

Department of Neurological Surgery

Overview for Prospective Residents



UC San Diego Health

Jacobs Medical Center

A 364-bed advanced medical center that serves as a flagship hospital of UC San Diego Health and a primary teaching hospital for the UC San Diego School of Medicine. Home to two intraoperative MRI suites and two CT suites.



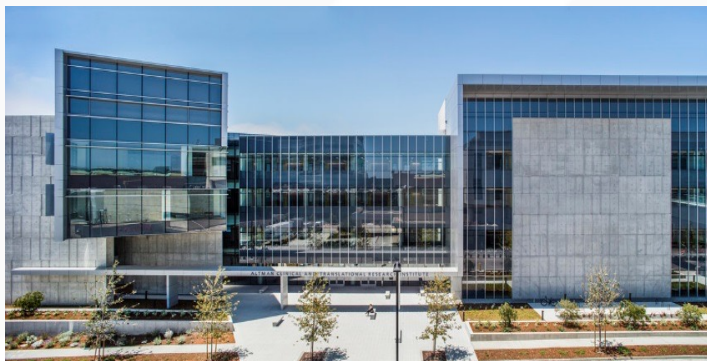
UC San Diego Health is home to:

- Two **Comprehensive Stroke Centers**
- The region's only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer center
- **Level 4 Epilepsy Center**
- The region's **first Level I Trauma Center**
- Recently awarded **advanced certification in spine surgery** by the Joint Commission



Center for the Future of Surgery

State-of-the-art surgical facility where surgeons and scientists investigate, develop, test and teach procedures that will revolutionize the field of surgery. Located in the T. Denny Sanford Medical Education and Telemedicine Building, which offers auditorium seating for 350 guests.



Altman Clinical & Translational Research Institute

Innovation hub where scientists, physicians and engineers advance scientific discoveries from bench to bedside.



Center for Novel Therapeutics

World-class, 45,000-square-foot research space that serves as an accelerator for translational surgical science and medical device technology, including the delivery of biologics.

Department of Neurological Surgery

The Department of Neurological Surgery's volume has grown to more than **4,000 major cases annually**.

Currently ranked **#21 in the nation** for best neurosurgery & neurology care according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

UC San Diego Health is **3rd in the nation** for quality in Vizient among academic medical centers.

With nearly **\$45 million** in NIH funding in 2021, UC San Diego Neurological Surgery and Neurology develop and deliver leading-edge treatments for neurological disease.

Recently awarded **advanced certification in spine surgery** by the Joint Commission

Division of pediatric neurosurgery at Rady Children's Hospital was named **#8 in nation** by *U.S. News & World Report* for best pediatric neurosurgery & neurology care at a pediatric hospital



Leading in Excellence and Innovation



UC San Diego Neurological Surgery's excellence in clinical care is evidenced by top 30 rankings in *U.S. News & World Report* for the past several years. In 2022, UC San Diego was voted #21 in the nation for best neurosurgery & neurology care.

UC San Diego's Quad-Pod of neurosurgical operating rooms in Jacobs Medical Center continue to provide integrated cranial and spinal navigation, intra-operative MRI and CT capabilities, and sophisticated microscopy and imaging tools. In addition to the tremendous opportunities for neuro-oncology and restorative procedures, these suites are home to the stereo-EEG and laser ablation procedures that anchor our Level 4 Epilepsy Center—the only one in the region.



UC San Diego's two destination neurovascular centers at Hillcrest and Jacobs Medical Center enable the department to maintain its status as the third Comprehensive Stroke Center in the country. UC San Diego receives national-level referrals for complex cases for both adult and pediatric patients.

UC San Diego Neurological Surgery is home to a world-class Skull Base Surgery program that remains one of the largest in the country. Through this program Drs. Marc Schwartz and Rick Friedman offer destination integrated care for the most complex cranial tumors.

Faculty member Dr. Sharona Ben-Haim was recently named chair-elect of Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) and chair and professor Dr. Alexander Khalessi has been named the 2023 president-elect of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), the leading academic society for neurosurgical professionals with more than 10,000 members worldwide.



Distinguished Faculty

Clinical Highlights:

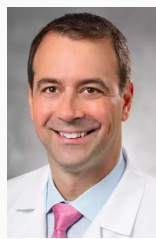
Neurovascular - Spine - Epilepsy - Pediatric Neurosurgery
Neurosurgical Oncology - Peripheral Nerve Surgery



John Alksne,
MD



David Barba,
MD



Thomas
Beaumont,
MD, PhD



Don Antonio
Bell, MD



Sharona
Ben-Haim, MD



Joseph Ciacci,
MD



Edward
Duckworth, MD



David Gonda,
MD



Najla Kfoury-
Beaumont, PhD



Alexander
Khalessi,
MD, MBA



Michael Levy,
MD, PhD



Kenneth
Little, MD



Lawrence
Marshall, MD



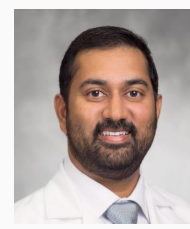
Derek L.
Martinez, MD



Philip Meyers,
MD



Raj Murali,
MD



Nikhil Murthy,
MD



Andrew Nguyen,
MD, PhD



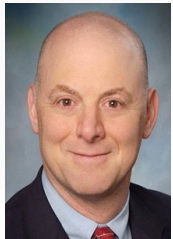
Joseph Osorio,
MD, PhD



Ahmet Oygur,
MD



J. Scott Pannell,
MD



John Perl II,
MD



Martin Pham,
MD



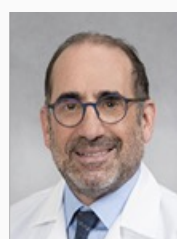
Vijay Ravindra,
MD



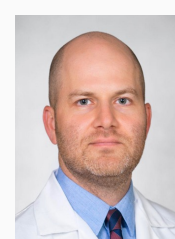
Justin Ryan,
PhD



David Santiago-
Dieppa, MD



Marc Schwartz,
MD



Jeffrey Steinberg,
MD



Alexander
Taghva, MD



William Taylor,
MD



Jeffrey Tomlin,
MD



Howard Tung,
MD



Hoi Sang U,
MD

Our Program Structure

PGY1

- 6 months Neurosurgery
- 3 months Neuroscience (Endovascular, Pathology, Radiology)
- 3 months Neurocritical Care

PGY2

- Junior Neurosurgery Resident (University Hospitals: Hillcrest and Jacobs Medical Center)

PGY3

- Junior Neurosurgery Resident (University Hospitals: Hillcrest and Jacobs Medical Center; Rady Children's Hospital; VA)

PGY4

- Research / Elective

PGY5

- Research / Elective

PGY6

- Senior Neurosurgery Resident (VA Chief / Rady Children's Hospital Chief)

PGY7

- Chief Resident of University Hospitals (Hillcrest and Jacobs Medical Center)

San Diego Living



 UC San Diego Health
OFFICIAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OF THE PADRES

SAN DIEGO
Restaurant
Week 



Jacobs Medical Center at UC San Diego Health

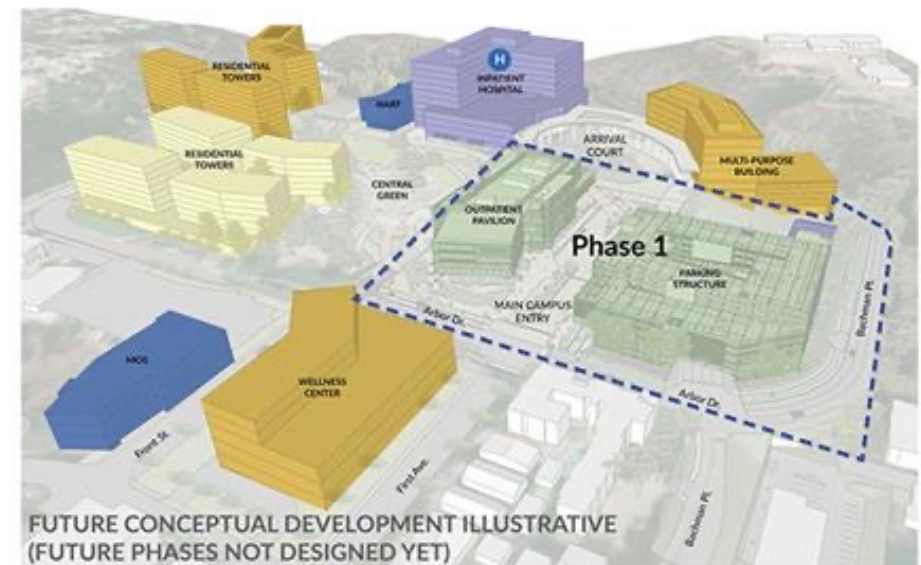
- 364-bed advanced medical center that serves as a flagship hospital of UC San Diego Health and a primary teaching hospital for the UC San Diego School of Medicine.
- Home to 4 intraoperative imaging suites, 10 operating rooms, 24 cranial med / surgery floor beds, and 12 closed neuro-ICU beds.
- In 2012, UC San Diego at Hillcrest became one of the first five facilities in the nation to be designated a Comprehensive Stroke Center. In 2017, Jacobs Medical Center also received the designation, making UC San Diego the only health system in the county with two sites for comprehensive stroke care.



- Only nationally designated Level 4 Epilepsy Center in the region, handling some of the most complex epilepsy cases in Southern California.
- Construction on the 10-story, 509,500-square-foot building began in January 2012 and was completed in 2016.
- Hospital is shaped around a garden-based design with floor-to-ceiling windows to maximize natural light and promote healing with outdoor areas including courtyards and terraces.

UC San Diego Medical Center - Hillcrest

- Focal point for our education and community service missions, as the location serves many people who are unhoused and/or live near the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Construction is underway on a \$2-3 billion plan to redevelop the full medical campus, providing new facilities—including an expansion of emergency and trauma services—new technology, increased capacity, expanded care offerings and other community services and amenities.
- The 390-bed hospital also houses:
 - Level 1 Trauma Center (one of only two in the county)
 - Comprehensive Stroke Center
 - Neuro critical care ICU
 - Area's only Regional Burn Center
 - A Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
 - National Institutes of Health-Designated Clinical Research Center



Rady's Children Hospital

- Leading tertiary care center for children in San Diego County
- Named #8 in the nation for best neurosurgery & neurology care at a pediatric hospital by *U.S. News & World Report*
- Provides the region's first and only Pediatric Emergency Care and Trauma Center
- 505-bed pediatric hospital includes 37 specialty outpatient clinics for treatment
- More than 600 neurosurgeries performed annually
- PGY-3 and PGY-6 residents rotate at Rady Children's, often cited as a favorite rotation by residents



Moore's Cancer Center



- Ranked #1 in San Diego for best cancer care by *U.S. News & World Report*
- Established in 1978, Moore's Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in the region and one of only 51 in the United States.
- This designation is the highest possible rating for a U.S. cancer center and is reserved for centers with experts in every medical subspecialty, who push the boundaries to improve approaches for preventing, diagnosing and treating cancers.

VA San Diego Healthcare System



- Provides high-quality health care with advanced technologies and a commitment to friendly, compassionate service to more than 245,000 veterans in the San Diego and Imperial Valley counties.
- Services include medical, surgical, mental health, geriatric, spinal cord injury and advanced rehabilitation.
- 296 authorized beds, including skilled nursing beds; and operates several regional referral programs including cardiovascular surgery and spinal cord injury.
- Facility also supports three Vet Centers at the following locations: Chula Vista, San Diego, San Marcos.

Center for the Future of Surgery (CFS)



- One of the largest and most comprehensive surgical training facilities in the nation.
- Expanded in 2019 to include a microsurgical lab (top) and hybrid OR/angiography suite (bottom).
- Surgical suites include 22 animal and cadaveric stations where students, residents and current practitioners can gain the latest surgical techniques.
- Research suite where physicians and scientists work together across disciplines to develop device technology.
- Simulation Training Center with an operating room, intensive care unit, emergency room and medical/surgical hospital room. The SimCenter is equipped with 3 Lateral SimMan 3G, 1 SimBaby and variety of partial task trainers and diagnostics / monitoring equipment.
- 350-seat auditorium equipped with advanced technology provides a venue for lectures, presentations and special events.

East Campus Office Building (ECOB)

- Adjacent to Jacobs Medical Center, ECOB is home to the offices of faculty members, residents, clinical coordinators and administrative staff.
- Home to the “Neuro Hub”, an innovative, technology-driven teaching and meeting space designed for surgeons both here and abroad.
- Resident interviews are held in this building.



Altman Clinical & Translational Research Institute (ACTRI)



- Established in 2010 to translate scientific discoveries to improve health—moving innovation from “bench to bedside.”
- Provides infrastructure and support for basic, translational, and clinical research throughout the San Diego region; expedites the translation of discoveries into therapies; and facilitates the training and education of the next generation of researchers.
- Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) grant funding provides residents and medical students with unique educational and seed grant opportunities, including funded master’s degrees.

Center for Novel Therapeutics



- Designed to foster collaboration between scientists and clinical researchers with the common goal of accelerating therapies from the research bench to treatment at the patient's bedside.
- 137,500-square-foot research hub leverages the strength of the university's world-renowned doctors and research at the Moores Cancer Center with private sector companies looking to translate research into helping cancer patients throughout the world.

Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine



- Advances stem cell research through collaborative, multi-disciplinary interactions.
- Scientists from UC San Diego, the Salk Institute, Scripps Research, Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute and the La Jolla Institute for Immunology work side by side in a facility designed to achieve breakthrough discoveries.
- Applies the power of stem cells to promote diagnoses, treatments and cures for degenerative diseases and injuries.

Stay in Touch



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Cha Esguerra
Residency Program Coordinator
cesguerra@health.ucsd.edu



www.neurosurgery.ucsd.edu

Helpful Links

- Take virtual tour of the [Center for the Future of Surgery](#)
- Take a virtual tour of the [Center for Novel Therapeutics](#)
- Read more information about [family leave, salary scales and more](#)
- Links to recent news:
 - [Alexander Khalessi Named President-Elect of Congress of Neurological Surgeons](#)
 - [UC San Diego Health Awarded Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery](#)
- Read our [Spring newsletter](#) detailing our latest news, upcoming events and more