

Walter J. Pories, MD, FACS, Colonel USA (Ret.)

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A native of Germany, Dr. Pories managed to complete third grade three times in that country as well as Brazil and the US. After graduation from Wesleyan University as an art major, he received his MD with Honor at the University of Rochester where he also completed his residency in general and cardiothoracic surgery that included a year of research as a Fellow in Biochemistry with the Manhattan Project on the thermal effects of the atom bomb.

While in medical school, with his mentor, William Strain, PhD, he was the first to report that zinc was an essential element not only for plants but also for animals and man. That discovery led to the finding that Zn deficiency was common and that only 3 cents worth of Zn Sulfate added to a ton of feed produced five pigs instead of four, accelerated egg laying by 45 days and brought broilers to market in six rather than ten weeks. During his residency, confronted with a duodenal fistula that overwhelmed various attempts to manage the large output, he and a colleague were the first to describe wound suction.

A pioneer in the development of bariatric surgery, he was the first to document that the gastric bypass produces rapid, full and durable remission of Type2 diabetes. His primary current research interest, with over three decades of NIH funding is the pursuit of the molecular structure and function of the intestinal signal that causes the metabolic syndrome.

He established and directed three cancer centers: at the University of Rochester, Case-Western Reserve and East Carolina University. He also served as President of the Society for Environmental Health and Geochemistry, the Association of Program Directors in Surgery, the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, as the 2nd Vice President of the American College of Surgeons and Vice President of the Southern Surgical Association as well as editor-in- chief and associate editor of several journals. His multiple awards include the Max B. Joyner Award, the highest honor bestowed to the faculty of the University of North Carolina System, The Senator Goldwater Award in Nutrition, the Oxford Cup, the highest national award of Beta Theta Pi, the Berci Award from SAGES and the Presidential Medal by The Obesity Society.

He retired from the US Army with the rank of Colonel after 24 years of service with the Legion of Merit and a Presidential Citation for the performance of the regiment under his command in the first Gulf War.

For hobbies, he publishes cartoons and tends to his farms that house goats, sheep, a donkey named 'Pancho, poultry, deer and even a family of bears down the hill from his house by the Tar River. He is married to Dr. Mary Ann Rose,' Professor of Nursing. They have six children and a lot of fun.