



Rafael Lantigua, MD attended the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo and graduated from medical school in 1972. He migrated to New York City to follow his mother's footsteps who had previously migrated to the United States. In New York, Dr. Lantigua trained in Internal Medicine at Lincoln Hospital from 1973 to 1976. He served as a chief medical resident at the same institution from 1976 to 1977.

On July 7, 1977 Dr. Lantigua moved to Rochester, New York where he trained in Endocrinology at the School of Medicine of Rochester University. In 1980, he returned to New York City with an appointment as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University and Assistant Attending at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He has moved-up to the rank of the University to become Professor of Medicine since 1994; for over two decades, he served as the Associate Director of the Division of General Medicine at the Department of Medicine, and the Medical director of Associate in Internal Medicine at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. He is a member of the Admission Committee of the Medical School of Columbia University and a member of the Internal Medicine Residency Committee. From 1995 to 2012, he represented Columbia University at the American Medical Association (AMA) section on medical school and in 2010 he served Lantigua served as a member of the Executive Committee. On August of 2011, Dr. Lantigua was appointed Dean's Advisor for Community Health Affairs at Columbia University Medical Center and in July 2019, he was appointed Associate Dean for Community Service and the founding Director of the Office of Community Service Programs at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, of Columbia University Medical Center.

Dr. Lantigua has been actively involved in research on issues that affect the quality of life in minority populations. He has served as co-investigator in a New York State Department of Health Program to promote awareness and education of cardiovascular disease among minorities. He also served as the principal investigator in the National Institute of Aging Study of issues of quality of life affecting the minority elderly. From 1998 to 2008, he served as a Director of the Columbia Center for Active Life of Minority Elders, a Resource Center for Minority Aging Research sponsored by the National Institute of Aging and Co-Investigator in a study of the Genetics of Alzheimer's Disease in Latino Families. Since 1999, Dr. Lantigua has served as Deputy Director of the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's disease and the Aging Brain of Columbia University. He has published more than 120 medical articles in peer-reviewed journals. A frequent speaker on health topics affecting minorities, he has been the co-chair of two major symposiums dealing with Hispanics' health in New York City.

Dr. Lantigua was the founding member and past Chairperson of the Board of Alianza Dominicana, Inc. He is co-founder and former Chairperson of the Board of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrants Rights. He has served in multiple boards of non-for profit organizations, such as the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund, Puerto Rican/Hispanic Institute for the Elderly, the Latino Commission on AIDS, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, ARC Fort Washington Senior Center, and Isabella Nursing Home. On numerous occasions he has served in the Board of Directors of the Dominican Medical Society and was the president of the Society in 1996. From 1988 to 1997 he served as a member of the New York State Board of Professional Medical Conduct.

Dr. Lantigua also served as a member of the Board of the Hispanic PAC U.S.A. member of the Board of Directors and the treasurer of the Hispanic Education and Legal Fund. From 1998 to 2002, Dr. Lantigua was a member of the Board of Directors of the Northern Manhattan Empowerment Zone. In 2005, Dr. Lantigua was appointed to the prestigious post of member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute on Aging (NIA), a branch of the National Institute of Health (NIH). He has also served as a member of the Greater New York Hospital Association Advisory Task Force on Diversity in Health Care Leadership. Since 2006, he is Co-Director of the Community Engagement Resource Core of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Columbia University., Co-Director of the Columbia Center of Excellence of Alzheimer's disease (CEAD). In 2009, Dr. Lantigua was honored by the Legal Aid Society for his "pro bono" work in front of Federal Court, testifying as a health expert, to support Latino immigrants who were facing deportation.

He has been distinguished as a Grand Marshall of the Dominican Parade in 1983 and 2015 and has been given an honorary professor degree from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo its Alma Mater and from the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago, Dominican Republic. In 1998 he was conferred a Doctor Honoris Causa degree in Social Medicine by Spanish University of America., the same year, he received the "Arnold P. Gold Award" in Humanism at Columbia University Medical School and in 2010 the Ewig Clinical Scholar Award (Department of Medicine, Columbia University) in recognition of outstanding quality in teaching. Dr. Lantigua has received the Key of the City of Miami and has received commendations from the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan Borough Presidents, the Office of the Mayor of Newark, New Jersey, the City Council of New York, the New York City State Senate, the U.S. Congress, New York City Comptroller, among others. In 2018, he was the first recipient of the Premio Internacional al Emigrante Dominicano Sr. Oscar De La Renta- a prestigious award established by a decree of the Dominican Government to recognize the contributions of notable Dominicans living outside their homeland.