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*.

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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.

Joshua A. Boys, MD
Thoracic Surgeon

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

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Lung Transplantation: (858) 657-5050
Direct Clinic Line - Surgery: (858) 657-7777

Bio:
Joshua Boys, MD, is a cardiothoracic surgeon who treats people with cancer of the lung and esophagus, chest wall tumors and mediastinal tumors. He performs lung transplantations and also treats gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and achalasia (i.e. an esophagus disorder that makes it difficult for food to pass into the stomach).

Eugene Golts, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery, Cardiology, Transplantation
Subspecialties:
Heart Failure, Lung Transplantation
Add’l Languages:
Russian, Ukrainian

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Eugene Golts, MD, is a board-certified general and cardiothoracic surgeon who performs the full scope of cardiothoracic surgery and thoracic organ transplantation. Dr. Golts is surgical director of the Lung Transplant Program at UC San Diego Health.

Joelle M. Coletta, MD, FACS
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Joelle Coletta, MD, is a cardiothoracic surgeon and chief of the cardiothoracic surgery section at the Veterans Administration Hospital affiliated with UC San Diego. She also performs both cardiac and thoracic operations at Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center.

Daniel L. Gramins, MD
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialty:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Daniel Gramins, MD, is a board-certified cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon who also serves as surgical director of the cardiothoracic surgery program at TriCity Medical Center.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery (cont.)

Steven Howe, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery

Murrieta - California Oaks Rd

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.

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 - Surgery: (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 – thoracoscopy and robotics – to treat these conditions.

Anthony Perricone, MD
Clinical Professor

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

Subspecialties:
Lung Cancer, Lung Transplantation, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Dr. Perricone is director of the Cardiothoracic Unit at the Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, and surgical director of lung transplantation at UC San Diego Health.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery (cont.)

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

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.

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.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery - Adult Congenital Heart Defects

John Lamberti, MD

Specialty:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery

Subspecialty:
Adult Congenital Heart Defects

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Dr. Lamberti leads the pediatric heart surgery program at Rady Children's Hospital, and also performs surgeries for adult congenital heart defects at Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery - Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE)

Michael M Madani, MD, FACS
Division Chief, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery
Executive Director, Surgery - Cardiovascular Institute
Professor of Surgery

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

Subspecialties:
Heart Transplantation, Lung Transplantation, Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE), Heart Failure

Add'l Language:
Persian

Jacobs Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Michael Madani, MD, is a board-certified cardiovascular surgeon who oversees a variety of surgical services at UC San Diego Health, including surgical treatment for heart failure, lung transplantation and pulmonary thromboendarterectomy (PTE). He is the surgical director of the Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE) Program, and is also an expert in minimally invasive heart surgery, mitral valve repair and off-pump bypass surgery.

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.
Naohide Sakakibara, MD
Thoracic Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery

Subspecialty:
Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE)

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
UC San Diego Health Links
Speech-Language Pathology

Speech-language pathology is the clinical specialty that focuses on evaluating and treating communication disorders and swallowing disorders. Learn more about [speech and language therapy](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health.

**Liza S. Blumenfeld, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S**

**Speech-Language Pathologist**

**Specialty:**
Speech-Language Pathology

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**Moores Cancer Center**
La Jolla - 8899 University Center Lane

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 249-4070

**Bio:**
Liza Blumenfeld, MA, is a speech-language pathologist with expertise in managing complex voice and swallowing disorders in a variety of patients, including those with head and neck cancer. She is a board-certified swallowing disorders specialist (BCS-S) whose therapeutic approach integrates science and technology within a multidisciplinary care model. She is dedicated to restoring patients' quality of life while they battle the side effects of cancer treatments.

**Lauren Davis, MA, CCC-SLP**

**Speech-Language Pathologist**

**Specialties:**
Speech-Language Pathology, Rehabilitation

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (855) 543-0333

**Bio:**
Lauren Davis, MA, is a certified speech-language pathologist who helps individuals maximize their speech ability, language comprehension and expression, social and cognitive-communication skills. She also assesses and treats voice and swallowing disorders. She provides assessment for alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) devices.

**Kristen Linnemeyer, MA, CCC-SLP**

**Speech-Language Pathologist**

**Specialty:**
Speech-Language Pathology

**Moores Cancer Center**
La Jolla - 8899 University Center Lane

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 249-4070

**Bio:**
Kristen Linnemeyer, MA, CCC-SLP, is a certified speech-language pathologist with expertise in assessing and treating patients with complex voice and swallowing disorders that occur as a result of illness, surgery, stroke, injury, or head and neck cancer. She has a special interest in post-laryngectomy voice and swallow restoration. Linnemeyer is part of the voice and swallow team within Head and Neck Surgery at UC San Diego Health.
Speech-Language Pathology (cont.)

Susan Neese, MA, CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist

**Specialties:**  
Speech-Language Pathology, Rehabilitation

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

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (855) 543-0333

**Bio:**  
Susan Neese, MA, is a speech-language pathologist who helps individuals maximize their speech ability, language comprehension and expression, and social and cognitive-communication skills. She also assesses and treats swallowing disorders, which can occur as a result of illness, surgery, stroke or injury. She is the primary speech pathologist at Thornton Pavilion and also helps patients with Parkinson's disease in the neurological rehabilitation program.

Lindsey Schaefer, MS, CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist

**Specialties:**  
Speech-Language Pathology, Rehabilitation

**La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion**  
Jacobs Medical Center  
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (855) 543-0333

**Bio:**  
Lindsey Schaefer, MS, CCC-SLP, is a certified speech-language pathologist who evaluates and treats patients with cognitive communication and swallowing disorders. She has a special interest in helping people with neurological disorders such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease), movement disorders, stroke, and traumatic brain injury.

Lindsey Unger, MS, CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist

**Specialties:**  
Speech-Language Pathology, Rehabilitation

**La Jolla - 8929 University Center Lane**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (855) 543-0333

**Bio:**  
Lindsey Unger is a speech language pathologist who helps individuals maximize their speech ability, language comprehension and expression, social and cognitive-communication skills. She also assesses and treats voice and swallowing disorders, and provides assessments for augmentative alternative communication devices.

Erin H. Walsh, MA, CCC-SLP, IBCLC  
Speech-Language Pathologist

**Specialty:**  
Speech-Language Pathology

**La Jolla - 8899 University Center Lane**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-4070

**Bio:**  
Erin Walsh, MA, is a speech-language pathologist, singing voice specialist and lactation consultant. She has clinical expertise in managing a wide variety of voice disorders and newborn feeding difficulties, and a special interest in rehabilitating performers and professional voice users. She is a part of the voice and swallowing team within Head and Neck Surgery at UC San Diego Health.
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