you can target specific areas where you require assistance, without having to listen to complete lectures.

Are you a student? Students should reach out to the NUCCA office at info@nucca.org. In their request, they should include a valid student email address and provide their contact information.

- All active members are eligible to request access to our Online Modules video library. This platform serves as a valuable complement to the NUCCA textbook. Here is how it operates: Request access by completing this online form: https://nucca.memberclicks.net/onlinemodules
- You will receive a unique, one-time login code and further instructions via email.

Renew your module access in 2026! Please note that this is a member benefit, therefore in order to be able to access these modules you'll have to ensure your membership has been renewed for the year ahead.

For inquiries regarding this new member benefit/resource, please email the NUCCA office at info@nucca.org.

CERTIFICATION Update

The Certification Program continues to evolve as we engage more doctors in their development and learning process. The Credentialled Certification Reviewer program continues to be altered as we look for better ways to advance the learning of our reviewers and create a more unified methodology for mentorship. We have a system in place with sample films to test the reviewers for consistency in acceptability and coaching. Having the credentialed reviewers walk through what was acceptable and not in a series of images builds consistency in the program. I would like to thank Dr. Daiki Ishiyama, Dr Michael Russamano, Dr Marcy Ziska, Dr Jason Granger, and Dr Levi Colt Wainwright for completing the training and helping us to create a more effective and uniform program.

As always our dedication to the work is an individual decision in how deep we choose to engage in the imaging, analysis, and reduction of the Atlas Subluxation Complex. One of the greatest gifts we can give humanity is a maximal correction of the ASC. However this is a voluntary decision and choice we make. Most of the years spent in practice don't have other practitioners evaluating the quality and effectiveness of our work, however the unique window that is provided by the Certification Program does just that. It has been my experience that every doctor who has completed it has always commented later that they would never want to go back to the knowledge and skill level they had prior to completing the program. Why is this? They have developed an education in understanding the ASC in a way they didn't before, and they wouldn't want to be without that newly acquired skillset. We encourage all of the members of our organization to engage themselves in the ongoing training available through the program, your patients are relying on you to become the best practitioner you can be!

Dr. Craig Lapenski
Co-Chair Certification

Dr. Daiki Ishiyama
Co-Chair Certification

DR. ROBERT J. GOODMAN Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Goodman was a dedicated NUCCA practitioner who had a desire to support NUCCA beyond his years. Thus, the Dr. Robert J. Goodman Memorial Scholarship was established to support chiropractic students and practicing doctors in their first two years, to attend a NUCCA Conference. Dr. Goodman found great value in the NUCCA seminars and wants to ensure others new doctors and students have the same experience.

Dr. Goodman served as NUCCA President for 8 years, he was an Ambassador for NUCCA as well as an award recipient numerous times throughout his volunteer years serving the organization.

Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of $500 per person/per seminar to cover the seminar fee and help cover some meals.

Scholarship Criteria:

1. Must be a NUCCA Student or Graduate Member to apply.
2. Must submit application by the published deadline (TBD for Spring 2026 Conference)

Drs. Glenn Cripe, Brian Cripe and Steve Nakano will select the scholarship recipients. These Drs. personally knew the heart of Dr. Goodman and are honored to award these scholarships in his name.

Apply for a Scholarship for Spring 2026 Conference (April 23-25, 2026, San Diego, CA) at https://nucca.org/students/drgoodmanscholarship/

SETTLEBACK Sessions

The most recent Settleback session was held on December 17

Role of NUCCA Care in Vestibular Health: Why It Matters & How We Can Do Better

Topic: The Role of NUCCA Care in Vestibular Health: Why It Matters and How We Can Do Better

Date: December 17, 2025 (Wednesday)

Time: 6 pm PST, 9 pm EST

Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Chung DC- Palm Beach, Florida

2025 GREGORY CIRCLE Members

Gregory Circle Gold

- Dr. Kerry Johnson

Gregory Circle Silver

- Dr. Philip Arnone
- Dr. Michael Russamano
- Dr. Blair Schmaus

Gregory Circle Junior Silver

- Dr. Keith Denton
- Dr. Craig Lapenski
- Dr. Patrick Lin

Gregory Circle Bronze

- Dr. Alan Barnes
- Dr. Valeri Briski
- Dr. Justin Brown
- Dr. Norris Golberg
- Dr. Greg Goffe
- Dr. Jason Granger
- Dr. Kevin Hallmeyer
- Dr. Steven MacDonald
- Dr. Christopher Maxson
- Dr. Russill Mills
- Dr. Kyle Murray
- Dr. David Packer
- Dr. Andrea Pritchett
- Dr. Julia Radwanski
- Dr. Jeffrey Scholten
- Dr. Kurt Sherwood
- Dr. Jayson Snyder

Gregory Circle Junior Bronze

- Dr. Marie Biek
- Dr. Jason Chesney
- Dr. Jamie Cramer
- Dr. Christopher Dawson
- Dr. Stanley Dombroski
- Dr. Donald Erwin
- Dr. Vince Fitzpatrick
- Dr. Michael J. Foran
- Dr. Patricia Gregg
- Dr. Clint Grover
- Dr. Scott Hansen
- Dr. Daiki Ishiyama
- Dr. Aaron Kiefer
- Dr. Kyrie Kleinfelter
- Dr. John Kowalczyk
- Dr. Benjamin Kuhn
- Dr. Terry McCoskey
- Dr. Andrew Moore
- Dr. Jim Moore
- Dr. Reanna Plancich
- Dr. Barbara Read
- Dr. Kalan Stittleburg
- Dr. Jack Stockwell
- Dr. Ashleigh Street
- Dr. Ryan Stroh
- Dr. Shawn Thomas
- Dr. Gary Thomson
- Dr. Marcella Ziska

NUCCA 2026 MEMBERSHIP Renewal Reminder

Thank you to all that have renewed their NUCCA Membership for 2026. To those that have not yet renewed, this is a reminder that your annual membership with NUCCA is about to expire! Act now and renew your membership before December 31, 2025.

Below are the steps to renew your membership today!

- Click here to direct you to the website to renew 2026 NUCCA Membership. Please note, you will have the option to select your membership to pay in full or to pay monthly installments.

We also encourage you to take this time to log into your NUCCA member profile and ensure the information listed in your profile is correct (practice name, address, number of years in practice, etc.). This data is used for your online directory profile listing.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to NUCCA. We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and collaboration as we strive to advance our shared mission.

If you have any questions regarding your renewal, or need any assistance, please reach out via email (info@nucca.org) or by phone (952.564.3056).

Wishing you a prosperous and healthy 2026.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 ANNUAL SPONSORS

PLATINUM Sponsors

LEGALLY MINE
KEEP WHAT YOU EARN

NeckCare

UCM
PRACTICE GROWTH SYSTEMS

GOLD Sponsor

Jane