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 - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6303
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 657-8440

**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

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

Plastic Surgery

Plastic surgery is the branch of surgery which repairs external damaged tissue, remedies physical impairments or aesthetically enhances. Learn more about plastic surgery at UC San Diego Health System.

Mayer Tenenhaus, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery, Burn

La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
UC San Diego Health Links
Plastic Surgery - Cosmetic Surgery

Marek Dobke, MD
Head, Division of Plastic Surgery
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery
Subspecialty:
Cosmetic Surgery
Add'l Language:
Polish

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
Dr. Dobke graduated from the Medical Academy in Gdansk, Poland in 1974. He is board certified in plastic surgery both in the United States and Poland. Throughout his career, Dr. Dobke has combined the practice of plastic surgery with research. He has developed a large practice in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery, with a special interest and clinical expertise in aesthetic and reconstructive surgery of the breast, facial rejuvenation, and application of new technologies in cosmetic surgery. Recently, Dr. Dobke added research on stem cell technology for cosmetic and breast reconstructive surgery purposes to his expertise portfolio and is currently working on applications of telemedicine for the management of wounds and plastic surgery consultations. Tissue contouring with fillers (including permanent material Artefill) is available in his clinic.

Amanda A. Gosman, MD
Interim Chief, Plastic Surgery
Director of Craniofacial and Pediatric Plastic Surgery
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery
Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
Amanda A. Gosman, MD, is a board-certified plastic surgeon who specializes in cleft lip and palate surgery, pediatric and adult craniofacial surgery, microsurgical facial reanimation, breast reconstruction and aesthetic surgery.
Plastic Surgery - Cosmetic Surgery (cont.)

Samuel H. Lance, MD
Plastic Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery, Burn

Subspecialties:
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery

Add'l Language:
Spanish

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
Samuel Lance, MD, is a plastic surgeon who specializes in both cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery, with expertise in adult and pediatric craniofacial surgery. He is the director of adult cranio-maxillofacial surgery (i.e. surgery related to the mouth, jaws, face, skull and associated structures).

Mark Rechnic, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Plastic Surgery

Subspecialties:
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

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

Ahmed S. Suliman, MD
Plastic Surgeon
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery

Subspecialties:
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery

Add'l Language:
Arabic

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
Ahmed Suliman, MD, is a board-certified plastic surgeon who performs a broad spectrum of aesthetic (cosmetic) and reconstructive procedures to address the effects of a medical condition or injury, or to enhance one's appearance.
Plastic Surgery - Reconstructive Surgery

Amanda A. Gosman, MD
Interim Chief, Plastic Surgery
Director of Craniofacial and Pediatric Plastic Surgery
Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery
Subspecialties:
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery
Add'l Language:
Spanish

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices North

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
Amanda A. Gosman, MD, is a board-certified plastic surgeon who specializes in cleft lip and palate surgery, pediatric and adult craniofacial surgery, microsurgical facial reanimation, breast reconstruction and aesthetic surgery.

Samuel H. Lance, MD
Plastic Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Plastic Surgery, Surgery, Burn
Subspecialties:
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery
Add'l Language:
Spanish

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

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (619) 294-3746

Bio:
Samuel Lance, MD, is a plastic surgeon who specializes in both cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery, with expertise in adult and pediatric craniofacial surgery. He is the director of adult craniomaxillofacial surgery (i.e. surgery related to the mouth, jaws, face, skull and associated structures).

Mark Rechnic, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialties:
Surgery, Plastic Surgery
Subspecialties:
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Ahmed S. Suliman, MD  
Plastic Surgeon  
Associate Professor of Surgery  

Specialties:  
Plastic Surgery, Surgery  
Subspecialties:  
Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery  
Add'l Language:  
Arabic  

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

Contact:  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 294-3746  

Bio:  
Ahmed Suliman, MD, is a board-certified plastic surgeon who performs a broad spectrum of aesthetic (cosmetic) and reconstructive procedures to address the effects of a medical condition or injury, or to enhance one's appearance.
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