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**

**Make an Appointment**
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.

[health.ucsd.edu/request_appt](https://health.ucsd.edu/request_appt)

**Find a Provider**
Search by name, specialty, location or keyword to find the right provider for you.

[providers.ucsd.edu](https://providers.ucsd.edu)

**Physician Access Services**

**Refer a Patient or Request Consultation**
Call Physician Access Services at **855-543-0555** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Transfer an Inpatient**
For hospital-to-hospital transfers, call **619-543-5709** (24-hour service) for instructions.
# Table of Contents

## Cancer
- Breast Cancer .................................................................................................................. i
- Gastrointestinal Cancers .................................................................................................... 2
- Gynecological Cancers ........................................................................................................ i
- Head & Neck Cancers .......................................................................................................... 6
- Immunotherapy ..................................................................................................................... i
- Leukemia & Lymphoma ........................................................................................................ i
- Lung Cancer ........................................................................................................................ i
- Melanoma / Skin Cancers ................................................................................................. i
- Neurological Oncology ....................................................................................................... 7
- Pancreatic Cancer ............................................................................................................... 8
- Precision Medicine ......................................................................................................... 10
- Psychosocial Oncology ...................................................................................................... i
- Sarcoma (Bone and Soft Tissue) ....................................................................................... 11
- Urologic Cancer ............................................................................................................... i

## Index ................................................................................................................................. 12
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.

Claude Sirlin, MD
Radiologist
Professor of Radiology

Specialties:
Radiology, Cancer

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Claude B. Sirlin, MD, is a board-certified radiologist who sees patients with a wide range of abdominal conditions affecting the gastrointestinal and genitourinary systems. He specializes in liver imaging, metabolic imaging and imaging of abdominal cancers.
Benjamin Abbadessa, MD, FACS
Colorectal Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Colon and Rectal Surgery, Surgery, Cancer

**Subspecialties:**
Gastrointestinal Cancers, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**
**Hillcrest - Medical Offices North**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6277

**Bio:**
Benjamin Abbadessa, MD, is a board-certified colorectal surgeon who treats colon cancer, anal cancer, colon polyps, diverticulitis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, anal fistula, anal fissure, hemorrhoids, anal abscess, fecal incontinence, rectal prolapse, anal dysplasia and anal skin tags.

Michael Bouvet, MD
Director of Endocrine Surgery
Professor of 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 - Gastrointestinal Cancers (cont.)

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.

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 - Gastrointestinal Cancers (cont.)

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.

Nicole Lopez, MD
Surgeon

Specialties:
Colon and Rectal Surgery, Cancer, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Gastrointestinal Cancers, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Surgical Oncology

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices: (858) 822-6277

Bio:
Nicole Lopez, MD, is a board-certified surgeon. She specializes in surgical oncology and colorectal surgery, and has a particular interest in caring for patients with advanced, recurrent, and metastatic colorectal cancers. She has expertise in treating hereditary syndromes, diverticulitis, pelvic floor diseases, inflammatory bowel disease, and anorectal diseases. She is skilled in laparoscopy and robotic surgery.
Cancer - Gastrointestinal Cancers (cont.)

John P. Shen, MD
Medical Oncologist

Specialties:
Medical Oncology, Cancer

Subspecialty:
Gastrointestinal Cancers

Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
John Shen, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in treating gastrointestinal cancers. This includes cancers of the esophagus, gallbladder, liver, pancreas, stomach, small intestine, colon and appendix. He uses numerous forms of therapy including traditional chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy to offer the best possible treatment options for his patients. Dr. Shen is part of the gastrointestinal cancer unit at UC San Diego Health's Moores Cancer Center, where he works alongside a multidisciplinary team to provide patients with highly specialized care.

Rebekah R. (Becke) White, MD, FACS
Surgical Oncologist
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Gastrointestinal Cancers, Surgical Oncology

Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (866) 773-2703
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Rebekah White, MD, is a general surgeon and surgical oncologist who specializes in treating tumors of the pancreas, liver, bile duct, and upper gastrointestinal tract such as the stomach. Dr. White is part of the gastrointestinal cancer unit at UC San Diego Health's Moores Cancer Center, where she works alongside a multidisciplinary team to provide cancer patients with advanced surgical options that are best suited to their individual needs.
Cancer - Head & Neck Cancers

Michael Bouvet, MD
Director of Endocrine Surgery
Professor of 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.

Ryan K. Orosco, MD
Head and Neck Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
ENT/Head and Neck (Otolaryngology), Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Head & Neck Cancers, Head & Neck Surgery Oncology, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Ryan Orosco, MD, is a board-certified head and neck surgeon who specializes in the surgical treatment of benign and malignant tumors and complex reconstruction of the head and neck. He cares for patients with head and neck tumors, thyroid and parathyroid disorders, and cancer of the face, scalp, nose, mouth, tongue, and throat. Dr. Orosco is skilled in advanced reconstruction techniques, including microvascular free flaps, the transplant of tissue to restore function and appearance. He employs minimally invasive techniques, such as transoral robotic surgery and transoral laser microsurgery, when appropriate.
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

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 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 - 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.
Index

A
Abbadessa, Benjamin ........................................ 2

B
Bouvet, Michael ............................................. 2, 6, 8

C
Chiarappa, Frank E. ......................................... 11
Ciacci, Joseph D .............................................. 7
Clary, Bryan ................................................... 3, 8

F
Fanta, Paul T. .................................................. 3, 9, 10

K
Kato, Shumei ................................................... 4, 10
Khalessi, Alexander A. ................................. 7

L
Lopez, Nicole ................................................. 4

O
Orosco, Ryan K. .............................................. 6

S
Shen, John P. .................................................. 5
Sirlin, Claude .................................................. 1

W
White, Rebekah R. (Becke) ......................... 5