

BIOSKETCH

Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, MD, PhD, MsErg

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office address: Department of Public Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences Office # 409, The University of Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, Texas 79968.

Office telephone: (915) 747-7270

Fax: (915) 747-7207

Email: gabmejia@utep.edu

Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso. He also holds a position as an adjunct professor for The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston, where he provides undergraduate and graduate-level instruction in four main areas: environmental health, occupational health, epidemiology, and research methods. At the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, he provides education in industrial ergonomics to undergraduate industrial engineering students and mentoring engineering graduate and undergraduate students. With Universidad de Guadalajara, he participates as an external instructor in occupational biomechanics for the Masters in Ergonomics program. He also collaborates as an associate consultant for JFAssociates, Inc., specializing in providing consultancy services to the industry and government in industrial engineering, ergonomics, health, and safety.

Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia has an MD and MS degree from Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez. He specialized in Occupational Medicine and held a position as an occupational health physician in the Department of Occupational Health at the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social. During his 30-year tenure, his primary practice was treating persons with work-related injuries and illnesses. He also has an MS in Ergonomics degree from Luleå Tekniska Universitet in Sweden. Additionally, he holds a research Ph.D. degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso and Post-doctoral training in Public Health from the University of Texas at El Paso's College of Health Sciences.

His research interests are environmental and occupational health and safety, concentrating on Hispanic populations' health. He is currently conducting research focusing on preventing work-related musculoskeletal disorders caused by repetitive motion and overuse, specifically molecular biomarkers of pre-injured tendon mechanical load and inflammation. He also researches health and safety behaviors in Mexican-Migrant in Mexican American construction workers and GIS applications in environmental and occupational health.

He collaborates with colleagues from various universities in the United States and abroad. For example, he collaborates with Southeastern Louisiana University and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater researchers in construction work safety regarding drywall installers' physical demands. He also works alongside colleagues from the College of Engineering at UTEP and UT-Health Sciences at El Paso on research projects related to air pollution's acute and long-term health effects, specifically particulate matter. With the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones en Salud (INISA) at the Universidad de Costa Rica, he collaborates in

quantitative microbial risk analysis (viral, bacterial, and parasitic) and assessment in surface drinking water sources, municipal drinking water, as well as residual waters. In 2019, he began collaborating with the El Paso Public Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Program in organizing the Binational Radiation Emergency Advisory Council. Currently, he collaborates with the Texas Department of Human Health Services, supervising contact tracers' monitoring activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Ibarra-Mejia has extensive experience in musculoskeletal biomechanics. He has a history of published research pertaining to industrial manufacturing processes associated with static or intermittent muscular work and collaborated to write and publish books and book chapters in occupational medicine and ergonomics. He is also a funded researcher with numerous funding sources, including NIH. Dr. Ibarra-Mejia is the current chair for the HFES's Technical Group on Safety. Additionally, he is serving his second term as President of the International Society for Occupational Ergonomics and Safety (ISOES). He is the alternative representative for the University of Texas at El Paso at the Environmental Health Information Partnership (EnHIP-NLM-NIH). More recently, he has been appointed as US Co-leader on Environmental Education Health and Sustainability Task Force for the EPA's Border 2025 Program.

Furthermore, he holds membership in several professional organizations. For example, he is a full member of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES), a member of the HFES's technical groups on aging, industrial ergonomics, and industrial safety and health, and a full member of the American Psychological Association (APA), Association for Psychological Science, and the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP). In addition, he participated in the development of professional societies in Mexico: The Sociedad de Ergonomistas de Mexico AC (SEMAC-Mexican Ergonomists Society) in 1999, and the Consejo Mexicano de Profesionales en Ergonomía (COMPERGO – Mexican Council of Ergonomics Professionals), holding the position of General Secretary since 2019 in the latter one.