Physician Directory

health.ucsd.edu
Patient Access: 800-926-8273
Physician Access: 855-543-0555
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.
# Locations

## La Jolla
- 4510 and 4520 Executive Drive
  San Diego, CA 92121
- 8910 Villa La Jolla Drive
  La Jolla, CA 92037
- 8899 and 8929 University Center Lane
  San Diego, CA 92122
- 8939 Villa La Jolla Drive
  La Jolla, CA 92037
- 9333 Genesee Avenue
  San Diego, CA 92121
- 8950 Villa La Jolla Drive
  La Jolla, CA 92037
- 9350 Campus Point Drive
  La Jolla, CA 92037
- **Shiley Eye Institute**
  9415 Campus Point Drive
  La Jolla, CA 92093
- **Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center**
  9434 Medical Center Drive
  La Jolla, CA 92093
- **Moores Cancer Center**
  3855 Health Sciences Drive
  La Jolla, CA 92093
- **Jacobs Medical Center**
  9300 Campus Point Drive
  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

## Encinitas
- **1200 Garden View Road**
  Encinitas, CA 92024
- 477 North El Camino Real
  Encinitas, CA 92024

## Vista
- **910 Sycamore Avenue**
  Vista, CA 92081

## Scripps Ranch
- **9909 Mira Mesa Blvd.**
  San Diego, CA 92131

## 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
Locations

1. Jacobs Medical Center
2. Moores Cancer Center
3. Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
4. UC San Diego Medical Center
5. UC San Diego Health Clinic Locations
6. Rady Children’s Hospital–San Diego
7. Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System

- La Jolla
- Hillcrest
- Encinitas
- Temecula
- Vista
- Scripps Ranch
- Sorrento Valley
- Kearny Mesa
- Chula Vista
- Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System

SAN DIEGO
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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 System.

Harry Bluestein, MD

**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

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**
**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

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**
**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
Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Translational Medicine

**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.

Bonnie Hepburn, MD

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

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

**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.

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
Rheumatology (cont.)

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.

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).

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
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.

Brian A. Pedersen, MBBS
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Rheumatology
Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Encinitas - Garden View

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

Specialty:
Rheumatology

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

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

Bio:
Chelsey Smith is a rheumatologist who treats patients with rheumatic diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, lupus (systemic lupus erythematosus, vasculitis), scleroderma, myositis, and other conditions.
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