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UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

From routine doctor visits to the most advanced procedures, our doctors are here for you. Our specialty care for complex conditions — including cancer, heart disease, neurosurgery, pulmonology and more — is rated among the nation’s best by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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Locations

La Jolla
La Jolla Emergency
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
9434 Medical Center Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

La Jolla Urgent Care
8910 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Orthopedics Urgent Care
Sports Medicine
4520 Executive Drive, Suite Plaza 1
San Diego, CA 92121

4510 and 4520 Executive Drive
San Diego, CA 92121

8910 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

8899 and 8929 University Center Lane
San Diego, CA 92122

8939 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

9333 Genesee Avenue
San Diego, CA 92121

8950 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

9350 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Shiley Eye Institute
9415 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
9434 Medical Center Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

La Jolla
Moores Cancer Center
3855 Health Sciences Drive
La Jolla, CA 92033

Jacobs Medical Center
9300 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
9400 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Perlman Medical Offices
9350 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Hillcrest
Hillcrest Emergency
UC San Diego Medical Center
200 West Arbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92103

4th and Lewis Medical Offices
330 Lewis Street
San Diego, CA 92103

Medical Offices North
200 West Arbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92103

Medical Offices South
4168 Front Street
San Diego, CA 92103

UC San Diego Medical Center
200 West Arbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92103

Rancho Bernardo
Includes Rancho Bernardo Urgent Care
16950 Via Tazon
San Diego, CA 92127

Encinitas
Includes Encinitas Express Care (Suite 110)
1200 Garden View Road
Encinitas, CA 92024

477 North El Camino Real
Encinitas, CA 92024

College Area
6719 Alvarado Road, Suite 302
San Diego, CA 92120

Downtown
Downtown Express Care
203 West F Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Vista
910 Sycamore Avenue
Vista, CA 92081

Sorrento Valley
4910 Directors Place
San Diego, CA 92121

Scripps Ranch
9909 Mira Mesa Blvd, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92131

Kearny Mesa
7910 Frost Street
San Diego, CA 92123

Chula Vista
959 Lane Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91914

Temecula
31720 Temecula Parkway, Suite 100
Temecula, CA 92592
# Table of Contents

**Anesthesiology**

Breast Care .......................................................................................................................... 1.

**Cancer**

Breast Cancer .......................................................................................................................... i
Gastrointestinal Cancers ........................................................................................................ i
Gynecological Cancers ........................................................................................................... i
Head & Neck Cancers ........................................................................................................... i
Immunotherapy ..................................................................................................................... i
Leukemia & Lymphoma ......................................................................................................... i
Lung Cancer .......................................................................................................................... i
Melanoma / Skin Cancers ...................................................................................................... i
Neurological Oncology ........................................................................................................ 2
Pancreatic Cancer .................................................................................................................. i
Precision Medicine .............................................................................................................. i
Psychosocial Oncology ......................................................................................................... i
Sarcoma (Bone and Soft Tissue) ........................................................................................... i
Urologic Cancer .................................................................................................................... 3.

**Cardiology**

Electrophysiology ................................................................................................................ 4.
General Cardiology ............................................................................................................... i
Heart Failure ......................................................................................................................... 5.
Interventional Cardiology .................................................................................................... i

**Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery**

Adult Congenital Heart Defects ........................................................................................... i
Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE) .......................................................................... 6.

**Endocrinology**

Integrative & Holistic Medicine .......................................................................................... i

**Family Medicine**

Dementia ................................................................................................................................ i
Epilepsy .................................................................................................................................. i
Headache ............................................................................................................................... 9.
Movement Disorders ........................................................................................................... i
Neurocritical Care ................................................................................................................. i
Stroke ................................................................................................................................... i

**Neurosurgery**

Complex Cranial Surgery ...................................................................................................... 10.
Endovascular Neurosurgery ................................................................................................. 11.
Neurological Oncology ......................................................................................................... 12.
Spine ..................................................................................................................................... i

**Obstetrics & Gynecology**

General Gynecology ............................................................................................................ i
Gynecologic Oncology .......................................................................................................... i
Maternal-Fetal Medicine (Perinatology) ................................................................................ 13.
Midwifery .............................................................................................................................. i
Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility ......................................................................... i
Urogynecology ....................................................................................................................... i

**Pathology** .......................................................................................................................... 14

**Pediatrics**

Adolescent Medicine ............................................................................................................ i
Complex Care Pediatrics ....................................................................................................... i
Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics ................................................................................... i
General Pediatrics ................................................................................................................. i
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine ................................................................................................. i
Newborn Hospital Care ......................................................................................................... i
Travel Medicine .................................................................................................................... i

**Primary Care** .................................................................................................................... 15

**Pulmonology (Lung)**

Asthma .................................................................................................................................. i
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease ............................................................................... 16.
Critical Care ........................................................................................................................ 17.
Interventional Pulmonology ................................................................................................. i
Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE) .......................................................................... i
### Radiology
- Breast Imaging
- Cardiothoracic Imaging
- Interventional Radiology
- Musculoskeletal Imaging
- Neuroradiology

### Urology
- Transplantation
- Incontinence
- Kidney Stones
- Male Infertility
- Urogynecology
- Urologic Cancer

### Surgery
- Critical Care
- General and Gastrointestinal Surgery
- Hepatobiliary Surgery
- Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Surgical Oncology
- Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery
- Trauma

### Transplantation
- Heart Transplantation
- Kidney Transplantation
- Liver Transplantation
- Lung Transplantation
- Pancreas Transplantation

### Urology
- Incontinence
- Kidney Stones
- Male Infertility
- Urogynecology
- Urologic Cancer

### Index
Anesthesiology - Critical Care

Anushirvan Minokadeh, MD
Anesthesiologist
Associate Clinical Professor

Specialty:
Anesthesiology
Subspecialty:
Critical Care
Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Chief, Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine
Cancer - Neurological Oncology

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair, Neurological Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Endovascular Neurosurgery, Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology

Add'l Languages:
Farsi, Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

Bio:
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, MBA, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences. He provides both open surgical and catheter-based approaches to complex neurosurgical problems, including brain tumors, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and carotid disease. His vascular training informs his surgical approach to complex tumors in the brain. He is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (FAANS), American Heart Association Stroke Council (FAHA), and senior member of the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS).
Cancer - Urologic Cancer

Amirali (Amir) Salmasi, MD
Urologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Urology: (619) 543-3572
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Amirali Salmasi, MD, is a urologist with expertise in the management of genitourinary cancers in men and women, including bladder, prostate, kidney, ureteral, testicular, adrenal, and penile cancers. He provides a personalized, multidisciplinary approach to deliver the best possible treatment options (active surveillance, focal therapy, surgery, radiation, systemic treatments, or clinical trials) for his patients.
Cardiology - Electrophysiology

Farshad Raissi, MD, MPH, FHRS
Cardiac Electrophysiologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Cardiology

Subspecialties:
Electrophysiology, Heart Failure

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5743

Bio:
Farshad Raissi, MD, MPH, is a board-certified cardiac electrophysiologist whose special clinical interest is in management of complex arrhythmias in heart failure, as well as device therapies for early and advanced heart disease.
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

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.

Farshad Raissi, MD, MPH, FHRS
Cardiac Electrophysiologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Cardiology

Subspecialties:
Electrophysiology, Heart Failure

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5743

Bio:
Farshad Raissi, MD, MPH, is a board-certified cardiac electrophysiologist whose special clinical interest is in management of complex arrhythmias in heart failure, as well as device therapies for early and advanced heart disease.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery - Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE)

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

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.
Endocrinology

Endocrinology is the medical specialty focused on diseases of the endocrine system, including diabetes, thyroid and pituitary disorders. Learn more about endocrinology and diabetes at UC San Diego Health System.

**Vala Hamidi, MD**  
Endocrinologist

**Specialty:**  
Endocrinology

**Add'l Language:**  
Farsi

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**  
**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6303  
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 657-8440

**Bio:**  
Vala Hamidi, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist who treats people with diabetes, disorders of calcium and skeletal metabolism, osteoporosis, pituitary and adrenal disease, thyroid cancer and thyroid disorders. She also provides care in general endocrinology.
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 System.

Hadia Ashraf, MD
Primary Care Physician

Affiliated Provider

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hemet - W. Stetson Avenue

Contact:
Direct Clinic Line: (951) 225-6802

Bio:
Hadia Ashraf, MD, is a board-certified physician providing primary care through the Rancho Family Medical Group. She is a member of UC San Diego Health Physician Network.

Anna Van Niekerk, DO
Primary Care Physician

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine

Add'l Languages:
Afrikaans, Spanish

Scripps Ranch - Via Tazon

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (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.

Esmatullah (Esmat) Hatamy, MD
Primary Care Physician
Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine

Add'l Languages:
Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Urdu

Scripps Ranch - 9909 Mira Mesa Blvd

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 605-7750

Bio:
Esmatullah Hatamy, MD, is a board-certified family medicine doctor. He provides primary care for patients of all ages, including preventive care and treatment of acute and chronic diseases.
Neurology - Headache

**Hossein Ansari, MD**
Neurologist

- **Specialty:** Neurology
- **Subspecialty:** Headache
- **Add'l Languages:** Farsi, Turkish/Azeri

**Bio:**
Hossein Ansari, MD, is a board-certified neurologist and certified headache specialist who specializes in diagnosing and treating headaches and facial pain. He is highly experienced in caring for people with migraines, "cluster" headaches and trigeminal neuralgia.

**Sara S. Siavoshi, DO**
Neurologist
Assistant Professor of Neurology

- **Specialty:** Neurology
- **Subspecialty:** Headache
- **Add'l Language:** Farsi

**Bio:**
Sara Siavoshi, DO, is a board-certified neurologist who treats headaches, migraines, traumatic brain injury and general neurological conditions. She performs procedures such as Botox injections, nerve blocks and trigger point injections. In addition, her research interests include migraines and facial pain.
Neurosurgery - Complex Cranial Surgery

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair, Neurological Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Endovascular Neurosurgery, Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology

Add'l Languages:
Farsi, Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

Bio:
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, MBA, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences. He provides both open surgical and catheter-based approaches to complex neurosurgical problems, including brain tumors, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and carotid disease. His vascular training informs his surgical approach to complex tumors in the brain. He is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (FAANS), American Heart Association Stroke Council (FAHA), and senior member of the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS).
Neurosurgery - Endovascular Neurosurgery

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair, Neurological Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Endovascular Neurosurgery, Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology

Add'l Languages:
Farsi, Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

Bio:
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, MBA, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences. He provides both open surgical and catheter-based approaches to complex neurosurgical problems, including brain tumors, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and carotid disease. His vascular training informs his surgical approach to complex tumors in the brain. He is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (FAANS), American Heart Association Stroke Council (FAHA), and senior member of the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS).
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair, Neurological Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Endovascular Neurosurgery, Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology

Add'l Languages:
Farsi, Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

Bio:
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, MBA, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences. He provides both open surgical and catheter-based approaches to complex neurosurgical problems, including brain tumors, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and carotid disease. His vascular training informs his surgical approach to complex tumors in the brain. He is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (FAANS), American Heart Association Stroke Council (FAHA), and senior member of the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS).
Maryam Tarsa, MD
Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences
Perinatologist

Specialty:
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Subspecialty:
Maternal-Fetal Medicine (Perinatology)

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Jacobs Medical Center
Sorrento Valley - Directors Place
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Encinitas - Garden View Court

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Sorrento Valley: (858) 657-7200
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-7878

Bio:
Maryam Tarsa, MD, is a board-certified perinatologist who specializes in caring for women with high-risk pregnancies. Perinatologists, also known as maternal-fetal medicine specialists, care for pregnant women who have an increased chance that they or their babies will have health concerns. Dr. Tarsa's expertise includes fetal imaging and treating pregnant women with autoimmune disorders, infectious diseases and transplants. She also cares for women having twins or higher-order multiples.
Pathology

Pathology is the study of the nature, origin, cause and progress of a disease. Learn more about pathology at UC San Diego Health System.

Mana Parast, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor

Specialty:
Pathology
Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Please contact me with any questions regarding gynecologic and perinatal pathology.

Pediatrics

Pediatrics is the branch of medicine concerned with children’s health and the prevention and treatment of illnesses in children. Learn more about pediatrics at UC San Diego Health System.

Shirin Alonzo, MD, MPH
Pediatrician

Specialties:
Pediatrics, Primary Care
Add'l Language:
Farsi

Kearny Mesa - Frost Street

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 496-4800

Bio:
Shirin Alonzo, MD, MPH, is board-certified pediatrician who provides primary care for infants, children, and adolescents through all of their developmental stages. She has a special interest in caring for children who have medically fragile or special needs.
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 System.

Shirin Alonzo, MD, MPH
Pediatrician

Specialties:
Pediatrics, Primary Care

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Kearny Mesa - Frost Street

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 496-4800

Bio:
Shirin Alonzo, MD, MPH, is board-certified pediatrician who provides primary care for infants, children, and adolescents through all of their developmental stages. She has a special interest in caring for children who have medically fragile or special needs.

Esmatullah (Esmat) Hatamy, MD
Primary Care Physician
Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine

Add'l Languages:
Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Urdu

Scripps Ranch - 9909 Mira Mesa Blvd

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7750

Bio:
Esmatullah Hatamy, MD, is a board-certified family medicine doctor. He provides primary care for patients of all ages, including preventive care and treatment of acute and chronic diseases.

Hadia Ashraf, MD
Primary Care Physician

Affiliated Provider

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hemet - W. Stetson Avenue

Contact:
Direct Clinic Line: (951) 225-6802

Bio:
Hadia Ashraf, MD, is a board-certified physician providing primary care through the Rancho Family Medical Group. She is a member of UC San Diego Health Physician Network.

Anna Van Niekerk, DO
Primary Care Physician

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine

Add'l Languages:
Afrikaans, Spanish

Rancho Bernardo - Via Tazon

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (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.
Pulmonology (Lung) - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Kamyar Afshar, DO
Director, Advanced Lung Disease Program
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Pulmonology (Lung), Transplantation

Subspecialties:
Lung Transplantation, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Critical Care

Add'l Language:
Farsi

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6097

Bio:
Kamyar Afshar, DO, is a board-certified pulmonary and critical care physician who specializes in complex lung diseases and lung transplantation. His expertise includes treating cystic fibrosis (CF) and non-CF bronchiectasis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, interstitial lung disease, sarcoidosis, as well as rare lung diseases such as lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM) and tuberous sclerosis complex.
Pulmonology (Lung) - Critical Care

Kamyar Afshar, DO
Director, Advanced Lung Disease Program
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Pulmonology (Lung), Transplantation
Subspecialties:
Lung Transplantation, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Critical Care
Add'l Language:
Farsi

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6097

Bio:
Kamyar Afshar, DO, is a board-certified pulmonary and critical care physician who specializes in complex lung diseases and lung transplantation. His expertise includes treating cystic fibrosis (CF) and non-CF bronchiectasis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, interstitial lung disease, sarcoidosis, as well as rare lung diseases such as lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM) and tuberous sclerosis complex.

Matthew Nobari, MD
Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician

Specialty:
Pulmonology (Lung)
Subspecialty:
Critical Care
Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5840

Bio:
Matthew Nobari, MD, is a board-certified pulmonologist and intensivist. He provides care to patients with a variety of diseases including, but not limited to, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, interstitial lung disease, lung cancer, sepsis, and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). He is committed to providing comprehensive care to all of his patients.
Radiology

Radiology is the branch of medicine specializing in the use of imaging technologies such as x-ray and radiation to diagnose and treat diseases. Learn more about radiology at UC San Diego Health System.

Gary G Ghahremani, MD
Clinical Professor of Radiology

Specialty:
Radiology
Add'l Languages:
Farsi, German

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Dr. Ghahremani has been practicing Diagnostic Radiology for the past 40 years. From 1976 until 2000 he served as Professor and Chairman of the Radiology Department at Evanston Hospital-Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Mahmood F. Mafee, MD, FACR
Professor of Radiology

Specialty:
Radiology
Add'l Language:
Farsi

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - 4th & Lewis Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Radiology - Neuroradiology

Nikdokht (Niky) Farid, MD
Neuroradiologist
Associate Professor of Radiology

Specialty:
Radiology
Subspecialty:
Neuroradiology
Add'l Language:
Farsi

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3405

Bio:
Nikdokht (Niky) Farid, MD, is a board-certified neuroradiologist who specializes in interpreting brain, spine and neck imaging studies to diagnose a variety of conditions. These conditions include tumors, strokes and other vascular disease, demyelinating disease, autoimmune disease, infectious and inflammatory disorders, seizures and congenital disorders.
Stroke Care

Stroke care is the medical treatment for a stroke — when the blood supply to part of your brain is interrupted or severely reduced, resulting in the sudden death of brain cells. Learn more about stroke care at UC San Diego Health System.

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair, Neurological Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Endovascular Neurosurgery, Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology

Add'l Languages:
Farsi, Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

Bio:
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, MBA, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences. He provides both open surgical and catheter-based approaches to complex neurosurgical problems, including brain tumors, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and carotid disease. His vascular training informs his surgical approach to complex tumors in the brain. He is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (FAANS), American Heart Association Stroke Council (FAHA), and senior member of the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS).
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 System.

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair, Neurological Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Endovascular Neurosurgery, Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology

Add'l Languages:
Farsi, Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

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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

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.
Surgery - Minimally Invasive Surgery

Amirali (Amir) Salmasi, MD
Urologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Urology: (619) 543-3572
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Amirali Salmasi, MD, is a urologist with expertise in the management of genitourinary cancers in men and women, including bladder, prostate, kidney, ureteral, testicular, adrenal, and penile cancers. He provides a personalized, multidisciplinary approach to deliver the best possible treatment options (active surveillance, focal therapy, surgery, radiation, systemic treatments, or clinical trials) for his patients.
Transplantation - Heart Transplantation

**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

**Bio:**
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Transplantation - Lung Transplantation

**Kamyar Afshar, DO**  
Director, Advanced Lung Disease Program  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialties:**  
Pulmonology (Lung), Transplantation

**Subspecialties:**  
Lung Transplantation, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Critical Care

**Add'l Language:**  
Farsi

**La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive**  
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6097

**Bio:**  
Kamyar Afshar, DO, is a board-certified pulmonary and critical care physician who specializes in complex lung diseases and lung transplantation. His expertise includes treating cystic fibrosis (CF) and non-CF bronchiectasis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, interstitial lung disease, sarcoidosis, as well as rare lung diseases such as lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM) and tuberous sclerosis complex.

**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

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Amirali (Amir) Salmasi, MD
Urologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Urology: (619) 543-3572
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Amirali Salmasi, MD, is a urologist with expertise in the management of genitourinary cancers in men and women, including bladder, prostate, kidney, ureteral, testicular, adrenal, and penile cancers. He provides a personalized, multidisciplinary approach to deliver the best possible treatment options (active surveillance, focal therapy, surgery, radiation, systemic treatments, or clinical trials) for his patients.
Index

A
Afshar, Kamyr .......... 16, 17, 24
Alonzo, Shirin .......... 14, 15
Ansari, Hossein .......... 9
Ashraf, Hadia .......... 8, 15

F
Farid, Nikdokht (Niky) .......... 19

G
Ghahremani, Gary G .......... 18

H
Hamidi, Vala .......... 7

Hatamy, Esmatullah (Esmat) ........ 8, 15

K
Khalessi, Alexander A. .... 2, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21.

M
Mafee, Mahmood F. .......... 18
Minokadeh, Anushirvan .......... 1.

N
Nobari, Matthew .......... 17.

P
Parast, Mana .......... 14.

R
Pretorius, Victor (Gert) .......... 5, 6, 21, 23, 24.
Raiissi, Farshad .......... 4, 5.

S
Siavoshi, Sara S .......... 9.

T

V
Van Niekerk, Anna .......... 8, 15.