CURRICULUM VITAE

KARLA SOFIA MÉNDEZ

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES
UTHEALTH HOUSTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
5130 GATEWAY EAST BLVD
EL PASO, TEXAS, 79905

Office Number: 915-975-8533 E-mail: Karla.Mendez@uth.tmc.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
School of Public Health
Major: Environmental Disease Prevention
Minor: Epidemiology
Dissertation: "Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment of Water Reuse"
Advisor: Dr. Kristina Mena

M.P.H. University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
School of Public Health
Customized: Epidemiology

B.S. University of Texas at El Paso
Biological Sciences

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Non-Tenure Track

2022 - Present

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Department

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

Graduate Teaching Associate

2020 - 2022

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Department

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2018 - 2020

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Department

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

Research Assistant 2019 – 2021

Obstetrics and Gynecology Department

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, TX

Fall Intern 2018

Clinical Trials Department Medical Center of the Americas Foundation, El Paso, TX

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Water Quality
- Quantitative Risk Assessment
- Water Resources Management
- Environmental Public Health
- Border Health
- Infectious Disease

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 1. Kahn, D., Chen, W., Linden, Y., Corbeil, K. A., Lowry, S., Higham, C. A., **Mendez, K. S.**, Burch, P., DiFondi, T., Verhougstraete, M., De Roos, A. J., Haas, C. N., Gerba, C., & Hamilton, K. A. (2024). A microbial risk assessor's guide to Valley Fever (Coccidioides spp.): Case study and review of risk factors. The Science of the Total Environment, 917, 170141–170141. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.17014.
- 2. Gitter, A., Mena, K.D., **Mendez, K.S.,** Wu, F., & Gerba, C.P. (2024). Eye Infection Risks from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* via hand soap and eye drops. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*. 90(4), e02119- 23. doi: 10.1128/aem.02119-23.
- 3. Gitter, A., Boellstorff, D.E., Gholson, D. M., Pieper, K.J., Mena, K.D., **Mendez, K.S.** & Gentry, T.J. (2023). Texas well user stewardship practices three years after Hurricane Harvey. *Water*. 15(22), 3943. https://doi.org/10.3390/w15223943.
- 4. Radtke, S. J., Umeh, R., Chavez, M., Curiel, Z., & **Mendez, K.** (2020). Telemedicine for Delivery of Postoperative Care Following Minimally-Invasive Gynecologic Surgery: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology*, *27*(7), S113. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmig.2020.08.179.
- 5. Knell, G., Robertson, M. C., Dooley, E. E., Burford, K., & **Mendez, K. S.** (2020). Health Behavior Changes During COVID-19 Pandemic and Subsequent "Stay-at-Home" Orders. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, *17*(17), 6268. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17176268

<u>Publications Under Review</u>

 Cancer Screening and Vaccination Uptake Among Healthy Fit Participants: Intervention Outcomes and Antecedents in a Hispanic Population. *Journal of Community Health* (Submitted). Lopez, D.I., Mendez, K.S. & Brown, L.D.

TEACHING

TEACHING	
 Co-Instructor (90%): PHM 2135L/PHD 2135L 	Spring 2023
Risk Analysis – Principles and Practice	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2110L	Spring 2023
Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment	
 Co-Instructor (90%): PHM 2110L 	Summer 2023
Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment	
 Co-Instructor (80%): PHM 2110L 	Summer 2023
Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment	
 Co-Instructor (50%): PHM 2496 	Fall 2023
Capstone for EOHS Students	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2110L	Fall 2023
Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment	
 Co-Instructor (50%): PHD 2105L 	Fall 2023
EOHS Doctoral Seminar	
 Co-Instructor (33.30%): PHM 2996 	Spring 2024
Capstone for EPID Students	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2496	Spring 2024
Capstone for EOHS Students	
 Instructor (100%): PHM 2135L/PHD 2135L 	Spring 2024
Risk Analysis – Principles and Practice	
• Co-Instructor (50%): PHD 2105L	Spring 2024
EOHS Doctoral Seminar	
• Instructor (100%): PH 2491	Summer 2024
Public Health Preparedness & Disaster Response	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2496	Fall 2024
Capstone for EOHS Students	
• Co-Instructor (50%): PHD 2105L	Fall 2024
EOHS Doctoral Seminar	- 44 - 0 - 4
• Preceptor (100%): PHM 9997	Fall 2024
Practicum	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2135L/PHD 2135L	Spring 2025
Risk Analysis – Principles and Practice	a
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2496	Spring 2025

Capstone for EOHS Students	
• Co-Instructor (50%): PHD 2105L	Spring 2025
EOHS Doctoral Seminar	1 8
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2110L	Spring 2025
Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment	1 &
• Preceptor (100%): PHM 9997	Spring 2025
Practicum	1 &
• Instructor (100%): PH 2491	Summer 2025
Public Health Preparedness & Disaster Response	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2110	Summer 2025
Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment	
Dissertation Advisor: PHD 9999	Summer 2025
Dissertation Research	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2496	Fall 2025
Capstone for EOHS Students	
• Instructor (100%): PHD 2105L	Fall 2025
EOHS Doctoral Seminar	
 Dissertation Advisor: PHD 9999 	Fall 2025
Dissertation Research	
• Thesis Advisor: PHM 9998	Fall 2025
Thesis Research	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2496	Spring 2026
Capstone for EOHS Students	
• Instructor (100%): PHD 2105L	Spring 2026
EOHS Doctoral Seminar	
• Instructor (100%): PHM 2135L/PHD 2135L	Spring 2026
Risk Analysis – Principles and Practice	

INVITED PRESENTATIONS/PANELS

Pediatric Environmental Health Grand Rounds

Sept 18, 2025

Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health Region 6 Webcast Speaker

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, TX

Presentation Title: Water Reuse: Benefits and Risks to the Community (Mendez, K.S.)

Society, Community and the Individual (SCI) Invited Speaker

August 1, 2024

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, TX

Environmental Health Session – Presentation given to 1st year Medical and Dental Students Presentation Title: Environmental Hazards

QMRA Flash Talk Invited Speaker

June 11, 2024

The Microbial Risk Assessment Specialty Group

Presentation Title: Application of Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment in Water Reuse

El Paso County Medical Society Invited Speaker

April 18, 2024

El Paso, TX

Presentation Title: Water and Public Health: Benefits and Risks to the Community (Trejo, G., Ocaranza, H., **Mendez, K.**)

Women in STEM Conference Invited Panel Participant

April 12, 2024

She Creates, El Paso, TX

Society, Community and the Individual (SCI) Invited Speaker

August 3, 2023

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, TX

Environmental Health Session – Presentation given to 1st year Medical and Dental Students Presentation Title: Environmental Hazards

Young Women's Empowerment Conference Invited Panel Participant May 18, 2023 The Southwest Women's Leadership Institute, El Paso, TX

Pediatric Environmental Health Elective Course Webcast Speaker

Sept 13, 2022

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, TX

Presentation Title: Water Reuse – What Are the Risks?

2022 Virtual Bioscience Poster Session

Feb 22, 2022

Medical Center of the Americas Foundation, El Paso, TX

Poster Title: Reusing Water for Drinking Water: What Are the Risks?

Pediatric Environmental Health Grand Rounds

July 15, 2021

Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health Region 6 Webcast Speaker

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, TX

Presentation Title: Water Reuse – What Are the Risks? (Mena, K., Mendez, K.S.)

Water Reuse Webcast – Communicating about Potable Reuse and Public Health: Tools for Success; Webcast Speaker

Feb 17, 2021

WaterReuse Association

Presentation Title: What Are the Risks to Resiliency? (Mena, K., Mendez, K.S.)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Universities Council on Water Resources Conference

June 2025

Title: Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment of Water Reuse

Presenters: Mendez, K.

WateReuse 2024 Symposium

March 2024

Title: Engaging the Medical & Public Health Community in Water Reuse Presenters: Mendez, K., Montoya, C., Trejo, G., Ocaranza, H., Perkison, B.

WateReuse 2022 Symposium

March 2022

Title: Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment of Water Reuse

Presenters: Mendez, K.

ROUNDTABLES

Executive Roundtable on El Paso's Water Future

September 2023

El Paso Water

MEDIA

Univision Houston June 8, 2025

Recorded interview in Spanish regarding the amoeba Naegleria fowleri in Texas

SERVICE - UTHEALTH HOUSTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CEPH Accreditation Steering Committee Member

2024 – Current

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Representative The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

MD/MPH Dual Degree Program Director

August 2024 – Current

with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine El Paso, TX

DMD/MPH Dual Degree Program Director

August 2024 – Current

with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine, El Paso, TX

Preliminary Exam Chair

2023 – Current

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Department The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

School-wide Course Review Committee

2023 - Current

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Chair

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

Academic Advisory Committee

2023 – Current

Previously named Academic Council

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Representative

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

Admissions Committee Member

2023 - Current

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Department

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

Curriculum Coordinator

August 2023 – Current

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Department

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

El Paso Campus Scholarship Committee

2023 – Current

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

Southwest Center for Occupational & Environmental Health Member 2023 – Current The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

Curriculum Committee Member

Jan. - July 2023

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Department

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health

SERVICE - LOCAL COMMUNITY

Board Member 2024 – Current

Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC)

Coordinator of Medical Community Engagement in Water Reuse 2023 – Current **Initiative** with El Paso Water. El Paso, TX.

SHPEtinas STEM Mentor

September – December 2025

University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers/Latinos in Science and Engineering

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Reviewer May 2023 – Current

- JMIR Public Health and Surveillance
- Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education

Reviewer May 2023

NIOSH Pilot Projects Research Training Program

Participant July – August 2022

Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment Interdisciplinary Vehicle (QMRA IV)

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Mentors: Chuck Haas, Ph.D., NAE, BCEEM, LD Betz Professor of Environmental Engineering, Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Drexel University.

Kerry Hamilton, Ph.D., M.H.S., Associate Professor, School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, Arizona State University

STUDENT ADVISING

Student Name	Degree	Role	Institution
Kyla Miller	MPH (2025-ongoing)	Thesis Supervisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Azeez Abdul	MPH (2025-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Kyler K. Beaty	MPH (2025-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Paola F. Cuamea	MPH (2025-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Alexandra Gomez	MPH (2025-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Muskaan Jaiswal	MPH (2025-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Stephanie Ann	MPH (2025-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Rodriguez			
Christian C. Burris*	MPH (2025)	Practicum Mentor & Preceptor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Allan Stockton*	MPH (2025)	Practicum Mentor &	UTHealth Houston SPH
		Preceptor	
Abida Anwar*	MPH (2025)	Practicum Mentor &	UTHealth Houston SPH
		Preceptor	
Mahmoud K. Diallo	Ph.D. (2024-ongoing)	Dissertation Chair	UTHealth Houston SPH
Dionibe Some	Ph.D. (2023-ongoing)	Academic Advisor &	UTHealth Houston SPH
		Dissertation Committee	
		Member	
Dina Fayed*	MPH (2023-2024)	Academic Advisor &	UTHealth Houston SPH
		Practicum Preceptor	
Olatunde A.	MPH (2024)	Mentor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Oladipupo*			
Andrea Aguirre	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Galeano V etherine M	Dl. D. (2024 angaing)	A d A d Q-	LITII a 141, II aveta a CDII
Katherine M.	Ph.D. (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor & Dissertation Committee	UTHealth Houston SPH
Joseph		Member	
Ezequiel Acevedo	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Andrew Bao	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Ellie Cherryhomes	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Sangavai Senthil	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Kumar	Till (202 + oligoling)	1 Toutenine 1 Idvisor	C I I Cui i I I Custon SI II
Meg Lawrence	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Karen Pineda	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Ananya Potu	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Brandon Ta	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Teresa	MPH (2024-ongoing)	Academic Advisor	UTHealth Houston SPH
Valenciahuerta			

*Graduated