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.
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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 System.

**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:**  
New Patient Registration: (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**

**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

**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 Family Medicine and Public Health  

Specialties:  
Endocrinology, Senior Medicine  

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 the elderly. Specifically, Dr. Kado's expertise is in evaluating and treating osteoporosis. She directs the osteoporosis program at UC San Diego Health and sees patients in the Endocrinology outpatient clinic in La Jolla.

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.

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.

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.
Endocrinology (cont.)

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.
Senior Medicine

Senior medicine, also known as geriatric medicine, is a medical specialization focusing on the health care of older adults. Learn more about [senior medicine](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health System.

**Veronica V. Gonzalez, MD**
Primary Care Physician

**Specialties:**
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

**Add'l Language:**
Spanish

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

**Bio:**
Veronica Gonzalez, MD, is a board-certified family medicine physician who specializes in caring for older adults. She provides primary care to patients, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention, treatment of acute and chronic illnesses and preservation of function. As a geriatrician, Dr. Gonzalez aims to keep seniors healthy and high functioning as they transition through the stages of aging. Her expertise includes providing therapeutic and rehabilitative care for conditions or health concerns that are common among the elderly such as frailty, falls, incontinence, memory and cognitive problems, and medication-related side effects. She also has expertise in end of life care and advance care planning.

**Roopali Gupta, MD**
Primary Care Physician
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialties:**
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

**Bio:**
Roopali Gupta, MD, is a board-certified geriatric medicine doctor. She provides primary care for older adults, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.

**Deborah Kado, MD**
Bone Health Specialist
Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health

**Specialties:**
Endocrinology, Senior Medicine

**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 the elderly. Specifically, Dr. Kado's expertise is in evaluating and treating osteoporosis. She directs the [osteoporosis program](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health and sees patients in the Endocrinology outpatient clinic in La Jolla.
Senior Medicine (cont.)

Alison Moore, MD, MPH, FACP
Primary Care Physician
Chief, Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Alison Moore, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor and geriatrician who specializes in caring for older adults. She provides primary care to patients, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention, treatment of acute and chronic diseases and preservation of function. As a geriatrician, Dr. Moore aims to keep seniors healthy and high functioning as they transition through the stages of aging. Her expertise includes providing therapeutic and rehabilitative care for conditions or health concerns that are common among the elderly such as frailty, falls, incontinence, memory and cognitive problems, and medication-related side effects. She also has expertise in end of life care and advance care planning.

Khai H. Nguyen, MD, MHS
Primary Care Physician
Clinical Services Chief, Senior Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine
Add'l Language:
Vietnamese

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Khai Nguyen, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor and geriatrician who specializes in caring for older adults. He provides primary care to patients, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention, treatment of acute and chronic illnesses and preservation of function. As a geriatrician, Dr. Nguyen aims to keep seniors healthy and high functioning as they transition through the stages of aging. His expertise includes providing therapeutic and rehabilitative care for conditions or health concerns that are common among the elderly such as frailty, falls, incontinence, memory and cognitive problems, and medication-related side effects. He also has expertise in end of life care and advance care planning.

Ian C. Neel, MD
Geriatrician

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Ian Neel, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine doctor who specializes in caring for older adults. He serves as the primary geriatric medicine consultant for Senior Behavioral Health at UC San Diego Health.
Jairo Alberto Romero, MD
Primary Care Physician
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
Jairo Alberto Romero, MD, is a board-certified geriatric medicine doctor. He provides primary care for older adults, with an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.

James R. Templeman, MD, MPH
Primary Care Physician

Specialties:
Primary Care, Senior Medicine

Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (858) 249-2500

Bio:
James Templeman, MD, MPH, is a board-certified geriatrician who specializes in caring for older adults. He provides primary care to patients, with an emphasis on healthy aging, disease prevention, treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, and preservation of function.
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