

Yasmin Garcia Mendez

Objective statement

Make significant contributions to the appropriate assistive technology service provision for people with disabilities in low and middle income countries, promote access and appropriateness of products.

Professional Experience

- **Technical Advisor (March 2018 – present)**

UCP Wheels for Humanity, California, USA.

Serve as the Technical Advisor for UCP Wheels for Humanity with priority to Wheelchair User's Voice (WUV) and Consolidated Logistics for Assistive Technology and Products (CLASP II). This position requires a background in technical understanding of wheelchairs/assistive technology in addition to appropriate wheelchair service provision and delivery in low and middle income countries.

- **External Consultant (October 2017 – March 2018)**

UCP Wheels for Humanity, California, USA.

Research Associate for the Wheelchair User's Voice project. A Google.org funded project to evaluate the quality, durability, performance of different types of wheelchairs, and the devices' impact on the user's quality of life, health, economic, and social participation.

- **Assistive Technology Consultant (April 2016- present)**

TEKNOBILITY. Seating, Mobility and other AT Consultancy Services, Mexico.

Provision of Assistive Technology services to people with disabilities and their families; training and co-therapy to health professionals; and consultancy to health institutions, universities, providers and R&D companies.

Reviewer of scientific research papers for the following Journals: Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and African Journal of Disability.

Reviewer of scientific research work for the Scientific Committee of the Mexican Society of Biomedical Engineering Conference and the Rehabilitation Research Department of the School of Engineering of Antioquia, Colombia.

- **Independent Contractor (November 2016 – April 2017)**

International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP), Universidad de Pittsburgh

Assisted lead and coordinating two back-to-back WHO Wheelchair Service Training Package-Basic (WSTPb) training session in Spanish in conjunction with Teleton, in Puebla, Mexico. Also provided translation services.

- **Rehabilitation Engineer (February 2015 – April 2016)**

Children's Rehabilitation Institute of TeletonUSA (CRITUSA). San Antonio, Texas, USA.

Led and coordinated the provision of comprehensive interdisciplinary assistive technology

services as part of a multidisciplinary team to children and adolescents with neuromusculoskeletal disabilities.

- **Bioengineering Program Coordinator, *Department of Bioengineering* (August 2013- February 2015)**
- **Full-time Assistant Professor, *Department of Physical and Occupational Therapy and Department of Bioengineering* (September 2012 to February 2015)**

School of Medicine, Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Mexico (UAEMex). Mexico.

Led the coordination of the academic and administrative activities of the Bioengineering Program Coordination.

Development, implementation, and monitoring of course educational programs.

Member of the Evaluation Committee at the Mexican Science and Engineering Fair 2014 organized by the Mexican Council for Science and Technology in the State of Mexico.

Teach courses of Assistive Technologies, Biomechanics, Computer Aided Design, and Research Methodology.

- **Market Applications Specialist (2012, per project)**

Grupo Vitalmex SA de CV, Mexico City, Mexico.

Design programs to support the expansion and growth of the company's hospital and health care services and products. Assistance in clinical trials of biomedical devices.

- **Research Assistant (January 2010 to December 2011)**

Human Engineering Research Laboratories. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

University of Pittsburgh/ Department of Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Focused research in the evaluation of wheelchair design and performance.

Assistance in the project: "4R model for wheelchair provision in less resourced countries", and "Lifelong mobility" (Collaboration project between the University of Pittsburgh, Mercyhurst College, American Wheelchair Mission, Benter Foundation and CRIT Guanajuato)

- **R&D Project Manager (July 2008 to November 2009)**

Innovamedica S.A.P.I., Research and Development, Mexico City, Mexico.

Planning and monitoring of research and development projects. Development of business plans and market studies for high innovative biomedical products. Documentation of research and development procedures according to ISO 9001:2000.

- **Rehabilitation Engineer (September 2006 to July 2008)**

Rehabilitation Technology and Research Center (CITeR), Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico.

Research assistance in the projects: "Contoured cushions and custom-made wheelchairs", "Assistive technologies for daily living" and "Computer access". Fabrication of contoured

cushions and postural support devices, wheelchair selection and prescription. Teaching Assistant in the Rehab Engineering Class and its laboratory session. Development of evaluation protocols for wheelchair cushions.

Academic Background

- Masters in Science in Rehabilitation Sciences and Technology. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (2010-2012)
Sean and Stephanie Shimada Award 2010.
RESNA 2010 Student Design Competition Finalist.
Pitt Innovator Award Winner 2012.
Mexican National Council of Science and Technology postgraduate scholarship
Pre-doctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
Mexican Foundation for the Education, Technology and Science (FUNED) scholarship
Council of Science and Technology of the State of Mexico scholarship
- Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering. Universidad Iberoamericana, México City, Mexico (2001-2006)
Honorable Mention. Outstanding Academic Performance
Recognition, Engineering Department, 2007
Undergraduate scholarship, Universidad Iberoamericana
- Diploma Degree in Rehabilitation Engineering. Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico (2006-2007)
- Course of design of accessible spaces for people with disabilities. Spring 2007.

Certifications & Memberships

- Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) certified by RESNA. (January 2017 - present)
- Member of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (May 2016-present)

Internships & Voluntary Work

- Center for Assistive Technology, University of Pittsburgh (Jan-April 2011)
- Children's Institute of Pittsburgh, Rehab Engineering Dept. (May-July 2011)
- Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, Assistive Technology Dept. Allentown, PA (Feb- Sep 2006)
- Interpreter. Basic Units of Rehabilitation DIF Yucatán - Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, WV. Yucatán, Mexico. (February 2012)

Conference Proceedings and Presentations

Garcia-Mendez, Y., Pearlman, J. L., Praptoraharjo, I., Reyes, K. (March, 2018). *Wheelchair User's Voice Project - Pilot of Comparative Evaluation for UCP Wheels for*

Humanity. Paper presented at the 34th International Seating Symposium, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Toro, M.L., Garcia-Mendez, Y., Dausey, & D. Pearlman, J.L. (June, 2013) *Comparison of a manual wheelchair designed and produced in Mexico to a wheelchair produced in China based on ISO testing and clinician and user feedback*. Proceedings of the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Conference, Seattle, WA.

Toro MA, Garcia Y, Ojeda AM, Dausey DJ, Pearlman J. (June, 2012) *Evaluation of the incidence of failures in depot-style WCs in a pediatric rehabilitation facility in Mexico*. Proceedings from the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North American Annual Conference, At Baltimore, Maryland.

Garcia-Mendez, Y., Pearlman, J. L., Cooper, R. A., & Boninger, M. L. (March, 2012). *Assessing the risk of vibration exposure during wheelchair propulsion*. Paper presented at the 28th International Seating Symposium, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Garcia-Mendez, Y., Pearlman, J. L., Hayashi, S., Vazquez, J. J., Cooper, R. A., & Boninger, M. L. (June, 2011). *Measuring vibration exposure to wheelchair users in the community*. Proceedings of the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada, CD-ROM.

Garcia-Mendez, Y., Pearlman, J. L., Cooper, R. A., & Boninger, M. L. (March, 2011). *Vibration dampening characteristics of wheelchair cushions*. Paper presented at the 27th International Seating Symposium, Nashville, TN.

Garcia-Mendez, Y. (February, 2011). *The right to work of people with disabilities in Mexico*. Paper presented at the 2011 Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Chung, C. H., Lin, J. T., Toro, M. L., Beyene, N. M., & Garcia, Y. (June, 2010) *Uniform throwing chair for seated throwing sporting events*. Proceedings of the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Conference, Las Vegas, NV, CD-Rom.

Publications

Garcia-Mendez Y., Pearlman J.L., Boninger M.L., Cooper R.A. *Health risks of vibration exposure to wheelchair users in the community*. *J Spinal Cord Med*. 2013 May. doi: 10.1179/2045772313Y.0000000124.

Toro ML, Garcia Y, Ojeda AM, Dausey D, Pearlman J. *Quantitative exploratory evaluation of the frequency, causes and consequences of rehabilitation wheelchair breakdowns delivered at a pediatric clinic in Mexico*. *Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development*. 2012;23(3):48-64.

Garcia-Mendez Y. *Assessing the risk of vibration exposure during wheelchair propulsion*. Master's thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 2012.

Garcia-Mendez Y, Pearlman JL, Cooper RA, Boninger ML. *Dynamic stiffness and*

transmissibility of commercially available wheelchair cushions using a laboratory test method. J Rehabil Res Dev. 2012;49(1):7–22.

References

- Ellen Leonard, MD, PM&R

Physician II, San Antonio State Supported Living Center.

Former Medical Director at the Children's Rehabilitation Institute of TeletonUSA (CRITUSA). San Antonio, Texas, USA.

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- Maria Elena Lerma, MD, PM&R

General Director of the Children's Rehabilitation and Inclusion Center of Teleton Baja California Sur, Mexico. Assistive Technology Coordinator of Teleton Mexico.

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