UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

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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.

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

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**Add'l Language:**  
Spanish

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**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.

**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).

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

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**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.

**Hoi Sang U, MD**  
**Neurosurgeon**  
**Professor of Surgery**

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

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

**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

**Thomas L. Beaumont, MD, PhD**  
Neurosurgeon  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer

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

**Add'l Language:**  
Italian

**Moores Cancer Center**

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

**Bio:**  
Thomas Beaumont, MD, PhD, is a neurosurgeon who specializes in skull base and minimally invasive cranial surgery. He performs both open microsurgery and endoscopic approaches for brain, skull base and pituitary tumors where he tailors the surgical approach to provide maximally effective yet minimally invasive neurosurgical care. Dr. Beaumont has a passion for the treatment of meningiomas, pituitary tumors, craniopharyngiomas and clival chordomas, and is an expert in the endoscopic endonasal approach (EEA). Additionally, he treats cavernous malformations, cranial nerve compression syndromes and craniocervical junction disease.

**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 - Complex Cranial Surgery (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).

Marc S. Schwartz, MD
Neurosurgeon

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology

Moores Cancer Center
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Neurosurgery: (619) 543-5540
Direct Clinic Line - ENT/Head & Neck Surgery: (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, 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).

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.
Neurosurgery - 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.

Thomas L. Beaumont, MD, PhD  
Neurosurgeon  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:  
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer  
Subspecialties:  
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology

Add'l Language:  
Italian

Moores Cancer Center

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

Bio:  
Thomas Beaumont, MD, PhD, is a neurosurgeon who specializes in skull base and minimally invasive cranial surgery. He performs both open microsurgery and endoscopic approaches for brain, skull base and pituitary tumors where he tailors the surgical approach to provide maximally effective yet minimally invasive neurosurgical care. Dr. Beaumont has a passion for the treatment of meningiomas, pituitary tumors, craniopharyngiomas and clival chordomas, and is an expert in the endoscopic endonasal approach (EEA). Additionally, he treats cavernous malformations, cranial nerve compression syndromes and craniocervical junction disease.
Neurosurgery - Neurological Oncology (cont.)

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.

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, 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).

Marc S. Schwartz, MD
Neurosurgeon

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology

Moores Cancer Center
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
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Direct Clinic Line - ENT/Head & Neck Surgery: (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

**Sharona Ben-Haim, MD**  
Neurosurgeon  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

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

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**  
**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 and movement disorders such as Parkinson’s disease, dystonia and essential tremor and spasticity. She also treats chronic pain, including facial pain and trigeminal neuralgia, as well as pain related to spinal conditions.

**Sunil Jeswani, MD**  
Neurosurgeon

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery  
**Subspecialties:**  
Complex Cranial Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, 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:**  
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.

**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.

**Lawrence Marshall, MD**  
Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery  
**Subspecialty:**  
Spine

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices  
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

**Subspeciality:**
Spine

**Add'l Language:**
Vietnamese

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

**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.

Joseph Osorio, MD, PhD
Neurosurgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**Subspeciality:**
Spine

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion**
**Jacobs Medical Center**
**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**
**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

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

**Bio:**
Joseph Osorio, MD, PhD, is a neurosurgeon who specializes in complex spine surgery. He treats spinal conditions such as scoliosis, kyphosis, kyphoscoliosis and flatback syndrome. He also treats spinal tumors, cervical spinal problems, and degenerative conditions of the spine such as spondylolisthesis and stenosis.
Neurosurgery - Spine (cont.)

Martin H. Pham, MD
Neurosurgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Spine

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Jacobs Medical Center
Rancho Bernardo - Via Tazon
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

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.
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