Physician Directory

health.ucsd.edu
Patient Access: 800-926-8273
Physician Access: 855-543-0555
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](http://doctors.ucsd.edu).

**Refringing 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.

health.ucsd.edu | Patient Access 800-926-8273 | Physician Access 855-543-0555
## Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **La Jolla**            | 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 Genesee Avenue  
                          San Diego, CA 92121  
                          8950 Villa La Jolla Drive  
                          La Jolla, CA 92037  
                          9350 Campus Point Drive  
                          La Jolla, CA 92037  |
| **Hillcrest**           | 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  |
| **Kearny Mesa**         | 7910 Frost Street  
                          San Diego, CA 92123  |
| **Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego** | 3020 Children’s Way  
                                  San Diego, CA 92123  |
| **Chula Vista**         | 959 Lane Avenue  
                          Chula Vista, CA 91914  |
| **Temecula**           | 31720 Temecula Parkway  
                          Temecula, CA 92952  |
| **Sorrento Valley**    | 4910 Directors Place  
                          San Diego, CA 92121  |
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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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
Director of Neurovascular Surgery
Chair of Neurosurgery
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

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego 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 - Endovascular Neurosurgery

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Director of Neurovascular Surgery
Chair of Neurosurgery
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).

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

**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.

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**Sunil Jeswani, MD**  
Neurosurgeon

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

**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.

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**Joseph D Ciacci, MD**  
Neurosurgeon  
Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**  
Neurosurgery, Surgery  
**Subspecialties:**  
Neurological Oncology, Neurological Oncology

**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.
Neurosurgery - Neurological Oncology (cont.)

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Director of Neurovascular Surgery
Chair of Neurosurgery
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

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

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**Subspeciality:**
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.

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**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.

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**Lawrence Marshall, MD**
Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Neurosurgery, Surgery

**Subspeciality:**
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.
Index

A
Alksne, John ......................................................... 6
B
Barba, David ......................................................... 1
Ben-Haim, Sharona ................................................ 8
C
Ciacci, Joseph D ..................................................... 6
J
Jeswani, Sunil ......................................................... 3, 6, 8
K
Khalessi, Alexander A. ................................. 3, 5, 7

L
Levy, Michael ......................................................... 1

M
Marshall, Lawrence ................................................ 8
Meltzer, Hal ........................................................... 1

N
Nguyen, Andrew ..................................................... 9

O
Olson, Scott E. ......................................................... 5

P
Pannell, J. Scott ......................................................... 1
Pham, Martin H. ..................................................... 9

S
Schwartz, Marc S. .................................................. 4, 7

T
Taylor, William ....................................................... 9

U
U, Hoi Sang .......................................................... 2