UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

From routine doctor visits to the most advanced procedures, our doctors are here for you. Our specialty care for complex conditions — including cancer, heart disease, neurosurgery, pulmonology and more — is rated among the nation’s best by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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**Transfer an Inpatient**
For hospital-to-hospital transfers, call **619-543-5709** (24-hour service) for instructions.
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Occupational/Environmental Medicine

UC San Diego Health’s Occupational and Environmental Medicine provides the San Diego area with a full range of services for prevention and compliance assistance; work injury treatment and management; blood borne pathogen exposure; vaccinations; and case coordination. Learn more about occupational and environmental medicine at UC San Diego Health.

Marcia Isakari, MD, MPH
Occupational Medicine Physician
Medical Director, Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Specialty: Occupational/Environmental Medicine
Add'l Languages: Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish

La Jolla - 8899 University Center Lane
Hillcrest - 4th & Lewis Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 471-9210

Bio:
Marcia Isakari, MD, MPH, is a board-certified occupational medicine physician. She has extensive clinical and leadership experience directing occupational medicine clinics and delivering clinical services to employers in virtually all industrial sectors, including biotech/life sciences/technology, public entity, and manufacturing.

John C. Kim, MD
Physician, Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Specialty: Occupational/Environmental Medicine

Hillcrest - 4th & Lewis Medical Offices
La Jolla - 8899 University Center Lane

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 471-9210

Bio:
John C. Kim, MD, is a board-certified occupational medicine physician who specializes in treating and managing work-related injuries, illnesses and diseases.

Michele Kowalski-McGraw, MD, MPH
Occupational Medicine Physician

Specialty: Occupational/Environmental Medicine

Rancho Bernardo - Via Tazon

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-4228

Bio:
Michele Kowalski-McGraw, MD, MPH, is a board-certified occupational medicine physician. Her expertise is in restoring and maintaining the health of diverse working populations, including those in healthcare, service, manufacturing, distribution and technology.
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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Mark Ginsberg, MD**  
Rheumatologist  
Professor of Medicine  

**Specialty:**  
Rheumatology  

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**  

**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.

**Monica Guma, MD, PhD**  
Rheumatologist  

**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.

**Bonnie Hepburn, MD**  

**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

Rheumatologist, Clinical Immunologist

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

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

Bio:
Dr. Kavanaugh is a rheumatologist and clinical immunologist with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory arthritis and autoimmune diseases.

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.
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