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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  - 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
  - **UC San Diego Medical Center**
    - 200 West Arbor Drive
    - 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
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Pain management is the pharmacological, nonpharmacological and other treatment to prevent, reduce, or stop pain. Learn more about pain management at UC San Diego Health System.

**Farshad M. Ahadian, MD**
Medical Director, Center For Pain Medicine
Professor of Anesthesiology

**Specialties:**
Anesthesiology, Pain Management

**Jacobs Medical Center**
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-3800

**Bio:**
Farshad M. Ahadian, MD, is a board-certified anesthesiologist who specializes in pain management. As a pain management specialist, he evaluates, diagnoses and provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for a broad range of pain conditions. His areas of expertise and interest include minimally invasive treatments for neurogenic claudication from lumbar spinal stenosis and lumbar discogenic pain; neurostimulation (including spinal cord and peripheral nerve field stimulation); interventional therapies for the head and neck region; spinal diagnostics and therapeutics; diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for joint pain; integrative medicine and medical acupuncture.

**Benjamin Beal, MD**
Assistant Clinical Professor

**Specialties:**
Anesthesiology, Pain Management

**Add'l Language:**
Italian

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices North**

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

**Bio:**
Dr. Benjamin Beal is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at UC San Diego. His training includes the treatment of acute and chronic pain via interventional and medication based therapies. His areas of specialty include fluoroscopic guided interventional spine injections, spinal cord stimulation, and ultrasound guided techniques.
Pain Management (cont.)

**Lynette Cederquist, MD**  
Professor of Medicine  
Pain Management Specialist

**Specialties:**  
Internal Medicine, Pain Management  

**Add'l Language:**  
Spanish

**Hillcrest - 4th & Lewis Medical Offices**  
**La Jolla - 8939 Villa La Jolla Drive**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8000

**Bio:**  
Lynette Cederquist, MD, is a hospice and and palliative medicine specialist who helps relieve suffering in people with life-limiting and advanced illnesses. As a provider of palliative care, she aims to optimize comfort and quality of life while addressing the psychological, social, and spiritual concerns of patients and their families. Dr. Cedequist currently only sees patients with chronic pain who have been referred to her by internists at UC San Diego Health.

**Krishnan Chakravarthy, MD, PhD**  
Pain Management Specialist  
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

**Specialties:**  
Pain Management, Anesthesiology

**Add'l Language:**  
Tamil

**La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-3800

**Bio:**  
Krishnan Chakravarthy, MD, PhD, is an anesthesiologist who specializes in multi-modal pain management. As a pain management specialist, he evaluates, diagnoses and treats all forms of pain. Dr. Chakravarthy performs a variety of procedures to treat chronic pain, specializing in dorsal root stimulation therapy, a type of neurostimulation therapy designed to manage pain in areas of the lower body such as the foot, knee, hip or groin; dorsal column stimulation; and peripheral nerve stimulation.

**Jeffrey Chen, MD, MHS**  
Pain Management Specialist  
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology

**Specialties:**  
Pain Management, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

**La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion**

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-3800

**Bio:**  
Jeffrey L. Chen, MD, MHS, MS, is a board-certified physical medicine and rehabilitation and pain management physician. As a pain management specialist, Dr. Chen evaluates, diagnoses and treats all forms of acute and chronic pain. His expertise includes conservative treatment of low back and neck pain, non-surgical orthopedic conditions and sports injuries. He is the director of Regenerative Pain Medicine and the associate program director for the Pain Medicine Fellowship at UC San Diego School of Medicine.
Pain Management (cont.)

Amelia Eastman, DO
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialist
Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

Specialties:
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management, Sports Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
La Jolla - Genese Avenue
La Jolla - 8939 Villa La Jolla Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6035
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 747-0474

Bio:
Amelia Eastman, DO, is a board-certified physical medicine and rehabilitation physician who meets with patients at different types of UC San Diego Health clinics to help with pain issues and rehabilitation. She uses a hands-on approach to diagnose injury and illness and encourage the body's natural tendency for good health.

Timothy Furnish, MD
Pain Management Specialist
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

Specialties:
Pain Management, Anesthesiology

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-3800

Bio:
Timothy Furnish, MD, is a board-certified anesthesiologist who specializes in pain management. As a pain management specialist, he evaluates, diagnoses and treats all forms of pain, including acute, chronic and cancer pain. He has extensive experience in ultrasound guidance for interventional pain procedures and interventional headache treatment, teaching and speaking nationally on these subjects.

Imanuel Lerman, MD
Pain Management Specialist
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology

Specialties:
Pain Management, Neurology
Subspecialty:
Headache

Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-3800

Bio:
Imanuel Lerman, MD, is a board-certified neurologist who specializes in pain management. As a pain management specialist, Dr. Lerman evaluates, diagnoses and treats all forms of pain, including acute, chronic and cancer pain. He has extensive experience in ultrasound guidance for interventional pain procedures and interventional headache treatment, teaching and speaking nationally on these subjects.
Pain Management (cont.)

Albert Y. Leung, MD
Anesthesiologist and Pain Management Specialist
Professor of Anesthesiology

Specialties:
Anesthesiology, Pain Management
Add'l Languages:
Cantonese, Mandarin

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6035

Bio:
Albert Y. Leung, MD, is a board-certified anesthesiologist who specializes in pain medicine. As a pain management specialist, he evaluates and treats all forms of acute and chronic pain conditions. Dr. Leung has over 20 years’ experience caring for people with chronic pain, and offers a range of interventional and minimally invasive procedures, as well as medication management.

Gregory R. Polston, MD
Pain Management Specialist
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology

Specialties:
Pain Management, Anesthesiology

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-3800

Bio:
Gregory R. Polston, MD, is a board-certified anesthesiologist who specializes in pain medicine. As a pain management specialist, he evaluates, diagnoses and treats all forms of pain. His expertise includes chronic pain, postoperative pain, cancer pain and spine-related pain.

Nathaniel M. Schuster, MD
Pain Management Specialist and Headache Neurologist
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

Specialties:
Pain Management, Neurology
Subspecialty:
Headache

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-3800

Bio:
Nathaniel M. Schuster, MD, is a board-certified neurologist and pain and headache specialist. He sees people with all types of chronic pain, with a special focus on spine pain and headache.

Mark Steven Wallace, MD
Pain Management Specialist
Chair, Division of Pain Medicine

Specialties:
Pain Management, Anesthesiology

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-3800

Bio:
Mark Wallace, MD, is a board-certified anesthesiologist who specializes in multi-modal pain management. As a pain management specialist, he evaluates, diagnoses and treats all forms of pain, though most of his patients are affected by chronic pain.
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 System.

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 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).

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
Assistant 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 - 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.

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.
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