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UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

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Cardiology - Heart Failure

Victor (Gert) Pretorius, MBChB
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Surgical Director of Heart Transplant
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Cardiology, Surgery, Transplantation

Subspecialties:
Heart Failure, Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE), Heart Transplantation, Lung Transplantation

Add'l Language:
Afrikaans

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8530

Bio:
Victor (Gert) Pretorius, MBChB, is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in lead management. Pacemakers and implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) deliver energy to the heart through thin, flexible wires called leads. When these leads are not working properly – because of infection, damage, or surrounding scar tissue – they need to be removed. Dr. Pretorius performs a minimally invasive procedure called laser lead extraction to cut through scar tissue surrounding the lead, allowing it to be easily removed.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery - Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE)

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Family Medicine

Family Medicine provides health care for all ages, genders and diseases — it is focused on knowledge of the patient in the context of family and community — stressing disease prevention and health promotion. Learn more about family medicine at UC San Diego Health.

Anna Van Niekerk, DO
Primary Care Physician

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine

Add'l Languages:
Afrikaans, Spanish

Rancho Bernardo - Via Tazon

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 605-4452

Bio:
Anna Van Niekerk, DO, is a board-certified family medicine doctor dedicated to practicing the full breadth of primary care and caring for patients of all ages, including children, adults, and seniors. She provides preventative care, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic conditions. Dr. Van Niekerk also sees patients for dermatological concerns and women's health.
Orthopedics

Orthopedics is the branch of medicine specializing in the treatment of injuries or disorders of the skeletal system including bones, muscles, joints and ligaments. Learn more about orthopedics at UC San Diego Health.

Natalie Voskanian, MD
Sports Medicine Physician
Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Specialties:
Orthopedics, Sports Medicine

Add'l Languages:
Armenian, Spanish

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 377-7678

Bio:
Natalie Voskanian, MD, is a board-certified sports medicine physician with expertise in the nonsurgical treatment of sports-related injuries and musculoskeletal conditions, including sprains, ligament injuries, tendonitis and overuse injuries such as runner’s knee and iliotibial band (ITB) syndrome. She specializes in returning athletes and patients back to their sports and activities after an injury. She has experience taking care of athletes at all levels, including professional and Olympic levels as well as collegiate, high school, and recreational.
Primary Care

Primary care is the basic level of medical care at which a patient is evaluated and treated by a nurse or physician, and if necessary, is then referred to a medical specialist. Learn more about primary care at UC San Diego Health.

Anna Van Niekerk, DO
Primary Care Physician

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine

Add'l Languages:
Afrikaans, Spanish

Rancho Bernardo - Via Tazon

Contact:
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Psychology

Arpi Minassian, PhD
Psychologist
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry

**Specialty:**
Psychology

**Add'l Languages:**
Armenian, French

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273

**Bio:**
Arpi Minassian, PhD, is a licensed psychologist who helps people who are experiencing difficulties with chronic medical conditions or with mental, emotional and behavioral disorders. She works with patients at UC San Diego Health's Burn Center and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program, as well as with people experiencing chronic pain and those awaiting organ transplantation. Dr. Minassian's expertise includes psychological assessment and individual and group psychotherapy (also called talk therapy) for adults and children.

Heline Mirzakhanian, PhD
Psychologist
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

**Specialty:**
Psychology

**Add'l Languages:**
Armenian, Farsi, German

Hillcrest - 140 Arbor Drive

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-7745

**Bio:**
Heline Mirzakhanian, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist who helps people cope more effectively with life issues and mental health problems. Dr. Mirzakhanian is the clinical director of UC San Diego Health’s [early psychosis program](#), which specializes in treating adolescents and young adults who are experiencing changes in their thoughts, behavior or emotions that might be associated with serious mental health issues. Dr. Mirzakhanian’s expertise is in treating individuals with early symptoms of psychosis; schizophrenia; and bipolar disorder with psychotic features.
Sports Medicine

Sports medicine is the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment of injuries or illnesses from athletic activities. Learn more about sports medicine at UC San Diego Health.

Natalie Voskanian, MD
Sports Medicine Physician
Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Specialties:
Orthopedics, Sports Medicine

Add'l Languages:
Armenian, Spanish

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

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Surgery

The branch of medicine that uses surgery in the treatment of disease, injury or disorders. Learn more about surgery at UC San Diego Health.

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Transplantation - Heart Transplantation

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Transplantation - Lung Transplantation

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