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.
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Surgery - Minimally Invasive Surgery

Benjamin Abbadessa, MD, FACS
Colorectal Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Colon and Rectal Surgery, Surgery, Cancer
Subspecialties:
Gastrointestinal Cancers, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 822-6277

Bio:
Benjamin Abbadessa, MD, is a board-certified colorectal surgeon who treats colon cancer, anal cancer, colon polyps, diverticulitis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, anal fistula, anal fissure, hemorrhoids, anal abscess, fecal incontinence, rectal prolapse, anal dysplasia and anal skin tags.

Seth K. Bechis, MD
Urologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Kidney Stones, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Encinitas - Garden View
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North
Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7876

Bio:
Seth Bechis, MD, is a urologist who cares for patients with diseases of the urinary tract, including kidney stones, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) or enlarged prostate, and men's health issues. As member of the comprehensive Kidney Stone Center at UC San Diego Health, he has a special interest in advanced surgical treatment, medical prevention and research on kidney stone disease. He also performs advanced procedures for BPH as well as robotic surgery.

Dennis Bandyk, MD
Vascular Surgeon
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Vascular Surgery, Surgery
Subspecialty:
Minimally Invasive Surgery

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

Bio:
Dennis Bandyk, MD, is a board-certified vascular surgeon who diagnoses and treats people with disorders affecting the arteries, veins and lymphatic systems. He provides comprehensive medical treatment and reconstructive vascular surgical and endovascular (less invasive) techniques for individuals with all types of vascular conditions.
Surgery - Minimally Invasive Surgery (cont.)

Joseph A. Califano, III, MD
Head and Neck Surgeon
Director, Head and Neck Cancer Center
Vice Chief of Division of Otolaryngology, Department of Surgery

Specialties:
ENT/Head and Neck (Otolaryngology), Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Head & Neck Cancers, Head & Neck Surgery Oncology, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Thyroid & Parathyroid Surgery

Moores Cancer Center

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

Bio:
Joseph A. Califano, III, MD, is a board-certified otolaryngologist who specializes in head and neck surgical oncology, and the integration of basic, molecular biologic research in that practice. His expertise includes minimally invasive treatment of tumors of the oral cavity, larynx, pharynx, thyroid, and neck to minimize cosmetic impact and maximize function, with an interest in tumors of the skull base, mouth, salivary glands, and premalignant conditions of the upper aerodigestive tract.

Joslin Cheverie, MD
Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Weight-Loss Surgery (Bariatric), Obesity Medicine

Subspecialty:
Minimally Invasive Surgery

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8860

Bio:
Joslin Cheverie, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who specializes in minimally invasive surgeries including bariatric procedures performed on the stomach or intestines to contribute to weight loss.

Santiago Horgan, MD
Surgeon
Professor of Surgery
Director, Center for the Future of Surgery

Specialties:
Weight-Loss Surgery (Bariatric), Surgery, Cancer, Obesity Medicine

Subspecialties:
General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Gastrointestinal Cancers

Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8860

Bio:
Santiago Horgan, MD, is an internationally recognized expert in esophageal disease, weight-loss surgery, minimally invasive surgery and new technologies and approaches for surgery. He performs a variety of weight-loss procedures including gastric sleeve, gastric plication, gastric bypass, and revisional weight-loss surgeries.
Surgery - Minimally Invasive Surgery (cont.)

Garth Ross Jacobsen, MD  
Director, Hernia Surgery  
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:  
Surgery, Weight-Loss Surgery (Bariatric), Obesity Medicine  
Subspecialties:  
General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8860

Bio:  
Garth Jacobsen, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who specializes in hernia surgery and repairing abdominal wall defects. He has expertise in both traditional and minimally invasive surgical techniques. Dr. Jacobsen's approach considers each patient as an individual. He works with each person to develop the best repair or surgical plan available.

Sunil Jeswani, MD  
Neurosurgeon

Specialties:  
Neurosurgery, Surgery  
Subspecialties:  
Complex Cranial Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Neurological Oncology, Spine

Add'l Language:  
Spanish

Jacobs Medical Center  
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:  
Sunil Jeswani, MD, is a neurosurgeon who treats people with cranial and spinal problems. He performs surgery for brain tumors, pituitary tumors, skull base tumors, stereotactic radiosurgery, hydrocephalus, and trigeminal neuralgia. He also does minimally invasive spinal surgery and treats spinal conditions such as degenerative disease, tumors, scoliosis and spinal trauma.

Karim Kader, MD, PhD  
Urologist  
Professor of Urology

Specialties:  
Urology, Cancer, Surgery  
Subspecialties:  
Urologic Cancer, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer

Add'l Languages:  
French, Greek

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7876

Bio:  
Karim Kader, MD, PhD, is a board-certified urologist who specializes in detecting, treating and preventing prostate cancer.
Surgery - Minimally Invasive Surgery (cont.)

Christopher J. Kane, MD
Urologist
Dean of Clinical Affairs, UC San Diego School of Medicine
CEO, UC San Diego Health Physician Group

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery, Cancer

Subspecialties:
Urologic Cancer, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7876

Bio:
Christopher J. Kane, MD, is a board-certified urologist who specializes in diagnosing and treating patients with prostate, kidney, bladder and testicular cancer. He has extensive expertise in robotic prostatectomy, open and laparoscopic kidney cancer surgery, and bladder and testes cancer surgery. He also provides care for conditions including benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) or enlarged prostate; elevated prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels; and the presence of blood in urine (hematuria).

Nicole Lopez, MD
Surgeon

Specialties:
Colon and Rectal Surgery, Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Gastrointestinal Cancers, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Surgical Oncology

Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Bio:
Nicole Lopez, MD, is a board-certified surgeon. She specializes in surgical oncology and colorectal surgery, and has a particular interest in caring for patients with advanced, recurrent, and metastatic colorectal cancers. She has expertise in treating hereditary syndromes, diverticulitis, pelvic floor diseases, inflammatory bowel disease, and anorectal diseases. She is skilled in laparoscopy and robotic surgery.

Mark W. Onaitis, MD
Thoracic Surgeon
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Lung Cancer, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Moores Cancer Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7086

Bio:
Mark Onaitis, MD, is a board-certified thoracic surgeon who specializes in malignant and benign conditions of the chest, including lung cancer, esophageal cancer, thymic malignancy, gastroesophageal reflux, achalasia, paraesophageal hernia, and myasthenia gravis. He uses minimally invasive approaches – thorascopy and robotics – to treat these conditions.
Ryan K. Orosco, MD
Head and Neck Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
ENT/Head and Neck (Otolaryngology), Cancer, Surgery

**Subspecialties:**
Head & Neck Cancers, Head & Neck Surgery Oncology, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Moores Cancer Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (866) 773-2703

**Bio:**
Ryan Orosco, MD, is a board-certified head and neck surgeon who specializes in the surgical treatment of benign and malignant tumors and complex reconstruction of the head and neck. He cares for patients with head and neck tumors, thyroid and parathyroid disorders, and cancer of the face, scalp, nose, mouth, tongue, and throat. Dr. Orosco is skilled in advanced reconstruction techniques, including microvascular free flaps, the transplant of tissue to restore function and appearance. He employs minimally invasive techniques, such as transoral robotic surgery and transoral laser microsurgery, when appropriate.

Lisa A. Parry, MD
Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Specialties:**
Colon and Rectal Surgery, Cancer, Surgery

**Subspecialties:**
Minimally Invasive Surgery, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Gastrointestinal Cancers

Moores Cancer Center
Encinitas - Garden View

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Moores Cancer Center: (858) 822-6100
Direct Clinic Line - Encinitas: (760) 536-7300

**Bio:**
Lisa Parry, MD, is a board-certified colon and rectal surgeon, specializing in the treatment of colorectal cancers and other intestinal disorders, including Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and diverticulitis.

Anthony Perricone, MD
Clinical Professor

**Specialties:**
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Cancer, Surgery, Transplantation

**Subspecialties:**
Lung Cancer, Lung Transplantation, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7777

**Bio:**
Dr. Perricone is director of the Cardiothoracic Unit at the Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, and surgical director of lung transplantation at UC San Diego Health.
Surgery - Minimally Invasive Surgery (cont.)

Martin H. Pham, MD
Neurosurgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Spine
Add'l Language:
Spanish

Jacobs Medical Center

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

Bio:
Martin Pham, MD, is a neurosurgeon who focuses on the neurosurgical evaluation and treatment of spinal disorders. This includes adult scoliosis and spinal deformity, complex spinal reconstruction, robotic and minimally invasive spine surgery, motion preservation of the spine, spine tumors, and spine trauma.

Sonia Ramamoorthy, MD
Chief, Colon and Rectal Surgery
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Colon and Rectal Surgery, Cancer, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Gastrointestinal Cancers, Minimally Invasive Surgery, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery

Moores Cancer Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6100

Bio:
Sonia Ramamoorthy, MD, is a board-certified colon and rectal surgeon. She specializes in treating colorectal and anal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and diverticulitis. She also leads the colorectal cancer team at Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health.

Kyoko Sakamoto, MD
Urologist
Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Cancer, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer
Add'l Language:
Japanese

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7876

Bio:
Kyoko Sakamoto, MD, is a board-certified urologist who specializes in laparoscopy and endourology. Her additional interests are neurourology and general urology.

Amirali (Amir) Salmasi, MD
Urologist
Assistant Professor of Urology

Specialties:
Urology, Surgery, Cancer
Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Urologic Cancer, Urologic Cancer
Add'l Language:
Farsi

Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-3572

Bio:
Amirali Salmasi, MD, is a urologist with expertise in the management of genitourinary cancers in men and women, including bladder, prostate, kidney, ureteral, testicular, adrenal, and penile cancers. He provides a personalized, multidisciplinary approach to deliver the best possible treatment options (active surveillance, focal therapy, surgery, radiation, systemic treatments, or clinical trials) for his patients.
Surgery - Minimally Invasive Surgery (cont.)

Bryan J. Sandler, MD, FACS
Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Weight-Loss Surgery (Bariatric), Obesity Medicine

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery

Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - 4520 Executive Drive

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8859

Bio:
Bryan Sandler, MD, is a board-certified surgeon who specializes in treating patients with disorders of the foregut, esophagus, gastric or biliary system and small intestine. In addition to performing hindgut surgery for colon and rectal disorders, Dr. Sandler has specialized training in advanced hernia operations, abdominal wall reconstruction and weight loss surgery. His areas of expertise also include minimally invasive and robotic surgery, and natural orifice surgery.

William Taylor, MD
Neurosurgeon
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Neurosurgery, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Spine

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive

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

Bio:
William Taylor, MD, is a board-certified neurological surgeon. His practice focuses on the neurosurgical evaluation and treatment of spinal disorders. He is also dedicated to further developing and refining minimally invasive surgical procedures used to treat spinal conditions and diseases.

Patricia Thistlethwaite, MD, PhD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Cardiothoracic (Heart and Lung) Surgery, Transplantation, Cancer, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Heart Transplantation, Lung Cancer

Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-7777

Bio:
Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, MD, PhD, is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon who specializes in lung cancer, mediastinal and chest wall surgery, diseases of the thymus, minimally invasive thoracic surgery, and heart and lung transplantation. She focuses on providing patient-centered clinical care, using minimally invasive approaches to treat thoracic disease.
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