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.
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<td>7910 Frost Street&lt;br&gt;San Diego, CA 92123</td>
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<td><strong>Medical Offices North</strong>&lt;br&gt;200 West Arbor Drive&lt;br&gt;San Diego, CA 92103</td>
<td><strong>Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego</strong>&lt;br&gt;3020 Children’s Way&lt;br&gt;San Diego, CA 92123</td>
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<td>8899 and 8929 University Center Lane&lt;br&gt;San Diego, CA 92122</td>
<td><strong>Medical Offices South</strong>&lt;br&gt;4168 Front Street&lt;br&gt;San Diego, CA 92103</td>
<td><strong>Chula Vista</strong>&lt;br&gt;959 Lane Avenue&lt;br&gt;Chula Vista, CA 91914</td>
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<td>8939 Villa La Jolla Drive&lt;br&gt;La Jolla, CA 92037</td>
<td><strong>UC San Diego Medical Center</strong>&lt;br&gt;200 West Arbor Drive&lt;br&gt;San Diego, CA 92103</td>
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<td><strong>Encinitas</strong>&lt;br&gt;1200 Garden View Road&lt;br&gt;Encinitas, CA 92024</td>
<td><strong>Sorrento Valley</strong>&lt;br&gt;4910 Directors Place&lt;br&gt;San Diego, CA 92121</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Vista</strong>&lt;br&gt;910 Sycamore Avenue&lt;br&gt;Vista, CA 92081</td>
<td><strong>Scripps Ranch</strong>&lt;br&gt;9909 Mira Mesa Blvd.&lt;br&gt;San Diego, CA 92131</td>
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<tr>
<td>9350 Campus Point Drive&lt;br&gt;La Jolla, CA 92037</td>
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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.

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**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.

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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

**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.)

Gary S. Firestein, MD
Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Translational Medicine
Professor

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

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

**Bio:**
Dr. Firestein's research efforts have focused on the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). His laboratory helped define the synovial cytokine profile of RA and demonstrated the dominance of macrophage and fibroblast products as opposed to the expected T cell cytokines. These studies contributed to the development of the highly effective anti-TNF approaches in RA. Recently, Dr. Firestein has focused his attention on synoviocyte transformation in RA as a mechanism of joint destruction. His group was the first to describe somatic mutations in the p53 tumor suppressor genes in the RA synovium. The mutations were subsequently demonstrated to be dominant negative and increased the cartilage invasiveness of these cells. Dr. Firestein's laboratory has also worked extensively on metalloproteinase and cytokine gene regulation in synoviocytes by MAP kinases and NF-κB as well as on novel gene therapy approaches to RA.

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.

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.

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.

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

Specialties:
Rheumatology, Orthopedics

Subspecialty:
Hand & Upper Extremity

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Encinitas - Garden View

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
Rheumatologist

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.

Abha G. Singh, MD
Rheumatologist

Specialty:
Rheumatology

Add'l Languages:
Hindi, Punjabi

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Encinitas - Garden View

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.
Rheumatology (cont.)

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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