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](http://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.
## Locations

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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](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health System.

Veeral Ajmera, MD  
Hepatologist  
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.

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Michael A. Chang, MD  
Gastroenterologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialties:**  
Gastroenterology, Hepatology (Liver)  
**Subspecialties:**  
General Gastroenterology, Interventional Endoscopy / Pancreas & Bile Ducts, GI Cancer

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

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-2347

**Bio:**  
Michael A. Chang, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist specializing in hepatobiliary (liver, gallbladder and bile ducts) disorders and pancreatic diseases. He has expertise in advanced endoscopic procedures, including endoscopic ultrasound, polypectomy, endoscopic mucosal resection of polyps/lesions, and endoscopic management of gastrointestinal malignancies, including luminal and biliary stenting.
Hepatology (Liver) (cont.)

Naveen Gara, MBBS
Hepatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Hepatology (Liver), Gastroenterology

Add'l Languages:
Hindi, Telugu

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:
Naveen Gara, MBBS, is a hepatologist who cares for patients with hepatitis C, hepatitis B, fatty liver disease, alcoholic liver disease, autoimmune liver diseases, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, and cirrhosis. He has expertise in performing endoscopic procedures to diagnose and treat digestive diseases.

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

Specialty:
Hepatology (Liver)

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

Bio:
Tarek Hassanein, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist and transplant hepatologist who specializes in liver disease. He provides care to patients at Southern California GI and Liver Centers, a clinical services collaborator of UC San Diego Health. Dr. Hassanein focuses his practice on the management of viral hepatitis, fatty liver disease, cirrhosis, and care of patients before and after liver transplantation.

Saumya Jayakumar, MD
Hepatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Hepatology (Liver), Gastroenterology

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, FRCPC, 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.
Hepatology (Liver) (cont.)

Yuko Kono, MD
Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

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, 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.

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.
Hepatology (Liver) (cont.)

**Michel Henry Mendler, MD, MS**  
Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist  
Professor of Medicine

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

**Subspecialty:**  
Liver Transplantation  

**Add'l Language:**  
French

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

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

**Bio:**  
Michel Mendler, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist and hepatologist with a special interest in providing compassionate, evidence-based high quality medical care and access to leading-edge treatments, procedures and expertise in the field. He routinely performs upper and lower GI endoscopies, liver ultrasound scans, PEG tube placement, hepatic tumor biopsies and intra-tumoral therapies.

**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.
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