UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

From routine doctor visits to the most advanced procedures, our doctors are here for you. Our specialty care for complex conditions — including cancer, heart disease, neurosurgery, pulmonology and more — is rated among the nation’s best by *U.S. News & World Report*.

For Patients

Make an Appointment
Whether you need to be seen for an urgent condition today or are looking for a new primary care physician or specialty care provider, we can help. Call 800-926-8273 between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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Search by name, specialty, location or keyword to find the right provider for you.

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Physician Access Services

Refer a Patient or Request Consultation
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.
# Table of Contents

- Burn .......................................................................................................................... 1
- Stroke Care ............................................................................................................... 3
- Index ....................................................................................................................... 6
Burn

Burn is damage to the skin or other body parts caused by heat, flame, contact with heated objects, or chemicals. Learn more about burn at UC San Diego Health.

Laura Godat, MD, FACS
Surgeon

Specialties:
Surgery, Burn
Subspecialties:
Trauma, Critical Care

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Surgery: (619) 543-6886

Bio:
Laura Godat, MD, is board-certified in general surgery and surgical critical care. She cares for patients who have experienced traumatic injuries, such as motor vehicle collisions or falls, or severe burn injuries. She also treats patients with acute surgical needs, such as the emergency removal of the appendix or gallbladder, or those coping with surgical complications.

Sara Higginson, MD
Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Burn
Subspecialties:
Trauma, Critical Care

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Surgery: (619) 543-6886

Bio:
Sara Higginson, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who treats people with traumatic injuries caused by motor vehicle collisions or falls, and severe burn injuries.
Burn (cont.)

Samuel H. Lance, MD
Plastic Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery, Burn
Subspecialties:
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery
Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
Samuel Lance, MD, is a plastic surgeon who specializes in both cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery, with expertise in adult and pediatric craniofacial surgery. He is the director of adult craniofacial surgery (i.e. surgery related to the mouth, jaws, face, skull and associated structures).

Jeanne Lee, MD, FACS
Director, Burn Center
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Burn
Subspecialties:
Trauma, Critical Care

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Surgery: (619) 543-6886

Bio:
Jeanne Lee, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who focuses her care on individuals who have experienced traumatic injury, such as a motor vehicle collision or severe burn injury. As director of the Burn Center at UC San Diego Health, Dr. Lee provides clinical and administrative leadership for the burn program, including education, research, quality improvement, community outreach, and policies and procedures specifying all aspects of care for burn patients.

Mayer Tenenhaus, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery, Burn

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
UC San Diego Health Links
Stroke Care

Stroke care is the medical treatment for a stroke — when the blood supply to part of your brain is interrupted or severely reduced, resulting in the sudden death of brain cells. Learn more about stroke care at UC San Diego Health.

Kunal Agrawal, MD
Neurologist
Assistant Professor of Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurology, Stroke Care
Subspeciality:
Stroke

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8540

Bio:
Kunal Agrawal, MD, is a board-certified neurologist who specializes in vascular neurology and stroke treatment. He focuses on the spectrum of stroke care, including stroke prevention, acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke, and post-acute stroke care.

Thomas Hemmen, MD, PhD
Vascular Neurologist
Director, Stroke Center
Professor of Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurology, Stroke Care
Subspeciality:
Stroke
Add'l Language:
German

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Thomas Hemmen, MD, PhD, is a board-certified vascular neurologist. His expertise includes caring for patients with stroke, cerebrovascular diseases, and those who require neurological critical care. Dr. Hemmen directs the stroke center at UC San Diego Health and was instrumental in establishing the center as the first certified Stroke Center of Excellence in San Diego County.
Stroke Care (cont.)

Navaz Karanjia, MD
Medical Director, Neurointensive Care Unit
Associate Professor of Neurosciences and Anesthesiology

Specialties:
Neurology, Stroke Care
Subspecialty:
Neurocritical Care

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6291

Bio:
Navaz Karanjia, MD, is a board-certified neurologist who specializes in caring for people with life-threatening diseases of brain, spinal cord and nerves. She is medical director of UC San Diego Health's Neurocritical Care Program and Neuro-Intensive Care Unit (ICU), which she also founded. The Neuro-ICU team provides around-the-clock expert care, seven days a week, to critically ill patients who may have severe brain injury, stroke or brain tumors, or may be recovering from a neurosurgical procedure.

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, FAANS
Chair, Neurological Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery, Stroke Care, Cancer
Subspecialties:
Neurological Oncology, Endovascular Neurosurgery, Complex Cranial Surgery, Neurological Oncology
Add'l Languages:
Farsi, Spanish

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

Bio:
Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, MBA, is a board-certified neurosurgeon who specializes in cranial and endovascular surgery. He is chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and professor of Surgery, Radiology and Neurosciences. He provides both open surgical and catheter-based approaches to complex neurosurgical problems, including brain tumors, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and carotid disease. His vascular training informs his surgical approach to complex tumors in the brain. He is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (FAANS), American Heart Association Stroke Council (FAHA), and senior member of the Society of Neurointerventional Surgery (SNIS).
Stroke Care (cont.)

Brett C Meyer, MD
Co-Director, UCSD Stroke Center
Professor of Clinical Neurosciences
Medical Director, UCSD Enterprise Telemedicine

Specialties:
Neurology, Stroke Care
Subspeciality:
Stroke

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Brett C. Meyer, MD, is a neurologist at UC San Diego Medical Center, Co-Director of the UC San Diego Stroke Center, and Medical Director for UC San Diego Enterprise Telemedicine. He specializes in acute cerebrovascular disease therapies and technological evaluation and treatment techniques.

Royya Modir, MD
Neurologist
Associate Professor of Neurosciences

Specialties:
Neurology, Stroke Care
Subspeciality:
Stroke

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

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

Bio:
Royya Modir, MD, is a board-certified neurologist specializing in vascular neurology and the treatment of stroke. Her focus is on treatment strategies for stroke prevention and using thrombolytics for the treatment of acute stroke.

Scott E. Olson, MD
Vascular Neurologist and Endovascular Neurosurgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Neurology, Stroke Care
Subspecialties:
Endovascular Neurosurgery, Stroke

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

Bio:
Scott E. Olson, MD, is a board-certified vascular neurologist with additional fellowship training in interventional neuroradiology/endovascular neurosurgery. He specializes in evaluating and treating disorders of the blood vessels of the brain and spinal cord, which can lead to ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke. His expertise includes both medical and endovascular care for individuals with extra and intracranial stenoses, brain aneurysms and vascular malformations, whether congenital or acquired.

J. Scott Pannell, MD
Neurointerventional Radiologist

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Radiology, Stroke Care

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5540

Bio:
J. Scott Pannell, MD, is a neurointerventional radiologist who specializes in endovascular neurosurgery and neuroradiology. Dr. Pannell focuses on the catheter-based treatment of ischemic stroke, cerebral aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, carotid stenosis, vascular tumors, and interventional management of pain associated with disorders of the spine (such as spine blocks).
Index

A
Agrawal, Kunal .................................................. 3

G
Godat, Laura .................................................... 1

H
Hemmen, Thomas ............................................. 3
Higginson, Sara ................................................ 1

K
Karanjia, Navaz ................................................. 4
Khalessi, Alexander A. ................................. 4

L
Lance, Samuel H. ........................................... 2
Lee, Jeanne ......................................................... 2

M
Meyer, Brett C .................................................. 5

K
Modir, Royya ................................................... 5

O
Olson, Scott E. ................................................ 5

P
Pannell, J. Scott ............................................... 5

T
Tenenhaus, Mayer .......................................... 2