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Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery

Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery specializes in operations to the heart, chest or both — generally includes treatment for heart and lung diseases and conditions. Learn more about cardiothoracic (heart and lung) surgery at UC San Diego Health.

Joshua A. Boys, MD
Thoracic Surgeon

**Specialties:**
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery, Transplantation, Cancer

**Subspecialty:**
Lung Transplantation

**Jacobs Medical Center**

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Lung Transplantation:: (858) 657-5050
Direct Clinic Line - Surgery:: (858) 657-7777

**Bio:**
Joshua Boys, MD, is a cardiothoracic surgeon who treats people with cancer of the lung and esophagus, chest wall tumors and mediastinal tumors. He performs lung transplantations and also treats gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and achalasia (i.e. an esophagus disorder that makes it difficult for food to pass into the stomach).

Eugene Golts, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery, Cardiology, Transplantation

**Subspecialties:**
Heart Failure, Lung Transplantation

**Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line:: (858) 657-7777

**Bio:**
Eugene Golts, MD, is a board-certified general and cardiothoracic surgeon who performs the full scope of cardiothoracic surgery and thoracic organ transplantation. Dr. Golts is surgical director of the Lung Transplant Program at UC San Diego Health.

Joelle M. Coletta, MD, FACS
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery

**Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line:: (858) 657-8530

**Bio:**
Joelle Coletta, MD, is a cardiothoracic surgeon and chief of the cardiothoracic surgery section at the Veterans Administration Hospital affiliated with UC San Diego. She also performs both cardiac and thoracic operations at Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center.

Daniel L. Gramins, MD
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

**Specialty:**
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery

**Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line:: (858) 657-8530

**Bio:**
Daniel Gramins, MD, is a board-certified cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon who also serves as surgical director of the cardiothoracic surgery program at TriCity Medical Center.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery (cont.)

Steven Howe, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery

Murrieta - California Oaks Rd

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (951) 303-0734

Bio:
Steven Howe, MD, is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in treating a wide range of cardiovascular diseases, including aortic valve disease, coronary artery disease, and other peripheral and major vascular conditions. Dr. Howe performs adult cardiothoracic surgery, including peripheral and major vascular surgery, thoracic and abdominal endovascular surgery and thoracic trauma surgery.

Mark W. Onaitis, MD
Thoracic Surgeon
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Cancer, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Lung Cancer, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Moores Cancer Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Surgery: (877) 586-4727
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100

Bio:
Mark Onaitis, MD, is a board-certified thoracic surgeon who specializes in malignant and benign conditions of the chest, including lung cancer, esophageal cancer, thymic malignancy, gastroesophageal reflux, achalasia, paraesophageal hernia, and myasthenia gravis. He uses minimally invasive approaches – thoracoscopy and robotics – to treat these conditions.

Anthony Perricone, MD
Clinical Professor

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Cancer, Surgery, Transplantation
Subspecialties:
Lung Cancer, Lung Transplantation, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7777

Bio:
Dr. Perricone is director of the Cardiothoracic Unit at the Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, and surgical director of lung transplantation at UC San Diego Health.
Travis L. Pollema, DO  
Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:  
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery, Cardiology, Transplantation  
Subspecialties:  
Lung Transplantation, Heart Failure, Heart Transplantation

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center  
Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7777

Bio:  
Travis L. Pollema, DO, is a cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in treating diseases of the heart and lungs. His expertise includes treating coronary artery disease with bypass surgery and valvular heart disease with valve repair or replacement. Dr. Pollema performs operations for patients with advanced stages of heart failure; patients needing mechanical circulatory support, including temporary and permanent ventricular assist devices (VADs); and those who have undergone or need heart and/or lung transplantation. He also implements and manages the care of those requiring extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a type of life support treatment that provides enough oxygen to a person while allowing time for their lungs and heart to rest or heal.

Patricia Thistlethwaite, MD, PhD  
Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:  
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Transplantation, Cancer, Surgery  
Subspecialties:  
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Heart Transplantation, Lung Cancer

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center  
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North  
Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6100

Bio:  
Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, MD, PhD, is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in lung cancer, mediastinal and chest wall surgery, diseases of the thymus, minimally invasive thoracic surgery, and heart and lung transplantation. She focuses on providing patient-centered clinical care, using minimally invasive approaches to treat thoracic disease.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery - Adult Congenital Heart Defects

John Lamberti, MD

**Specialty:**
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery

**Subspecialty:**
Adult Congenital Heart Defects

**Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8530

**Bio:**
Dr. Lamberti leads the pediatric heart surgery program at Rady Children's Hospital, and also performs surgeries for adult congenital heart defects at Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery - Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE)

Michael M Madani, MD, FACS
Division Chief, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery
Executive Director, Surgery - Cardiovascular Institute
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Cardiology, Transplantation, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Heart Transplantation, Lung Transplantation, Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE), Heart Failure

Additional Language:
Persian

Jacobs Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7777

Bio:
Michael Madani, MD, is a board-certified cardiovascular surgeon who oversees a variety of surgical services at UC San Diego Health, including surgical treatment for heart failure, lung transplantation and pulmonary thromboendarterectomy (PTE). He is the surgical director of the Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE) Program, and is also an expert in minimally invasive heart surgery, mitral valve repair and off-pump bypass surgery.

Victor (Gert) Pretorius, MBChB
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Surgical Director of Heart Transplant
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Cardiology, Surgery, Transplantation

Subspecialties:
Heart Failure, Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE), Heart Transplantation, Lung Transplantation

Additional Language:
Afrikaans

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8530

Bio:
Victor (Gert) Pretorius, MBChB, is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in lead management. Pacemakers and implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) deliver energy to the heart through thin, flexible wires called leads. When these leads are not working properly – because of infection, damage, or surrounding scar tissue – they need to be removed. Dr. Pretorius performs a minimally invasive procedure called laser lead extraction to cut through scar tissue surrounding the lead, allowing it to be easily removed.
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery - Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE) (cont.)

Naohide Sakakibara, MD
Thoracic Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Surgery
Subspecialty:
Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE)

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8530

Bio:
UC San Diego Health Links

Marriage and Family Therapy
Marriage and Family Therapy is a branch of psychotherapy that helps individuals, couples and families to nurture change and development. It provides diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, with a holistic perspective to care.

Janelle Farias, MA, LMFT
Marriage and Family Therapist

Specialty:
Marriage and Family Therapy
Add'l Language:
Spanish

Kearny Mesa - Frost Street

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 496-4800

Bio:
Janelle Farias, MA, is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) who specializes in mental health services to children and adolescents. She has experience working with all types of mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), eating disorders, gender dysphoria, autism spectrum disorder, bipolar disorder, and intellectual disability.

Chelsea T. Haakmeester, MA, LMFT
Marriage and Family Therapist

Specialty:
Marriage and Family Therapy

La Jolla - 8910 Villa La Jolla
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 534-7792

Bio:
Chelsea Haakmeester, MA, is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) who specializes in women's health and reproductive mental health issues.
Marriage and Family Therapy (cont.)

Kathleen Huff, MS, LMFT
Marriage and Family Therapist

Specialty:
Marriage and Family Therapy

La Jolla - 8950 Villa La Jolla Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 534-7792

Bio:
Kathleen Huff, MS, is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) whose expertise is in treating children, adolescents and families dealing with a variety of mental health disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), intellectual disabilities, autism and bipolar disorder.

Laura E. Sudano, PhD, LMFT
Marriage and Family Therapist

Specialty:
Marriage and Family Therapy

La Jolla - 9333 Genesee Avenue
Scripps Ranch - 9909 Mira Mesa Blvd

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 657-8600
Direct Clinic Line - Scripps Ranch: (858) 657-7750

Bio:
Laura Sudano, PhD, is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) who provides therapy to address sport performance, other performance issues, anxiety and depression. She also offers family and couples therapy.

Amber Rukaj, MA, LMFT
Marriage and Family Therapist

Specialty:
Marriage and Family Therapy

La Jolla - 8910 Villa La Jolla
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 534-7792

Bio:
Amber Rukaj, MA, is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) who provides therapy to women, infants, and their families during the prenatal and postpartum period. She specializes in treating perinatal mood disorders and working with individuals as they transition into parenthood. She also provides therapy for reproductive trauma, pregnancy loss and infertility.
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