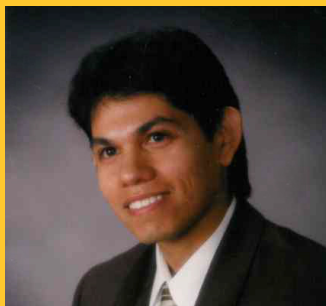




# BRING TRACK BACK

## Accomplishments

- Central Michigan University, BS, Medical Technology, Minors in Chemistry and Business Administration – 1993
- College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University MD – 1998
- University of Michigan, Residency, Family Medicine – 1998-2001
- Clinical Assistant Professor – Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine, Midland, MI 2015-Present
- Clinical Assistant Professor – Central Michigan University, Family Medicine Residency Program, Saginaw, MI 2015-Present
- Board Member – Physician Associates of MidMichigan, P.C., Midland, MI
- Physician – Medical Procedures Center, Midland, MI



## Lorenzo Berlanga

### Experience

I grew up in Flint Michigan, during a time when it had the highest violent crime rate in the United States. When I was fifteen years old, one of my teammates was hit by a car while training and died a day later from his injuries. Although I held a school record, possessed many achievements in running, and was invited to run at CMU, my focus initially was on military science.

After my first year of officer training, I realized that I had not come to terms with my friend's death. After speaking with student-athletes, who were planning on joining the team, I decided to join the Men's Cross Country Team. I felt as if I had not fulfilled a promise that I had made to myself after my friend's death. That promise was to see how far I could go as a collegiate athlete. Upon my arrival to the team, I was struck by the fact that my new teammates were still mourning the death of Jeff Drenth, who died two years earlier.

When I joined the team, I began to heal and to grow in emotional intelligence. However, during my first cross country season at CMU, my grandmother passed. During the funeral, the funeral home on the Eastside of Flint experienced a drive-by shooting, where my cousin was shot and paralyzed.

In training with the team, I realized the character of the individuals on the track and cross country teams. I was struck by the fact that the team, despite all of its pain, reached levels previously unsurpassed in program history. The cross country team

was consistently ranked among the best teams in the country. I was amazed at the perseverance of the team and coaching staff.

Then, in September 1989, Mr. and Mrs. Drenth, Walt's parents, were killed by a drunk driver on their way back from church. And, despite this, the character of the team became even more evident and we all grew even closer. That team went on to go undefeated until the national championship meet.

I obtained my medical degree from Michigan State University and completed residency training at the University of Michigan. It is not a stretch to say that becoming a doctor is challenging. My formative years as a member of the track and cross country programs played a vital role in my success.

The lessons I learned on the roads and track in Mt. Pleasant have helped me overcome tremendous obstacles, both personally and professionally. Without these lessons, I would not have graduated from CMU. The character of the individuals on those past teams are still present in the program today. I know this to be true because of my personal interactions with Coach Swieton.

It would be a travesty for CMU to terminate the Men's Track & Field program and to deprive future generations of the invaluable experiences that I have enjoyed.