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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.

**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.

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 - 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 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

**Subspeciality:**
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.
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.
Sleep Medicine

Sleep medicine is the subspecialty of internal medicine that studies and manages poor sleep hygiene. Learn more about sleep medicine at UC San Diego Health.

Lawrence E. Kline, DO, FACP, FCCP, FAASM
Pulmonologist and Sleep Medicine Specialist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Sleep Medicine, Pulmonology (Lung)

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 757-5337

Bio:
Lawrence Kline, DO, is a board-certified pulmonologist who specializes in treating breathing and sleep disorders such as sleep apnea.

Atul Malhotra, MD
Sleep Medicine Specialist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Sleep Medicine, Pulmonology (Lung)
Subspecialty:
Critical Care

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 757-5337

Bio:
Atul Malhotra, MD, is a board-certified pulmonologist, intensivist and research chief of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. He is active clinically in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. In the sleep clinic, Dr. Malhotra provides a full spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic services to patients with sleep-related disorders, including sleep apnea, insomnia, restless leg syndrome, narcolepsy and sleep disorders associated with medical or psychiatric conditions. He has a special interest in the treatment of sleep apnea.

Jose S. Loredo, MD, MPH
Sleep Medicine Specialist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Sleep Medicine, Pulmonology (Lung)
Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 757-5337

Bio:
Jose Loredo, MD, MPH, is a sleep medicine doctor who evaluates and treats individuals with sleep related disorders such as narcolepsy, insomnia, and sleep apnea. He cares for patients at UC San Diego Health's Sleep Medicine Center, where he provides a full spectrum of therapeutic and diagnostic services.

Henry J. Orff, PhD
Psychologist

Specialties:
Psychology, Sleep Medicine

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 757-5337

Bio:
Henry J. Orff, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist whose expertise is in behavioral sleep medicine. As part of UC San Diego Health's Sleep Medicine Center, he evaluates and treats sleep disorders by addressing problematic behavioral, psychological, and/or physiological factors that interfere with sleep.
Sleep Medicine (cont.)

Robert Owens, MD
Sleep Medicine Specialist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Sleep Medicine, Pulmonology (Lung)
Subspecialty:
Critical Care

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 757-5337

Bio:
Robert Owens, MD, is a board-certified sleep medicine and critical care doctor. He is clinically active in critical care, pulmonary and sleep medicine, caring for patients with acute respiratory conditions and sleep disorders. In the Sleep Medicine Center, he provides a full spectrum of therapeutic and diagnostic services for people who have sleep related disorders such as narcolepsy, insomnia, sleep apnea and rapid eye movement (REM) behavior disorder.

Lisa Shives, MD
Sleep Medicine Specialist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Sleep Medicine
Add'l Languages:
French, German

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 757-5337

Bio:
Lisa Shives, MD, is a board-certified sleep medicine doctor. She has extensive experience in the treatment of all sleep related disorders including sleep apnea, insomnia, narcolepsy, restless legs syndrome and circadian rhythm disorders.

Paul Schalch Lepe, MD, FACS
Head and Neck Surgeon

Specialties:
ENT/Head and Neck (Otolaryngology), Sleep Medicine
Subspecialties:
General Otolaryngology (ENT), Sinus & Rhinology
Add'l Languages:
German, Spanish

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8590

Bio:
Paul Schalch Lepe, MD, FACS, is a board-certified otolaryngologist and sleep medicine specialist who specializes in disorders affecting the ears, nose and throat. His expertise is in advanced procedures to diagnose and treat airway obstruction and obstructive sleep apnea, using both surgical and non-surgical approaches.

Bernie Y. Sunwoo, MBBS
Medical Director, Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Sleep Medicine, Pulmonology (Lung)

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (844) 757-5337

Bio:
Bernie Sunwoo, MBBS, is a board-certified pulmonologist and sleep medicine specialist who treats people with general lung conditions as well as rare lung diseases, sleep-related breathing disorders and hypoventilation syndromes.
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