



Dear California Consumers,

The University of California, San Diego Medical Center is the only university-based health care facility in San Diego County. UCSD Medical Center provides leading-edge patient care, biomedical research, medical and pharmacy education and community service at two primary medical complexes: UCSD Medical Center--Hillcrest near the heart of downtown San Diego, and UCSD Medical Center--East Campus, the site of UCSD's Thornton Hospital, based on UC San Diego's main campus in La Jolla.

We are proud to serve the community with a Level I Trauma Center, Regional Burn Center, a regional high risk obstetrics and neonatal intensive care program, the first JCAHO certified Stroke Center in San Diego and Imperial Counties, the Shiley Eye Center, and the Moores UCSD Cancer Center, one of only 39 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the country. UCSD physicians also provide comprehensive primary and specialty outpatient care and emergency care on both medical campuses. UCSD Medical Center is ranked among the nation's best in seven specialty areas in the 2006 U.S. News and World Report "Best Hospitals" survey, including ranking as #5 in the nation in respiratory diseases.

UCSD is proud to participate in this effort to develop a standardized report card for California hospitals. We hope that this information is useful to consumers as they make decisions about their healthcare. As UCSD participates in subsequent CHART efforts, we will encourage the use of more timely data that accurately reflects the current performance of the medical center. You will find that some of the data presented dates as far back as 2003. Our physicians and staff are continually improving their practice to achieve clinical excellence. For example, our heart attack performance has improved significantly in the past year – achieving 100% in every indicator during April – June of 2006. We received an achievement award from the American Heart Association's *Get With The Guidelines* program last June and have been selected by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement as a Mentor Network Hospital to help other medical centers achieve great care. This is just one example of the many ways we are providing excellent care to our patients.

For questions regarding this response or the information presented for UCSD, please contact Andrea Snyder, Director of Performance Improvement & Patient Safety at agsnyder@ucsd.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Liekweg".

Richard Liekweg, CEO
University of California, San Diego Medical Center