Fact Sheet: History

For a comprehensive list of awards and achievements, see Fact Sheet: Clinical Excellence.

2012

Construction officially begins on UC San Diego Jacobs Medical Center in January and official groundbreaking ceremony is held in April. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

UC San Diego Health System was ranked among the nation’s best in U.S. News & World Report’s 23rd annual “America’s Best Hospitals” issue. The magazine ranked UC San Diego Health System #1 in the San Diego metropolitan area and #5 in California.

UC San Diego Health System has been ranked in the annual U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Hospitals” issue for 19 years and is consistently ranked among the best in multiple specialties. Recognized in four specialties: geriatrics (#37), nephrology (#32), pulmonology (#22) and urology (#37) and ranked as “high-performing” in cancer; cardiology & heart surgery; diabetes & endocrinology; ear, nose & throat; gastroenterology, gynecology, neurology & neurosurgery; orthopedics; psychiatry; and rheumatology.

UC San Diego Health System’s Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center was named one of the nation’s 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals for 2013 by Truven Health Analytics.

UC San Diego Health System’s Bariatric and Metabolic Institute was recognized as a fully accredited Level 1 Bariatric Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons Bariatric Surgery Center Network (ACS BSCN).

UC San Diego Health System’s Center for Transplantation was recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a heart-lung transplant Center of Excellence.

UC San Diego Health System’s Birth Center, the only place of its kind on the West Coast where women can have a natural birth experience with minimal medical intervention within a hospital setting, welcomed baby number 4,000 on August 6, 2012.

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center was one of the first oncology practices in the nation to be recognized by the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI®) certification program — a new initiative to certify oncology practices that meet rigorous standards for high-quality cancer care.

The Department of Radiation Medicine and Applied Sciences (RMAS) became an official academic department within UC San Diego School of Medicine.

A transplant team at UC San Diego Health System successfully performed the West Coast’s first ex-vivo liver resection.

A UC San Diego Health System surgeon was the first in the United States to successfully implant the new FDA-approved LINX™ Reflux Management System in a patient suffering from gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).
Fact Sheet: History

2011

UC San Diego Health System was granted Magnet® status by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The Magnet Recognition Program recognizes health care organizations for quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in nursing practice.

The Joint Commission approved Disease Specific Care (DSC) certification for Ventricular Assist Device (VAD). Fewer than 110 facilities are approved for VAD destination therapy. UC San Diego Health System is one of only two San Diego-based health systems and one of only eight California-based health systems offering this option.

UC San Diego Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center officially opened its doors as San Diego’s first and only dedicated cardiovascular center, combining groundbreaking research and lifesaving care under one roof. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

The UC San Diego Medical Education and Telemedicine building opened. This new, state-of-the-art building houses the Center for the Future of Surgery, one of the largest, most comprehensive training facilities for surgeons in the world. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

The East Campus Office Building opened, providing space and support for clinical trials. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

Center for Advanced Laboratory Medicine (CALM) opened, with high-tech diagnostic services for clinically applied translational research. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

The Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine facility opened; it is designed to support both individual and collaborative team research. It brings together five of the world’s top research institutions — UC San Diego, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, The Scripps Research Institute and La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

UC San Diego Health System achieved Stage 7 of electronic medical record (EMR) adoption — a ranking devised by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Analytics group; achieved by only 1.1 percent of hospitals in the United States in 2011.

UC San Diego Health System performs the West Coast’s first implant of the world’s only FDA-approved total artificial heart in a four-hour procedure.

Steve and Lisa Altman pledged $10 million towards the planned Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute building in La Jolla, which will include research laboratories and clinical research space to support UC San Diego medical and bioengineering investigators. It is slated for completion in 2015. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

UC San Diego Health System was ranked first in San Diego in U.S. News & World Report’s first-ever “Best Hospitals” metro rankings — a prestigious ranking that requires a hospital to score in the top 25 percent among its peers in at least one of 16 medical specialties.
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UC San Diego School of Medicine was among 27 research institutions selected across North America to be part of the Cancer Immunotherapy Trials Network, funded by the National Cancer Institute, to establish a network of top academic immunologists to conduct multicenter research on agents that boost patients’ immune systems in order to fight their cancer.

The National Institutes of Health awarded UC San Diego School of Medicine researchers an inaugural grant designed to fast-track development of a novel Alzheimer's disease therapy as part of its $50 million Blueprint for Neuroscience Research.

2010

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center was designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology — a designation given to fewer than 6 percent of the imaging centers in California.

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center began participating in a statewide University of California collaboration called the ATHENA Breast Health Network. This groundbreaking project involved 150,000 women who will be screened for breast cancer and followed for decades through the five UC medical centers.

Joan and Irwin Jacobs pledged $75 million to build UC San Diego Jacobs Medical Center in La Jolla, which will include four hospitals: Thornton Hospital, the hospital for advanced surgery, the hospital for cancer care, and the hospital for women and infants.

UC San Diego Health System was listed as one of the nation’s top 15 major teaching hospitals by Thomson Reuters for the first time.

UC San Diego Health Sciences and its Clinical Translational Research Institute (CTRI) partners received a $37.2 million Clinical and Translational Science Award grant to speed up the development of laboratory discoveries into effective treatments for patients.

UC San Diego Health System received a $15.3 million Beacon Community Collaborative award on behalf of a broad collaboration of San Diego health care providers and other community partners — one of only 17 communities across the country selected for this award, designed to pilot the wide-scale use of health information technology and health information exchanges to improve quality of care and efficiency.

UC San Diego Health System was named a Designated Hospital by Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) — the only national geriatric initiative dedicated to improving the care of older hospitalized adults.

UC San Diego Health System surgeons achieved what is believed to be the nation’s first stomach reduction via the mouth. This novel weight loss procedure is known as a sleeve gastrectomy.

The name of UCSD Medical Center changed to UC San Diego Health System.
**Fact Sheet: History**

**2009**

UCSD Medical Center was the first hospital in region to offer microwave technology to destroy liver tumors.

The Breast Center at Moores Cancer Center became the first hospital-based program in California to receive accreditation from the National Accreditation Program of Breast Centers, a program administered by the American College of Surgeons.

Surgeons removed a patient’s diseased kidney through a single incision hidden in the belly button. This groundbreaking procedure was the 15th in a series of single-incision clinical trial surgeries performed by the UC San Diego Center for the Future of Surgery.

The San Diego Epigenome Center at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at UC San Diego was established and is one of four National Institutes of Health (NIH) Reference Epigenome Mapping Centers (REMC).

UC San Diego had more Alzheimer’s disease researchers on the top 100 list than any other institution in the world, according to the *Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease*.

The Comprehensive Kidney Stone Center was established. The first program of its kind in southern California, it is dedicated to the prevention, advanced surgical treatment and research of kidney stone disease.

**2008**

Surgeons at the Center for the Future of Surgery were the first in the United States to remove an appendix and a gallbladder through the mouth, and the first in the U.S. to remove an appendix through the vagina. UC San Diego Health System is leading the way in minimally invasive surgery techniques, such as natural orifice translumenal endoscopic surgery (NOTES).

UCSD’s new Institute of Engineering in Medicine was created.

UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest celebrated expansion of the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

The UC Regents approved planning for a new health sciences biomedical research building in La Jolla.

UCSD and the Salk Institute established a center to formally explore the origins of humanity.

Roger Tsien, PhD, professor of pharmacology, was one of three scientists awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

UC San Diego Medical Center received the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines® Gold Performance Achievement Award for the first time for using evidence-based guidelines to provide the best possible heart disease and stroke care to patients. (Awarded again in 2009, 2010 and 2011.)

November 2012
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UCSD Medical Center was the first hospital in California to enroll patients in a multicenter clinical trial to examine the safety and feasibility of administering adult stems cells to treat congestive heart failure.

The STRokE DOC trial proved the effectiveness of remote-site diagnosis of stroke patients through the use of telemedicine.

2007

UC Regents approved planning for new inpatient bed tower to expand UCSD Medical Center in La Jolla.

Ground was broken for the new Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center and the expansion of Thornton Hospital in La Jolla.

The School of Medicine expanded its class size from 122 to 134 students.

One of six Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) in the country was established at UCSD.

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center was one of the first medical facilities in the nation to offer the SAVI™ breast brachytherapy applicator.

2006

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences officially opened its doors. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

UC San Diego Medical Center received prestigious international recognition as a Baby-Friendly birth facility. The award recognizes birth facilities that actively encourage breastfeeding as the primary source of newborn nutrition. The Medical Center is now one of only 110 birth facilities in the United States with this designation.

UCSD joins with the Burnham Institute, Salk Institute and Scripps Research Institute to form the San Diego Center for Regenerative Medicine.

2005

Dedication ceremonies marked the opening of the new Rebecca and John Moores UCSD Cancer Center building in La Jolla (now known as UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center). (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

Skaggs Pharmaceutical Sciences Building opened with state-of-the art lab and instructional facilities for UC San Diego’s pharmacy program.

Groundbreaking was held for La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology and Gemini Science.

$10 million leadership gift from the Sulpizio family supports the new cardiovascular center project.
Fact Sheet: History

2004  UCSD Stroke Center became the first in San Diego to receive a Gold Seal from The Joint Commission.

UCSD Stroke Center was first in San Diego to receive certification as a Primary Stroke Center.

$30 million gift from the Skaggs Institute for Research was given to the pharmacy school.

UC Regents approved planning for a new cardiovascular center and the expansion of Thornton Hospital in La Jolla.

UCSD Medical Center dedicated new state-of-the-art glaucoma and retina centers to expand the Shiley Eye Center complex.

Interventional cardiologists performed the first FDA-approved carotid stent to prevent stroke in San Diego County.

2003  Ground was broken on the new School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences building.

UCSD named new biomedical research building on the School of Medicine campus the Leichtag Family Foundation Biomedical Research Building. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

2002  Palmer Taylor, PhD, chair of pharmacology, was named founding dean of the new UCSD Pharmacy School; the first class enters pharmacy school.

UCSD Medical Center dedicated center for functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

2001  UCSD Moores Cancer Center was designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute. Moores Cancer Center is now the only NCI-approved comprehensive cancer center in San Diego and one of only 41 in the nation.

UCSD Medical Center team performed historic first surgery in an experimental protocol using gene therapy to treat Alzheimer’s disease.

2000  UCSD’s Department of Pediatrics established a formal affiliation with Children’s Hospital and Health Center.

$20 million gift from Rebecca and John Moores boosts philanthropic efforts toward a new cancer center facility.
1999  UCSD Medical Center and Sharp HealthCare combined forces to establish a joint Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) Program that is managed by both organizations.

UCSD Medical Center opened the region's first Women's Incontinence Center.

UCSD Medical Center opened a new family-centered birthing unit called The Birth Center.

1998  UCSD Blood and Marrow Transplant Program was designated as the only National Marrow Donor Program-approved transplant center in San Diego.

UCSD Thornton Hospital introduced the Hospitalist Program.

UCSD Medical Center team performed its 1,000th pulmonary thromboendarterectomy procedure (PTE).

The Women’s Pelvic Medicine Center was established, becoming the region’s first center dedicated exclusively to the diagnosis and treatment of pelvic floor disorders.

1997  More than 100 UCSD Medical Center physicians were included in The Best Doctors in America: Pacific Region 1996-1997 published by Woodward/White.

UCSD School of Medicine celebrated the 25th anniversary of the charter class graduation.

UCSD School of Medicine established a new center for AIDS research.

The Cancer Center was designated a Specialized Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute.

1996  UCSD School of Medicine received a $2.6 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Conjoined twins who were born attached at the chest and abdomen were discharged from UCSD Medical Center after being separated.

1995  The Anne and Abraham Ratner Children’s Eye Center opened as an extension of the Shiley Eye Center, providing specialized care for children.

Construction of the Cellular and Molecular Medicine East (CMM East) Building was completed.

1994  The Bannister Family House in Hillcrest opened, providing affordable lodging for families of patients from outside the area.

UCSD Medical Center Heart/Lung Transplant team performed the first infant heart transplant in San Diego history.
Fact Sheet: History

1993  The John M. and Sally B. Thornton Hospital and Perlman Ambulatory Care Center opened in La Jolla (now known as UC San Diego Thornton Hospital and Perlman Medical Offices). (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

1992  The first pancreas-kidney transplant in the region was performed on a man with diabetes and kidney failure at UCSD Medical Center.

Several thousand staff members, physicians and community members attended opening ceremonies for the completion of the UCSD Medical Center-Hillcrest expansion project.

Transplant surgeons performed UCSD Medical Center’s 1,000th kidney transplant surgery and celebrate the Kidney Transplant Center’s 25th anniversary.

1991  Region’s first double-lung transplant was performed at UCSD Medical Center.

The Donald P. and Darlene V. Shiley Eye Center opened, consolidating patient care and research programs in a state-of-the-art facility (now known as UC San Diego Shiley Eye Center). (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

Stein Clinical Research Building opened. Established with a gift from Sam and Rose Stein, it houses the university’s leading-edge research laboratory and includes the Sam and Rose Stein Institute for Research on Aging. (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

1990  First heart and heart-lung transplants were performed at UCSD Medical Center.

1989  The Heart-Lung Transplant Program was established with the recruitment of Stuart Jamieson, MB, an innovator in the field.

1987  The Liver Transplant Program was inaugurated.

1986  UCSD was designated as one of eight national centers for research and treatment of AIDS.

1984  The Hyperbaric Medicine Center opened.

The Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment was established.

UCSD Medical Center was designated the only Level I Trauma Center for San Diego County.

UCSD was designated as one of the original five national Alzheimer’s Disease Research Centers by the National Institute on Aging.
Fact Sheet: History

1983    A Stroke Hot Line began operating; a Stroke Unit was dedicated.

1981    UC purchased University Hospital and the adjacent County Mental Health complex from San Diego County.

1979    The Nurse Midwife Program became the first in California to be fully accredited.
        The Life Flight helicopter-ambulance program was inaugurated.

1977    The Outpatient Center was completed.
        The Cancer Center was designated a Specialized Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute.
        The Teratogen Birth Defects Registry was made a statewide service.

1976    The Regional Trauma Center opened.

1974    The federally sponsored General Clinical Research Center was established.

1973    The Regional Burn Center opened.

1968    The first class entered the UCSD School of Medicine.
        San Diego’s first kidney transplant operation was performed at University Hospital.

1966    The University of California assumed the lease of the former county hospital, and began operating the newly named University Hospital as its primary clinical teaching facility (now known as UC San Diego Medical Center). (See Fact Sheet: Facilities.)

1962    University of California Regents granted approval for a medical school at the San Diego campus.