UC San Diego Health

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

La Jolla
La Jolla Emergency
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
9434 Medical Center Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

La Jolla Urgent Care
8910 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Orthopedics Urgent Care
Sports Medicine
4520 Executive Drive, Suite Plaza 1
San Diego, CA 92121

4510 and 4520 Executive Drive
San Diego, CA 92121

8910 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

8899 and 8929 University Center Lane
San Diego, CA 92122

8939 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

9333 Genessee Avenue
San Diego, CA 92121

8950 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

9350 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Shiley Eye Institute
9415 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
9434 Medical Center Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093

Moores Cancer Center
3855 Health Sciences Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093

Jacobs Medical Center
9300 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
9400 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Perlman Medical Offices
9350 Campus Point Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Hillcrest
Hillcrest Emergency
UC San Diego Medical Center
200 West Arbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92103

4th and Lewis Medical Offices
330 Lewis Street
San Diego, CA 92103

Medical Offices North
200 West Arbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92103

Medical Offices South
4168 Front Street
San Diego, CA 92103

UC San Diego Medical Center
200 West Arbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92103

Rancho Bernardo
Includes Rancho Bernardo Urgent Care
16950 Via Tazon
San Diego, CA 92127

Encinitas
Includes Encinitas Express Care (Suite 110)
1200 Garden View Road
Encinitas, CA 92024

477 North El Camino Real
Encinitas, CA 92024

College Area
6719 Alvarado Road, Suite 302
San Diego, CA 92120

Downtown
Downtown Express Care
203 West F Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Vista
910 Sycamore Avenue
Vista, CA 92081

Sorrento Valley
4910 Directors Place
San Diego, CA 92121

Scripps Ranch
9909 Mira Mesa Blvd, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92131

Kearny Mesa
7910 Frost Street
San Diego, CA 92123

Chula Vista
959 Lane Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91914

Temecula
31720 Temecula Parkway, Suite 100
Temecula, CA 92592
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Neurosurgery

Neurosurgery specializes in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders which affect the nervous system. Learn more about [neurosurgery](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health System.

**David Barba, MD, FAANS**
Neurosurgeon
Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive**

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

**Bio:**
David Barba, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon focusing on surgical treatment of people with epilepsy and movement disorders.

**Hal Meltzer, MD**
Associate Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

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

**Bio:**
Dr. Meltzer is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in pediatric neurosurgery and performs the majority of his procedures at Rady Children's Hospital San Diego. His clinical interests span all of pediatric neurosurgery and include endoscopic treatment of craniosynostoses.

**Michael Levy, MD, PhD**
Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery

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

**Bio:**
Michael Levy, MD, PhD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon at UC San Diego Health and chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Rady Children’s Hospital San Diego. Dr. Levy’s primary surgical interests are in pediatric and vascular neurosurgery.

**J. Scott Pannell, MD**
Neurointerventional Radiologist

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

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

**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.
Neurosurgery (cont.)

Hoi Sang U, MD
Neurosurgeon
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 471-0798
Fax: (619) 471-3931

Bio:
Hoi Sang U, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who is an internationally recognized specialist in the treatment of vascular anomalies known as AVMs. Patients have traveled to UCSD from as far away as Australia, Hong Kong, the Sultanate of Brunei, Africa and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to take advantage of his expertise.
Neurosurgery - Complex Cranial Surgery

Sunil Jeswani, MD  
Neurosurgeon

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery  

**Subspecialties:**  
Complex Cranial Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Spine  

**Add'l Language:**  
Spanish  

Jacobs Medical Center  
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center  

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

**Bio:**  
Sunil Jeswani, MD, is a neurosurgeon who treats people with cranial and spinal problems. He performs surgery for brain tumors, pituitary tumors, skull base tumors, stereotactic radiosurgery, hydrocephalus, and trigeminal neuralgia. He also does minimally invasive spinal surgery and treats spinal conditions such as degenerative disease, tumors, scoliosis and spinal trauma.

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS  
Chair of Neurosurgery  
Director of Neurovascular Surgery  
Associate Professor of Surgery 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 - 4510 Executive Drive  

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

**Bio:**  
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and director of endovascular neurosurgery. 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).
Neurosurgery - Complex Cranial Surgery (cont.)

Marc S. Schwartz, MD
Neurosurgeon

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology

Moores Cancer Center
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (619) 543-5540
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices: (858) 657-8590
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Marc Schwartz, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who is an internationally renowned expert on the treatment of patients with acoustic neuromas, skull base tumors, and neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF2). He is also the recognized neurosurgical leader in the field of auditory brainstem implants. In addition, Dr. Schwartz treats complex cranial problems, meningiomas, brain tumors, pituitary tumors, cranial nerve disorders, and intradural spine tumors.
Neurosurgery - Endovascular Neurosurgery

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair of Neurosurgery
Director of Neurovascular Surgery
Associate Professor of Surgery 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 - 4510 Executive Drive

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

Bio:
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and director of endovascular neurosurgery. 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 Neurolnterventional Surgery (SNIS).

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

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Neurology, Stroke Care

Subspecialties:
Endovascular Neurosurgery, Stroke

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

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.
Neurosurgery - Neurological Oncology

John Alksne, MD
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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.

Joseph D Ciacci, MD
Neurosurgeon

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology

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.

Sunil Jeswani, MD
Neurosurgeon

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Complex Cranial Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Spine

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Sunil Jeswani, MD, is a neurosurgeon who treats people with cranial and spinal problems. He performs surgery for brain tumors, pituitary tumors, skull base tumors, stereotactic radiosurgery, hydrocephalus, and trigeminal neuralgia. He also does minimally invasive spinal surgery and treats spinal conditions such as degenerative disease, tumors, scoliosis and spinal trauma.
Neurosurgery - Neurological Oncology (cont.)

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair of Neurosurgery
Director of Neurovascular Surgery
Associate Professor of Surgery 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 - 4510 Executive Drive

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

**Bio:**
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and director of endovascular neurosurgery. 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).

Marc S. Schwartz, MD
Neurosurgeon

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer

**Subspecialties:**
Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology

Moores Cancer Center
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (619) 543-5540
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices: (858) 657-8590
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100

**Bio:**
Marc Schwartz, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who is an internationally renowned expert on the treatment of patients with acoustic neuromas, skull base tumors, and neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF2). He is also the recognized neurosurgical leader in the field of auditory brainstem implants. In addition, Dr. Schwartz treats complex cranial problems, meningiomas, brain tumors, pituitary tumors, cranial nerve disorders, and intradural spine tumors.
Neurosurgery - Spine

Sharon Ben-Haim, MD
Neurosurgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery
Subspecialty:
Spine
Add'l Languages:
Hebrew, Spanish

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

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

Bio:
Sharona Ben-Haim, MD, is a neurosurgeon who specializes in caring for people with treatment-resistant epilepsy, chronic pain including facial pain and trigeminal neuralgia, spasticity, and movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, dystonia and essential tremor. She performs deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgeries, including "awake" microelectrode-guided DBS and "asleep" MRI- and CT-guided DBS.

Sunil Jeswani, MD
Neurosurgeon

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Complex Cranial Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Spine
Add'l Language:
Spanish

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Sunil Jeswani, MD, is a neurosurgeon who treats people with cranial and spinal problems. He performs surgery for brain tumors, pituitary tumors, skull base tumors, stereotactic radiosurgery, hydrocephalus, and trigeminal neuralgia. He also does minimally invasive spinal surgery and treats spinal conditions such as degenerative disease, tumors, scoliosis and spinal trauma.

Lawrence Marshall, MD
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery
Subspecialty:
Spine

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

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

Bio:
Lawrence Marshall, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon and an internationally renowned expert in traumatic head injury. Dr. Marshall's surgical interests cover all of neurosurgery but especially diseases of the spine and spinal cord, brain tumors, and peripheral nerves.
Neurosurgery - Spine (cont.)

Andrew Nguyen, MD, PhD
Neurosurgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery
Subspecialty:
Spine
Add'l Language:
Vietnamese

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Andrew Nguyen, MD, PhD, is a neurosurgeon who specializes in endovascular treatments for neurovascular diseases and minimally invasive spine surgery.

Martin H. Pham, MD
Neurosurgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Spine
Add'l Language:
Spanish

Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
Martin Pham, MD, is a neurosurgeon who focuses on the neurosurgical evaluation and treatment of spinal disorders. This includes adult scoliosis and spinal deformity, complex spinal reconstruction, robotic and minimally invasive spine surgery, motion preservation of the spine, spine tumors, and spine trauma.

William Taylor, MD
Neurosurgeon
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Spine

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

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

Bio:
William Taylor, MD, is a board-certified neurological surgeon. His practice focuses on the neurosurgical evaluation and treatment of spinal disorders. He is also dedicated to further developing and refining minimally invasive surgical procedures used to treat spinal conditions and diseases.
Palliative Care

Gary Buckholz, MD, FAAHPM
Associate Clinical Professor

Specialty:
Palliative Care

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Dr. Buckholz specializes in palliative care, which uses a team approach. The goal of palliative care is to prevent and relieve suffering and to support the best possible quality of life for patients and their families, regardless of the stage of disease or the need for other therapies. As such, it can be delivered concurrently with life-prolonging care or as the main focus of care.

Kyle P. Edmonds, MD, FAAHPM
Palliative Medicine Physician
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Palliative Care

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Kyle P. Edmonds, MD, is a board-certified palliative care specialist. Palliative medicine focuses on improving the quality of life for people with serious illness and their families. It can help provide relief from symptoms, pain, and emotional stress. As part of the Doris A. Howell Palliative Care service, Dr. Edmonds consults with patients who have been admitted to UC San Diego Health's hospitals in La Jolla and Hillcrest.

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.

William Mitchell, MD
Medical Oncologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Cancer, Palliative Care
Subspecialty:
Lung Cancer

Moores Cancer Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 534-9061

Bio:
William Mitchell, MD, is a board-certified medical oncologist. He cares for patients with all kinds of thoracic cancer, including lung cancer, mesothelioma and thymomas.
Palliative Care (cont.)

Loren S. Novak, DO
Primary Care Physician
Affiliated Provider

Specialties:
Primary Care, Family Medicine, Palliative Care

Contact:
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 534-9061

Bio:
Loren Novak, DO, is a board-certified physician providing primary care through Tri-City Primary Care. He is a member of UC San Diego Health Physician Network.

Kira A Skavinski, DO
Palliative Care Specialist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Palliative Care

Moores Cancer Center

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

Bio:
Kira Skavinski, DO, is a board-certified palliative care physician who helps relieve suffering in people with life-limiting and chronic illnesses. She provides pain and symptom management, and aims to optimize quality of life for her patients and their families while addressing their medical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs. Dr. Skavinski also assists patients and their families with discussions regarding advance care planning and goals.

Maria Tiamson-Kassab, MD

Specialties:
Psychiatry, Palliative Care, Cancer
Subspeciality:
Psychosocial Oncology
Add'l Language:
Tagalog

Moores Cancer Center

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

Bio:
Maria Tiamson-Kassab, MD, is a board-certified psychiatrist and the director of Moores Cancer Center’s Patient & Family Support Services, which 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. She can provide psychiatric assessment, treatment and medication management.

Kathryn (Kadee) Winters, MD
Palliative Care Specialist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Palliative Care

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Kathryn (Kadee) Winters, MD, is a palliative care physician who provides supportive care for people with cancer or other life-threatening diseases. Palliative medicine focuses on improving the quality of life for people with serious illness and their families. It can help provide relief from symptoms, pain and emotional stress.
Palliative Care (cont.)

Heidi Yeung, MD
Palliative Care Specialist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Palliative Care

Add'l Languages:
French, Mandarin

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Heidi Yeung, MD, is a board-certified hospice and palliative care specialist who manages pain and other symptoms related to disease or its treatment. She works with a multidisciplinary team to help individualize care for patients and their families.
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