



Fall 2026

NUCCA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION - NUCCA

PRESIDENT'S Letter

We Are All Growing! Students...Your Practice...You

Your board has been busy with bringing more awareness of NUCCA - not only with chiropractic students, but the public, professional organizations and universities.

The outreach by **Dr. Leigh Davis**, Chair and the Student Affairs Committee, to the colleges has been unprecedented. With a handful of very dedicated doctors doing a lot of the heavy lifting, NUCCA is now involved in six chiropractic colleges in some capacity: Sherman, Northwestern, Life West, Life West Omaha, Palmer Davenport and Palmer Florida. There have been very committed doctors who have really stepped up and have been speaking regularly at these various colleges. These dedicated speakers are, **Drs. Debra Sesker, Jamie Cramer, Michael Zabelin, Tad Norris, Justin Brown, Barbara Read, Greg Goffe, Terry McCoskey, Jeff Scholten, Trisha Gregg, and Ankur Tayal**. If you would like to join our speakers' team, please contact info@nucca.org and see how you can speak out for NUCCA!

More students are hearing and learning about NUCCA than ever before. NUCCA is starting to see the fruits of its labor. Because of these speakers, scholarships, generous donations of tables, instruments, modules, UCRF research, mentors etc. NUCCA is being heard.

Expanding our reach: Dr. Daiki Ishiyama, Chair of the International Committee, has developed an entire protocol for international students and doctors to follow, to learn about and participate in NUCCA. The goal is to establish certified NUCCA doctors throughout the world. At this time, there will be four doctors/students attending the November 12-14 conference.

Outside the chiropractic arena: We recently heard from a non-chiropractic major university that has a pre-chiropractic undergraduate program and has asked us to introduce NUCCA to students in their program. We are in the planning stages now. Exciting times for NUCCA! We have been invited to present three to four times from January through April!

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This university heard about NUCCA through our first press release from CAMP, the marketing and public relations firm we recently hired, and public relations company we recently hired, and through YouTube. With their first release, they had over 1,000 affiliate "pickups"! The average number of pickups for this type of release is 300. The next press release is in September tying NUCCA with the founding of chiropractic in September 1895. Reaching students and telling them about NUCCA before chiropractic school has been a goal for a while! We will encourage them to pick the best school that teaches NUCCA. NUCCA now has a marketing and public relations strategy! More to come...

To our amazing doctors: As President, I want to emphasize to you, our dedicated and loyal membership, that the Board is also looking after you - not just students and the growth of the organization. Our objective with CAMP is to educate the public and other healthcare professionals, as well as students, about the options and benefits of NUCCA. We want your practices to grow as much as our membership. Think of this as a practice campaign for you, because it benefits your membership and good standing.

As more press releases go out, we know there will be other practices who will claim they do NUCCA. As a result, we will be explaining our standards of care and the rigors NUCCA doctors go through to achieve the best possible corrections. We want every aspect of the integrity of our work to be held to the highest standards, to represent NUCCA in the best light.

I encourage you all to either begin your certification journey or continue to your next level of certification. This will add even more credibility to your status as a NUCCA doctor, within the profession and the public's eye. As a patient once said, "aren't all NUCCA doctors certified? Why wouldn't they want to be?"

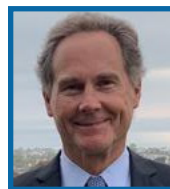
We want every patient's experience with a NUCCA doctor to align with our standards and protocols. We understand not every patient will be "zeroed out" (or even moved); however, the postural checks, the images, the image analysis, the headpiece placement, and the biomechanical rationale behind each adjustment all need to be followed to the best of your ability. By doing your best at whatever level you are, and following the protocol, you will grow in your abilities and knowledge of achieving better corrections at an even faster rate. Certification can be challenging, but aren't all things that are worth achieving challenging? Just one more degree of correction may be the one that changes everything for your next patient!

We look forward to seeing you at our 60th Anniversary Conference in Bloomington, November 12-14. You may register [here](#).

Two final thoughts...

1. Encourage a NUCCA-certified instructor near you to put on a regional workshop! You'll be glad you did!
2. All committees can use assistance! If you want to be a part of this exciting time in NUCCA's history, contact info@nucca.org to volunteer where you would like!

With gratitude and appreciation to all of you who strive to perform NUCCA at the highest level.



Dr. Glenn Cripe, D.C.

President, NUCCA Board of Directors
NUCCA Board Certified



NUCCA FALL CONFERENCE

is November 12-14 in Minneapolis, MN.

Whether you are a seasoned NUCCA practitioner or new to the field, the 2026 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: <https://nucca.org/fall-conference-2026/>

STUDENT Essay Contest

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

All students attending the Fall 2026 Conference are welcome to submit an essay about '**What NUCCA Means to Me?**' – please submit your essay to info@nucca.org by October 13, 2026.

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

SETTLEBACK SESSION Highlights

There were two Settleback sessions this summer!

- July 16, 2026: Settleback Session: Seeing the Unseen: CBCT and NUCCA
- August 19, 2026: The Gregory Legacy: A Special Settleback Session

Both were a great opportunity to connect with other doctors and learn more about the NUCCA technique.

Keep an eye out for further sessions on our website!

NUCCA STUDENT CLUB Updates

Dr. Greg Goffe visited Palmer-Davenport on Friday September 11th and spoke with various classes. He also hosted a SPIZZ NUCCA business and philosophy talk Friday evening. Dr. Barbara Read hosted a workshop on Saturday, September 12th.

Dr. Marcy Ziska hosted a workshop for students at Life West Bellevue, NE on Friday and Saturday August 14th and 15th.

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.



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CERTIFICATION Update

Just about every NUCCA practitioner has had the experience of taking care of a patient who has transferred from another state or territory where they were under the care of a NUCCA doctor and are transferring to your office for care. They or their staff ask questions about what doctor they saw, when was their last appointment, when were they last imaged and other basic questions about the care they were receiving.

These experiences open our eyes to how different patients are cared for under the general name of the organization and technique. It has caused us to ask the question what is NUCCA? This question has stimulated thought as to what qualifies someone to call themselves a NUCCA practitioner? Unfortunately, our repeated observation is just how differently the technique known as NUCCA is practiced. What are the foundational elements of the technique, and at what point are doctors not practicing the technique if they don't apply the foundational tenets of the technique.

What are the foundational components? A number of postural measurements, evaluation of the patient for an upper cervical problem you can help them with, imaging, the biomechanical analysis of the images, developing a correction vector and headpiece placement, the 8 phases of the adjustment applied to the patient, post postural measurements, post imaging immediately after adjusting, evaluation of post imaging to determine the percentage and proportionality of the correction, and follow up care over time to stabilize the Atlas Subluxation Complex.

This may be an oversimplification of patient care, but these core elements are unmistakably the NUCCA Procedure. Often, we see patients that are coming from colleagues who have applied all these steps and cared well for the patient leaving us to just carry on their good work, however it is often the case that patients are coming from offices that we don't feel have ever really done the procedure properly for the patient. Sometimes there was no follow up care for the stabilization of the Subluxation, but often it's that post imaging wasn't done, or was done but the doctor never pursued a maximal correction of the ASC.

When we ask ourselves what is NUCCA? And what makes it different than other chiropractic techniques? It is that component, the maximal reduction of the ASC, that sets it apart. If we as practitioners aren't putting our main clinical focus on that component, we would ask if we are actually practicing NUCCA?

The massive difference we see in patient outcomes from transfer patients comes from the skillset development of the office they are coming from, and most often the better the doctor is skilled, the better the patient outcomes.

If you haven't been active in the certification program, let's join together to continue to grow ourselves into the best clinicians possible! The doctors who complete their board certification are indelibly altered and changed by it, developing into something for their patients they could not have been otherwise.

Dr. Craig Lapenski
Dr. Daiki Ishiyama

REGIONAL Workshop

If you are interested in holding a NUCCA Regional Workshop near you, please use the link below. [NUCCA Regional Workshop Request](#)

If you have any questions about the process or holding a workshop, please reach out to the NUCCA Office at 952-564-3056 or email info@nucca.org.

Please note: Workshops take place during the summer or winter months as to not interfere with conference attendance. (Summer: June, July, August / Winter: December, January, February)

UCRF SMALL STEPS: Save-the-Date



**SMALL STEPS
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Flexible Giving Program

November is right around the corner which means that the **2026 Small Steps** to Success fundraising campaign is too! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this year's Small Steps campaign. We are well on our way to our organizational goal of \$85,000 because of committed practitioners like yourself.

The fundraising conducted through **Small Steps** is the lifeline for **UCRF research**. It allows us to publish peer-reviewed studies, mentor students, and validate the tools NUCCA doctors use every day in practice. Without these efforts, the science behind NUCCA would stall. With your help, it thrives.

[Commit today and sign yourself or your entire office up here.](#)

NUCCA in the News

We know NUCCA is the best kept secret in the chiropractic world. Now, we are doing things to fix that. Check out NUCCA in the news [here](#).

We have also increased our presence on social media. Be sure to like, follow, and subscribe to our channels. You can also "save" content to improve our searchability and reach:

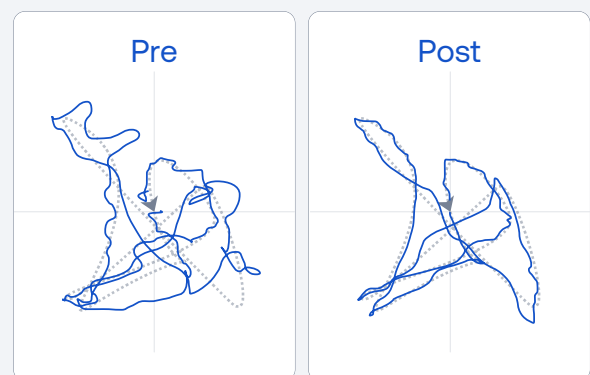
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There will be more to come as we continue to work with the PR firm CAMP, so be on the lookout.



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UCRF RESEARCH Update

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. A second round of data collection is set to occur spring of 2027.

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.

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.

An exciting initiative that has just wrapped up is the formation of an IRB that has occurred through the efforts of the UCRF and affiliated NUCCA doctors. This endeavor will be led by Dr. Langslet and a team of members who will be involved with that review board. This will be a new opportunity for groups engaged in research to be able to seek IRB approval with less of the delay and minimizing the arduous task associated with previous Institutional Review Boards.

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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FUNDRAISING Committee

The Fundraising Committee encourages you to implement a simple strategy in your office that has gained traction in the last year. Simply share this letter linked below to encourage donations through your office either for a day, or when you adjust fellow DCs. You can implement one or all of these simple strategies to encourage support of NUCCA, our education and research. Thank you for considering this opportunity as a way to support our ongoing education, public relations and research efforts.

[View the template here that you can modify and amend to your liking](#)

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

Gregory Circle Junior Silver

- Dr. Keith Denton
- 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. Ryan Stroh
- Dr. Shawn Thomas
- Dr. Michael Zabelin
- 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.

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.

1. 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>
2. 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.)
3. Enjoy watching videos related to X-ray alignment, positioning, analysis, biomechanics, headpiece placement, adjustment, and more.

Please note that this is a member benefit, therefore in order to be able to access these modules you'll have to create your member profile first.

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

2026 NUCCA STRATEGIC Planning Highlights

The NUCCA Board of Directors along with Committee Chairs, will meet virtually on Saturday, September 19th 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 doctors, students, and others in the NUCCA work. New this year, our Public Relations partner, CAMP will be joining us for this important day of brainstorming and planning for the year ahead.

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.

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