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Cancer

Cancer is an abnormal growth of cells which creates tumors, abnormal growths of tissue, and clusters of cells that are capable of growing and dividing uncontrollably — oncology is the branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Learn more about cancer at UC San Diego Health.

Michael Choi, MD
Medical Staff Physician
Clinical Instructor

Specialties:
Hematology/Blood Diseases, Cancer

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (855) 355-5864

Bio:
Dr. Choi is a hematologist and medical oncologist specializing in the treatment of patients with blood cancers and other blood disorders, with an emphasis on chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). He is a part of UC San Diego’s CLL research team, collaborating with the laboratories of Drs. Thomas Kipps, Januario Castro, and Dennis Carson to help develop new therapies for patients with blood cancers. His clinical research interests include highly targeted novel therapies that can be used to treat blood cancers in a personalized and molecularly-driven manner.

Frederic J. Kolb, MD
Plastic Surgeon
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery, Cancer
Subspecialty:
Reconstructive Surgery
Add'l Language:
French

Jacobs Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (619) 294-3746
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Frederic Kolb, MD, MS, MRes, is an internationally recognized board-certified plastic surgeon who specializes in oncologic reconstruction, correcting defects following breast, head and neck, skin, and soft tissue and sarcoma resections. He performs breast oncologic surgery and reconstruction with autologous perforator flaps, in addition to head and reconstruction with all variety of chimeric flaps.
Cancer - Gastrointestinal Cancers

Michael Bouvet, MD
Director of Endocrine Surgery
Professor of Surgery
Co-Director, Center for Fluorescence-Guided Surgery

Specialties:
Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Head & Neck Cancers, Gastrointestinal Cancers, Pancreatic Cancer

Jacobs Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (866) 773-2703
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7000

Bio:
Michael Bouvet, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who specializes in endocrine surgery and surgical oncology. He is the director of Endocrine Surgery and co-director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Unit at UC San Diego Health. Dr. Bouvet’s expertise includes performing surgery for benign and cancerous thyroid nodules; parathyroidectomy for hyperparathyroidism, Whipple procedures (pancreatoduodenectomy) for pancreatic cancer; minimally invasive robotic-assisted esophagectomy; and laparoscopic adrenal surgery. He also performs surgery for tumors of the parathyroid glands, adrenal glands, liver, esophagus, stomach and pancreas.

Bryan Clary, MD, FACS
Surgeon-In-Chief
Chair and Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Pancreatic Cancer, Hepatobiliary Surgery, Gastrointestinal Cancers, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Surgical Oncology

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (866) 773-2703

Bio:
Bryan Clary, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who provides surgical care for patients with diseases of the liver, pancreas and bile ducts. He is a part of the gastrointestinal and pancreatic cancer teams at Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health. Dr. Clary has extensive experience in performing surgeries associated with cancers of the liver, pancreas, gallbladder, and bile ducts. He is nationally recognized for excellent outcomes following these complex procedures.
Cancer - Gastrointestinal Cancers (cont.)

**Paul T. Fanta, MD**  
Medical Oncologist  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialties:**  
Medical Oncology, Cancer

**Subspecialties:**  
Gastrointestinal Cancers, Precision Medicine, Pancreatic Cancer

**Jacobs Medical Center**  
**Moores Cancer Center**  
**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 657-6100  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7000

**Bio:**  
Paul T. Fanta, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in treating gastrointestinal cancers. Because the diagnosis and management of gastrointestinal cancers has dramatically changed in the past several years, his research interests include how to incorporate biotechnology, bioinformatics, molecular analyses and pharmacogenomic data in the setting of prospective clinical trials—with the results of better identifying patients who will benefit from chemotherapy, avoiding toxicities from treatment, and developing a predictive therapeutic strategy unique to a patient's disease.

**Shumei Kato, MD**  
Medical Oncologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialties:**  
Medical Oncology, Cancer

**Subspecialties:**  
Gastrointestinal Cancers, Precision Medicine

**Add'l Language:**  
Japanese

**Moores Cancer Center**  
**Jacobs Medical Center**  
**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-2372

**Bio:**  
Shumei Kato, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in treating rare cancers and gastrointestinal tumors. He uses numerous forms of therapy such as chemotherapy, biological therapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy to offer the best possible treatment options for his patients. Dr. Kato has a special interest in targeted molecular therapy and his approach to care emphasizes personalized medicine and experimental therapeutics.
Cancer - Head & Neck Cancers

Michael Bouvet, MD
Director of Endocrine Surgery
Professor of Surgery
Co-Director, Center for Fluorescence-Guided Surgery

Specialties:
Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Head & Neck Cancers, Gastrointestinal Cancers, Pancreatic Cancer

Jacobs Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (866) 773-2703
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7000

Bio:
Michael Bouvet, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who specializes in endocrine surgery and surgical oncology. He is the director of Endocrine Surgery and co-director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Unit at UC San Diego Health. Dr. Bouvet’s expertise includes performing surgery for benign and cancerous thyroid nodules; parathyroidectomy for hyperparathyroidism, Whipple procedures (pancreatoduodenectomy) for pancreatic cancer; minimally invasive robotic-assisted esophagectomy; and laparoscopic adrenal surgery. He also performs surgery for tumors of the parathyroid glands, adrenal glands, liver, esophagus, stomach and pancreas.
Cancer - Leukemia & Lymphoma

Edward (Ted) Ball, MD
Director, Blood and Marrow Transplant Program
Professor of Medicine

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

Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
Edward "Ted" Ball, MD, is a board-certified hematologist and medical oncologist who treats individuals with blood-related cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma. In his role as director and chief of the UC San Diego Health / Sharp HealthCare Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, he leads an interdisciplinary team of physicians, advanced practitioners, nurses, social workers and support staff. Dr. Ball offers chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy to adults with relapsed or refractory B-cell lymphoma, a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. CAR T-cell therapy harnesses the patient’s own immune cells to recognize and kill cancer cells. It is just one of many types of personalized cancer therapies offered at UC San Diego Health.

Caitlin Costello, MD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

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

Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (888) 773-2703

Bio:
Caitlin Costello, MD, is a board-certified hematologist and medical oncologist who specializes in treating a variety of blood cancers, including multiple myeloma, lymphoma, and leukemia. She is part of the joint UC San Diego Health / Sharp HealthCare Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, which provides patients with the unique opportunity to receive care from the same physician throughout all phases of blood cancer treatment. This includes initial consultation and diagnosis, treatment to help achieve remission, care throughout stem cell transplants, and follow-up survivorship care.
Cancer - Leukemia & Lymphoma (cont.)

Peter T. Curtin, MD
Clinical Director, Blood and Marrow Transplantation
Professor of Medicine

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

Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
Peter Curtin, MD, is a board-certified hematologist and oncologist who treats patients with blood-related cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndrome and myeloma. In his role as clinical director of Blood and Marrow Transplantation at UC San Diego Health, he leads an interdisciplinary team of physicians, advanced practitioners, nurses, social workers and support staff. Dr. Curtin offers chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy to adults with relapsed or refractory B-cell lymphoma, a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. CAR T-cell therapy harnesses the patient’s own immune cells to recognize and kill cancer cells. It is just one of many types of personalized cancer therapies offered at UC San Diego Health.

Ayad Hamdan, MD
Hematologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

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

Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma

Add'l Language:
Arabic

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
Ayad Hamdan, MD, is a board-certified hematologist who specializes in treating people with cancers of the blood and lymph system, including lymphoma, multiple myeloma, leukemia, myeloproliferative neoplasms and myelodysplastic syndromes. He offers chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy to adults with relapsed or refractory B-cell lymphoma, a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. CAR T-cell therapy harnesses the patient’s own immune cells to recognize and kill cancer cells. It is just one of many types of personalized cancer therapies offered at UC San Diego Health.
Cancer - Leukemia & Lymphoma (cont.)

Benjamin Heyman, MD
Hematologist

**Specialties:**
Hematology/Blood Diseases, Cancer

**Subspecialty:**
Leukemia & Lymphoma

**Jacobs Medical Center**
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Moores Cancer Center

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6600
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100

**Bio:**
Benjamin Heyman, MD, is a board-certified hematologist who treats patients with blood cancers such as lymphoma, leukemia and myeloma.

Dan S. Kaufman, MD, PhD
Hematologist
Professor of Medicine

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

**Subspecialty:**
Leukemia & Lymphoma

**Moores Cancer Center**
Jacobs Medical Center

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

**Bio:**
Dan Kaufman, MD, PhD, is a board-certified hematologist who specializes in caring for patients with blood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. He is one of the physicians with the joint UC San Diego Health / Sharp HealthCare Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, which provides patients with the unique opportunity to receive care from the same physician throughout all phases of blood cancer treatment. This includes initial consultation and diagnosis, treatment to help achieve remission, care during stem cell transplant procedures, and follow-up survivorship care. Dr. Kaufman's expertise and areas of interest include cell-based immunotherapies, stem cells, regenerative medicine and natural killer (NK) cell-mediated therapy. He offers chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy to adults with relapsed or refractory B-cell lymphoma, a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. CAR T-cell therapy harnesses the patient’s own immune cells to recognize and kill cancer cells. It is just one of many types of personalized cancer therapies offered at UC San Diego Health.
Cancer - Leukemia & Lymphoma (cont.)

Divya T. Koura, MD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT, Hematology/Blood Diseases, Cancer
Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma
Add'l Language:
Hindi

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
Divya T. Koura, MD is a board-certified hematologist and medical oncologist who specializes in treating people with cancers of the blood and lymph system, including leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma. She is part of the joint UC San Diego Health / Sharp HealthCare Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, which provides patients with the unique opportunity to receive care from the same physician throughout all phases of blood cancer treatment. This includes initial diagnosis, treatment to help achieve remission, care during stem cell transplant procedures, and follow-up survivorship care.

James K. Mangan, MD, PhD
Hematologist / Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Blood & Marrow Transplant - BMT, Cancer, Hematology/Blood Diseases
Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma
Add'l Language:
Spanish

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
James K. Mangan, MD, PhD, is a board-certified hematologist who specializes in treating people with blood cancers, including acute lymphocytic leukemia, acute myelogenous leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, and chronic myeloid leukemia. He also has expertise in treating people with myelodysplastic syndromes, myeloproliferative neoplasms, aplastic anemia, lymphoma, and myeloma.
Cancer - Leukemia & Lymphoma (cont.)

Carolyn Mulroney, MD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

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

Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
Carolyn Mulroney, MD, is a hematologist and medical oncologist who provides autologous and allogeneic transplants to adults with a wide range of blood cancers and blood disorders, including lymphoma, leukemia, anemia, Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH), myelodysplasia, multiple myeloma, light-chain (AL) amyloidosis and graft versus host disease (GVHD). Dr. Mulroney offers chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy to adults with relapsed or refractory B-cell lymphoma, a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. CAR T-cell therapy harnesses the patient’s own immune cells to recognize and kill cancer cells. It is just one of many types of personalized cancer therapies offered at UC San Diego Health.

Tiffany N. Tanaka, MD
Hematologist

Specialties:
Hematology/Blood Diseases, Cancer

Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma

Jacobs Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (855) 355-5864
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Tiffany N. Tanaka, MD, is a board-certified hematologist specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancers and blood disorders, with an emphasis on myeloid malignancies.
Cancer - Leukemia & Lymphoma (cont.)

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.

Matthew Wieduwilt, MD, PhD
Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

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

Subspecialty:
Leukemia & Lymphoma

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
Matthew Wieduwilt, MD, PhD, is a board-certified hematologist and medical oncologist who cares for people with blood cancers, with a special focus in acute leukemia and bone marrow transplantation. He is a part of the joint UC San Diego Health / Sharp HealthCare Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, which provides patients with the unique opportunity to receive care from the same physician throughout all phases of blood cancer treatment.
Cancer - Neurological Oncology

Joseph D Ciacci, MD
Neurosurgeon
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology, Spine

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Joseph Ciacci, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon with extensive experience in neuro-oncology of the spine and brain. Dr. Ciacci's primary interests are tumors of the spine and brain, complex spinal reconstruction, and stereotactic radiosurgery, a form of radiation therapy that focuses high-power energy on a small area of the body.

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 - Perlman Medical Offices

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 - Pancreatic Cancer

Michael Bouvet, MD
Director of Endocrine Surgery
Professor of Surgery
Co-Director, Center for Fluorescence-Guided Surgery

Specialties:
Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery,
Surgical Oncology, Head & Neck Cancers, Gastrointestinal Cancers,
Pancreatic Cancer

Jacobs Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (866) 773-2703
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7000

Bio:
Michael Bouvet, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who specializes in endocrine surgery and surgical oncology. He is the director of Endocrine Surgery and co-director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Unit at UC San Diego Health. Dr. Bouvet’s expertise includes performing surgery for benign and cancerous thyroid nodules; parathyroidectomy for hyperparathyroidism, Whipple procedures (pancreatoduodenectomy) for pancreatic cancer; minimally invasive robotic-assisted esophagectomy; and laparoscopic adrenal surgery. He also performs surgery for tumors of the parathyroid glands, adrenal glands, liver, esophagus, stomach and pancreas.

Bryan Clary, MD, FACS
Surgeon-In-Chief
Chair and Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Pancreatic Cancer, Hepatobiliary Surgery, Gastrointestinal Cancers, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Surgical Oncology

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (866) 773-2703

Bio:
Bryan Clary, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who provides surgical care for patients with diseases of the liver, pancreas and bile ducts. He is a part of the gastrointestinal and pancreatic cancer teams at Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health. Dr. Clary has extensive experience in performing surgeries associated with cancers of the liver, pancreas, gallbladder, and bile ducts. He is nationally recognized for excellent outcomes following these complex procedures.
Cancer - Pancreatic Cancer (cont.)

Paul T. Fanta, MD
Medical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Medical Oncology, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Gastrointestinal Cancers, Precision Medicine, Pancreatic Cancer

Jacobs Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 657-6100
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7000

Bio:
Paul T. Fanta, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in treating gastrointestinal cancers. Because the diagnosis and management of gastrointestinal cancers has dramatically changed in the past several years, his research interests include how to incorporate biotechnology, bioinformatics, molecular analyses and pharmacogenomic data in the setting of prospective clinical trials—with the results of better identifying patients who will benefit from chemotherapy, avoiding toxicities from treatment, and developing a predictive therapeutic strategy unique to a patient's disease.
Cancer - Precision Medicine

Paul T. Fanta, MD
Medical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Medical Oncology, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Gastrointestinal Cancers, Precision Medicine, Pancreatic Cancer

Jacobs Medical Center
Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 657-6100
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7000

Bio:
Paul T. Fanta, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in treating gastrointestinal cancers. Because the diagnosis and management of gastrointestinal cancers has dramatically changed in the past several years, his research interests include how to incorporate biotechnology, bioinformatics, molecular analyses and pharmocogenomic data in the setting of prospective clinical trials—with the results of better identifying patients who will benefit from chemotherapy, avoiding toxicities from treatment, and developing a predictive therapeutic strategy unique to a patient's disease.

Shumei Kato, MD
Medical Oncologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Medical Oncology, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Gastrointestinal Cancers, Precision Medicine

Add'l Language:
Japanese

Moores Cancer Center
Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-2372

Bio:
Shumei Kato, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in treating rare cancers and gastrointestinal tumors. He uses numerous forms of therapy such as chemotherapy, biological therapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy to offer the best possible treatment options for his patients. Dr. Kato has a special interest in targeted molecular therapy and his approach to care emphasizes personalized medicine and experimental therapeutics.
Cancer - Psychosocial Oncology

**Jeremy Hirst, MD**

**Psychiatrist**  
Associate Director, Patient and Family Support Services, Moores Cancer Center

**Specialties:**  
Psychiatry, Palliative Care, Cancer

**Subspecialty:**  
Psychosocial Oncology

**Moores Cancer Center**  
Jacobs Medical Center

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 534-9061

**Bio:**  
Jeremy Hirst, MD, is a board-certified psychiatrist. As part of Patient & Family Support Services at Moores Cancer Center, he treats people who may be experiencing depression, anxiety, insomnia or other psychiatric symptoms that are either a result of the cancer experience or are interfering with cancer treatment. He can provide psychiatric assessments, treatment and medication management.

**Emily Meier, PhD**

**Psychologist**  
Assistant Professor Psychiatry

**Specialties:**  
Psychology, Cancer

**Subspecialty:**  
Psychosocial Oncology

**Moores Cancer Center**  
Jacobs Medical Center

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-5381

**Bio:**  
Emily Meier, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist. As part of Patient & Family Support Services at Moores Cancer Center, she provides psychological assessment, diagnosis or ongoing therapy for patients and families who are experiencing issues that are either related to the cancer experience or interfering with cancer treatment. In individual or group psychotherapy, she focuses on issues including depression, anxiety, communication, stress reduction, insomnia, grief or other psychological or emotional issues.
Cancer - Sarcoma (Bone and Soft Tissue)

Frank E. Chiarappa, MD
Orthopedic Oncologist
Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Specialties:
Orthopedics, Cancer
Subspecialty:
Sarcoma (Bone and Soft Tissue)
Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion: (858) 657-8200
Direct Clinic Line: (866) 773-2703
Bio:
Frank Chiarappa, MD, is an orthopedic oncologist who treats children and adults with cancerous and non-cancerous musculoskeletal tumors. This includes soft tissue sarcoma and primary bone tumors such as osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma and giant cell tumors. He also treats patients with cancer that has spread to the bone from other primary sites such as the breast, lung, kidney or blood.

Ithaar H. Derweesh, MD
Urologic Oncologist
Professor of Urology and Radiology
Specialties:
Urology, Cancer, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Sarcoma (Bone and Soft Tissue), Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer
Add'l Language:
French
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7876
Bio:
Ithaar Derweesh, MD, is a board-certified urologist who subspecializes in urologic tumors and malignancies. He leads the surgical arm of UC San Diego Health's multidisciplinary program for management of kidney cancer.
Cancer - Urologic Cancer

Neremiah Joakim S. Castaño, MS, APRN, ANP-C
Adult Nurse Practitioner

Specialties:
Urology, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer

Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

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

Bio:
Neremiah Castaño, MS, APRN, is a clinical nurse specialist and certified adult nurse practitioner (ANP-C) who specializes in treating prostate cancer as well as a wide range of urologic conditions, including bladder cancer, kidney cancer, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), erectile dysfunction, lower urinary tract symptoms, and urinary tract infections. In treating urologic cancers, his approach emphasizes long-term survivorship care, wellness and education.

Ithaar H. Derweesh, MD
Urologic Oncologist
Professor of Urology and Radiology

Specialties:
Urology, Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Sarcoma (Bone and Soft Tissue), Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer

Add'l Language:
French

Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

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

Bio:
Ithaar Derweesh, MD, is a board-certified urologist who subspecializes in urologic tumors and malignancies. He leads the surgical arm of UC San Diego Health’s multidisciplinary program for management of kidney cancer.
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