

My name is Carlos Mena. I am an interventional cardiologist. I am the director of the cardiac catheterization laboratories for Yale New Haven Hospital and I am the director of the limb reservation program for the Yale New Haven Health System.

I finished medical school in South America, Columbia, where I am native from. There was an opportunity to come and do clinical rotations at Yale as a medical student and I did that. Once I finished that, there was an opportunity to apply for residency and I ended up getting accepted.

I have been trained with people that I like, enjoy and then have become really good friends. This sense of family and unity is one of the most important reasons why I stayed at Yale.

It's the essence of the United States of America, where many people come from many different places. Many great things happen in this environment and having people with different backgrounds, different stories, different perception, different views, can only help us to answer different and difficult questions.

Many of my patients are Hispanic. When they find a provider that is actually someone that they can relate to, they're care is completely different. The way we talk, the way they disclose their problems, the way they follow what you tell them, the way they take their medications, everything is completely different.

I think that is an extremely powerful tool for me because it allows me to impact people in a way that otherwise they wouldn't be taken care of.