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*.

**For Patients**

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Whether you need to be seen for an urgent condition today or are looking for a new primary care physician or specialty care provider, we can help. Call **800-926-8273** between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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Call Physician Access Services at **855-543-0555** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT

A blood and marrow transplant (BMT) is an infusion of adult stem cells — a BMT is used to replace bone marrow that has been destroyed by disease, chemotherapy or radiation. Learn more about blood and marrow transplant at UC San Diego Health.

Fotios (Fotis) Asimakopoulos, MB BChir, PhD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine In Residence

Specialties:
Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT, Cancer, Hematology/Blood Diseases
Subspecialties:
Leukemia & Lymphoma, Immunotherapy
Add'l Language:
Greek

Contact:
Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6600

Bio:
Fotios (Fotis) Asimakopoulos, MB BChir, PhD, is a medical oncologist and hematologist who treats people with plasma cell dyscrasias, also known as plasma cell disorders or cancers of the plasma. His patients may have blood-related diseases such as multiple myeloma, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), amyloidosis, and Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia (a type of lymphoma).

Dimitrios Tzachanis, MD, PhD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Cancer, Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT, Hematology/Blood Diseases
Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma
Add'l Languages:
German, Greek

Contact:
Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center
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Dimitrios Tzachanis, MD, PhD, is a board-certified hematologist and medical oncologist who specializes in treating people with cancers of the blood and lymph system, including lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia, myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN). He is a transplant physician for the joint UC San Diego Health / Sharp HealthCare Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, which provides comprehensive blood and marrow transplant services, including autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplantation.
Cancer - Immunotherapy

Fotios (Fotis) Asimakopoulos, MB BChir, PhD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine In Residence

Specialties:
Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT, Cancer, Hematology/Blood Diseases
Subspecialties:
Leukemia & Lymphoma, Immunotherapy

Add'l Language:
Greek

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Jacobs Medical Center

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Cancer - Leukemia & Lymphoma

Fotios (Fotis) Asimakopoulos, MB Chir, PhD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine In Residence

Specialties:
- Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT
- Cancer, Hematology/Blood Diseases

Subspecialties:
- Leukemia & Lymphoma, Immunotherapy

Add'l Language:
- Greek

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Jacobs Medical Center

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Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
- Cancer, Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT, Hematology/Blood Diseases

Subspecialty:
- Leukemia & Lymphoma

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Jacobs Medical Center

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Cancer - Urologic Cancer

Karim Kader, MD, PhD
Urologist
Professor of Urology

**Specialties:**
Urology, Cancer, Surgery

**Subspecialties:**
Urologic Cancer, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer

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

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7876

**Bio:**
Karim Kader, MD, PhD, is a board-certified urologist who specializes in detecting, treating and preventing prostate cancer.
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.
Cardiology - Interventional Cardiology

Sotirios Tsimikas, MD
Director of Vascular Medicine
Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Cardiology
Subspecialty:
Interventional Cardiology
Add'l Language:
Greek

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
UC San Diego Health Links
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

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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.

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.
Hematology/Blood Diseases

Hematology (the study of “blood diseases”) is the branch of internal medicine that is concerned with the study of blood, blood-forming organs, and blood diseases. Learn more about hematology/blood diseases at UC San Diego Health.

Fotios (Fotis) Asimakopoulos, MB BChir, PhD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine In Residence

Specialties:
Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT, Cancer, Hematology/Blood Diseases
Subspecialties:
Leukemia & Lymphoma, Immunotherapy
Add'l Language:
Greek

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

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Dimitrios Tzachanis, MD, PhD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Cancer, Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT, Hematology/Blood Diseases
Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma
Add'l Languages:
German, Greek

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6600

Bio:
Dimitrios Tzachanis, MD, PhD, is a board-certified hematologist and medical oncologist who specializes in treating people with cancers of the blood and lymph system, including lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia, myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN). He is a transplant physician for the joint UC San Diego Health / Sharp HealthCare Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, which provides comprehensive blood and marrow transplant services, including autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplantation.
AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which kills or impairs cells of the immune system and progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers. Learn more about HIV/AIDS care at UC San Diego Health.

**Theodoros F. Katsivas, MD**
Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Owen Clinic

**Specialty:**
HIV/AIDS

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

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

**Bio:**
Dr. Theo Katsivas is trained in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He also trained as a Fellow in HIV disease at the UC San Diego Owen Clinic. His interests focus on HIV patient care and addiction medicine.
Jerasimos (Jerry) Ballas, MD, MPH, FACOG
Perinatologist
Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences

**Specialty:**
Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Subspecialty:**
Maternal-Fetal Medicine (Perinatology)

**Add'l Language:**
Greek

**Sorrento Valley - Directors Place**
**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**
**Jacobs Medical Center**
**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:**
Jerry Ballas, MD, MPH, is a board-certified perinatologist who cares for women with high-risk pregnancies. As a maternal-fetal medicine specialist, he treats expectant mothers who have an increased chance that they or their babies will have health complications.
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:
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.
Pulmonology (Lung) - Critical Care

Demosthenes (Demos) Papamatheakis, MD
Pulmonologist
Associate 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, chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension and critical care medicine.
Pulmonology (Lung) - Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE)

Demosthenes (Demos) Papamatheakis, MD
Pulmonologist
Associate 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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Pulmonology (Lung) - Pulmonary Vascular Disease

Demosthenes (Demos) Papamatheakis, MD
Pulmonologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Pulmonology (Lung)

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

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French, Greek

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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.

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:
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Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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Bio:
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Surgery - Minimally Invasive Surgery

Karim Kader, MD, PhD
Urologist
Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Urologic Cancer, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer

Additional Languages:
French, Greek

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7876

Bio:
Karim Kader, MD, PhD, is a board-certified urologist who specializes in detecting, treating and preventing prostate cancer.
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

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Transplantation - Lung Transplantation

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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

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Urology, Cancer, Surgery
Subspecialties:
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