



Pedro T. Ramirez, M.D.

FOUNDING PARTNER AND MAJORITY OWNER
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER:

- DIRECTOR OF MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
- PROFESSOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

“No matter what your level of success or experience - you should always remain humble - especially when lives are at stake.”

—Dr. Pedro T. Ramirez

Pedro Ramirez lives by that philosophy, and it's his advice to others in the field of medicine - but it's certainly a hard thing to do by anyone's standards when you have the kind of career record that he's achieved in the field of medicine.

In terms of Elite, Pedro is a founding partner and majority owner; however, he dedicates a good portion of his time and talent to the world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center - where he wears many distinguished hats. Not only is he the Director of Minimally Invasive Surgical Research and Education, but he's also a Professor for the Department of Gynecologic Oncology.

Pedro says he founded Elite two years ago as a way to step outside the world of academia and into the world of business. “I think there's also an opportunity to deliver a high-level of care to patients in an outpatient surgery setting outside of the major medical center,” said Pedro, who is a member of a host of professional organizations, including the Society of Gynecologic Oncology and the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists.

Of all his career accomplishments, Pedro says he's most proud of his development of the minimally invasive program at MD Anderson - specifically as it relates to laparoscopic and robotic surgery. “The Department of Gynecologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center didn't have such program when I started 10 years ago. Now it's a benchmark for surgeons around the world, and it's recognized as one of the leading training programs in laparoscopic and robotic surgery,” said Pedro, adding he's always been very interested in the surgical approach in managing gynecologic diseases.

Leading surgeons from every corner of the world - including Spain, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Thailand, Korea, Italy, France, Portugal - are traveling to Houston to work and learn directly from Pedro. Moreover, Pedro gives frequent presentations throughout the world to spread the word on the benefits of minimally invasive procedures in the management of gynecologic cancers.

Pedro points to the many “quality-of-life” benefits that come from this pioneering surgical approach to disease management such as a shorter recovery time, and a faster return to normal activities and body functions. He also notes the process is less costly and taxing on the medical systems as a whole.

Pedro says efforts are currently underway to develop more precise surgical approaches to the management of gynecologic cancers called image-guided surgery. “With this technology, we will hopefully be able to identify the exact boundaries of abnormal tissue and tumor - which means we don't have to remove more than what's needed to ensure we get all the cancerous cells,” explained Pedro.

Pedro also is prolific in the literary world. He's penned no less than 100 scientific papers, written 16 book chapters, and is currently the editor or reviewer of 17 scientific journals. Moreover, he's been recognized for his research in the form of numerable grants. Most recently he received funding to serve as the principal investigator of a clinical trial to determine which is most effective in treating the early stages of cervical cancer: laparoscopic or robotic radical hysterectomy versus abdominal surgery.

Pedro cites “hard work, dedication and perseverance” as reasons he's come to where he is in his life.

When asked what's next for him in terms of Elite, Pedro says, “Many patients today want a different type of access to the healthcare system - and we're meeting that demand through Elite. We've launched a few surgical facilities to date and more are in the pipeline. I'm bringing my experience to the table - ensuring these surgery centers are the best they can possibly be. I wouldn't put my name behind anything less.”

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