GABRIELA VÁZQUEZ BENITEZ, PhD

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Profound knowledge of epidemiological methods and study design, theory of statistics, and the application of statistical methods in diverse fields; proven ability to work independently and with excellent communication skills in an interdisciplinary environment. Focus interests include health disparities, vaccine safety, quality of health care services, cardiovascular disease and stroke.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Epidemiology — November 2007
University of Minnesota, Division of Epidemiology, Minneapolis, MN
Dissertation Title: Pre-screening protocols for diabetes: an escalating approach in diverse populations. Evidence from CODA project

M.S. Biostatistics — June 2000
University of Minnesota, Division of Biostatistics, Minneapolis, MN
Thesis Title: Testing the validity of the census micro-data sample: female labor force in Mexico. Courses taken at the Ph.D. level

M.S. Demography — June 1989
El Colegio de México (COLMEX), Centro de Estudios Demográficos y Urbanos, México
Thesis Title: Internal migration to northern Mexico, a demographic analysis of migration patterns

B.S. Applied Mathematics — June 1986
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Departamento de Matemáticas, México
Thesis Title: Increment-decrement tables, application to Mexican nuptiality

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Investigator — June 2017-present
HealthPartners Institute, Minneapolis, MN
Collaborating on projects of health care services, pain reduction interventions, hypertension and diabetes comparative effectiveness research, and vaccine data safety; responsibilities include: methods section grant writing, study design, oversight of data collection, data analysis, writing for publication, presentation in scientific meetings

Research Investigator — June 2012-June 2017
HealthPartners Institute, Minneapolis, MN
Collaborating on projects of health care services, pain reduction interventions, hypertension and diabetes comparative effectiveness research, and vaccine data safety; responsibilities include: methods section grant writing, study design, oversight of data collection, data analysis, writing for publication, presentation in scientific meetings

Research Associate — September 2010-June 2012
HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research, Minneapolis, MN

Collaborating on projects of health care services, use of health informatics to improve dental care, hypertension and diabetes comparative effectiveness research, and vaccine data safety; responsibilities include: methods section grant writing, study design, oversight of data collection, data analysis, writing for publication, presentation in scientific meetings.

Methodologist May 2010-September 2010

Stroke Institute of Minnesota, MN

Collaborating in several projects of clinical translation in stroke (quality of care, endovascular interventions, and stroke epidemiology); responsibilities include: methods section grant writing, study design, oversight of data collection, data analysis, writing for publication, research mentoring, and presentation in scientific meetings.

Senior Scientist November 2007- April 2010

Zeenat Qureshi Stroke Research Center, Department of Neurology, University of Minnesota, MN

Collaborating in several projects of clinical translation in stroke (quality of care, endovascular interventions, and stroke epidemiology), epilepsy and Parkinson; responsibilities include: methods section grant writing, study design, oversight of data collection, data analysis, writing for publication, research mentoring, and presentation in scientific meetings.

Methodologist July 2009-present

School of Nursing, University of Minnesota, MN

Statistical Consultant, Program Scholar, three years, NIH, K12BIRCHWH – Principal Investigator (PI: Carolyn Garcia 3/01/2008-02/28/2011

Develop and test the effects of interventions designed to increase healthy coping behaviors in Latina adolescents as a means to reduce unhealthy stress responses and subsequent stress-related illness and injury

Graduate Research Assistant January 2003-2007

Division of Epidemiology & Community Health, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Vulvodynia screening, survey of women's reproductive health, statistical analysis and writing for publication (Bernard Harlow, Div. Head)

The role of childhood height in predicting children at risk for adult obesity, statistical analysis and writing for publication (Steven Stovitz, K23 training grant)

Minnesota Health Survey (MHS) supported by NIH/NHLBI (RO1 HL23727); provided statistical support, writing for publication, survey design, supervised research staff, and mentored students. Content areas include: study of congestive heart failure and quality of life in outpatient population (HMO); study of congestive heart failure between inpatient and outpatient; length of hospitalization in myocardial infarction patients; validation study of medication usage in the MHS risk factor; birth cohort trends in age of smoking initiation; peripheral arterial disease; survey design for MHS risk factor 2006 survey wave

Collaborative Study of Obesity and Diabetes in Adults (CODA) supported by CDC (200-2001-00061 and 200-2002-00743); responsible for data management and statistical analysis, writing for publications, and oral presentations

Urinary Incontinence study review, in collaboration with Veterans Affairs Medical Center, supported by NIH grant; participated in instrument designs, systematic review, data abstraction and meta-analysis

Pregnancy attitudes and feelings among native youth; supported by CDC grant; responsible for data management and statistical analysis

Graduate Research Assistant June 2002-2003

Division of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (MRFIT) supported by NIH grant; performed statistical analysis and writing for publication. Content areas include: social circumstances/mortality, diabetes/non-fatal CVD/mortality, and metabolic syndrome

Graduate Research Assistant Summer 2002; January 2003-June 2005

Radiology Department, Medical School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Myocardial perfusion sub-study in the Multi-ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA); supported by NIH; performed statistical analysis and writing for publication

Graduate Research Assistant May 1999-May 2002

Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Integrated Public Use Micro-data Series, USA (IPUMS-USA) and International (IPUMSi) supported by the NIH and NSF grants; collaborated on the description of sampling frames for IPUMS-USA and IPUMSi, posted in open access web format; elaborated analysis of variance estimation for IPUMS-USA samples; and writing for publication

Research Associate 1991-1997

Departments of Public Health Studies and Population, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), Tijuana, México

Collaborated on several research projects concerning maternal health, environmental health, aging population, population projections, and interstate migration. Responsibilities in research projects included: study design, instrument development, and field research; principal role in data management, statistical analysis, and writing for publication. Selected projects are listed below:

- "Family and social strategies in the face of loss of functional capacity in the aging population in Mexico"
- "Reproductive health in the maquila industry in Tijuana", support granted by the Carnegie Foundation and the Fundación Mexicana para la Salud (Mexican HealthFoundation)
- "Health risks and the utilization of health services: Lead contamination from fixed points in Tijuana" support granted by the Pan American Health Organization
- "Social circumstances of female and reproductive health in Tijuana", support granted by Fulbright

Co-Director of Census Research 1985-1986 and 1989-1991

General Direction of Statistics, INEGI (National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics), Mexico City, Mexico

- X Mexican Population Census; coordinated the data validation process at the national and regional level; report writing
- Error response measurement in the Mexican Employment Survey

Research Assistant 1987

Demography and Urban Development Research Center, El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico

Demographic analysis concerning all causes and cause-specific mortality in Mexico; responsible for data analysis and writing for publication

Senior Scientist 1986-1987

Consejo Nacional de Población, CONAPO (Population Council), Mexico City, Mexico

Demographic analysis, population projections

TEACHING/MENTORING/ADVISORY

- Mentor, Partners for Early-Stage Investigators, HealthPartners Institute, 2022-Present
- Mentor Program, School of Public Heath, University of Minnesota, 2018-Present
- Guest Lecturer, University of Minnesota, TC Campus, October 2015, PHD CVD Epi seminar

- Field experience mentor for MPH and MS students from the University of Minnesota, HPIER 2013 and 2014, HPI 2019
- Committee member, PhD dissertation, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, 2011
- Mentor, Stroke Research Center, University of Minnesota, TC campus 2008, K12 BIRCWH Program for Vallabh Janardhan, Zeenat Qureshi Stroke Research Center
- Guest lectures, University of Minnesota, TC campus 2006-2009, PH 6343 Epidemiologic Methods III or equivalent; lecture: Survival Methods-Kaplan Meier (March 2006), PH 6343 Epidemiologic Methods III or equivalent; lecture: Correlated Data (March 2008), PH 8300 Topics: Epidemiology; lecture: Open access population based studies for Epidemiology Methods (April 2009, April 2010, April 2011), NURS 8194 Problems in Nursing-Plan B, lecture: quantitative methods (July 2009)
- Teaching assistant (graduate programs), Biostatistics, University of Minnesota, TC campus 2001-2003, Correlated Data, Latent Variable, and Statistical Computing II; assisted students with statistical analysis and use of statistical software
- Instructor and curriculum development (graduate programs), Population Studies, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Tijuana, Mexico, 1991-1997, Mathematics, Statistics, and Demographic Analysis , Masters in Population Studies curriculum development
- Instructor (undergraduate), Universidad Iberoamericana, Tijuana, México, 1992-1996, Mathematics and Statistics
- Instructor (undergraduate), Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Mexico City, Mexico, 1987-1990, Mathematics and Statistics

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Wilbur Thomas Community Service Awards, HealthPartners 2022
- Margarette S. Kolczak Award, VSD Science Meeting, November 2014
- Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI) nivel I, Conacyt México, September 2016-2019, 2019-present
- Best paper, American Journal of Epidemiology, 2016

FUNDED RESEARCH

Ongoing Research Support

Vaccine Safety Datalink Infrastructure (Kharbanda)

Source: CDC/200-2012-53526
Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 09/28/2017-09/27/2022
The Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) is a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and several large health care organizations, which conducts surveillance of the safety of vaccines currently licensed in the United States. The purpose of this task order is to add a site to the VSD infrastructure which will fulfill administrative, data management, and vaccine safety assessment activities. As a VSD site, HealthPartners data will be securely and confidentially shared with VSD for use in vaccine safety monitoring and evaluation studies.

Evaluation of COVID-19 Vaccine Safety in Pregnancy and Fetal Death in the Vaccine Safety Datalink (Kharbanda/Lipkind)

Source: CDC/200-2012-53526
Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 09/20/2020-09/21/2023

Pregnant women are not part of ongoing COVID-19 vaccine trials, however, implementation of a widespread vaccination program would include women of reproductive age, and pregnant women may be intentionally or inadvertently exposed to the vaccine(s). The purpose of this task order is to develop a protocol, coordinate, and lead a study within the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) to evaluate and monitor the risk of pregnancy loss following COVID-19 vaccine in pregnant women during the first two years of the COVID-19 vaccination program.

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Evaluation in Pregnant Women and their Infants (Kharbanda)
Source: CDC/200-2012-53526
Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 09/20/2020-09/27/2025
Pregnant women are not part of ongoing COVID-19 vaccine trials, however, implementation of a widespread vaccination program would include women of reproductive age, and pregnant women may be intentionally or inadvertently exposed to the vaccine(s). The purpose of this task order is to develop protocols, coordinate, and lead studies within the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) in order to evaluate the risk of pregnancy, birth and infant outcomes following COVID-19 vaccine in pregnant women during the first two years of the COVID-19 vaccination program. The study will examine a variety of acute maternal outcomes, pregnancy complications, birth outcomes, and adverse infant outcomes.

Establish a Virtual Network to Investigate the Trajectory of COVID-19-Related Severe Outcomes in an Electronic Cohort of Elderly Persons and Persons with High Risk Conditions (Ball)
Source: CDC/75D30120C07986
Role: Co-Investigator 05/04/2020-07/31/2022
We will develop detailed specifications for the COVID-19 virtual data network working closely with CDC. We will define inclusion and exclusion criteria for the patients in the network and consideration of the necessary core variables for analysis.

Oral Corticosteroid Use During Pregnancy and Risk for Preterm Birth (Palmsten)
Source: NICHD/ R00HD082412
Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 08/01/2017-07/31/2021
The proposed research will improve our understanding of the impact of oral corticosteroid use during pregnancy on preterm birth. The research will improve public health by providing clinically relevant information on the safety of oral corticosteroid use during pregnancy. This information will inform the complex treatment decisions that pregnant women with asthma and autoimmune disease and their physicians must make.

Comparative Safety and Effectiveness of Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor Biosimilars and Reference Biologics (McDermott)
Source: Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
Role: Statistician 11/01/2019-10/31/2021
The primary objective of the BBCIC is to address the public health need to monitor biosimilars and their corresponding FDA-approved biologic (reference product) for safety and effectiveness. Our knowledge of the
safety and effectiveness of biosimilars is limited by their recent arrival to the US market. Therefore, implementation of Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) methodologies, including observational studies, is a leading priority for the BBCIC. To fully assess the G-CSF biosimilars, we propose a CER study to assess clinical outcomes and adverse events compared to the G-CSF reference products for FN prophylaxis among patients with solid or hematologic malignancies who receive first cycle chemotherapy associated with intermediate or high FN risk.

EMS Prehospital Blood Culture Collection and Antibiotic Administration: A Two-Phase Pilot Project to Reduce Mortality in Patients with Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock (Burnett)

Source: HealthPartners Institute
Role: Statistician 07/01/2019-06/30/2021

Our project is designed to improve the outcomes for patients suffering from severe sepsis and septic shock (SS/SS) by decreasing the time from first medical contact to antibiotic administration. We believe this project will leverage the HealthPartners integrated care system including critical access hospitals, referral hospitals and a critical care paramedic staffed ambulance service to advance the mission of the organization by providing the best possible health and well-being for the patients who rely on us for their emergency care.

Recent Completed Research Support

EHR-based Decision Support for Pediatric Acute Abdominal Pain in Emergency Care (Kharbanda)

Source: NICHD/R01HD079463 Amount Funded: $3,300,673

Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 03/01/2015-02/28/2020

Although appendicitis is the most common surgical emergency in children, its diagnosis remains a challenge and thus, emergency department (ED) providers increasingly rely on computed tomography to distinguish appendicitis from other conditions. This project (a) uses electronic health record (EHR) technology to deliver patient-specific clinical decision support to ED providers at the point of care, (b) assesses the impact of this intervention on the use of diagnostic imaging and clinical outcomes, and (c) assesses the impact of the intervention on the costs of care delivered. This innovative project will be a template for extending EHR-based clinical decision support to other domains of emergency care to ultimately improve a broad range of pediatric acute care outcomes.

Safety of Live versus Inactivated Influenza Vaccine in Asthmatic Children

Source: NIAID/R21AI122141 Amount Funded: $376,944

Role: Co-investigator/Statistician 12/16/2015-11/30/2017

Asthma is the most common pediatric chronic condition, affecting 9% of children and adolescents in the United States. Children with asthma are at an increased risk for influenza-related morbidity and hospitalizations. Thus, for more than 50 years, annual influenza vaccination has been recommended for children with asthma. There are currently two influenza vaccine formulations, the activated influenza vaccine (IIV), administered intramuscularly, and the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), administered intranasally. Starting in 2014, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended LAIV preferentially over IIV in healthy children due to its increased efficacy in preventing culture confirmed influenza and ease of administration.

Tailored Self-Management of TMD Pain using Health Information Technology (Fricton)

Source: NIDCR/U01DE025609 Amount Funded: $869,788

Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 09/01/2015-08/31/2017

The purpose of this pilot project is to determine the feasibility of methods and estimate the preliminary efficacy of a tailored self-management program to decrease TMD pain and prevent chronic pain in patients with temporomandibular disorders compared with traditional self-care. This patient-centered program is designed to educate and engage patients in an 8-week personalized program of exercise and behavioral changes implemented through a web-based program supported by a health coach.

Evaluating the Risk of Spontaneous Abortion Following 4vHPV and 9vHPV (Kharbanda)

Source: CDC/200-2012-53526 Amount Funded: $67,442

Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 09/30/2015-09/29/2020

The goal of this study is to conduct two independent, but related studies evaluating risks for spontaneous abortion (SAB) following inadvertent HPV vaccination. In the first two years, HPI will complete a study of risk for SAB following inadvertent exposure to 4vHPV around pregnancy onset. The final three years are targeted to studying risks for SAB following inadvertent exposure to 9vHPV. Risks following 9vHPV are to be compared to those occurring in an unvaccinated cohort and to those following 4vHPV.

Support for the Modification of the Pregnancy Episode Algorithm (PEA) Utilizing ICD-10 Codes to Optimize Identification of Pregnancies in VSD and Enhance Vaccine Safety Research Among Pregnant Women

Source: Kaiser Permanente Northwest Amount Funded: $50,091

Role: Co-Investigator 09/26/2016-09/25/2018

Monitoring vaccine safety during pregnancy is a priority for the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), and recent VSD studies have evaluated the safety of influenza and Tdap, the two vaccines currently recommended during pregnancy, as well as the safety of HPV, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines. To support these scientific studies, the VSD has an active pregnancy working group and has developed data infrastructure and methodology specific to these studies.

CV Benefits and Safety of Glucose-Lowering Therapies in Adults with Diabetes (O'Connor)

Source: NHLBI/ R01HL124461 Amount Funded: $2,822,765

Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 08/01/2014-05/31/2018

This project examines detailed clinical data from 1.3 million adults with type 2 diabetes with more than 4 million person-years of follow up to quantify the CV benefits and CV risks of commonly used combinations of glucose-lowering medications. Study results have the potential to substantially improve CV outcomes in the more than 20 million Americans with type 2 diabetes by identifying which commonly used combinations of glucose-lowering medications maximize CV benefits and minimize CV risks.

Vaccine Safety Datalink Infrastructure

Source: CDC/200-2012-53526 Amount Funded: $519,919

Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 09/28/2016-09/27/2017

The Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) is a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and several large health care organizations, which conducts surveillance of the safety of vaccines currently licensed in the United States. The purpose of this task order is to add a site to the VSD infrastructure which will fulfill administrative, data management, and vaccine safety assessment activities. As a VSD site, HealthPartners data will be securely and confidentially shared with VSD for use in vaccine safety monitoring and evaluation studies.

VSD Subject Matter Expert (SME) Participation from Non-Infrastructure Sites (2014-01) (Nordin)

Source: CDC/ 200-2012-53526 Amount Funded: $176,233

Role: Co-Investigator/Statistician 09/03/2014-09/02/2017

The Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) is a collaborative project between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Immunization Safety Office and nine health care organizations, including HealthPartners. The VSD started in 1990 and continues today in order to monitor safety of vaccines and conduct studies about rare and serious adverse events following immunization. This task order will

provide a mechanism for subject matter experts (SMEs) from non-infrastructure VSD sites to continue to meaningfully contribute to ongoing VSD studies.

Other Completed Research Support

Evaluating Influenza, Tdap, and HPV Vaccine Safety Among Pregnant Women (Task Order 6) Funded for $1,252,640 four years, Centers for Disease Control 200-2012-53526 – Statistician (PI: James Nordin, MD, MPH); 2016

Minnesota Medicaid Incentives for Prevention of Diabetes Demonstration funded for $803,399 five years, Minnesota Department of Human Services – Co Investigator/Statistician (PI: Jay Desai, PhD); 2016

A Nurse-Led Physician-Directed System for Providing Optimal Cardiac Care Funded for $1,271,503 four years, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute 1R18HL096563 – Statistician(PI: Tom Kottke, MD); 2010.

E-Health Records to Improve Dental Care for Patients with Chronic Illnesses, funded for $668,950 four years, AHRQ 1R18HS017270 – Statistician (PI: Jim Fricton, DDS,MS); 2007.

Mental Health Disorders and Medication Adherence and Outcomes in Hypertension, Atrial Fibrillation, and Venous Thromboembolism within the CVRN--CVRN MH funded for $80,920 two years, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute 3U19HL091179 – Co-I/Statistician (PI: Patrick O'Connor, MD, MPH);2010.

Expansion of the DEcIDE Distributed Research Network Infrastructure to Support Studies of Comparative Effectiveness, Phase II-DRN2 funded for $112,176 two years, AHRQ HHSA290200500331—Statistician (PI: Platt); 2009

DIAMOND STUDY: Evaluation of a Natural Experiment to Improve Statewide Depression Care in Minnesota funded for $2,934,033 five years, National Institute of Mental Health 1R01MH080692—Statistician (PI: Leif Solberg);2007.

VSD Vaccine Safety Datalink 10-year Extension funded for $8,372,308 ten years, American Association of Health Plans 200-2002-00732—Statistician (PI: Jim Nordin, MD, MPH);2002.

Childhood Hypertension and Obesity: Diagnosis, Care, and Costs funded $3,522,983 four years, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute/NIH/DHHS R01HL093345—Statistician (PI: Patrick O'Connor, MD,MPH);2009.

Journey for Control of Diabetes (The IDEA Study) funded $1,798,001 six years, Merck & Co.—Statistician (PI: JoAnn Sperl-Hillen, MD);2007.

HMORN Cardiovascular Research Network (CVRN) funded $89,041 five years, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute/NIH/DHHS U19HL091179—Statistician (PI: Karen Margolis, MD, MPH);2007.

Patient Perception of Care and Care Delivery in Ethnic Minority population at Health Partners, the EBAN Experience (EBAN) funded $25,000 two years, HPIER Internal Grant Program—Statistician (PI: Gabriela VazquezBenitez);2011.

Antihypertensive Treatment in Acute Cerebral Hemorrhage (ATACH), funded six years, NIH, National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke R01NS044976—Statistician (PI: Qureshi);2004

Improvig Evidence-ased Quality of Care in Acute Stroke, funded two years, NIH, National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke 1K23NS051377—Statistician (PI:Lakshminarayan);2007

Program Scholar, funded two years, NIH K12BIRCHWH—Statistician (PI: Garcia);2008

Minnesota Heart Survey-Renewal, funded four years, NIH/NHLBI RO1 HL23727—Statistician (PI: Luepker);2006

Collaborative Study of Obesity and Diabetes in Adults,Translation Research, funded five years, Centers for Disease Control 200-2001-00061—Statistician (PI: Duval);2001

Project Wings: exploring migration effects on Mexican adolescent-parent communication and connectedness using photovoice", *PIMSA*; July 2009; PI: Garcia C; Role: Co-investigator (granted)

CONSULTING WORK

- Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER), non-profit organization, Minneapolis, ED: Gutierrez JR, 2008-2009
- Psychiatry, *University of Minnesota*, PI: Fatemi SH, 2009
- Asthma, *University of Minnesota*, PI: Blumenthal M, 2009
- *UCSD*, PI: Jeffrey Schwimmer, 2007
- *Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota*, PI: Stolvitz S, 2007
- *Sports Medicine*, MN, 2007
- *Minneapolis Heart Institute,* MN, 2007
- Nutrition and Food Science department, *University of Minnesota*, PI: Mindy Kurzer, 2007-2009
- *Veterinary department, University of Minnesota*, PI: Eran Raizman, 2006
- *Work, Community/Family Education, University of Minnesota*, PI: Oscar Aliaga, 2006
- *Nursing School, University of Minnesota*, PI: Carolyn Garcia, 2009

PUBLICATIONS

Scientific publications (156 peer review publications)

1. **Vazquez-Benitez G**, Haapala JL, Lipkind HS, et al. COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Surveillance in early pregnancy in the United States: design factors affecting the association between vaccine and spontaneous abortion [published online ahead of print, 2023 Mar 16]. Am J Epidemiol. 2023;kwad059. doi:10.1093/aje/kwad059

2. Lockhart CM, McDermott CL, Mendelsohn AB, Marshall J, McBride A, Yee G, Li MS, Jamal-Allial A, Djibo DA, **Vazquez Benitez G**, DeFor TA, Pawloski PA. Identification of cancer chemotherapy regimens and patient cohorts in administrative claims: challenges, opportunities, and a proposed algorithm. J Med Econ. 2023;26(1):403-410.

3. Xu S, Huang R, Sy LS, Hong V, Glenn SC, Ryan DS, Morrissette K, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, Glanz JM, Klein NP, Fireman B, McClure D, Liles EG, Weintraub ES, Tseng HF, Qian L. A safety study evaluating non-COVID-19 mortality risk following COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccine. 2023;41(3):844-854.

4. Dalton AF, Weber ZA, Allen KS, Stenehjem E, Irving SA, Spark TL, Adams K, Zerbo O, Lazariu V, Dixon BE, Dascomb K, Hartmann E, Kharbanda AB, Ong TC, DeSilva MB, Beaton M, Gaglani M, Patel P, Naleway AL, Sam Kish MN, Grannis SJ, Grisel N, Sloan-Aagard C, Rao S, Raiyani C, Dickerson M, Bassett E, Fadel WF, Arndorfer J, Nanez J, Barron MA, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, et al. Relationships between social vulnerability and COVID-19 vaccination coverage and vaccine effectiveness. Clin Infect Dis. 2023.

5. Yih WK, Daley MF, Duffy J, Fireman B, McClure D, Nelson J, Qian L, Smith N, **Vazquez-Benitez G,** Weintraub E, Williams JTB, Xu S, Maro JC. Tree-based data mining for safety assessment of first COVID-19 booster doses in the Vaccine Safety Datalink. Vaccine. 2023;41(2):460-466.

6. Yih WK, Daley MF, Duffy J, Fireman B, McClure D, Nelson J, Qian L, Smith N, **Vazquez-Benitez G,** Weintraub E, Williams JTB, Xu S, Maro JC. A broad assessment of covid-19 vaccine safety using tree-based data-mining in the vaccine safety datalink. Vaccine. 2023;41(3):826-835.

7. **Vazquez Benitez G**, Haapala JL. COVID-19 vaccine safety in early pregnancy, a comparison of differing design and analytic approaches for near-real time surveillance. American Journal of Epidemiology [in press]. 2022.

8. Tenforde MW, Weber ZA, Natarajan K, Klein NP, Kharbanda AB, Stenehjem E, Embi PJ, Reese SE, Naleway AL, Grannis SJ, DeSilva MB, Ong TC, Gaglani M, Han J, Dickerson M, Fireman B, Dascomb K, Irving SA, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, et al. Early Estimates of Bivalent mRNA Vaccine Effectiveness in Preventing COVID-19-Associated Emergency Department or Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Immunocompetent Adults - VISION Network, Nine States, September-November 2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2022;71(5152):1616-1624.

9. DeSilva MB, Mitchell PK, Klein NP, Dixon BE, Tenforde MW, Thompson MG, Naleway AL, Grannis SJ, Ong TC, Natarajan K, Reese SE, Zerbo O, Kharbanda AB, Patel P, Stenehjem E, Raiyani C, Irving SA, Fadel WF, Rao S, Han J, Reynolds S, Davis JM, Lewis N, McEvoy C, Dickerson M, Dascomb K, Valvi NR, Barron MA, Goddard K, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, et al. Protection of 2 and 3 mRNA Vaccine Doses Against Severe Outcomes Among Adults Hospitalized with COVID-19 - VISION Network, August 2021 - March 2022. J Infect Dis. 2022 Nov 23:jiac458. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36415904.

10. Bozio CH, Butterfield K, Irving SA, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, Ong TC, Zheng K, Ball SW, Naleway AL, Barron M, Reed C. Relative Risks of COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations and Clinical Outcomes by Age and Race/Ethnicity-March 2020-March 2021. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2022 Oct 5;9(10):ofac376. 6204160.

11. Schrag SJ, Verani JR, Dixon BE, Page JM, Butterfield KA, Gaglani M, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, Zerbo O, Natarajan K, Ong TC, Lazariu V, Rao S, Beaver R, Ellington SR, Klein NP, Irving SA, Grannis SJ, Kiduko S, Barron MA, Midturi J, Dickerson M, Lewis N, Stockwell MS, Stenehjem E, Fadel WF, Link-Gelles R, Murthy K, Goddard K, Grisel N, Valvi NR, Fireman B, Arndorfer J, Konatham D, Ball S, Thompson MG, Naleway AL. Estimation of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Effectiveness Against Medically Attended COVID-19 in Pregnancy During Periods of Delta and Omicron Variant Predominance in the United States. JAMA Netw Open. 2022 Sep 1;5(9):e2233273. PMC9513651.

12. Palmsten K, Bandoli G, **Vazquez-Benitez G,** Chambers CD. Differences in the Association Between Oral Glucocorticoids and Risk of Preterm Birth by Data Source: Reconciling the Results. Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken). 2022 Aug;74(8):1332-1341. Epub 2022 May 20. PMID: 35089649.

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Books/Reports

Li L; Hua W; Yan L; Axtman S; Feibelmann S; Kawai A; **Vazquez-Benitez G**; Xu S, members of the Mini-Sentinel Workgroup. *Two-dimensional scan statistics for assessing vaccine safety in pregnancy (PRISM)*. Mini-Sentinel Coordinating Center; Apr 2016 [http://mini-sentinel.org/methods/methods_development/details.aspx?ID=1052]

Dissemination

Vazquez Benitez G. Quedarse en casa. Monitoreo del uso de los servicios de salud mediante los registros médicos electrónicos durante la pandemia de Covid-19 en Estados Unidos. Coyuntura Demografica, Núm. 19: ENERO/JUNIO 2021

Gutierrez R, Cruz M**, Vazquez G**. En busca de población: esfuerzos de conectividad con comunidades latinas en el censo 2020 en Minnesota Coyuntura Demografica, Núm. 20: Julio/Diciembre 2021

Gutiérrez R, **Vázquez-Benitez G**: "Analysis of the 1990 Census information for Baja California". *CIVITAS ENSAYOS,* 1992*;* 8-9: 158-193

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

1. VSD annual meeting May 2018 **Validation of spontaneous abortion following inadvertent quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccination during pregnancy in the Vaccine Safety Datalink** Gabriela Vazquez Benitez, et al. (poster)

2. *HCSRN March 2017 **Development and validation of a risk equation for appendicitis in children presenting with abdominal pain** Gabriela Vazquez-Benitez, Elyse Kharbanda, Dustin Ballard, David Vinson, Richard Bachur, Uli Chettipally, Mamata Kene, Patrick O'Connor, Steven Dehmer, Heidi Ekstrom, Peter Dayan, Nathan Kuppermann, Anupam Kharbanda

3. *HCSRN March 2017 **What Factors Facilitate Weight Loss among Medicaid Beneficiaries Participating in the Diabetes Prevention Program?** Gabriela VazquezBenitez, Jay Desai, Gretchen Taylor, Sara Vine, Julie Anderson, Joyce Garrett, Todd Gilmer, Houa Vue-Her, Jeff Schiff, Sarah Rinn, Katelyn Engel, Amy Michael, Mary Becker, Patrick O'Connor

4. *Invited presenter March UABC, Mexico 2017 **What Factors Facilitate Weight Loss among Medicaid Beneficiaries Participating in the Diabetes Prevention Program?** Gabriela VazquezBenitez, Jay Desai, Gretchen Taylor, Sara Vine, Julie Anderson, Joyce Garrett, Todd Gilmer, Houa Vue-Her, Jeff Schiff, Sarah Rinn, Katelyn Engel, Amy Michael, Mary Becker, Patrick O'Connor

5. VSD presentation monthly working group December 2017 Validation of spontaneous abortion following inadvertent quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccination during pregnancy in the Vaccine Safety Datalink

6. ***Desai JR**, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, **Anderson JP**, **Becker MT**, **O'Connor PJ**, Gilmer TP, Garrett JE, Rinn S, Schiff J, Taylor G, Vine S, Vue-Her H, Engel K. Do financial incentives improve diabetes prevention program outcomes among Medicaid beneficiaries? The We Can Prevent

Diabetes Study [presentation]. *AcademyHealth 2017 Annual Research Meeting*. New Orleans, LA. 2017 Jun. Project: A11-088 MN Medicaid Incentives.

7. Neugebauer RS, **O'Connor PJ**, Schmittdiel JA, Reynolds K, Schroeder EB, **Desai JR**, Ho MP, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, **Anderson JP**, **Loes LM**, Dyer WT. Comparative cardiovascular safety of human versus analog insulins [presentation]. *EDEG (European Diabetes Epidemiology Group) 2017 Meeting*. Dubrovnik, Croatia. 2017 May.

8. **O'Connor PJ**, Schmittdiel JA, Reynolds K, Schroeder EB, **Desai JR**, Ho MP, **Vazquez-Benitez G**, **Anderson JP**, Dyer WT, **Loes LM**, Neugebauer RS. Impact of human versus analog insulins on occurrence of myocardial infarction [presentation]. *CVOT (Cardiovascular Outcome Trial) 3rd Summit of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease, EASD Study Group*. Munich, Germany. 2017 Oct.

9. Jay Desai, **Gabriela Vazquez-Benitez (presenter)**, Patrick O'Connor**:** How to Minimize Future CV Events and Total Mortality in Adults with Diabetes: Lessons from the 10,000,000 person-year SUPREM Cohort Study. Oral presentation. 75th Scientific Session, American Diabetes Association, Boston, June 5-9 2015 (oral presentation)

10. **Gabriela Vazquez-Benitez,** Jay Desai, Patrick O'Connor: Are Composite Measures of Diabetes Quality of Care Associated with Major CV Events? Guided poster. Oral presentation. 75th Scientific Session, American Diabetes Association, Boston, June 5-9, 2015.

11. **Vazquez Benitez G**, Gutierrez R, Aguilera RM, Garcia CM, Medidas de bienestar emocional en adolescentes y sus padres en dos comunidades conectadas por la migración. XII Reunion Nacional de Investigacion Demografica en Mexico, **SOMEDE**, Ciudad de Mexico 2014(oral presentation, published online http://xiireuniondemografica.ibero.mx/pdf/resumen_extenso/6.2.1.pdf)

12. **Vazquez Benitez G**, Desai, Xu, Goodrich, Schroeder, Schmittdiel, Nichols, Segal, Kimes, Butler, Chen, Karter, Steiner, Newton, Morales, Pathak, Thomas, Harris, Waitzfelder , Adibhatla, Xu, Becker O'Connor Preventable Major Cardiovascular events associated to uncontrolled glucose, blood pressure, lipids and active smoking in adults with diabetes with and without Cardiovascular Disease: A Contemporary Analysis, Poster and presentation at the **HMO Research Network 20th Annual Conference**: Embedded Research to Improve Health. Phoenix, AZ. Apr 2014, selected for poster competition junior scientist award

13. **Vazquez-Benitez G**, Kharbanda EO Nordin J et al. Risk of preterm delivery and small for gestational age after MIV: methods; **VSD Scientific Meeting** Atlanta 2014

14. **Vazquez-Benitez G**, Kharbanda EO, Nordin J, Lipking H, Naleway A. Methods used to evaluate potential biases in vaccine pregnancy safety studies using electronic health data. 46th Annual **SER** Meeting-Boston 2013

15. **Vazquez Benitez G**, O'Connor PJ, Margolis KL, Shetterly SM, Desia JR, Simon G. HMORN Cardiovascular Research Network. Does depression status impact recognition, treatment, or control of hypertension? Poster at the 2011 **HealthPartners Research Foundation Celebration of Research**. Minneapolis, September 2011.

16. **Vázquez Benitez G** (Oral Presentation), Nordin J D, Kharbanda Elyse O, Shi Wei X, **Vaccine Safety Data**, April 2011

17. **Vázquez G**, Qureshi AI, Novitzke J, Tonarelli SB, Tibbs M, Suri MFK **American Academy of Neurology 2010** (Oral Presentation), April 2010

18. **Vázquez G**, Divani AA, Barrett AM Baybutt T, Luft AR **American Academy of Neurology 2010** (Poster presentation), April 2010

19. **Vázquez G** (Oral Presenter), Qureshi AI, Suri MF, Tummala R, Ezzeddine M: Impact of international subarachnoid aneurysm trial: results on treatment of ruptured intracranial aneurysms in United States **International Stroke Conference**, April 2009

20. **Vázquez G,** Qureshi AI, Suri MF, Tummala R, Ezzeddine M: Impact of international subarachnoid aneurysm trial: results on treatment of ruptured intracranial aneurysms in United States, **American Academy of Neurology** (Poster presentation), April 2009

21. **Vázquez G**, Divani A, Asadollahi M, Qureshi AI, Pullicino P: Frequency and association of coexisting heart failure on stroke outcomes in the United States: 1995-2005, **American Academy of Neurology** (Poster presentation), April 2009

22. **Vázquez G**, Lakshminarayan K, Suri MK, Ezzeddine MA, Qureshi A: Prevalence of elevated blood pressure in adults patients presenting to the emergency department in the United States, **American Academy of Neurology** (Poster presentation), April 2008

23. **Vázquez G**, Duval S, Jacobs DJ, Shaw J, for the CODA Research Group: Risk score models based on obesity measures for screen-detected diabetes in diverse populations: Evidence from the CODA project, **NAASO, The Obesity Society annual scientific meeting** (Poster presentation), October 2007

24. **Vázquez G**, Duval S, Jacobs DJ, Pereira M, for the CODA Research Group: Characterization of cut-points for body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference (WC) as prescreening tools for diabetes in a diverse population: evidence from the CODA project, **SER, Society for Epidemiologic Research meeting 2007 (**Poster presentation), published American Journal of Epidemiology, Suppl 165(11), 2007

25. **Vázquez G**, Duval S, Jacobs DJ, Pereira M, for the CODA Research Group: Evaluation of established body mass index and waist circumference cutoff points for screen-detected diabetes: evidence from the CODA project, **NAASO, The Obesity Society annual scientific meeting 2006** (Poster presentation), *Obesity*, 14 S:A263, 2006

26. **Vázquez G.,** Duval S, Jacobs DJ: Clinical vs. statistical view of the association of waist vs. BMI with incident diabetes: A Literature –based Meta-analysis, **Joint Statistical Meeting 2005** (Poster presentation)

27. **Vázquez G**: Education effect in early childbearing. Analysis of three female generations in Mexico, 1936-1938, 1951-1953 y 1966-1968, **VII Reunion Nacional de Investigacion Demografica en Mexico (SOMEDE) 2004** (poster presentation, published),

28. **Vázquez-Benitez G**: “Nupciality tables, an application of the increment-decrement tables”. INEGI-SOMEDE, *Memorias de la IV Reunión Nacional de Investigación demográfica en México*, México City, 1994 (oral presentation, published).

Community engagement and dissemination

- El Minnesota de Hoy, Covid-19 safety on spontaneous abortion, COVID-19 safety on preterm birth and small for gestational age, vaccine coverage in children during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Marnita's Table, COVID-19 vaccine virtual conversations with Latino community (5 sessions);
- Marnita's Table, COVID-19 vaccine video clip (Spanish version)
- Hispanic Advocacy Community Empowerment through Research (HACER) and El Minnesota de Hoy, COVID-19 vaccine video clip
- HACER and Ramsey County, conversations with the Latino community
- HACER and UNIVISION, COVID-19 vaccine video clip
- Red de Mexicanos en el Exterior, COVID-19 vaccine virtual conversations with Mexican community
- Frente Accion Latinx in Minnesota (FALM), three COVID-19 vaccine community clinics.
- Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), COVID-19 vaccine virtual conversations

REFEREEING SCIENCE AND MERIT COMMITTEES

Merit Reviewer for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI):

Pragmatic Trials, Cycle 3 2014; Pragmatic Trials Cycle 3, 2017; Pragmatic Trials Cycle 3, 2021; Improving Postpartum and maternal Outcomes for Populations experiencing Disparities Cycle 2, 2021

Merit Reviewer for CONACYT:

Ciencia de Datos y Salud, May 2020; Research Fellowship (estancias postdocturales) August 2021

Journals:

PPE, 2022; JPM, 2022; Nature, 2022; AJPM, 2022; IJNSA, 2022; IJMEDI, 2022; Vaccine 2017-present; Pregnancy and Childbirth, 2020; BMJ Open 2017 -present; BMC 2012-present; Machine Learning with Applications 2021; Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics, 2021; Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews, 2021; International Journal of Medical Informatics, 2020; Journal of Integrative Medicine, 2020; Journal of Infectious Disease, 2020; American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2017; Estudios Fronterizos, 2016 and 2017; Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety 2017; Papeles de Poblacion, Mexico, 2014; Diabetes Care, 2013; Journal of American Medical Association, 2009; American Journal of Epidemiology, 2009; Revista de Salud Publica, Mexico, 2014; Tobacco induced diseases, 2015; International Journal of Environmental Research Public Health, 2013; Journal of Vascular and Interventional Neurology, 2008; International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, 2006; Critical Care Medicine, 2009; Reviewer under advisor supervision for Statistics in Medicine (under advisor), 2006, Circulation (under advisor), 2007; BioMed Central (under advisor), 2007

Commitees:

- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) member Health Partners Institute 2017-
- Science Review Committee, offline reviewer, Health Partners Institute 2017-
- Internal Grant Review Committee, Health Partners Institute 2017
- Heath Science Review Committee, internal grants, Health Partners Institute for Education and Research, 2010-2016
- Basic Science Review Committee, internal grant, Health Partners Institute for Education and Research, 2014-2016
- Clinical Science Review Committee, internal grants, Health Partners Institute for Education and Research, 2014-2016

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Community

- Open Cities Board Member and Quality Improvement Chair, Saint Paul MN, 2018-
- Marnitas Café, Covid-19 listening sessions, 2021
- HACER, Ramsey County Public Health (SPRCPH) COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversations, 2021
- Advisory Committee Member Family Centric Health Promotion Program, 2008-2011
- Advisory Committee Member, DREGAN (Tobacco prevention program among Hispanics in Minnesota), consulting for the Qualitative and quantitative research of the diverse racial ethnic groups and nations (DREGAN) project. Tobacco use in Minnesota perspectives from Latino communities, 2005-2008
- Member of the Alliance for Racial and Cultural Health Equity lead by the Center for Cross-Cultural Health, 2009-2011
- APEM (Asociación de Profesionistas y Empresarios Mexicanos en Minnesota), 2009- 2011
- Red Global, Capitulo Minnesota, Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior, 2014-

Professional

- HCSRN (former HMORN), 2011-
- SER (Society for Epidemiologic Research), 2006-present
- Twin Cities Chapter of the American Statistical Association 2015-present
- AHA (American Heart Association), 2009-
- ASA (American Statistical Association), 2004-
- NAASO, The Obesity Society, 2006-
- SOMEDE (Mexican Demographic Association), 1988-
- Minnesota Epilepsy Disparity Work Group, 2008-2010

SKILLS

Statistical and computing

- Extensive experience in managing large databases, and data collection, and use of RedCap for building and managing online surveys and databases
- Experience in working with Public Databases for social and health science including MEDICARE data, Census microdata, NHANES, NIS, HRS,
- Experience in working with health records, MEDICAID, MEDICARE, medical and dental (EHR) and claims data
- Proficiency in data analysis and programming in SAS system (IML, MACRO, REPORT, STAT), Splus/R, SPSS, Winbugs, AMOS, MPLUS, STATA,
- Excellent working knowledge of spreadsheets, word processors, LATEX, graphics, Microsoft publisher, and internet browsing software, reference software
- Excellent working knowledge of Windows, UNIX, VAX platforms

Language proficiency

Spanish

April 3, 2023