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Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases are caused by microorganisms that are capable of causing diseases in the human body, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi; the disease can be spread from one person to another. Learn more about treatment for infectious diseases at UC San Diego Health.

Shira Abeles, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist

**Specialties:**
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**Locations:**
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Jacobs Medical Center

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Owen Clinic: (619) 543-3995
Direct Clinic Line - Infectious Disease: (619) 543-6146

**Bio:**
Shira Abeles, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist and medical director of Antimicrobial Stewardship at UC San Diego Health. She cares for patients with general infectious disease as well as people with HIV. She is part of UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of the nation's outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive men and women.

Saima Aslam, MBBS
Infectious Disease Specialist
Director, Solid Organ Transplant Infectious Diseases Service
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Infectious Diseases

**Add'l Language:**
Urdu

**Locations:**
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

**Bio:**
Saima Aslam, MBBS, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist. Her expertise is in caring for solid-organ transplant candidates and recipients as well as other immunocompromised individuals. Dr. Aslam directs UC San Diego Health's Solid Organ Transplant Infectious Diseases Service, which provides expert care in the prevention and management of infectious diseases in organ transplant donors and recipients.
Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Constance A Benson, MD
Senior Attending Physician
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Dr. Benson is Professor of Medicine in Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Benson received her MD degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1978, and completed her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Rush University Medical College in Chicago in 1986, after serving three years on active duty in the U.S. Navy as an intern.

Ajay Bharti, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Ajay Bharti, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist. Infectious disease specialists care for patients with infections or diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites. These include hepatitis viruses, tuberculosis, influenza, and HIV/AIDS, in addition to other infections of the sinuses, heart, brain, lungs, gastrointestinal system, urinary tract, pelvic organs and bones. Dr. Bharti also has expertise in tropical infectious diseases.

Jill S. Blumenthal, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS, Primary Care

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Jill Blumenthal, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease physician who provides primary care services and specializes in caring for children, teens, and adults with HIV and AIDS. She has expertise in caring for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals seeking hormone replacement therapy and other supportive care. She also has extensive experience in HIV prevention using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV-uninfected individuals. Dr. Blumenthal cares for people at the UC San Diego Mother, Child and Adolescent HIV Program and UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of America's top HIV care programs.

Sara H Browne, MD
Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Sara H. Browne, MD is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).
Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Edward R. Cachay, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
HIV/AIDS, Infectious Diseases

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Edward Cachay, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease physician who specializes in caring for individuals with HIV. He is a part of UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of the nation's outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive men and women.

Anne N. Cowell, MD, MPH
Infectious Disease Specialist

Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Anne Cowell, MD, MPH, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist who sees patients in both the hospital and outpatient setting for a range of infectious diseases, including bloodstream and intravascular device infections, intra-abdominal and urinary tract infections, tuberculosis, prosthetic joint infections, and other postoperative infections.

Jennifer R. Dan, MD, PhD
Infectious Disease Specialist

Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Jennifer Dan, MD, PhD, is a board-certified internist and infectious disease specialist who cares for hospitalized patients.

Jeffrey D. Jenks, MD, MPH
Primary Care Physician
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases

Hillcrest - 4th & Lewis Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 471-9250

Bio:
Jeffrey Jenks, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor. He provides primary care for adults, including preventive care and diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic diseases. Dr. Jenks also has advanced training in infectious diseases and a special interest in treating tuberculosis.
Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Maile Young Karris, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
HIV/AIDS Specialist

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Maile Young Karris, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease physician who specializes in caring for individuals with HIV. She is a part of UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of the nation's outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive men and women. Her clinical practice includes caring for individuals newly diagnosed with HIV and helping individuals living with HIV age successfully. Dr. Karris has expertise in non-HIV associated infections in individuals with HIV and in preventing HIV infection (pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP).

Susan Little, MD
Professor of Medicine In Residence

Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Dr. Susan Little is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases with a research interest in HIV infection. Dr. Little works at the UC San Diego Antiviral Research Center and conducts clinical translational research trials which focus on increasing our understanding of the pathogenesis of acute or primary HIV infection and HIV transmission.

Cathy Logan, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Cathy Logan, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist. Her expertise is in treating and preventing infections in immunocompromised individuals, including those with malignant disorders, stem-cell transplant recipients, and solid-organ transplant recipients.
Sanjay R. Mehta, MD  
Transplant Infectious Disease Specialist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:** Infectious Diseases  
**Add'l Languages:** Marathi, Portuguese

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

**Bio:**  
Sanjay R. Mehta, MD, is one of the solid organ transplant infectious disease faculty at UC San Diego Health. He maintains an HIV-HCV co-infection clinic and is an assistant director of the Clinical Microbiology Lab at UC San Diego. He is also one of the faculty advisors for the UC Haiti Project.

David Pride, MD, PhD

**Specialties:** Pathology, Infectious Diseases

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

**Bio:**  
Our laboratory focuses on the role that microbial communities play in human homeostasis, health and disease. We firmly believe that the various microbial components of human ecosystems including bacteria, viruses, archaea, and fungi are important factors that help determine the natural history of their hosts. Furthermore, their interactions with humans or their interactions with other microbial constituents in these communities likely have consequences for human health.

Michele L. Ritter, MD  
Infectious Disease Specialist  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:** Infectious Diseases

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**  
**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 471-9062

**Bio:**  
Michele L. Ritter, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist who cares for patients with severe or deep-seated infections. She is director of UC San Diego Health's outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy (OPAT) program, which allows patients to avoid hospitalization for serious infections by receiving intravenous (IV) antimicrobial therapies in an outpatient setting, including at-home care.

Maria C. Savoia, MD  
Infectious Disease Specialist  
Dean, Medical Education

**Specialty:** Infectious Diseases

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

**Bio:**  
Maria C. Savoia, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist. She cares for patients with infections caused by germs such as bacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites. She also provides counsel and preventive medicine services for healthy people who plan to travel. Dr. Savoia believes that the relationship between the physician and patient should be a partnership, and works closely with each patient to restore their health.
Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Robert Turner Schooley, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases

Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Robert T. Schooley, MD, is an infectious disease specialist and an expert in HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) infection and treatment. Infectious disease specialists care for patients with infections or diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites. These include hepatitis viruses, tuberculosis, influenza, and HIV/AIDS, in addition to infections of the sinuses, heart, brain, lungs, gastrointestinal system, urinary tract, pelvic organs and bones.

Francesca Torriani, MD
Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Clinical Epidemiology
Professor of Clinical Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Add'l Languages:
French, German, Italian, Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Francesca J. Torriani, MD, is a Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Dr. Torriani received her medical degree in 1985 from the University Medical School in Lausanne, Switzerland. In 1995, Dr. Torriani joined UC San Diego Health after completing a fellowship in infectious diseases.

Randy Taplitz, MD
Clinical Director, Infectious Diseases
Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Add'l Language:
French

Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Moores Cancer Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Randy Taplitz, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease physician who specializes in infections in compromised individuals, especially those patients with malignant disorders and stem cell transplant recipients. She is the clinical director of Infectious Diseases at UC San Diego Health.
Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Darcy A. Wooten, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Infectious Disease Specialist

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Darcy A. Wooten, MD, is an infectious disease specialist who diagnoses and treats diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites. These include hepatitis viruses, tuberculosis, influenza, and HIV/AIDS, among others. Dr. Wooten provides primary care for adults with HIV and specialized care and treatment for patients with hepatitis C virus (HCV). She also has expertise in general infectious diseases, including infections of the sinuses, heart, brain, lungs, gastrointestinal system, urinary tract, pelvic organs, and bones.

David L. Wyles, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
David L. Wyles, MD, is an infectious disease specialist and hepatitis C (HCV) infection and treatment expert. Infectious disease specialists care for patients with infections or diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites. These include hepatitis viruses, tuberculosis, influenza, and HIV/AIDS, in addition to other infections of the sinuses, heart, brain, lungs, gastrointestinal system, urinary tract, pelvic organs and bones.
Infectious Diseases - Tropical Diseases

Sharon Lee Reed, MD
Professor of Pathology and Medicine
Infectious Disease Specialist

Specialty:
Infectious Diseases

Subspecialty:
Tropical Diseases

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Sharon L. Reed, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist and physician with UC San Diego Health. Since 1994, she has also been director of the clinical microbiology laboratory at UC San Diego Health.
Stroke Care

Stroke care is the medical treatment for a stroke — when the blood supply to part of your brain is interrupted or severely reduced, resulting in the sudden death of brain cells. Learn more about stroke care at UC San Diego Health.

**Thomas Hemmen, MD, PhD**
Vascular Neurologist
Director, Stroke Center
Professor of Neurosciences

**Specialties:**
Neurology, Stroke Care

**Subspecialty:**
Stroke

**Add'l Language:**
German

**Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center**

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

**Bio:**
Thomas Hemmen, MD, PhD, is a board-certified vascular neurologist. His expertise includes caring for patients with stroke, cerebrovascular diseases, and those who require neurological critical care. Dr. Hemmen directs the stroke center at UC San Diego Health and was instrumental in establishing the center as the first certified Stroke Center of Excellence in San Diego County.

**Navaz Karanjia, MD**
Medical Director, Neurointensive Care Unit
Associate Professor of Neurosciences and Anesthesiology

**Specialties:**
Neurology, Stroke Care

**Subspecialty:**
Neurocritical Care

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6291

**Bio:**
Navaz Karanjia, MD, is a board-certified neurologist who specializes in caring for people with life-threatening diseases of brain, spinal cord and nerves. She is medical director of UC San Diego Health's Neurocritical Care Program and Neuro-Intensive Care Unit (ICU), which she also founded. The Neuro-ICU team provides around-the-clock expert care, seven days a week, to critically ill patients who may have severe brain injury, stroke or brain tumors, or may be recovering from a neurosurgical procedure.
Stroke Care (cont.)

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).

Brett C Meyer, MD
Co-Director, UCSD Stroke Center
Professor of Clinical Neurosciences
Medical Director, UCSD Enterprise Telemedicine

Specialties:
Neurology, Stroke Care

Subspecialty:
Stroke

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Brett C. Meyer, MD, is a neurologist at UC San Diego Medical Center, Co-Director of the UC San Diego Stroke Center, and Medical Director for UC San Diego Enterprise Telemedicine. He specializes in acute cerebrovascular disease therapies and technological evaluation and treatment techniques.

Royya Modir, MD
Neurologist
Associate Professor of Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurology, Stroke Care

Subspecialty:
Stroke

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Royya Modir, MD, is a board-certified neurologist specializing in vascular neurology and the treatment of stroke. Her focus is on treatment strategies for stroke prevention and using thrombolytics for the treatment of acute stroke.
Stroke Care (cont.)

Scott E. Olson, MD
Vascular Neurologist and Endovascular Neurosurgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Neurology, Stroke Care

**Subspecialties:**
Endovascular Neurosurgery, Stroke

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

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

**Bio:**
Scott E. Olson, MD, is a board-certified vascular neurologist with additional fellowship training in interventional neuroradiology/endovascular neurosurgery. He specializes in evaluating and treating disorders of the blood vessels of the brain and spinal cord, which can lead to ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke. His expertise includes both medical and endovascular care for individuals with extra and intracranial stenoses, brain aneurysms and vascular malformations, whether congenital or acquired.

J. Scott Pannell, MD
Neurointerventional Radiologist

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Radiology, Stroke Care

**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:**
J. Scott Pannell, MD, is a neurointerventional radiologist who specializes in endovascular neurosurgery and neuroradiology. Dr. Pannell focuses on the catheter-based treatment of ischemic stroke, cerebral aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, carotid stenosis, vascular tumors, and interventional management of pain associated with disorders of the spine (such as spine blocks).
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