Physician Directory

health.ucsd.edu
Patient Access: 800-926-8273
Physician Access: 855-543-0555
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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**Travis L. Pollema, DO**  
Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

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

**Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center**  
Temecula Parkway

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7777

**Bio:**  
Travis L. Pollema, DO, is a cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in treating diseases of the heart and lungs. His expertise includes treating coronary artery disease with bypass surgery and valvular heart disease with valve repair or replacement. Dr. Pollema performs operations for patients with advanced stages of heart failure; patients needing mechanical circulatory support, including temporary and permanent ventricular assist devices (VADs); and those who have undergone or need heart and/or lung transplantation. He also implements and manages the care of those requiring extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a type of life support treatment that provides enough oxygen to a person while allowing time for their lungs and heart to rest or heal.

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**Hao (Howie) Tran, MD**  
Cardiologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**  
Cardiology  
**Subspecialty:**  
Heart Failure

**Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center**  
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South  
Temecula Parkway

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Temecula: (951) 303-0734  
Direct Clinic Line - Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center: (858) 657-8530  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-5743

**Bio:**  
Howie Tran, MD, is board-certified cardiologist who specializes in treating patients with end-stage or advanced heart failure. He cares for patients who require heart transplants and mechanical circulatory support devices, including ventricular assist devices (VADs) and percutaneous ventricular assist devices (PVADs). Dr. Tran is also experienced in right heart-catheterization with heart tissue biopsies.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery

Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery specializes in operations to the heart, chest or both — generally includes treatment for heart and lung diseases and conditions. Learn more about cardiothoracic (heart and lung) surgery at UC San Diego Health System.

Steven Howe, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery

Temecula Parkway

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (951) 303-0734

Bio:
Steven Howe, MD, is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in treating a wide range of cardiovascular diseases, including aortic valve disease, coronary artery disease, and other peripheral and major vascular conditions. Dr. Howe performs adult cardiothoracic surgery, including peripheral and major vascular surgery, thoracic and abdominal endovascular surgery and thoracic trauma surgery.

Travis L. Pollema, DO
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

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

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Temecula Parkway

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Gastroenterology

Gastroenterology is the branch of medicine concerned with the structure, functions, diseases and pathology of the stomach and the intestines — including digestive diseases. Learn more about gastroenterology at UC San Diego Health System.

Michel Henry Mendler, MD
Gastroenterologist and Transplant Hepatologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Gastroenterology, Transplantation, Hepatology (Liver)

Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation

Add'l Language:
French

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Temecula Parkway

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5415
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr. (Liver Transplantation): (858) 657-7728
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices (Gastroenterology): (619) 543-2347

Bio:
Michel Mendler, MD, is a gastroenterologist and transplant hepatologist. He has expertise in performing lower GI endoscopies and percutaneous liver biopsies to diagnose and treat patients with digestive and liver diseases including liver cancer, alcoholic liver disease and hepatitis.
**Hepatology (Liver)**

Hepatology is a medical specialty that incorporates the study of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tract, and pancreas as well as management of their disorders. Learn more about [hepatology](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health System.

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**Michel Henry Mendler, MD**  
Gastroenterologist and Transplant Hepatologist  
Professor of Medicine

**Specialties:**  
Gastroenterology, Transplantation, Hepatology (Liver)

**Subspecialty:**  
Liver Transplantation

**Add'l Language:**  
French

**La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive**  
**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**  
**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**  
**Temecula Parkway**  

**Contact:**  
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Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices (Gastroenterology): (619) 543-2347

**Bio:**  
Michel Mendler, MD, is a gastroenterologist and transplant hepatologist. He has expertise in performing lower GI endoscopies and percutaneous liver biopsies to diagnose and treat patients with digestive and liver diseases including liver cancer, alcoholic liver disease and hepatitis.
Neurology

Neurology is the branch of medicine that is concerned with the study and treatment of disorders of the nervous system. Learn more about [neurology](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health System.

**Monika A. Gupta, MD**
Neurologist

**Specialty:**
Neurology

**Temecula Parkway**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (951) 303-0734

**Bio:**
Monika Gupta, MD, is a board-certified neurologist. She provides care for people with a variety of neurologic conditions, and has a special interest in neuromuscular diseases. Dr. Gupta uses advanced neurodiagnostic techniques, including electromyography and nerve conduction studies to diagnose and treat neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, and nervous system disorders.
Andrew Kitcher, MD
Pulmonologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Pulmonology (Lung)

Subspecialty:
Critical Care

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Temecula Parkway

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (951) 303-0734

Bio:
Andrew Kitcher, MD, is a board-certified pulmonologist whose clinical interests include the pathophysiology of critical illness, cardiopulmonary physiology in mechanically ventilated patients, and palliative care in the ICU. Dr. Kitcher serves as medical director of the ICU at Temecula Valley Hospital, where he also directs the hospital's respiratory care services and pulmonary function testing.
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.

Steven Howe, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery

Temecula Parkway

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
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Travis L. Pollema, DO
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Assistant Professor of Surgery

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Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Temecula Parkway

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Transplantation - Heart Transplantation

Travis L. Pollema, DO
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

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Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
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Transplantation - Liver Transplantation

Michel Henry Mendler, MD
Gastroenterologist and Transplant Hepatologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Gastroenterology, Transplantation, Hepatology (Liver)

Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation

Additional Language:
French

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Temecula Parkway

Contact:
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Transplantation - Lung Transplantation

Travis L. Pollema, DO
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

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

Subspecialties:
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