UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

Our physicians are recognized leaders in their professional societies, heading national organizations and committees dedicated to improving care and advancing knowledge about disease. They are prominently listed in publications such as America’s Top Doctors and *U.S. News & World Report*’s rankings of outstanding physicians and clinical programs.

Patient Access

Request an Appointment
Whether you’re looking for a primary care physician (PCP), need a specialist for treatment or are seeking a second opinion, you can make an appointment by following the steps below:

- **New Patients (who have never seen a UC San Diego Health provider)**
  To register as a new patient and schedule an appointment, call **800-926-8273**, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Current Patients**
  Contact your physician’s office directly to schedule an appointment or call the main switchboard number, **858-657-7000**, and ask to be transferred to your physician’s office.

- **Find a Doctor**
  To use our physician search website to find a physician by name or to search for a specialist, visit: [doctors.ucsd.edu](http://doctors.ucsd.edu).

Referring Physician Access

Transfer a Patient
For hospital-to-hospital transfers, call **619-543-5709** (24-hour service) for instructions or to speak to a transfer coordinator.

Consultations
If you need to talk with one of our physicians about a case or if you have any problems or concerns, please contact us at **855-543-0555** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We want to hear from you.

Refer Your Patient
Call Physician Access at **855-543-0555** or fax **888-539-8781** and our team will register and schedule your referred patient. You will receive follow-up communication (consultation notes, discharges, etc.), as well as access to our electronic medical record system, UCSD Link.
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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](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health System.

![Suraj A. Achar, MD, FAAFP](image)

**Suraj A. Achar, MD, FAAFP**  
Primary Care Physician and Sports Medicine Specialist  
Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

**Specialties:**  
Primary Care, Family Medicine, Sports Medicine

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

**La Jolla - Genesee Avenue**  
**La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8600  
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (844) 377-7678

**Bio:**  
Suraj A. Achar, MD, is a board-certified family medicine doctor who specializes in sports medicine. His expertise includes diagnosing, treating and preventing injuries associated with athletics. He is highly experienced in ultrasound guided diagnostics and procedures. Dr. Achar also provides primary care for patients of all ages, including preventive care and treatment of acute and chronic diseases.
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.

Suraj A. Achar, MD, FAAFP
Primary Care Physician and Sports Medicine Specialist
Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine, Sports Medicine

Add'l Languages:
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Ni-Cheng Liang, MD
Pulmonologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Pulmonology (Lung)

Subspecialties:
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Asthma

Add'l Languages:
French, Mandarin

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

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

Bio:
Ni-Cheng Liang, MD, is a board-certified pulmonologist. She provides care for a variety of acute and chronic respiratory conditions, with a special focus on those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
Pulmonology (Lung) - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Ni-Cheng Liang, MD
Pulmonologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Pulmonology (Lung)

Subspecialties:
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Asthma

Add'l Languages:
French, Mandarin

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

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

Bio:
Ni-Cheng Liang, MD, is a board-certified pulmonologist. She provides care for a variety of acute and chronic respiratory conditions, with a special focus on those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
Pulmonology (Lung) - Critical Care

Demosthenes Papamatheakis, MD
Pulmonologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Pulmonology (Lung)

Subspecialties:
Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE), Pulmonary Vascular Disease, Critical Care

Add'l Languages:
French, Greek

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7100

Bio:
Demosthenes (Demos) Papamatheakis, MD, is a board-certified pulmonologist and intensive care specialist. His clinical interests include pulmonary vascular disease, with a focus in pulmonary arterial hypertension, and critical care medicine. Dr. Papamatheakis also sees patients for adult pulmonary diseases such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma.
Demosthenes Papamatheakis, MD
Pulmonologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Pulmonology (Lung)

Subspecialties:
Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE), Pulmonary Vascular Disease, Critical Care

Add'l Languages:
French, Greek

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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Demosthenes Papamatheakis, MD  
Pulmonologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  

**Specialty:**  
Pulmonology (Lung)  

**Subspecialties:**  
Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE), Pulmonary Vascular Disease, Critical Care  

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

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Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center  

**Contact:**  
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Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7100  

**Bio:**  
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Sleep Medicine

Sleep medicine is the subspecialty of internal medicine that studies and manages poor sleep hygiene. Learn more about sleep medicine at UC San Diego Health System.

Lisa Shives, MD
Sleep Medicine Specialist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Sleep Medicine
Add'l Languages:
French, German

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 757-5337

Bio:
Lisa Shives, MD, is a board-certified sleep medicine doctor. She has extensive experience in the treatment of all sleep related disorders including sleep apnea, insomnia, narcolepsy, restless legs syndrome and circadian rhythm disorders.
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 System.

![Suraj A. Achar, MD, FAAFP](image)

**Suraj A. Achar, MD, FAAFP**
Primary Care Physician and Sports Medicine Specialist
Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

**Specialties:**
Primary Care, Family Medicine, Sports Medicine

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

**La Jolla - Genesee Avenue**
La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8600
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (844) 377-7678

**Bio:**
Suraj A. Achar, MD, is a board-certified family medicine doctor who specializes in sports medicine. His expertise includes diagnosing, treating and preventing injuries associated with athletics. He is highly experienced in ultrasound guided diagnostics and procedures. Dr. Achar also provides primary care for patients of all ages, including preventive care and treatment of acute and chronic diseases.
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.

Yahir A. Santiago-Lastra, MD
Urologist/Urogynecologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Incontinence, Urogynecology

Add'l Languages:
French, Spanish

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Urology: (858) 657-7576
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (858) 657-8737

Bio:
Yahir Santiago-Lastra, MD, is a urologist who specializes in diagnosing and treating a wide range of urogenital conditions in both men and women, including those caused by neurologic disorders. These include pelvic organ prolapse, urinary incontinence, voiding dysfunction, overactive bladder, neurogenic bladder, ureteral stricture, and post-prostatectomy incontinence, among other pelvic floor disorders. Her other areas of expertise include procedures such as neuromodulation for overactive bladder, bladder augmentation and urinary diversion. She also works with patients with congenital urologic malformations who are transitioning from pediatric to adult care.
Urology - Incontinence

Yahir A. Santiago-Lastra, MD
Urologist/Urogynecologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Incontinence, Urogynecology

Add'l Languages:
French, Spanish

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Urology: (858) 657-7876
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (858) 657-8737

Bio:
Yahir Santiago-Lastra, MD, is a urologist who specializes in diagnosing and treating a wide range of urogenital conditions in both men and women, including those caused by neurologic disorders. These include pelvic organ prolapse, urinary incontinence, voiding dysfunction, overactive bladder, neurogenic bladder, ureteral stricture, and post-prostatectomy incontinence, among other pelvic floor disorders. Her other areas of expertise include procedures such as neuromodulation for overactive bladder, bladder augmentation and urinary diversion. She also works with patients with congenital urologic malformations who are transitioning from pediatric to adult care.
Urology - Urogynecology

Yahir A. Santiago-Lastra, MD
Urologist/Urogynecologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Incontinence, Urogynecology

Add'l Languages:
French, Spanish

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
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Direct Clinic Line - Urology: (858) 657-7876
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (858) 657-8737

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