

George E. Peoples, Jr., MD, FACS; Colonel (retired) US Army – wartime trauma surgeon, cancer immunotherapy pioneer, and San Antonio biomedical entrepreneur

Recipient of the 2016 BioMed SA Award for Innovation in Healthcare & Bioscience



George E. Peoples, Jr., MD

Selection Committee rationale:

- Led the first surgical team on site at the Pentagon on 9/11 and was chief surgeon of the first Forward Surgical Team (274th FST) on the ground in Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2003).
- Helped revolutionize battlefield surgical care, transforming survival rates with simple yet impactful changes in procedures.
- A pioneer and leader in the cancer immunotherapy field whose approach to preventing recurrence of certain cancer types represents a new frontier in cancer research, which could help put San Antonio on the map in this emerging field.
- Founded the military's Cancer Vaccine Development Program.
- Invented, patented, licensed several cancer vaccines for commercial development.
- Has started several cancer-related enterprises in San Antonio to carry on his work since retiring from active duty.

COL (ret) George E. Peoples, MD, FACS recently retired from 30 years of active duty as a surgeon and research scientist in the U.S. military. He is currently the Founder and CEO of Cancer Insight, LLC in San Antonio and Founder and Director of the Cancer Vaccine Development Program (CVDP).

The CVDP has 15 years of experience in discovery, development, and clinical testing of cancer vaccines – four of which have been licensed for commercial development. With his recent retirement from active duty, Dr. Peoples has decided to carry on his work by forming Cancer Insight, a boutique clinical research and development organization, conducting multiple phase I and II clinical trials and continuing his work with the newly reconstituted CVDP under the Metis Foundation in San Antonio.

Additionally, Dr. Peoples is a Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, and a Professor (adjunct) of Surgical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC). He is the past Chair of the Cancer Program at San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) and past Deputy Director of the United States Military Cancer Institute.

Dr. Peoples served as the Chief of Surgical Oncology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (1998-2006) and at SAMMC (2006-2014). He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point (1984) and the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (1988). He completed his surgical training at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, and during that time, also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Laboratory of Biologic Cancer Therapy at Harvard Medical School (1988-1996). He then completed a surgical oncology fellowship at MD Anderson (1998) before becoming Chief of Surgical Oncology at Walter Reed. He has written extensively on the immune response to cancer with over 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts, abstracts, and book chapters.

In addition, Dr. Peoples currently serves as Chief Medical Officer for Rapamycin Holdings, Inc., a San Antonio-based startup company that holds the exclusive licenses for rapamycin-related research discoveries made at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The company is leveraging a platform of discoveries to fight age-related medical conditions, including several types of cancers, and improve an individual's health and life span.