

Biography United States Army

LTC Luis M. Alvarez, Ph.D., P.M.P.

In 2014 LTC Luis M. Alvarez was appointed as Academy Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Life Science at the United States Military Academy and was named Director of the Center for Molecular Science. Luis is also the founding Principal Investigator of the Regenerative Biology Research Group at the National Cancer Institute where he leads a team of investigators to develop translational stem cell tissue engineering approaches to address loss of function resulting from combat trauma and disease.



Previously Luis served as the Deputy Director of the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine (AFIRM). In this capacity he co-founded the Tissue Injury and Regenerative Medicine (TIRM) Program Office which consolidated the DoD's largest portfolio of regenerative medical projects including over 200 preclinical efforts and 20 human clinical trials. Among these efforts are the DoD's hand and face transplant programs which led to the first double arm transplantation for a wounded service member.

Previously, Luis also led the DoD's \$720M Bioscavenger program at the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) to develop the first-ever FDA-approved prophylactic countermeasure against nerve agent threats. In this capacity Luis took the program through Acquisition Milestone B and chaired a major source selection, including a \$160M solicitation and contract award for pharmaceutical production and execution of Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials to support FDA licensure of the countermeasure.

A native of Miami, Florida, LTC Alvarez earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Life Science from the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, (1997) and was commissioned as a military intelligence officer. He was selected as a Hertz Foundation Fellow and continued his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he earned a master's degree in Chemical Engineering (1999). In 2006, LTC Alvarez returned to MIT to earn a doctor of philosophy degree in Biological Engineering (2009). Luis also holds the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification (2012).

LTC Alvarez began his military service in 1997. He has served in numerous intelligence assignments, including: the 2nd Infantry Division (Korea) and 1st Cavalry Division (deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, 2004-2005). His other experience includes: Headquarters Detachment Commander, Natick Soldier Systems Center and Military Deputy of the Natick Research, Development, and Engineering Center where he oversaw human subjects testing. Luis has held various academic appointments at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (Cambridge, MA), the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies, and the Department of Biological Engineering (MIT).

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3 bronze OLC), National Defense Service Medal (1 gold star), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge.