About us

UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica serves as the cornerstone of UCLA Health's Santa Monica medical campus. The 281-bed, full-service medical center provides the complete continuum of healthcare services, from prenatal and neonatal care to geriatric medicine, in a technologically advanced and welcoming facility. It combines the expertise of an academic medical center with the accessibility of a community hospital to offer patients the best of both medical worlds.

Key components

The medical center features several outstanding programs and services on or near its 4.5-acre medical campus. These include:

- The Nethercutt Emergency Center, which treats more than 50,000 patients annually and serves as Santa Monica's only Emergency Department (ED) approved for pediatric care. The 22-bed ED features fastER, a fast-track service to treat minor injuries and illnesses within 90 minutes, an onsite CT scanner to minimize patient transport and all-digital X-ray technology for improved diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of injuries and ailments.
- The BirthPlace, one of Southern California's most comprehensive maternity centers, where approximately 1,500 babies are delivered each year. The BirthPlace features comfortable, home-like labor-delivery-recovery (LDR) and postpartum rooms, exceptional nursing and physician care and a full complement of maternity classes to help expectant moms and dads make a smooth transition to parenthood. A 16-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit provides special care to premature infants and other newborns with life-threatening conditions.
- A 25-bed Pediatrics Unit, which operates as a unit of UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and serves as Santa Monica's only inpatient unit for pediatric care. The unit also houses the Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Program with its Teen Lounge, where teens can relax, play video games or music and just be themselves.
- UCLA Rape Treatment Center and its Stuart House facility for sexually abused children serve as national models for the treatment of rape victims and their families.
• UCLA Breast Center, Santa Monica, also located within the UCLA medical building, provides personalized, multi-disciplinary breast care in a compassionate and supportive environment. Unique to the center is our “one-day, one-team” approach, where patients are seen by our team of board-certified specialists in breast surgery, reconstructive plastic surgery and medical and radiation oncology during their first appointment. A patient navigator serves as the guide and single contact to assist with care coordination, planning, education and follow-up. The center brings the personalized-care model to a new level, delivering state-of-the-art care in a way that reduces the stress of a breast-cancer diagnosis.

• UCLA Radiology performs state-of-the-art imaging services in several locations throughout the Santa Monica campus. The Barbara Kort Women's Imaging Center provides mammography and other advanced imaging services in a comfortable, spa-like setting designed specifically for women.

• UCLA Spine Center in Santa Monica provides comprehensive medical and surgical treatment for all spinal disorders and strives to be at the forefront of research designed to bring medical advances to the clinical setting.

Alliance with Orthopaedic Institute for Children

UCLA and Orthopaedic Institute for Children, formerly known as “Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital,” forged a strategic alliance in 1998 that led to construction of the Orthopaedic Institute as part of the new medical campus. The facility houses an outpatient clinic for adult orthopaedics, the Luskin Children’s Clinic for pediatric orthopaedics, a physical-therapy gym, administrative and faculty offices and a library. The OIC also provides outpatient care at a clinic in downtown Los Angeles, but all of its inpatient care occurs in Santa Monica.

Healing by design

The medical center was designed by prominent architect Robert A.M. Stern, former dean of the Yale School of Architecture, in collaboration with CO Architects. The design combines the modified Northern Italianate architecture of original buildings on the UCLA campus in Westwood with the more casual Mediterranean style typical of Santa Monica.

More than 25 percent of the medical campus is dedicated to green and open spaces, including a 40,000-square-foot garden facing 15th Street and the 18,000-square-foot Harman Garden Plaza. Both areas offer a tranquil setting where patients, visitors and staff members can enjoy fresh air, sunshine and sea breezes.

History

Founded in 1926 as Santa Monica’s first hospital by local physicians Drs. William S. Mortensen and August B. Hromadka, the medical center has grown and evolved over the years to better serve Santa Monica and surrounding communities. In 1942, the hospital became part of the Lutheran Hospital Society, where it remained until 1988, when it joined UniHealth America.

In 1995, the hospital was acquired by the University of California and became an integral part of UCLA Health’s expanding network of medical services. It was rebuilt in phases following the 1994 Northridge earthquake and is now designed and constructed to the latest seismic standards.

Hospital leadership

Johnese Spisso, MPA
President, UCLA Health; CEO, UCLA Hospital System; Associate Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences

Richard Azar
Chief Operating Officer, UCLA Health

Anthony A. Scaduto, MD
President and CEO, Orthopaedic Institute for Children