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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| **La Jolla**           | 4510 and 4520 Executive Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92121       |
|                        | 8910 Villa La Jolla Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037        |
|                        | 8899 and 8929 University Center Lane  
San Diego, CA 92122      |
|                        | 8939 Villa La Jolla Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037        |
|                        | 9333 Genesee Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92121      |
|                        | 8950 Villa La Jolla Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037        |
|                        | 9350 Campus Point Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037        |
| **Shiley Eye Institute** | 9415 Campus Point Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093        |
| **Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center** | 9434 Medical Center Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093        |
| **Moores Cancer Center** | 3855 Health Sciences Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093        |
| **Jacobs Medical Center** | 9300 Campus Point Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037        |
| **Hillcrest**          | **4th and Lewis Medical Offices**  
330 Lewis Street  
San Diego, CA 92103     |
|                        | **Medical Offices North**  
200 West Arbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92103     |
|                        | **Medical Offices South**  
4168 Front Street  
San Diego, CA 92103     |
| **UC San Diego Medical Center** | 200 West Arbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92103     |
| **Encinitas**          | 1200 Garden View Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024      |
|                        | 477 North El Camino Real  
Encinitas, CA 92024      |
| **Vista**              | 910 Sycamore Avenue  
Vista, CA 92081          |
| **Scripps Ranch**      | 9909 Mira Mesa Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92131     |
| **Kearny Mesa**        | 7910 Frost Street  
San Diego, CA 92123     |
|                        | **Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego**  
3020 Children’s Way  
San Diego, CA 92123     |
| **Chula Vista**        | 959 Lane Avenue  
Chula Vista, CA 91914     |
| **Temecula**           | 31720 Temecula Parkway  
Temecula, CA 92952      |
| **Sorrento Valley**    | 4910 Directors Place  
San Diego, CA 92121     |
# Table of Contents

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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
*Subspecialties:* 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.

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.
Hepatology (Liver) (cont.)

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

Specialty:
Hepatology (Liver)

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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.

Yuko Kono, MD
Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Gastroenterology, Transplantation, Hepatology (Liver)
Subspeciality:
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.
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 Hepatologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Gastroenterology, Transplantation, Hepatology (Liver)
Subspecialty:
Liver Transplantation
Add'l Language:
French

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-5415
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr. (Liver Transplanation): (858) 657-7728

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.
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.
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