UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

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Call Physician Access Services at 855-543-0555 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Transfer an Inpatient
For hospital-to-hospital transfers, call 619-543-5709 (24-hour service) for instructions.
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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, PhD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who diagnoses and treats various rheumatic and autoimmune conditions such as rheumatoid, psoriatic and osteoarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, gout, pseudogout, systemic lupus, scleroderma, mixed connective tissue disease, Sjögren's syndrome, myositis, systemic vasculitis and others. He also performs diagnostic and interventional ultrasound to diagnose and treat conditions such as tendinitis, trigger finger, carpal tunnel syndrome, bursitis, shoulder / rotator cuff disease, and other minor sports or repetitive injuries.

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.
Rheumatology (cont.)

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.

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.
Rheumatology (cont.)

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.

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.
Rheumatology (cont.)

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.

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).

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.
Rheumatology (cont.)

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.

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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