

# Nathaniel J. Soper, MD

## Biography

Nathaniel J. Soper was raised in Iowa City, Iowa, as the son of a pediatric surgeon. After graduating from the University of Iowa School of Medicine, he completed a residency in General Surgery, including a year of laboratory investigation under the mentorship of Layton F. Rikkers, at the University of Utah Hospitals in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Soper then spent two years as an NIH-funded fellow at the Digestive Disease Center at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, mentored by Keith Kelly and Michael Sarr. He joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in 1988, and rose to the rank of Professor of Surgery. Dr. Soper was a staff surgeon at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, and the Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) at Washington University. He was one of the first academic surgeons performing laparoscopic surgery, which has defined his subsequent career. Dr. Soper was Director of the Washington University Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery, an industry-funded multi-disciplinary group of surgical researchers working towards improving minimally invasive surgical techniques and technologies.

In December, 2003, Dr. Soper was appointed Professor of Surgery, Vice-Chair for Clinical Affairs and Director of MIS at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He was named Interim Chair and Residency Program Director for General Surgery in 2006. On July 1, 2007 he was appointed the Loyal and Edith Davis Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University and Surgeon-in-Chief at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He resigned as Chair in March 2019, but continues as Program Director for the general surgery residency at Northwestern.

Dr. Soper's research interests have revolved around the applications of MIS for gastrointestinal disease, gallstones and benign esophageal disorders, as well as ultrasound and motility of the gastrointestinal tract. More recently he has been involved in the early clinical experience with Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery, including per-oral esophageal myotomy (POEM) for achalasia. He has published more than 200 manuscripts, edited 17 textbooks and authored more than 100 book chapters. Dr. Soper is on the editorial boards of [Annals of Surgery](#), [Surgical Endoscopy](#), [Journal of the American College of Surgeons](#), [Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery](#) and [Surgical Innovation](#).

Dr. Soper has been named in "The Best Doctors in America" from 1991 through the present and has lectured extensively throughout the world. He has won 'Excellence in Teaching' awards from the Northwestern Department of Surgery every year and received the Andrew L. Warshaw Master Educator Award from the SSAT in 2017. He is a member of numerous professional societies, including Alpha Omega Alpha, American College of Surgeons (including its Board of Governors), American Surgical Association, Society of Clinical Surgeons and the Society of University Surgeons. Dr. Soper is Past-President of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, the International Society of Digestive Surgery, the Central Surgical Association and the St. Louis Surgical Society. Dr. Soper was elected as a Founding Member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators in 2018.