UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

Our physicians are recognized leaders in their professional societies, heading national organizations and committees dedicated to improving care and advancing knowledge about disease. They are prominently listed in publications such as America’s Top Doctors and *U.S. News & World Report*’s rankings of outstanding physicians and clinical programs.

Patient Access

Request an Appointment
Whether you’re looking for a primary care physician (PCP), need a specialist for treatment or are seeking a second opinion, you can make an appointment by following the steps below:

→ New Patients (who have never seen a UC San Diego Health provider)
   To register as a new patient and schedule an appointment, call 800-926-8273, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

→ Current Patients
   Contact your physician’s office directly to schedule an appointment or call the main switchboard number, 858-657-7000, and ask to be transferred to your physician’s office.

→ Find a Doctor
   To use our physician search website to find a physician by name or to search for a specialist, visit: doctors.ucsd.edu.

Referring Physician Access

Transfer a Patient
For hospital-to-hospital transfers, call 619-543-5709 (24-hour service) for instructions or to speak to a transfer coordinator.

Consultations
If you need to talk with one of our physicians about a case or if you have any problems or concerns, please contact us at 855-543-0555 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We want to hear from you.

Refer Your Patient
Call Physician Access at 855-543-0555 or fax 888-539-8781 and our team will register and schedule your referred patient. You will receive follow-up communication (consultation notes, discharges, etc.), as well as access to our electronic medical record system, UCSD Link.
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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) 543-5316

**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 L. 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

**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
Director of Neurovascular Surgery
Acting Clinical Chief of Neurosurgery
Associate Professor of Surgery and Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care

Subspecialties:
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 the acting clinical chief 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**
Director of Neurovascular Surgery
Acting Clinical Chief of Neurosurgery
Associate Professor of Surgery and Neurosciences

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care

**Subspecialties:**
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 the acting clinical chief 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).

**David I. Levy, MD**
Professor

**Specialty:**
Neurosurgery

**Subspecialty:**
Endovascular Neurosurgery

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices North**

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

**Bio:**
David Levy, MD, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in neurovascular surgery, the treatment of brain aneurysms and other diseases of the blood vessels of the brain, including stroke.

**Andrew Nguyen, MD, PhD**
Neurosurgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**Subspecialties:**
Endovascular Neurosurgery, 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.
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**  
Director of Neurovascular Surgery  
Acting Clinical Chief of Neurosurgery  
Associate Professor of Surgery and Neurosciences

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care  

**Subspecialties:**  
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 the acting clinical chief 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.
Sharona 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

Subspecialties:
Endovascular Neurosurgery, 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.

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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