UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

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**Rheumatology**

Rheumatology is a medical specialization concerned with the study and treatment of rheumatic disease; diseases which are usually caused by inflammation, swelling and pain in the joints and muscles. Learn more about [rheumatology](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health.

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**Harry Bluestein, MD**
Rheumatologist

**Specialty:** Rheumatology

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

**Bio:**
Dr. Bluestein's research interests included the identification and characterization of cell membrane molecules that serve as targets of SLE antibodies and on the role of those antibodies in the pathogenesis of SLE, particularly the neuropsychiatric manifestations. He is now retired as a researcher.

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**Arnold Ceponis, MD, PhD**
Rheumatologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:** Rheumatology

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248

**Bio:**
Arnold Ceponis, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist with clinical and research interest in musculoskeletal ultrasound. In addition to long-established methods of diagnosis and treatment of rheumatic and systemic diseases, Dr. Ceponis uses in-office ultrasonography for diagnosis and ultrasound-guided injections of joints and other musculoskeletal structures.

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**Nunzio Bottini, MD, PhD**
Rheumatologist
Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:** Rheumatology

**Add'l Language:** Italian

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248

**Bio:**
Nunzio Bottini, MD, PhD, is a rheumatologist who treats a variety of musculoskeletal diseases and autoimmune conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis and scleroderma.

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**Soo-In Choi, MD**
Rheumatologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:** Rheumatology

**Add'l Language:** Korean

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248

**Bio:**
Soo Choi, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who diagnoses and treats autoimmune conditions and musculoskeletal diseases that affect the joints, muscles, connective tissue and bones. This may include conditions such as back pain and muscle strains, and diseases such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout and lupus.
Rheumatology (cont.)

Gary S. Firestein, MD
Rheumatologist
Dean and Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical and Translational Research

Specialty: Rheumatology
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Contact: New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273 Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248
Bio: Gary Firestein, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who diagnoses and treats patients with autoimmune conditions as well as diseases of the joints, muscles and bones. These conditions may include rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, gout, chronic back pain, tendinitis, and lupus.

Monica Guma, MD, PhD
Rheumatologist

Specialty: Rheumatology
Add'l Language: Spanish
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Contact: New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273 Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248
Bio: Monica Guma, MD, PhD, is a rheumatologist who treats a variety of musculoskeletal diseases and autoimmune conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis and spondyloarthritis.

Mark Ginsberg, MD
Rheumatologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialty: Rheumatology
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Contact: New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273 Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248
Bio: Mark Ginsberg, MD is a rheumatologist with who diagnoses and treats chronic musculoskeletal and systemic autoimmune conditions. He offers nonsurgical treatment for diseases such as osteoarthritis, gout and rheumatoid arthritis.

Bonnie Hepburn, MD

Specialty: Rheumatology
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Contact: New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273 Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248
Bio: Dr. Hepburn received her MD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed her residency training at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine.
Rheumatology (cont.)

Kenneth Kalunian, MD
Professor of Clinical Medicine

Specialty:
Rheumatology

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

Bio:
Dr. Kenneth Kalunian is the Associate Director of the Center for Innovative Therapy and also a Professor in the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology in the School of Medicine at UC San Diego.

Susan J Lee, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Rheumatology

Add'l Language:
Korean

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

Bio:
In addition to clinical practice, Dr. Lee is actively involved in numerous clinical research as well as outcomes research.

Arthur Kavanaugh, MD
Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Rheumatology

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

Bio:
Rheumatologist, Clinical Immunologist

Gregory D. Middleton, MD
Rheumatologist
Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery

Specialties:
Rheumatology, Orthopedics

Subspecialty:
Hand & Upper Extremity

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Encinitas - Garden View Road
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8200

Bio:
Gregory D. Middleton, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who specializes in the nonsurgical care of patients with joint and muscle pain, particularly those with rheumatic disorders such as osteoarthritis. He takes a comprehensive approach to treating arthritis, pain and autoimmune diseases, and strives to help patients maintain a satisfying and active lifestyle.
Rheumatology (cont.)

Katherine Nguyen, MD
Rheumatologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**Add'l Language:**
Vietnamese

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 657-6110

**Bio:**
Katherine Nguyen, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who treats general rheumatology conditions, with a special focus on treating the autoimmune diseases Sjögren’s syndrome and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Abha G. Singh, MD
Rheumatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**Add'l Languages:**
Hindi, Punjabi

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

**Bio:**
Abha Singh, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist. She diagnoses and treats autoimmune conditions as well as diseases of the joints, muscles and bones, including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, reactive arthritis, myositis, scleroderma, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE or lupus), vasculitis, gout, polymyalgia rheumatica, and osteoarthritis.

Brian A. Pedersen, MBBS
Rheumatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**
Encinitas - Garden View Road

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248
Direct Clinic Line - Encinitas: (760) 536-7300

**Bio:**
Brian A. Pedersen, MBBS, is a board-certified rheumatologist. He diagnoses and treats autoimmune conditions and musculoskeletal diseases that affect the joints, muscles, connective tissue and bones. This may include conditions such as back pain and muscle strains, and diseases such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, and lupus.

Chelsey Forbess Smith, MD
Rheumatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 657-6110

**Bio:**
Chelsey Smith, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who treats patients with rheumatic diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and other conditions.
Senior Medicine

Senior medicine, also known as geriatric medicine, is a medical specialization focusing on the health care of older adults. Learn more about senior medicine at UC San Diego Health.

Veronica V. Gonzalez, MD
Primary Care Physician

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Veronica Gonzalez, MD, is a board-certified family medicine physician who specializes in caring for older adults. She provides primary care to patients, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention, treatment of acute and chronic illnesses and preservation of function. As a geriatrician, Dr. Gonzalez aims to keep seniors healthy and high functioning as they transition through the stages of aging. Her expertise includes providing therapeutic and rehabilitative care for conditions or health concerns that are common among the elderly such as frailty, falls, incontinence, memory and cognitive problems, and medication-related side effects. She also has expertise in end of life care and advance care planning.

Roopali Gupta, MD
Primary Care Physician
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Roopali Gupta, MD, is a board-certified geriatric medicine doctor. She provides primary care for older adults, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.
Senior Medicine (cont.)

Alison Moore, MD, MPH, FACP
Primary Care Physician
Chief, Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Alison Moore, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor and geriatrician who specializes in caring for older adults. She provides primary care to patients, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention, treatment of acute and chronic diseases and preservation of function. As a geriatrician, Dr. Moore aims to keep seniors healthy and high functioning as they transition through the stages of aging. Her expertise includes providing therapeutic and rehabilitative care for conditions or health concerns that are common among the elderly such as frailty, falls, incontinence, memory and cognitive problems, and medication-related side effects. She also has expertise in end of life care and advance care planning.

Khai H. Nguyen, MD, MHS
Primary Care Physician
Clinical Services Chief, Senior Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

Add'l Language:
Vietnamese

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Khai Nguyen, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor and geriatrician who specializes in caring for older adults. He provides primary care to patients, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention, treatment of acute and chronic illnesses and preservation of function. As a geriatrician, Dr. Nguyen aims to keep seniors healthy and high functioning as they transition through the stages of aging. His expertise includes providing therapeutic and rehabilitative care for conditions or health concerns that are common among the elderly such as frailty, falls, incontinence, memory and cognitive problems, and medication-related side effects. He also has expertise in end of life care and advance care planning.

Ian C. Neel, MD
Medical Director, Geriatric Medicine Consult Service at Senior Behavioral Health
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Senior Medicine

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Ian Neel, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor who specializes in caring for older adults. He serves as medical director of the Geriatric Medicine Consult Service at Senior Behavioral Health at UC San Diego Health.

Anjoulie Pujji, DO
Primary Care Physician

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Anjoulie Pujji DO, is a geriatric medicine doctor. She provides comprehensive and compassionate primary care to older adults with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.
Senior Medicine (cont.)

Jairo Alberto Romero, MD
Primary Care Physician
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Jairo Alberto Romero, MD, is a board-certified geriatric medicine doctor. He provides primary care for older adults, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.

Lindsey Yourman, MD
Primary Care Physician
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Lindsey Yourman, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor and geriatrician who specializes in caring for older adults. She provides person-centered primary care focused on maintaining independence and quality of life.

James R. Templeman, MD, MPH
Geriatrian

Specialty:
Senior Medicine

Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
James Templeman, MD, MPH, is a board-certified geriatrician who specializes in caring for older adults. He provides primary care to patients, with an emphasis on healthy aging, disease prevention, treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, and preservation of function.