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

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For hospital-to-hospital transfers, call **619-543-5709** (24-hour service) for instructions.
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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.

Jack Bui, MD, PhD
Pathologist
Associate Professor of Pathology

Specialties:
Pathology, Cancer

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Jack Bui, MD, PhD, is a board-certified pathologist with expertise in tumor immunology and immune function tests. As a pathologist, he studies cells and tissues from biopsies and excisions to diagnosis diseases and define their extent. Dr. Bui interfaces between the cancer research and immunology programs.

Oluwole Fadare, MD
Pathologist
Professor of Pathology

Specialties:
Pathology, Cancer

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Oluwole Fadare, MD, is a board-certified pathologist who specializes in gynecologic and breast cancers. As a pathologist, he studies cells and tissues from biopsies and excisions to provide a definitive diagnosis of disease and define their extent.

Mark A. Valasek, MD, PhD
Pathologist
Associate Professor of Pathology

Specialties:
Pathology, Cancer

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Mark Valasek, MD, PhD, is a board-certified pathologist who specializes in diagnosing diseases related to the gastrointestinal system, liver, and pancreas. He studies cells and tissues from biopsies or surgical specimens to investigate these diseases and define their extent.
Cancer - Breast Cancer

Vincent T. Genna, RN, MSN, FNP-BC
Family Nurse Practitioner

Specialty:
Cancer
Subspecialty:
Breast Cancer

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Vincent Genna, MSN, is a board-certified family nurse practitioner (FNP-BC) who specializes in providing care for comprehensive breast health, which includes surgical interventions for breast cancer, evaluation and planning for patients who are at high risk for malignancies, and diagnosis and management of benign breast disease. He performs diagnosis, surgical planning, long-term follow up visits, risk reduction for prevention, and postoperative evaluations.

Richard Schwab, MD
Medical Oncologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Medical Oncology, Cancer
Subspecialty:
Breast Cancer

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Richard Schwab, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in treating breast cancer. As needed, Dr. Schwab treats women with endocrine therapy and/or chemotherapy. These treatments can be used to reduce the risk of breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body and can help allow for breast conserving surgery. He also provides medications that can be used to improve the lives of patients with breast cancer that has spread elsewhere in the body.

Angelique E. Richardson, MD, PhD
Medical Oncologist

Specialties:
Medical Oncology, Cancer
Subspecialty:
Breast Cancer

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Angelique Richardson, MD, PhD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. She uses chemotherapy, hormone therapy and targeted therapies to offer the best possible treatment options.
Cancer - Breast Cancer (cont.)

Anne M. Wallace, MD
Director, Comprehensive Breast Health Center
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Surgical Oncology, Breast Cancer, Melanoma / Skin Cancers

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Anne M. Wallace, MD, is a board-certified general and plastic surgeon who specializes in all aspects of breast health, with a focus on breast cancer and breast reconstruction. She directs UC San Diego Health's Comprehensive Breast Health Center, which offers premier breast cancer detection, diagnosis, and personalized care. Dr. Wallace's other specialties include melanoma diagnosis and treatment, as well as all forms of cosmetic breast and body contouring surgery.
Cancer - Gastrointestinal 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.

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 - Lung Cancer

Mark W. Onaitis, MD
Thoracic Surgeon
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Lung Cancer, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Moores Cancer Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (877) 586-4727
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Mark Onaitis, MD, is a board-certified thoracic surgeon who specializes in malignant and benign conditions of the chest, including lung cancer, esophageal cancer, thymic malignancy, gastroesophageal reflux, achalasia, paraesophageal hernia, and myasthenia gravis. He uses minimally invasive approaches – thorascopy and robotics – to treat these conditions.

Patricia Thistlethwaite, MD, PhD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Professor of Surgery

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

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Heart Transplantation, Lung Cancer

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, MD, PhD, is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in lung cancer, mediastinal and chest wall surgery, diseases of the thymus, minimally invasive thoracic surgery, and heart and lung transplantation. She focuses on providing patient-centered clinical care, using minimally invasive approaches to treat thoracic disease.

Laura Toppen, DNP
Nurse Practitioner

Specialty:
Cancer

Subspecialty:
Lung Cancer

Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Laura Toppen DNP, is a certified nurse practitioner who works in the lung cancer screening program. She has expertise and sub-specialty training in helping patients with cardiothoracic and vascular conditions.
Cancer - Melanoma / Skin Cancers

Anne M. Wallace, MD
Director, Comprehensive Breast Health Center
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Surgical Oncology, Breast Cancer, Melanoma / Skin Cancers

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Anne M. Wallace, MD, is a board-certified general and plastic surgeon who specializes in all aspects of breast health, with a focus on breast cancer and breast reconstruction. She directs UC San Diego Health's Comprehensive Breast Health Center, which offers premier breast cancer detection, diagnosis, and personalized care. Dr. Wallace's other specialties include melanoma diagnosis and treatment, as well as all forms of cosmetic breast and body contouring surgery.
Cancer - Neurological Oncology

John Alksne, MD
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

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

Bio:
John F. Alksne, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who focuses on the care of patients with neurological conditions such as trigeminal neuralgia (tic doloreux/facial pain), facial tic, glossopharyngeal neuralgia, and acoustic neuroma.
Cancer - Urologic Cancer

Frederick Millard, MD
Medical Oncologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Medical Oncology, Cancer

Subspecialty:
Urologic Cancer

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7876
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Frederick Millard, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist who specializes in treating people with genitourinary (urologic) cancers, including bladder cancer, kidney cancer, prostate cancer, testicular cancer and other germ cell tumors, as well as other rarer cancer types. He is a founder and former co-director of the genitourinary oncology team at UC San Diego Health's Moores Cancer Center. His particular interest is in treatment of patients with germ cell tumors (testicular cancer) and improving the care of these patients in the San Diego community.

Amirali (Amir) Salmasi, MD
Urologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer

Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Urology: (619) 543-3572
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Amirali Salmasi, MD, is a urologist with expertise in the management of genitourinary cancers in men and women, including bladder, prostate, kidney, ureteral, testicular, adrenal, and penile cancers. He provides a personalized, multidisciplinary approach to deliver the best possible treatment options (active surveillance, focal therapy, surgery, radiation, systemic treatments, or clinical trials) for his patients.
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