



Summer 2026

NUCCA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION - NUCCA

PRESIDENT'S Letter

Summer is upon us!

With the celebration of NUCCA's 60th anniversary, we were thrilled to see one of the largest turnouts during our spring conference in a very long time! There were 144 attendees with 14 students! The education committee once again created an outstanding conference. Drs. Kurt Sherwood and Julia Radwanski along with Amanda and the whole Jaffe team created a seamless learning experience for everyone.

Enough can't be said for our outstanding instructors. Many hours of work and preparation go into each class. Most classes are filled with new material or nuances that bring new insights to each doctor or student. One observation many commented on was the high level of attention, engagement, and attendance throughout each day. We are looking forward to celebrating NUCCA's 60th anniversary in Minneapolis.

What was evident to all was the presence of a videographer and interviews conducted throughout the conference. One of the board's strategic goals for 2025 has been to identify and select a PR marketing company to bring NUCCA greater visibility among students and members alike. We want to tell the world what we have to offer and realized **now is the time**. Now is the time to let people know NUCCA is the authority in chiropractic care. We must "raise our game" to meet the growing demands we will all experience as NUCCA's story gets out. There will be more to come on this exciting time in NUCCA's history.

The Need is Now

Bringing to light from a historical perspective, there has been a great need for our students to learn and doctors to continue to refine their skills to maximally correct the ASC. To emphasize the need to continue

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to focus our attention on the maximum correction of the atlas subluxation complex, Dr. Gregory noted as far back as March 1973, "Many patients are becoming concerned over the lack of doctors trained in NUCCA-NUCCRA methods to whom relatives and friends can be referred. In some instances, patients are being refused this service because doctors are over-loaded and can accommodate no more patients. Further, many patients must travel hundreds of miles to obtain service. Some doctors are nearing retirement with no hope of replacement. It is estimated that several hundred doctors trained in NUCCA-NUCCRA methods are needed now." This is even more true today than it was back in 1973.

For the doctors who continue to advance your skills and follow the NUCCA protocol, you see the results—not just in your patients' outcomes, but also confirmed by your post-image results. **For the students**, your future is incredibly bright. The teaching of NUCCA continues to improve, there are more patients needing excellent care than ever before, and there are great opportunities throughout the country to learn from experienced doctors.

As an organization, we realize the work is not for everyone. The work is demanding, precise, and challenging—and yet one of the most rewarding professions in the world. What better way to spend your life's work than helping countless people resolve their health challenges by balancing their spine **knowing** you have taken pressure off their spinal cord? To the veteran doctors, thank you for persevering, and to the students, hold on for the most wonderful ride you will ever experience.

So, as we celebrate NUCCA's 60 years of service to mankind, thank you for taking this incredible journey, as a family of proud and humble NUCCA doctors.

Wishing you all a safe and wonderful summer!



Dr. Glenn Cripe, D.C.

President, NUCCA Board of Directors
NUCCA Board Certified

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**Attend our presentation at the
NUCCA 2026 conference in April**

SPRING CONFERENCE Recap

Our spring conference was April 23-25 in San Diego, CA. The event was a success, and we hope that all who attended had an enjoyable experience filled with learning, networking, and fun. Highlights of the conference included:

- A career fair to connect students/professionals with each other
- Education and networking opportunities for all
- Honoring the 60th Anniversary of NUCCA!

Be sure to save the date for the 2026 Fall Conference, which is scheduled for November 12-14 in Minneapolis, MN.



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Certification Updates: Members Active & Advancing Since the Fall 2025 Conference

At the recent Spring Conference we proudly recognized the many members who are actively pursuing NUCCA certification, as well as those who have made significant strides in their certification journey since the Fall 2025 Conference. The dedication and commitment these members bring to the certification process reflects the high standards of our organization, and we applaud each of them for their hard work.

Members Active in Certification

The following members are currently engaged in the certification process across all levels:

Level I Candidacy

- Alan Barnes
- Bill Dawson
- Christopher Dawson
- Ernesto Fernandez
- Nicholas Foster
- Nathaniel Graham
- Matthew Hurtado
- Sarah LaRosa
- Patrick Lin
- Felix Periard
- Max Pohl
- Frank Polivka
- Nathaniel Rossi
- Robert Sexton
- Kinjal Shah
- Jayson Snyder
- Kalan Stittleburg
- Carol Stoutland
- Dani Winterbower

Level II Candidacy

- Alan Barnes
- Landon Burris
- Danielle Bush
- Ernesto Fernandez
- Matthew Hurtado
- Patrick Lin
- Kyle Murray
- Joowhye Nam
- Kierra Ridder
- Connor Thelemann

Level III Candidacy

- Stanley Dombroski
- Kathy Doyle
- Aaron Erhardt
- Chad Frandsen
- Hutan Ghajallu
- Amninder Gill
- Norris Golberg
- Trevor Hillard
- Wontaek Hwang
- Changwon Lee
- Tad Norris
- Reanna Plancich
- Vivek Soham
- Michelle Speranza
- Jameson Wong

Board Certification

- Corey Burt
- Madison Vanata

Members Advancing in Certification

We also celebrated the following members who have advanced in their certification levels since the Fall 2025 Conference:

Level I Candidacy

- Alan Barnes
- Ernesto Fernandez
- Matthew Hurtado
- Patrick Lin
- Max Pohl
- Dani Winterbower

Level II Candidacy

- Danielle Bush
- Kierra Ridder
- Connor Thelemann

Credentialed Certification Reviewer

- Dr. Hannah Orem

Please join us in celebrating these achievements! The certification journey requires tremendous effort and perseverance, and we are grateful for the example these members set for the entire NUCCA community. We look forward to continuing to support each of them as they progress.

CERTIFICATION Update

Summer is always an exciting time for family, friends, and travel. Better weather and more daylight provide ample opportunities for fun to be had with those we love. In the business of summer, it can be easy to put off goals that we have and even move into a state of complacency in regard to practice and patient care. As an organization we are fortunate to have the most in depth, and rigorous training program in the chiropractic profession. There is a beautiful transaction that takes place when an individual advances through the Board Certification Program. By sharing their work with a mentor doctor, they begin to see distinctions that they were unaware of previously. As a result, they develop a new set of "eyes" that will help to guide them for the rest of their career.

How do we improve in any endeavor in life? We get coaching from someone in that arena who has a wide depth of experience and knowledge in it. Any athlete who

has had a high level of success always has coaches and mentors who help to refine their craft. It is no different with NUCCA, with the exception that we are dealing with something even more important than throwing or catching a ball. We are dealing with the present and future health of the patients that interact with daily. With such a worthy calling and endeavor, such a devotion to excellence is easy.

If you're not involved in the Certification Program, get involved. If you're engaged, but haven't been submitting, do so. The health of your patients is dependent on your voluntary participation!

Dr. Craig Lapenski | Co-Chair Certification
Dr. Daiki Ishyama | Co-Chair Certification

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.***



SAVE THE DATE

FALL 2026 NUCCA Conference

**Hyatt Regency
Bloomington-Minneapolis!
November 12-14, 2026**

UCRF RESEARCH Update Advancing Precision, Expanding Impact

As UCRF continues to expand its research initiatives, we are proud to share meaningful progress across several projects aimed at strengthening the scientific foundation of NUCCA care. Our mission remains focused on advancing precision, improving reproducibility, and producing clinically relevant outcomes that further position NUCCA as a measurable, evidence-informed approach to spinal and neurological health.

One of the organization's primary priorities this year has been the continued validation of NUCCA's posture assessment instrumentation—the Anatometer and Gravity Stress Analyzer (GSA). These tools remain essential in quantifying postural change and evaluating patient outcomes. Current validation studies are focused on confirming measurement reliability and reproducibility, helping reinforce practitioner confidence while supporting higher standards for research publication. Many attendees had the opportunity to view the third edition of "Manny" during the conference, an exceptional advancement made possible through the innovation and dedication of Dr. Russamano. A first round of data collection occurred previous to the conference with the tremendous efforts of Drs. Vivek Soham, Micheal Russamano, and Jason Chesney. A large debt of gratitude goes out to Chris Browne of the Upper Cervical Store in his help to calibrate the equipment.

UCRF is also approaching completion of the Radiographic Positioning Agreement Study (R.A.S. System), which evaluates the consistency of NUCCA pre- and post-x-ray

positioning procedures among clinicians with varying levels of experience. Preliminary findings continue to highlight the importance of standardized imaging protocols. Drs. Jaimie Johnson, Gordon Hasick, Craig Lapenski, and David Vasquez are currently preparing a peer-reviewed manuscript that will further strengthen NUCCA radiographic procedures and enhance professional credibility within the broader imaging community.

Another major area of focus is the ongoing investigation into Optimal Correction of the Atlas Subluxation Complex (ASC). This research examines long-term spinal stability, neurological adaptation, and quality-of-life outcomes associated with precise NUCCA corrections. By assessing both objective structural measurements and patient-reported outcomes over extended follow-up periods, the project aims to refine our understanding of what constitutes an "optimal correction" while providing clearer guidance for clinical decision-making.

Among UCRF's most ambitious initiatives is the development of a landmark prevalence study evaluating ASC Syndrome within the general population. Designed in alignment with National Institutes of Health (NIH) recommendations, this study seeks to establish a scientifically defensible prevalence rate for ASC Syndrome. Achieving this milestone would significantly elevate NUCCA's visibility within broader healthcare research discussions and help inform future policy and interdisciplinary engagement.

UCRF RESEARCH Update / cont. from page 6

To further expand research capacity, UCRF is actively developing a Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) composed of collaborating NUCCA clinics across North America. This network will facilitate multi-site data collection, improve statistical power in clinical studies, and generate findings that more accurately reflect real-world patient populations and everyday clinical practice. The PBRN represents a critical step toward sustainable and scalable research growth within the profession.

UCRF also remains deeply committed to cultivating the next generation of NUCCA researchers through the Student Research Mentoring Scholarship Program. Each year, five research-focused students are paired with experienced NUCCA practitioners to complete projects designed for peer-reviewed publication. These scholarships not only foster future leaders in upper cervical research but also reinforce a culture of scientific inquiry throughout the profession.

In addition, work continues on the Blood and CSF Flow Migraine Study—one of the most technically advanced

research efforts in NUCCA's history. The current phase includes detailed imaging review, migraine outcome analysis, and evaluation of vascular and neurological changes associated with NUCCA correction. This study holds significant promise for interdisciplinary collaboration and broader scientific recognition.

Collectively, these initiatives represent substantial forward momentum—not only for NUCCA practitioners, but for the broader field of upper cervical healthcare. The standards established through this work will help shape future clinical protocols, influence professional education, and contribute to a deeper understanding of spinal biomechanics and neurological function.

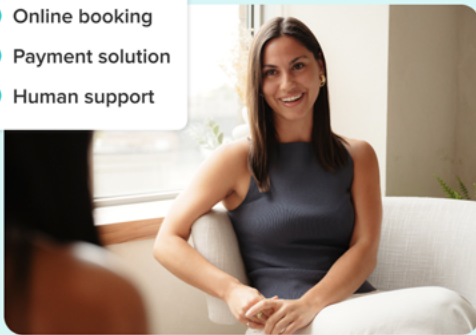
We remain deeply grateful for the continued engagement, collaboration, and support of the NUCCA community as we pursue rigorous, meaningful research that advances our shared mission.

Dr. Craig Lapenski
President, UCRF



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STUDENT CLUB Updates

Dr. Justin Brown spoke at Sherman April 10th and 11th. Two students from Sherman attended our spring conference. Rome Wallace is the club president and seems to be doing a great job keeping the club organized.

Dr. Greg Goffe and Dr. Terry McCowsky spoke at Palmer-Davenport April 10th for a SPIZZ night. Dr. Barbara Read hosted a workshop at Palmer Davenport April 11th.

New club co-presidents at Palmer: Eddy Kutter and Shelly Powell.

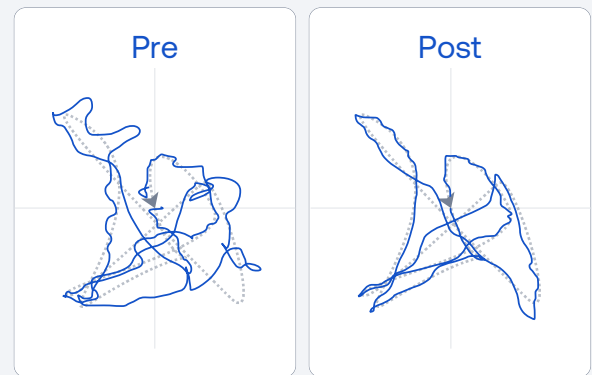
New club president at Life West: Brandon Sieler.

This past conference we had a Mentorship and Career Fair with 9 doctors presenting with different opportunities for their offices. 13 students attended with 7 different colleges being represented: Texas Chiropractic College, Life University, Life West, Palmer-Davenport, Sherman, Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, and Palmer-Florida.



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UPCOMING Regional Workshop

Foundations of Upper Cervical Assessment, Imaging Workflow (CBCT/X-ray), and Introductory Adjusting

Dates: September 26-27, 2026 | Location: Apple Valley, MN

More information and registration [Here](#)

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 13, 2026**)

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 2026 Conference (November 12-14, 2026, Bloomington, MN) at <https://nucca.org/students/drgoodmanscholarship/>

2026 GREGORY CIRCLE Members

Gregory Circle Silver

- Dr. David Packer
- 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. Justin Brown
- Dr. Greg Goffe
- Dr. Norris Golberg
- Dr. Jason Granger

- Dr. Brittany Holliday
- Dr. Steven MacDonald
- Dr. Christopher Maxson
- Dr. Russill Mills
- 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. Kevin Hallmeyer
- Dr. Scott Hansen
- Dr. Daiki Ishiyama
- Dr. Aaron Kiefer
- Dr. Kyrie Kleinfelter
- 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. Shawn Thomas
- Dr. Gary Thomson
- Dr. Marcella Ziska

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