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.

[health.ucsd.edu/request_appt](http://health.ucsd.edu/request_appt)

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

[providers.ucsd.edu](http://providers.ucsd.edu)

**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

- **Endocrinology** ................................................................. 1
- **Hepatology (Liver)** ......................................................... 5
- **Index** ............................................................................. 9
Endocrinology

Endocrinology is the medical specialty focused on diseases of the endocrine system, including diabetes, thyroid and pituitary disorders. Learn more about [endocrinology and diabetes](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health.

**Schafer Boeder, MD**  
Endocrinologist  

**Specialty:**  
Endocrinology  

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**  
Jacobs Medical Center  
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6303  

**Bio:**  
Schafer Boeder, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist who diagnoses and treats people with a variety of endocrine conditions. He has a particular interest in diabetes and is a member of the inpatient glycemic control team, where he works with patients to monitor glucose levels, adjust insulin dosages, and maintain long-term glucose control at home.

**Steven Victor Edelman, MD**  
Clinical Professor of Medicine  

**Specialty:**  
Endocrinology  

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

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636  

**Bio:**  
Please note that Dr. Edelman is not a Primary Care Physician

**Charles H. Choe, MD**  
Clinical Service Chief - Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism  
Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine  

**Specialty:**  
Endocrinology  

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636  

**Bio:**  
Charlie Choe, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist. He also holds an active Endocrine Certification in Neck Ultrasound from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists for performing ultrasound and ultrasound-guided biopsies for patients with thyroid nodules and cancer.

**Vala Hamidi, MD**  
Endocrinologist  

**Specialty:**  
Endocrinology  

**Add'l Language:**  
Farsi  

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**  
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6303  
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 657-8440  

**Bio:**  
Vala Hamidi, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist who treats people with diabetes, disorders of calcium and skeletal metabolism, osteoporosis, pituitary and adrenal disease, thyroid cancer and thyroid disorders. She also provides care in general endocrinology.
Endocrinology (cont.)

Heather L. Hofflich, DO
Endocrinologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Endocrinology, Internal Medicine, Primary Care

La Jolla - 8939 Villa La Jolla Drive
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
Registration and Scheduling: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8000
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636

Bio:
Heather L. Hofflich, DO, is a board-certified endocrinologist and internist. She provides endocrinology and primary care for adults, including preventive care and diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic diseases. Dr. Hofflich is consistently named a “Top Doc” in San Diego Magazine’s “Physicians of Exceptional Excellence” annual survey performed in collaboration with the San Diego County Medical Society.

Christopher J. Hupfeld, MD
Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Endocrinology

Encinitas - Garden View Road

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (760) 479-5370

Patricia S. Juang, MD
Endocrinologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Endocrinology

Add'l Language:
Chinese

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636

Bio:
Patricia Juang, MD, is an endocrinologist who sees patients with a variety of endocrine conditions. She has a particular interest in the care of diabetic patients in the inpatient hospital setting.

Karl Y. Hostetler, MD

Specialty:
Endocrinology

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Endocrinology (cont.)

Deborah Kado, MD  
Bone Health Specialist  
Professor of Medicine  

**Specialty:** Endocrinology  
**Add'l Language:** Spanish  
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636  

**Bio:**  
Deborah Kado, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor who specializes in caring for people with osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease. She directs the osteoporosis program at UC San Diego Health and sees patients in the Endocrinology outpatient clinic in La Jolla.

Kristen Kulasa, MD  
Endocrinologist  
Associate Professor of Medicine  

**Specialty:** Endocrinology  
**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**  
**Jacobs Medical Center**  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636  

**Bio:**  
Kristen Kulasa, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist who specializes in diabetes. Dr. Kulasa serves as director of inpatient glycemic control - working to ensure that people who are in the hospital have optimal blood sugar levels during their stay. She oversees the clinical diabetes nurse educators on staff.

Karen McCowen, MD  
Endocrinologist  

**Specialty:** Endocrinology  
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636  

**Bio:**  
Karen McCowen, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist. She has a special interest in the management of diabetes in pregnancy, technologies for managing type 1 diabetes, thyroid biopsy and thyroid cancer, and pituitary and adrenal diseases.

Mizuho Mimoto, MD, PhD  
Endocrinologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  

**Specialty:** Endocrinology  
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8440  

**Bio:**  
Mizuho Mimoto, MD, PhD, is a board-certified endocrinologist who treats people with diabetes, thyroid disease, osteoporosis and disorders related to the pituitary, adrenal and parathyroid glands.
Endocrinology (cont.)

Jeremy Pettus, MD
Endocrinologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Endocrinology

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636

Bio:
Jeremy Pettus, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist who specializes in treating diabetes. He works with individuals who have type 1 or type 2 diabetes to develop personalized treatment plans which may include healthy eating, exercise, diabetes medication or insulin therapy and blood sugar monitoring.

Tricia Santos Cavaiola, MD
Endocrinologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Endocrinology

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636

Bio:
Tricia Santos Cavaiola, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist. She specializes in treating patients with many types of endocrine disorders, including diabetes and thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pituitary diseases.

Gina N. Woods, MD
Endocrinologist and Bone Health Specialist
Associate Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism

Specialty:
Endocrinology

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-1636

Bio:
Gina Woods, MD, is a board-certified endocrinologist who treats people with osteoporosis and other metabolic bone diseases. She works with individuals to preserve bone health, prevent fractures, and manage osteoporosis care with treatments that may include diet modification, exercise and medication.
Hepatology (Liver)

Hepatology is a medical specialty that incorporates the study of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tract, and pancreas as well as management of their disorders. Learn more about hepatology at UC San Diego Health.

Veeral Ajmera, MD
Hepatologist
Medical Director, Liver Transplantation
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Hepatology (Liver), Gastroenterology, Transplantation
Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Liver Center: (619) 543-5415
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr. (Liver Transplantation): (858) 657-7728
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices (Gastroenterology): (619) 543-2347

Bio:
Veeral Ajmera, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist who treats patients with chronic liver disease, including those with cirrhosis. He also has expertise with fatty liver disease and liver transplantation.

Pranab M. Barman, MD
Hepatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Hepatology (Liver), Gastroenterology, Transplantation
Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation
Add'l Languages:
Hindi, Spanish

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (858) 657-7728
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices: (619) 543-2347

Bio:
Pranab Barman, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist who specializes in liver disease (hepatology) and transplantation. He treats patients with liver cancer, cirrhosis, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and hepatitis. Dr. Barman’s expertise is in transplant hepatology, caring for patients both before and after transplantation.
Hepatology (Liver) (cont.)

Tarek Hassanein, MD
Hepatologist
Director of Outreach Services, Liver Transplant Program

Specialty:
Hepatology (Liver)

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7728

Bio:
Tarek Hassanein, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist and transplant hepatologist who specializes in liver disease. He is focused on the management of viral hepatitis, fatty liver disease, cirrhosis, and care of patients before and after liver transplantation.

Saumya Jayakumar, MD, FRCPC
Hepatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Gastroenterology, Transplantation

Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation

Add'l Language:
Tamil

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Liver Center: (619) 543-5415
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr. (Liver Transplantation): (858) 657-7728
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices (Gastroenterology): (619) 543-2347

Bio:
Saumya Jayakumar, MD, is a hepatologist who treats patients with liver disease. Her clinical and research interests include end-stage liver disease, liver transplant and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Yuko Kono, MD, PhD
Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist
Professor of Medicine and Radiology

Specialties:
Gastroenterology, Transplantation, Hepatology (Liver)

Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation

Add'l Language:
Japanese

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5415

Bio:
Yuko Kono, MD, PhD is a hepatologist with a special interest in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) surveillance, diagnosis, management, general hepatology and liver transplantation. She is an expert in contrast enhanced ultrasound imaging.
Hepatology (Liver) (cont.)

Rohit Loomba, MD
Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist
Vice Chief, Gastroenterology
Director, Hepatology
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Gastroenterology, Hepatology (Liver), Transplantation

Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation

Add'l Language:
Hindi

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5415

Bio:
Rohit Loomba, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist. His expertise includes treating and managing many types of chronic liver disease, such as nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, and hemochromatosis. As a transplant hepatologist, Dr. Loomba works with transplant surgeons in the pre and postoperative care of liver transplant patients. He also directs the NAFLD Research Center at UC San Diego, and leads a multidisciplinary group of investigators to study NAFLD.

Michel Henry Mendler, MD
Gastroenterologist and Transplant Hepatologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Gastroenterology, Transplantation, Hepatology (Liver)

Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation

Add'l Language:
French

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Murrieta - California Oaks Rd

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-2347
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr. (Liver Transplantation): (858) 657-7728
Direct Clinic Line - Perlman Medical Offices (Gastroenterology): (619) 543-2347
Direct Clinic Line - Murrieta: (951) 303-0734

Bio:
Michel Mendler, MD, is a gastroenterologist and transplant hepatologist. In addition to colonoscopies, he has expertise in performing upper and lower GI endoscopies and percutaneous liver biopsies to diagnose and treat patients with digestive and liver diseases including liver cancer, alcoholic liver disease and hepatitis.
Hepatology (Liver) (cont.)

Irine E. Vodkin, MD
Hepatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Hepatology (Liver), Transplantation, Gastroenterology

Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation

Add'l Languages:
Russian, Spanish

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5415

Bio:
Irine Vodkin, MD is a board-certified gastroenterologist with a focus on end-stage liver disease and transplantation.
# Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Ajmera, Veeral</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Barman, Pranab M.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boeder, Schafer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Choe, Charles H.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Edelman, Steven Victor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Hamidi, Vala</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hassanein, Tarek</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hofflich, Heather L.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hostetter, Karl Y.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hupfeld, Christopher J.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Jayakumar, Saumya</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juang, Patricia S.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Kado, Deborah</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kono, Yuko</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kulasa, Kristen</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Loomba, Rohit</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>McCowen, Karen</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mendler, Michel Henry</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mimoto, Mizuho</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pettus, Jeremy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Santos Cavaiola, Tricia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Vodkin, Irine E.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Woods, Gina N.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>