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.

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

La Jolla
4510 and 4520 Executive Drive
San Diego, 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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Rheumatology

Rheumatology is a medical specialization concerned with the study and treatment of rheumatic disease; diseases which are usually caused by inflammation, swelling and pain in the joints and muscles. Learn more about [rheumatology](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health System.

**Harry Bluestein, MD**

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

**Bio:**
Dr. Bluestein's research interests included the identification and characterization of cell membrane molecules that serve as targets of SLE antibodies and on the role of those antibodies in the pathogenesis of SLE, particularly the neuropsychiatric manifestations. He is now retired as a researcher.

**Arnold Ceponis, MD, PhD**

Rheumatologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248

**Bio:**
Arnold Ceponis, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist with clinical and research interest in musculoskeletal ultrasound. In addition to long-established methods of diagnosis and treatment of rheumatic and systemic diseases, Dr. Ceponis uses in-office ultrasonography for diagnosis and ultrasound-guided injections of joints and other musculoskeletal structures.

**Nunzio Bottini, MD, PhD**

Rheumatologist
Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**Add'l Language:**
Italian

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248

**Bio:**
Nunzio Bottini, MD, PhD, is a rheumatologist who treats a variety of musculoskeletal diseases and autoimmune conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis and scleroderma.

**Soo-In Choi, MD**

Rheumatologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Rheumatology

**Add'l Language:**
Korean

**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248

**Bio:**
Soo Choi, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who diagnoses and treats autoimmune conditions and musculoskeletal diseases that affect the joints, muscles, connective tissue and bones. This may include conditions such as back pain and muscle strains, and diseases such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout and lupus.
Rheumatology (cont.)

Gary S. Firestein, MD
Rheumatologist
Dean and Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical and Translational Research

Specialty: Rheumatology
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6248

Bio:
Gary Firestein, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who diagnoses and treats patients with autoimmune conditions as well as diseases of the joints, muscles and bones. These conditions may include rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, gout, chronic back pain, tendinitis, and lupus.

Bonnie Hepburn, MD

Specialty: Rheumatology
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

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

Bio:
Dr. Hepburn received her MD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed her residency training at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine.

Kenneth Kalunian, MD
Professor of Clinical Medicine

Specialty: Rheumatology
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

Bio:
Dr. Kenneth Kalunian is the Associate Director of the Center for Innovative Therapy and also a Professor in the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology in the School of Medicine at UC San Diego.

Arthur Kavanaugh, MD
Professor of Medicine

Specialty: Rheumatology
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

Bio:
Rheumatologist, Clinical Immunologist
Rheumatology (cont.)

Susan J Lee, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialty:  
Rheumatology

Add'l Language:  
Korean

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices  
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

Bio:  
In addition to clinical practice, Dr. Lee is actively involved in numerous clinical research as well as outcomes research.

Katherine Nguyen, MD  
Rheumatologist  
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialty:  
Rheumatology

Add'l Language:  
Vietnamese

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South  
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248  
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 657-6110

Bio:  
Katherine Nguyen, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who treats general rheumatology conditions, with a special focus on treating the autoimmune diseases Sjögren’s syndrome and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Gregory D. Middleton, MD  
Rheumatologist  
Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery

Specialties:  
Rheumatology, Orthopedics

Subspecialty:  
Hand & Upper Extremity

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center  
Encinitas - Garden View  
La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion

Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-8200

Bio:  
Gregory D. Middleton, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist who specializes in the nonsurgical care of patients with joint and muscle pain, particularly those with rheumatic disorders such as osteoarthritis. He takes a comprehensive approach to treating arthritis, pain and autoimmune diseases, and strives to help patients maintain a satisfying and active lifestyle.

Brian A. Pedersen, MBBS  
Rheumatologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:  
Rheumatology

Add'l Language:  
Spanish

Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248  
Direct Clinic Line - Encinitas: (760) 536-7300

Bio:  
Brian A. Pedersen, MBBS, is a board-certified rheumatologist. He diagnoses and treats autoimmune conditions and musculoskeletal diseases that affect the joints, muscles, connective tissue and bones. This may include conditions such as back pain and muscle strains, and diseases such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, and lupus.
Rheumatology (cont.)

Abha G. Singh, MD
Rheumatologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Rheumatology

Add'l Languages:
Hindi, Punjabi

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 657-6110

Bio:
Abha Singh, MD, is a board-certified rheumatologist. She diagnoses and treats autoimmune conditions as well as diseases of the joints, muscles and bones, including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, reactive arthritis, myositis, scleroderma, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE or lupus), vasculitis, gout, polymyalgia rheumatica, and osteoarthritis.
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