UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

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HIV/AIDS

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which kills or impairs cells of the immune system and progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers. Learn more about HIV/AIDS care at UC San Diego Health.

**Shira Abeles, MD**

Infectious Disease Specialist

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Additional Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Owen Clinic: (619) 543-3995
Direct Clinic Line - Infectious Disease: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Shira Abeles, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist and medical director of Antimicrobial Stewardship at UC San Diego Health. She cares for patients with general infectious disease as well as people with HIV. She is part of UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of the nation's outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive men and women.

**Laura Bamford, MD**

Infectious Disease Specialist
Medical Director of Owen Clinic
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Additional Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Owen Clinic: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Laura Bamford, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist who specializes in treating people living with HIV and at high risk of contracting HIV. Her patients may also have an opioid use disorder or hepatitis C.

**Constance A Benson, MD**

Senior Attending Physician
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Dr. Benson is Professor of Medicine in Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Benson received her MD degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1978, and completed her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Rush University Medical College in Chicago in 1986, after serving three years on active duty in the U.S. Navy as an internist.
HIV/AIDS (cont.)

Jennifer (Gigi) Blanchard, MD
Associate Clinical Professor, Owen Clinic

Specialty:
HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
UC San Diego Health Links

Edward R. Cachay, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
HIV/AIDS, Infectious Diseases

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Edward Cachay, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease physician who specializes in caring for individuals with HIV. He is a part of UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of the nation's outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive men and women.

Jill S. Blumenthal, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS, Primary Care

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Jill Blumenthal, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease physician who provides primary care services and specializes in caring for children, teens, and adults with HIV and AIDS. She has expertise in caring for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals seeking hormone replacement therapy and other supportive care. She also has extensive experience in HIV prevention using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV-uninfected individuals. Dr. Blumenthal cares for people at the UC San Diego Mother, Child and Adolescent HIV Program and UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of America's top HIV care programs.

Bard Cosman, MD, FACS, FASCRS
Surgeon
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Colon and Rectal Surgery, Surgery, Cancer, HIV/AIDS

Subspeciality:
General and Gastrointestinal Surgery

Add'l Language:
French

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Bard Cosman, MD, FACS, FASCRS, is a board-certified colon and rectal surgeon who specializes in anorectal surgery. He is an expert in treating chronic inflammatory lesions such as anal fistula, pilonidal sinus, and hidradenitis suppurativa. He also has a special interest in anal dysplasia and cancer, including HIV-related cases.
HIV/AIDS (cont.)

Ronald Joseph Ellis, MD, PhD
Neurologist
Professor of Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurology, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3500
Direct Clinic Line - Owen Clinic: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Ronald J. Ellis, MD, PhD, is a board-certified neurologist who specializes in adult neurological diagnosis and treatment for patients with HIV or AIDS. He is the only specialist in the neurology of HIV/AIDS in the San Diego area and also receives referrals from throughout California.

Theodoros F. Katsivas, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Owen Clinic

Specialty:
HIV/AIDS

Additional Languages:
Greek, Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Dr. Theo Katsivas is trained in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He also trained as a Fellow in HIV disease at the UC San Diego Owen Clinic. His interests focus on HIV patient care and addiction medicine.

Maile Young Karris, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
HIV/AIDS Specialist

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Maile Young Karris, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease physician who specializes in caring for individuals with HIV. She is a part of UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of the nation's outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive men and women. Her clinical practice includes caring for individuals newly diagnosed with HIV and helping individuals living with HIV age successfully. Dr. Karris has expertise in non-HIV associated infections in individuals with HIV and in preventing HIV infection (pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP).

Daniel Lee, MD
Clinical Professor of Medicine, Owen Clinic

Specialty:
HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Dr. Daniel Lee is one of several physicians working at the Owen Clinic, providing specialized health care to those infected with HIV. Along with his board certification in Internal Medicine, the American Academy of HIV Medicine also credentials Dr. Lee as a HIV specialist. He established the Lipid/Lipodystrophy Clinic to address the issues of long term metabolic complications often associated with therapies for HIV. In addition, he also performs research in these areas.
HIV/AIDS (cont.)

Scott Letendre, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Scott Letendre, MD, is an infectious disease specialist who cares for people at UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of America's top HIV care programs. He also provides consultation and care for patients staying in the hospital for infectious diseases.

Joseph Lonergan, MD
Primary Care Physician
Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
HIV/AIDS

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Joseph Lonergan, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor who provides primary care and specialized HIV care to people living with HIV/AIDS. He also sees patients at risk for HIV infection who are interested in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Dr. Lonergan is part of UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of the nation's outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive men and women, and has been caring for patients at the Owen Clinic for more than 20 years.

William Christopher Mathews, MD
Director of Research Infrastructure, Owen Clinic
Professor of Clinical Medicine

Specialty:
HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Since the onset of the AIDS epidemic, Dr. Mathews has served on many local, state, and national committees which address legal, political, and medical issues in HIV infection. His appointments include founding president of the San Diego Association of Human Rights, the local organization of gay and lesbian physicians, as well as memberships on the San Diego Regional Task Force on AIDS, The Ryan White Act Planning Council, the San Diego County Medical Society AIDS committee, the State of California Attorney General's AIDS Fraud Task Force, the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation AIDS Health Services Program, and the American Association of Medical College's Committee on AIDS and the Academic Medical Center.

Katherine Promer, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS, Primary Care

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Katherine Promer, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease physician who provides primary care services, specializing in caring for individuals with HIV. She is a part of UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, one of the nation's outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive individuals.
HIV/AIDS (cont.)

Amutha Rajagopal, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist

**Specialties:**
Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, HIV/AIDS

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Infectious Disease: (619) 543-5890

**Bio:**
Amutha Rajagopal, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine and infectious disease physician who cares for patients with HIV, hepatitis C and opioid use disorders. She is a part of UC San Diego Health’s [Owen Clinic](#), one of the nation’s outstanding primary care centers for HIV positive individuals. Dr. Rajagopal is also an expert in the treatment of patients hospitalized with serious infections.

Erin Reid, MD
Hematologist
Professor of Medicine

**Specialties:**
Hematology/Blood Diseases, Cancer, HIV/AIDS

**Subspecialty:**
Leukemia & Lymphoma

**Moores Cancer Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6100

**Bio:**
Erin Reid, MD, is a board-certified hematologist who specializes in treating patients with a wide range of hematologic and HIV-related malignancies, including lymphoma and Kaposi sarcoma. She sees patients at both Moores Cancer Center and the Owen Clinic, a comprehensive HIV care center.

Courtney Thompson, DNP, FNP-BC
Family Nurse Practitioner

**Specialty:**
HIV/AIDS

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

**Bio:**
Courtney Thompson is a board-certified family nurse practitioner (FNP-BC) who cares for individuals with HIV/AIDS. She is part of the care team that helps people transition smoothly from the hospitalized setting to outpatient care when they have been cleared for discharge.

Francesca Torriani, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Clinical Epidemiology
Professor of Clinical Medicine

**Specialties:**
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

**Add'l Languages:**
French, German, Italian, Spanish

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**

**Jacobs Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

**Bio:**
Francesca J. Torriani, MD, is a professor of clinical medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Diego.
HIV/AIDS (cont.)

Gabriel A. Wagner, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
HIV/AIDS, Infectious Diseases

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Gabriel Wagner, MD, is a board-certified infectious disease specialist who cares for adults with HIV and AIDS. He treats individuals at all stages of HIV disease and helps monitor and manage their health.

Aaron Willcott, MS, PA-C
Physician Assistant

Specialty:
HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3995

Bio:
Aaron Willcott, MS, is a certified physician assistant (PA-C) who specializes in HIV medicine and sexual health. He is part of the team at UC San Diego Health's Owen Clinic, where he assists in providing primary care to adults over age 18. This includes preventative care such as cancer screenings and immunizations, and treatment of acute and chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol and thyroid disease. Willcott also helps people with HIV manage their antiretroviral therapy.

Darcy A. Wooten, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Infectious Disease Specialist

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
Darcy A. Wooten, MD, is an infectious disease specialist who diagnoses and treats diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites. These include hepatitis viruses, tuberculosis, influenza, and HIV/AIDS, among others. Dr. Wooten provides primary care for adults with HIV and specialized care and treatment for patients with hepatitis C virus (HCV). She also has expertise in general infectious diseases, including infections of the sinuses, heart, brain, lungs, gastrointestinal system, urinary tract, pelvic organs, and bones.

David L. Wyles, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6146

Bio:
David L. Wyles, MD, is an infectious disease specialist and hepatitis C (HCV) infection and treatment expert. Infectious disease specialists care for patients with infections or diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites. These include hepatitis viruses, tuberculosis, influenza, and HIV/AIDS, in addition to other infections of the sinuses, heart, brain, lungs, gastrointestinal system, urinary tract, pelvic organs and bones.
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