



Zoraida Cornejo, MD

City: Mt. Prospect, IL

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1958

Medical School Graduated From: Salamanca University, Spain

Specialty: Internal Medicine

What factors influenced your decision to become a physician and your choice of specialty?

I like to be of service to others, and I enjoy internal medicine. For the last ten years, I worked with terminally ill patients, and it was very rewarding.

Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?

After I finished high school, I felt strongly that I should go to medical school and become a physician. I was born and raised in Cuba, so I began my studies at the University of Havana. I left Cuba because the university closed to unrest, student strikes and terrorism in Havana. In other parts of the island, communist trained bombs were exploding in theaters and streets from sympathizers of Fidel Castro.

As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice was most valuable to you?

Listen carefully to your patients, and take your time to do a thorough examination.

What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?

Imaging, the advent of MRI, CAT scans, and PET scans.