NUCCA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION - NUCCA

PRESIDENT'S Letter

Fallis Upon Us!

As many of you have heard by now our dear friend and colleague, Kerry Johnson passed on June 24, 2025. He passed while on a fishing vacation with his family. He has been a beloved instructor with his dry sense of humor with high standards, from whom we all learned a great deal. He was leading the charge on CBCT and biomechanics while bringing us all along with his newfound insights. I know we all will miss his bigger than life personality, love for NUCAA, his friends and devotion to his faith.

We will be honoring Kerry with his family at the upcoming conference in Minnesota. In his honor, we are bringing back the Settleback Brewery + "KERRY-OKE" on Thursday night and will also play a video tribute to him during the banquet. Please send in any pictures of Kerry you may have taken over the years by September 19th to info@nucca.org. I also urge you all to come to tell a Kerry story that is meaningful to you during his favorite NUCCA event on Thursday night. Purchase a memorial Dr. J mug for $20 for your beverages (includes two drink tickets), or attend for free simply to mingle and reminisce (a cash bar and light appetizers will be available).

Many of us took some well-deserved time off over the summer. And now we are all back hard at work preparing for the second half of the year. The NUCCA Board has been busy preparing for our virtual strategic planning retreat, September 20, our Fall conference Oct. 23-25 and, our Spring conference as well. Save-the-date for Spring 2026, April 23-25 back in San Diego. We are looking forward to new NUCCA hotels in both Bloomington and in San Diego. The venues prove to offer a higher level of service and facilities for both conferences. I can assure you, everyone will be extremely proud and thrilled with our new venues!

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PRESIDENT'S Letter /

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NUCCA was well represented with a number of doctors helping spread the word about NUCCA during the The Wave at Life West. A big thank you to all those who supported NUCCA and our booth at the event: Drs. Amninder Gil, Michael Zabelin, and our fearless student leader on campus, Chase Lapenski.

I find the commitment to NUCCA by our board, committee members and other unsung volunteers is truly amazing. The reason for all the work they put in, can be summed up with the fact that each one has a love and passion for the mission of our wonderful work "The Restoration Principle."

Thank you all,

Dr. Glenn Cripe, D.C.

President, NUCCA Board of Directors

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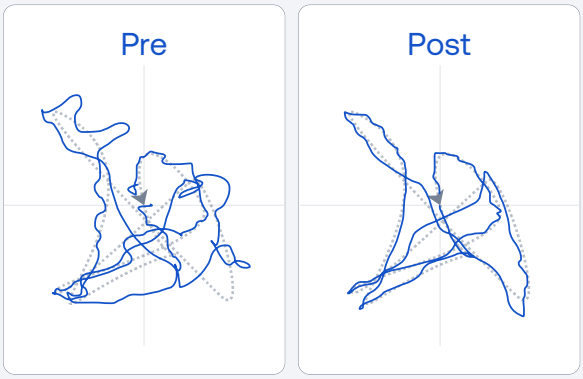

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CONFERENCE Update

NUCCA Fall Conference is October 23 – 25, 2025 in Bloomington, MN!

Whether you are a seasoned NUCCA practitioner or new to the field, the 2025 Fall 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

REGISTER NOW!

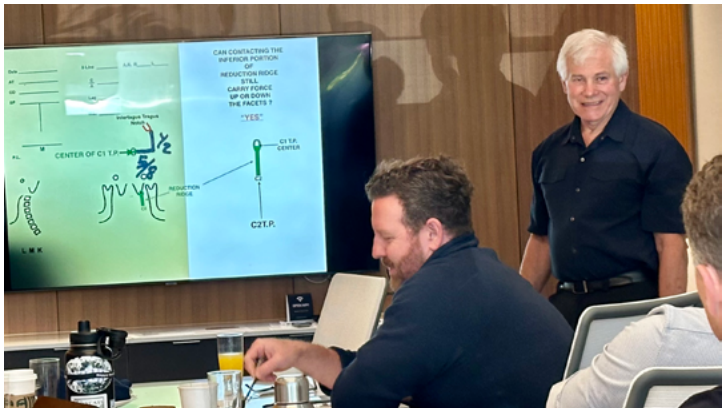
October 23-25, 2025

New Venue

Hyatt Regency Bloomington-Minneapolis

Regional Workshops

Thank you to Drs. Michael Foran and Vince Fitzpatrick for leading the NUCCA Workshop held last month in Vancouver.



This summer Drs. Fitzpatrick and Foran hosted a regional workshop in Vancouver. This sold out workshop proved to be engaging, educational and a great time to collaborate with fellow NUCCA doctors

STRATEGIC PLANNING Highlights

The NUCCA Board of Directors along with Committee Chairs, are meeting virtually on Saturday, September 20th for their annual strategic planning session. The Board and Committee Chairs will review organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges as they brainstorm ways to further engage students in the NUCCA work. The session will culminate in a plan for the year ahead which will focus on building relationships with chiropractic colleges, continuing to expand our presence on campuses and engage our doctors in promoting NUCCA and our organization to the next generation of NUCCA leaders.

Interested in getting more involved with moving NUCCA's mission forward? Reach out to a Board member or info@nucca.org and we'll get you connected.

DR. KERRY L. JOHNSON Memorial

Kerry Lee Johnson, age 64, passed away unexpectedly on June 24, 2025, while in Canada with his son and grandson on a fishing trip to a lake he's cherished since childhood.

Kerry was born on April 17, 1961, to Ron & Judy Johnson in Menomonie, WI and was the oldest of 3 siblings. He spent the majority of his childhood in Stillwater and White Bear Lake, MN. Following his graduation from White Bear Lake High School, he completed his undergraduate studies at St Olaf College and Lakewood Community College and subsequently achieved his Doctor of Chiropractic from Life University in Georgia.

Kerry was united in marriage to Lisa Johnson (Lang) on July 10, 1982. Together they started their NUCCA (National Upper Cervical Chiropractic Association) chiropractic business in Rosemount, MN in 1986, which has grown to what is now Johnson Spinal Care. His vision for a group practice across multiple locations is well underway with 8 doctors on staff spanning 4 clinic locations in Minnesota, with the added joy of working alongside his son, daughter & son-in-law.

Kerry was a board certified NUCCA doctor who made significant contributions to the upper cervical community. He served on various boards & committees as a persistent champion for advancing both the NUCCA organization and innovating the technique. His devotion to bringing healing to a sick and dying world brought him to mentor countless other doctors and partner with Northwestern Health Sciences University as both an adjunct professor and clinician.

His passion for chiropractic was only surpassed by his love for his family and his devotion to his faith in Jesus Christ. He served in multiple leadership roles for various churches and ministries over the years, impacting many with his unwavering faith. His commitment to bring the love of Jesus to those in need fueled global projects from building gymnasiums in Paraguay, to drilling wells and building orphanages throughout Africa.

Kerry brought his unmatched joy and seemingly limitless energy to everything he did and everyone he loved. Those that knew him well, knew he never let a serious moment linger too long before he couldn't help himself from making an untimely joke. He was always up for a laugh, hosting a beloved Packer game, or creating memories with his grandkids. He lived for the adventure, whether it was traveling with his wife or hunting & fishing with friends and family. Lastly, he will be remembered for his gift of generosity. He always paid for dinner, never hesitated to drive over to fix something and gave countless adjustments after hours - No one was an inconvenience.

Kerry was preceded in death by his father, Ron Johnson; and sister, Brenda Schiltgen.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Johnson; children, Matt (Megan) Johnson and Beth (Tad) Norris; 5 grandchildren, Finley & Hazel Johnson and Ellie, Judah & Elijah Norris; mother, Judy Johnson; sister, Sheri (Melissa) Chaffee-Johnson; and other loving family and friends.

UCRF Update

With Fall upon us, be on the lookout for correspondence on the 17th annual Small Steps to Success campaign. We will be launching the campaign right after the Fall NUCCA conference and it will run through the month of November. Our goal last year was to have 40 doctors participating and to raise 85k for NUCCA's research efforts. Last year we achieved our goal of 40 doctors signing up and collected a total of $3,368.01(US funds) from the Americans and $2,649.48 (US funds) from the Canadians. This year we want to build on that to achieve the goal set last year of 85k. We will have a myriad of tools available this year for participants to give their patients the opportunity to give into upper cervical research.

One of main targets at the top of our research agenda is the validation of our posture measurement tools (Anatometer and GSA). This has led to the development by Dr. Michael Russamano of a postural mannequin known as "Manny". This mannequin is slated to be at the Fall conference for observation. This mannequin is on its third iteration and being fabricated by a machining company at the time of this update. This mannequin will be utilized for the validation studies that are in process.

The first phase of the X-ray positioning study is currently being written with the help of Dr. Jaime Johnston (University of Calgary). This project is slated to be one of our next published papers. This years Small Steps campaign will continue to fund our Student Research Scholarships. The goal of this program is to pair research oriented students with some of our practitioners to increase the body of research available in peer reviewed journals while developing our next generation of clinicians involved in research.

We thank you for your support as we assist you in clinical practice.

Dr. Craig Lapenski
President UCRF

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STUDENT Essay Contest

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

All students attending the Fall 2025 Conference are welcome to submit an essay about '**What NUCCA Means to Me?'** – please submit your essay to info@nucca.org **by October 1, 2025.**

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

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 your club finds it difficult to wait for reimbursement, please contact the NUCCA office. We are happy to work with you on alternative arrangements to keep your club activities and expenses running smoothly.*

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS by Friday, September 19th!

Dear NUCCA Members,

We are creating a video tribute to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Kerry Johnson, and we would be grateful for your participation.

If you have special memories to share—whether a heartfelt photo, a joyful occasion, or a quiet moment spent together—we invite you to contribute. This memorial will celebrate the many meaningful connections and impactful work that defined Dr. Johnson's life.

Here's how you can contribute:

1 Select Your Photos: Choose high-resolution photos.

2. Submit Your Entries: Email your selected photos to info@NUCCA.org by **Friday, September 19th, 2025**.

In addition to the video tribute we will also be honoring Dr. Kerry Johnson's legacy and family at a special event on Thursday night at the conference. View details here and be sure to add the event to your registration!

CERTIFICATION Update

In years past I have observed that with the fun activities of Spring and Summer some doctors seem to put their practices and patient care a bit on autopilot. With family trips and vacations looming, it's easy to just go about days in the clinic with a status quo mentality. This observation spills over into the certification program as well, and often we see less doctors submitting into the process during the summer months. While this is typically true, it hasn't stopped two of our stand outs from completing their board certification.

Dr. Allen Harrison and Dr. Jason Chesney have continued to develop themselves as some of our top doctors with their dedication to their patients and the difference the reduction of the Atlas Subluxation Complex means for them. It's not that often that I have two people at the same time really pushing on the door of their development like these two have. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with both of them and see their diligence in the taking of images, consistency of analysis, and the consistent pursuit of the reduction of the ASC. It has been a long and challenging process for both, but both mentioned how the process has really changed them and their understanding of what it takes to produce maximal corrections for their patients. Doctors often observe that their patients end up doing so much better under care as they become engrossed in discovering the nuances of what it takes to produce this outcome.

A huge debt of gratitude goes out to all the doctors who have poured into them along the way to become who they are today. It is my hearts great desire that the members of the organization of NUCCA adopt this same level of discipline and development that is emulated by these two!

With great appreciation to the two of them and a sincere desire for the health of humanity come and join us in this journey.

Dr. Craig Lapenski
Dr. Daiki Ishyama

DR. JASON CHESNEY Board Certified

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Dr. Jason Chesney, who has officially completed and passed his submission for NUCCA Board Certification!

This is an incredible accomplishment and a testament to his strong dedication. Throughout this rigorous journey, Dr. Chesney has shown an exceptional commitment to the NUCCA standard of care. He has tirelessly honed his skills and deepened his understanding, proving his drive to achieve clinical excellence at every turn.

To say we are proud is an understatement. Dr. Chesney, your determination and pursuit of mastery are truly inspiring—not just to us, but to the entire NUCCA community.

It is so encouraging to see more doctors like you embracing the depth of this work and holding themselves to the high standards that make this procedure so impactful.

Well done, Dr. Chesney—this is an achievement to be celebrated!

Warmest congratulations,

Dr. Craig Lapenski and Dr. Daiki
Co-chair of Certification and Standards

Dr. Jason Chesney
Symmetry Spinal Care
Edmonton, Alberta , Canada

Facebook
Instagram

WELCOME DR. MARCY ZISKA to the NUCCA Board

Dr. Marcy Ziska has been appointed to the NUCCA Board as a Director after the unexpected passing of Dr. Kerry Johnson who was NUCCA's most recently elected Director. Marcy is eager to serve at the pleasure of the membership and further engage with NUCCA in this capacity.

Welcome to the Board, Marcy!

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 (October 1, 2025)

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 Fall 2025 Conference (Oct 23-25, 2025, Minneapolis, MN) at https://nucca.org/students/drgoodmanscholarship/

2025 GREGORY CIRCLE Members

Gregory Circle Gold

- Dr. Kerry Johnson

Gregory Circle Silver

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

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. 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. 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. Benjamin Kuhn
- Dr. Terry McCoskey
- Dr. Andrew Moore
- Dr. Jim Moore
- Dr. Reanna Plancich
- Dr. Barbara Read
- Dr. Jack Stockwell
- Dr. Kalan Stittleburg
- Dr. Ryan Stroh
- Dr. Gary Thomson
- Dr. Ashleigh Treet
- Dr. Marcella Ziska

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.

New content will be added as instructors identify needs and as standards of care continue to evolve. All material has been crafted and reviewed by Credentialed Instructors under the oversight of the NUCCA Education Committee and the Standards and Certification Committee.

NEW! All students can now request access to our Online Modules video library, and membership status is no longer a prerequisite. To obtain access, 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
- Within two weeks of your request, NUCCA staff will grant you access. (You will receive a unique, one-time login code and further instructions via email.)
- Enjoy watching videos related to X-ray alignment, positioning, analysis, biomechanics, headpiece placement, adjustment, and more.

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

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