Karla Unger-Saldaña, MD, DSc

Curriculum Vitae, Sep 2026

PRESENT TITLE:
Assistant Professor
Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health
1960 Old Spanish Trail, Suite 832.07; Houston, Texas 77054
Email: karla.ungersaldana@uth.tmc.edu

CITIZENSHIP:
Mexican

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

Medical Doctor
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Mexico
1996 – 2004

GRADUATE EDUCATION:

Doctor in Science (Health Sciences)
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
2007 – 2012

Master in Science (Health Sciences)
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
2005 – 2007

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING:

Postdoctoral Fellowship – Takemi Program in International Health
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA
2020 – 2021

Training in Implementation & Dissemination Science (TIDIRC)
National Cancer Institute, USA
2020

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Econometrics
CIDE (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas), Mexico
2013-2014

ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

Assistant Professor (Tenure Track)
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
2025 – Present

Researcher (equivalent to Non-Tenured Assistant Professor)
Mexican National Cancer Institute
National Council of Science and Technology Researcher
2014 – 2025

Coordinator of Community Programs
Mexican Association against Breast Cancer (Fundación Cima)
2009 – 2014

LICENSURE:

Medical License (Mexico), Professional License No. 4506353

HONORS AND AWARDS:

National Researcher Recognition (Mexico)
Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI), Level I
2014 – Present

Scholarships for Graduate and Postgraduate Studies
Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT)
2005 – 2009 & 2013 – 2014

Award for Most Distinguished Graduate
Master in Science Program, UNAM (National University of Mexico)
2007

Honors in Medical School (GPA 3.8 / 94–100 scale)
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey
2004

CURRENT GRANT SUPPORT:

1. **Multiple Principal Investigator**, LISTOS (Leveraging Implementation Science To Optimize Strategies) for Cancer Control. NIH National Cancer Institute U54-CA284109 (2023–2028). $4,951,657
2. **Co-Investigator,** Power in Motion: Implementing the LISTOS-TX Physical Activity Assessment, Prescription and Referral for Cancer Prevention and Control (2026-2027). $150,000

PAST GRANT SUPPORT:

3. **Co-investigator**. *Help seeking trajectories of women with breast cancer.* Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), Mexico. (2008 – 2010) $30,000
4. **Principal Investigator**. *Time intervals and barriers to timely care among people with cancers of the breast, cervix uteri, testicle and prostate*. Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), Mexico. (2016 – 2018) $50,000
5. **Co-Investigator**. *Feasibility of colorectal cancer screening based on existing primary prevention activities in Mexico City.* Prevent Cancer Foundation, USA. (2019 – 2020) $100,000
6. **Principal Investigator**. *Improving efficiency to reduce delays to treatment start of breast cancer patients referred to the Mexican National Cancer Institute.* All.Can Initiative, Mexico. (2023 – 2025) $85,000

PUBLICATIONS

(*Indicates student, postdoc, or junior faculty authors on studies in which Dr. Unger was senior author)

A. Refereed Original Articles in Journals

1. Pruefer FG, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Mohamier L, Ramírez M, Suárez J, Ramirez MT, Maldonado V, Meléndez-Zajgla J. Tumor HGF lacks prognostic significance in Mexican breast cancer patients. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res.* 2006;25(3):357-364.
2. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Infante-Castañeda C. Delay of Medical Care for Symptomatic Breast Cancer: A Literature Review. *Salud Pública de México.* 2009;51(S2):S270-S285.
3. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Infante-Castañeda C. Breast cancer delay: a grounded model of help-seeking behaviour. *Social Science and Medicine.* 2011;72(7):1096-1104.
4. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Pelaéz-Ballestas I, Infante-Castañeda C. Development and validation of a questionnaire to assess delay in treatment for breast cancer. *BMC Cancer.* 2012;12:626.
5. Goss PE, Lee BL, Badovinac-Crnjevic T, Strasser-Weippl K, Chavarri-Guerra Y, St Louis J, Villarreal-Garza C, **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. Planning cancer control in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Lancet Oncology.* 2013;14(5):391-436.
6. **Unger-Saldaña K.** Challenges to the early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer in developing countries. *World Journal of Clinical Oncology.* 2014;5(3):465-477.
7. Aggarwal A, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Lewison G, Sullivan R. The challenge of cancer in middle-income countries with an ageing population: Mexico as a case study. *Ecancermedicalscience.* 2015;9:536.
8. Strasser-Weippl K, Chavarri-Guerra Y, Villarreal-Garza C, Bychkovsky BL, Debiasi M, Liedke PE, Soto-Perez-de-Celis E, Dizon D, Cazap E, de Lima Lopes G Jr, Touya D, Nunes JS, St Louis J, Vail C, Bukowski A, Ramos-Elias P, **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. Progress and remaining challenges for cancer control in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Lancet Oncology.* 2015;16(14):1405-1438.
9. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Miranda A, Zarco-Espinosa G, Mainero-Ratchelous F, Bargallo-Rocha E, Lázaro-León JM. Health system delay and its effect on clinical stage of breast cancer: a multicenter study. *Cancer.* 2015;121:2198-2206.

10. **Unger-Saldaña** K, Ventosa-Santaulària D, Miranda A, Verduzco-Bustos G. Barriers and explanatory mechanisms of delays in the patient and diagnosis intervals of care for breast cancer. The Oncologist. 2018;23(4):440–453.
11. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Fitch-Picos K, Villarreal-Gaza K. Breast cancer diagnostic delays among young Mexican women are associated with a lack of suspicion by health care providers at first presentation. *Journal of Global Oncology.* 2019;5:JGO.19.00093.
12. Villarreal-Garza C, Lopez-Martinez EA, Muñoz-Lozano JF, **Unger-Saldaña K**. Locally advanced breast cancer in young women in Latin America. *Ecancermedicalscience.* 2019;13:894.
13. Rositch A, **Unger-Saldaña K**, DeBoer RJ, Nganga A, Weiner B. The role of dissemination and implementation science in global breast cancer control programs: frameworks, methods and examples. *Cancer.* 2020;126(Suppl 10):2394-2404.
14. Ginsburg O, Yip CH, Brooks A, Cabanes A, Caleffi M, **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. Breast cancer early detection: a phased approach to implementation. *Cancer.* 2020;126(Suppl 10):2379-2393.
15. Duggan C, Dvaladze A, Rositch AF, Ginsburg O, Yip CH, Horton S, Camacho Rodriguez R, Eniu A, Mutebi M, Bourque JM, Masood S, **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. The Breast Health Global Initiative 2018 Global Summit on improving breast healthcare through resource-stratified phased implementation: methods and overview. *Cancer.* 2020;126(Suppl 10):2339-2352.
16. Mutebi M, Anderson BO, Duggan C, Adebamowo C, Agarwal G, Ali Z, Bird P, Bourque JM, DeBoer R, Gebrim LH, Masetti R, Masood S, Menon M, Nakigudde G, Ng'ang'a A, Niyonzima N, Rositch AF, **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. Breast cancer treatment: a phased approach to implementation. *Cancer.* 2020;126(Suppl 10):2365-2378.
17. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Saldaña-Téllez M, Potter M, Van Loon K, Allen-Leigh B, Lajous M. Barriers and facilitators for colorectal cancer screening. *Implementation Science Communications.* 2020;1:64.
18. Koo MM, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Mwaka AD, Corbex M, Ginsburg O, Walter FM, et al. Conceptual framework to guide early diagnosis programs for symptomatic cancer as part of global cancer control. *Journal of Global Oncology.* 2021;7:35-45.
19. Lewison G, Owen GI, Gomez H, Cazap E, Murillo R, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Dreyer M, Tsunoda A, Jiménez de la Jara J. Cancer research in Latin America 2014–2019 and its disease burden. *Journal of Scientometric Research.* 2021;10(1s):S21-S31.
20. Van Loon K, Mohar A, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Potter MP, Sweet-Cordero A, Breithaupt L, Espinosa-Tamez P, Sepúlveda-Amor J, Lajous M. Developing a collaborative partnership for cancer control in Mexico. *Salud Pública de México.* 2022;64(1):100-104.
21. Manzano-Robleda MC, Espinosa-Tamez P, Potter MB, Hernández-Guerrero A, Van Loon K, **Unger-Saldaña K**. Capacidad de colonoscopías diagnósticas en la Ciudad de México. *Salud Pública de México.* 2022;64(1):106-108.
22. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Contreras-Manzano A, Lamadrid-Figueroa H, Mohar A, Suazo-Zepeda E, Espinosa-Tamez P, Lajous M, Reich M. Reduction in the treatment gap for breast cancer in Mexico under Seguro Popular, 2007–2016. *Health Systems & Reform.* 2022;8(1).
23. McClellan SP, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Neuhaus JM, Potter MB, García-Peña C, Torres JM. Mammography prevalence in Mexico from 2001–2018: results from the Mexican Health and Aging Study. *Preventive Medicine Reports.* 2023;32:102150.
24. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Arroyo-Valerio A, Turrubiates GS, Gómez-Navarro JA, Bargalló-Rocha E, Quintero-Beuló G, Isla-Ortiz D, Jiménez-Ríos MÁ, García HAM, Salgado IRL, Mohar A.

Time intervals to care and health service use experiences of uninsured cancer patients treated under public financing in Mexico City. *Cancer Epidemiology.* 2023;84:102366.

25. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Bandala-Jacques A, Huerta-González R, Zamora-Muñoz S, Hernández-Ávila JE, Cabrera-Galeana P, Mohar A, Lajous M. Breast cancer survival in Mexico between 2007 and 2016 in women without social security. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas.* 2023;23:100541.
26. Ginsburg O, Vanderpuye V, Beddoe AM, Bhoo-Pathy N, Bray F, Caduff C, Florez N, Fadhil I, Hammad N, Heidari S, Kataria I, Kumar S, Liebermann E, Moodley J, Mutebi M, Mukherji D, Nugent R, So WKW, Soto-Perez-de-Celis E, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Allman G, Bhimani J, Bourlon MT, Eala MAB, Hovmand PS, Kong YC, Menon S, Taylor CD, Soerjomataram I. Women, power, and cancer: a Lancet Commission. *Lancet.* 2023;402(10417):2113-2166.
27. McLeod M, Torode J, Leung K, Bhoo-Pathy N, Booth C, Chakowa J, Gralow J, Ilbawi A, Jassem J, Parkes J, Mallafré-Larrosa M, Mutebi M, Pramesh CS, Sengar M, Tsunoda A, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Vanderpuye V, Yusuf A, Sullivan R, Aggarwal A. Quality indicators for evaluating cancer care in low-income and middle-income country settings: a multinational modified Delphi study. *Lancet Oncology.* 2024;25(2):e63-e72.
28. *Saldaña-Téllez M, Meneses-Navarro S, Cano-Garduño L, **Unger-Saldaña K**. Barriers and facilitators for breast cancer early diagnosis in an indigenous community in Mexico: voices of otomí women. *BMC Women's Health.* 2024;24(1):33.
29. *Ramli FI, Thokala P, Tong T, **Unger-Saldaña K**. Understanding breast cancer patient pathways and their impact on survival in Mexico. *Journal of Cancer Policy.* 2024;40:100482.
30. Trias-Llimós S, Rentería E, Rutigliano R, Aggarwal A, Moodley J, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Soerjomataram I. Deciphering the sex gap in global life expectancy: the impact of female-specific cancers 1990–2019. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute.* 2024;116(12):1934-1941.
31. Rodin G, Feldman A, Trapani D, Skelton M, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Essue B, Pihlak R, Walshe C, Rosa WE, Banegas MP, Zambrano-Lucio M, Salah Daood R, Aggarwal A, Dewachi O, Shapiro GK, Munisamy M, Rajah HDA, Atreya S, Dhyani VS, Kong YC, Mathew M, Ochoa-Domínguez CY, Rao AP, Rao SR, Simha S, Preston N, Lam WWT, Davis H, Zimmermann C, Namisango E, Ntizimira C, Smyth E, Li M, Salins N, Bhoo-Pathy N, Sullivan R. The human crisis in cancer: a Lancet Oncology Commission. *Lancet Oncology.* 2025;S1470-2045(25)00530-3.
32. Garton EM, Allman G, Bae HS, Duncan K, Fadhil I, Hammad N, Heidari S, Liebermann E, Mallafré-Larrosa M, Moodley J, Nugent R, Soerjomataram I, Taylor CD, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Vanderpuye V, Ginsburg O. A proposed framework for monitoring and evaluating progress at the intersection of women, power, and cancer. Lancet. 2025 May 10;405(10490):1713-1716.
33. *Zambrano-Lucio M, Bhoo-Pathy N, Menon S, Huang Z, **Unger-Saldaña K**. Scoping review protocol of person- and patient-centred outcomes in cancer clinical trials: definitions and methodologies. *BMJ Open.* 2025;15:e100388.
34. *Espinosa-Tamez P, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Saldaña-Téllez M, López-Gutiérrez G, Sanchez-Blas H, Robles-Gonzalez LM, Hernández-Guerrero A, Del Carmen Manzano-Robleda M, de Jesús Martínez-Martínez F, Meneses-Medina MI, Potter MB, Lajous M. Feasibility of Providing Colorectal Cancer Screening in the Context of Door-to-Door Vaccination Activities in Mexico City. *JCO Glob Oncol*. 2025 Dec;11:e2500321.
35. Smith GM, Bergerot C, Epstein AS, Nelson JE, Salins N, Bhat VK, Lewis S, Skelton JM, Parikh RB, Bhoo-Pathy N, Borda J, Essue B, Fernandez-Gonzalez L, Li M, Preston N, Shapiro GK, Trapani D, Li M, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Walshe C, Zimmerman C, Sullivan R,

Rodin G, Rosa WE. Prioritizing human-centered cancer care in a digital era. *eClinicalMedicine,* 2026 Jan 18:91:103695

36. *Mayo-Hernández G, Heredia Pi IB, Zambrano-Lucio M, Paredes-López L, Ortiz-Rodríguez S, **Unger Saldaña K**. Care intervals and proportion of advanced breast cancer patients at the National Cancer Institute (in Spanish). *Salud Publica Mex*. 2026 (in press).
37. Jardim B, Mosquera-Metcalfe I, Bautista-Gonzalez E, **Unger-Saldana K**, Lopes-Carvalho A. Breast cancer screening in Mexico: mammography capacity needs under alternative coverage scenarios. *Salud Publica Mex*, 2026 (in press).
38. *Torres-Ibarra L, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Sánchez-Blas H, Galván-Estrada IG, Fernández ME. Applying implementation science frameworks to improve cancer control programs: an illustrative case study. *Salud Publica Mex*, 2026 (in press).

B. Invited Articles (Reviews, Editorials, Commentaries)

1. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Lajous M, Reich MR. Improving health system performance in Mexico. *Lancet*. 2023 Aug 26;402(10403):674–676. (Invited Commentary)
2. Rodin G, Skelton M, Bhoo-Pathy N, Dewachi O, Li M, Trapani D, Smyth E, Banegas M, Salins N, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Zimmermann C, Sullivan R. Establishing a Lancet Oncology Commission on the humanitarian crisis of cancer. *Lancet Oncology*. 2023;24(8):835–837. (Commentary)
3. Moodley J, **Unger-Saldaña K**. The role of racial and ethnic discrimination in breast cancer disparities. *Lancet*. 2024 Apr 12:S0140-6736(24)00699-8. (Invited Commentary)
4. Bhoo-Pathy N, Taylor C, **Unger-Saldaña K**. Operationalizing patient-centered cancer care in low- and middle-income countries. *Cell Reports Medicine*. 2024 May 21;5(5):101517. (Commentary)
5. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Ginsburg O, Langer A, Moodley J. We need a broader perspective on innovations to advance a women and health agenda. *British Medical Journal*. 2025 Jul 30;390:r1489. (Invited Commentary)
6. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Lajous M, Potter M, Balasubramanian B, Fernandez ME. Strengthening Cancer Control Through Implementation Science in Mexico: The LISTOS Center. *Salud Publica Mex*, 2026 (in press).

C. Book chapters

1. Verástegui Avilés E**, Unger-Saldaña K**. Consideraciones Inmunológicas en el paciente con cáncer. En: *Medicina perioperatoria en el paciente con cáncer.* Mexico City, Mexico: Manual Moderno; 2006. Chapter 10: 50–59. ISBN: 970-729-229-6.
2. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Infante-Castañeda C. Is breast cancer delay really the patient's fault? In: Deng M, Raia F, Vaccarella M (eds.). *Relational Concepts in Medicine*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Inter-Disciplinary Press; 2011. ISBN: 978-1-84888-073-3.
3. Unger-Rubin K, **Unger-Saldaña K**. Salud, competitividad y territorio: Seguro Popular y su impacto sobre las condiciones de producción en las entidades mexicanas, 1998–2008. En: Hernández-Trillo F (ed.). *Seguridad social universal: Retos para su implementación en México*. Ciudad de México, México: Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, A.C.; 2012. ISBN: 978-607-7843-21-4.
4. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Infante-Castañeda C. Barreras de acceso para la atención médica oportuna del cáncer de mama. En: Lazcano-Ponce E, Escudero de los Ríos P, Uscanga-

Sánchez SR (eds.). *Cáncer de mama. Diagnóstico, tratamiento, prevención y control.* Cuernavaca, México: Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública; 2014. ISBN: 978-607-511-140-7.

5. **Unger-Saldaña K.** Limitaciones de los servicios de salud pública en la atención del cáncer de mama. Retos y oportunidades. En: Sánchez-Forgach ER, Sánchez-Basurto C, Erazo-Franco MA (eds.). *Cáncer de mama: actualidades y controversias*. Ciudad de México, México: Editorial Alfil; 2015. ISBN: 978-607-741-134-5.
6. Mutebi M, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Ginsburg O. Breast cancer: burden, epidemiology and priority interventions. In: Banatlava N, Bovet P (eds.). *Noncommunicable Diseases: A Compendium*. 1st ed. London, United Kingdom: Routledge; 2023. ISBN: 9781003306689

E. Other Professional Communications

Oral Presentations

a) International Oral Presentations

1. Challenges for early cancer diagnosis in developing countries. *World Cancer Congress*, UICC (International Union against Cancer), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 2018.
2. Health system delays and stage at breast cancer diagnosis. *Breast Health Global Initiative Global Summit*, Seattle, WA, United States. 2018.
3. Delays and health service use experience of uninsured cancer patients treated at two federal hospitals in Mexico. Invited keynote lecture.*12th Annual Cancer and Primary Care Research International Network (Ca-PRI) Conference,* Toronto, Canada. May 22, 2019.
4. Strengthening early cancer diagnosis in Latin America. Regional Cancer Control Meeting, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Virtual. 2021.
5. The importance of strengthening primary care for cancer control. *9th Annual Symposium on Global Cancer Research*. National Cancer Institute, USA (Virtual event), 2021.
6. Patient-centered cancer care pathways in Latin America. *International Cancer Policy Conference*, Virtual. 2023.
7. Integrating Care for Rapid Breast Cancer Diagnosis in Mexico: A Mixed-Methods Needs Assessment to Inform Implementation. *Ca-PRI 2026 Conference*. Uthrecht, Netherlands, 2026.
8. From Documenting Gaps to Co-Designing Systems Change: How my participation in the Lancet Commission on Women, Cancer and Power deepened my understanding of gender barriers in cancer care. *IARC 60th Anniversary Conference*. Lyon, France, 2026.
9. Implementation Science to reduce diagnostic delays in Breast Cancer (in Spanish). *City Cancer Challenge Implementation Science Workshop* in Rosario, Argentina, 2026.

b) National Oral Presentations (Mexico)

1. Barriers to Timely Medical Care among Women with Breast Cancer.
   Oral presentation. *International Seminar "Breast Cancer: Challenges and Responses",* Tómatelo a Pecho Association. Mexico City, Mexico. January 2008.
2. Breast cancer early diagnosis and delays in Mexico. *National Forum on Women's Health*, Mexico City, Mexico. 2008.
3. Barriers to Medical Care for Mexican Women with Breast Cancer.
   XIV Clinical Radiology Course in Breast Cancer. Mexico City, Mexico. 2009.

4. Barriers to timely breast cancer diagnosis in low-resource settings. *National Cancer Prevention Meeting*, Mexico City, Mexico. 2009.
5. Delays in breast cancer diagnosis: patient and health system perspectives. *National Institute of Public Health (INSP) Seminar Series*, Cuernavaca, Mexico. 2010.
6. Social determinants of breast cancer care. *University Forum of International's Nursing Day*. National School of Nursing, UNAM. Mexico City, 2010.
7. Access barriers to breast cancer care in Mexico. *Mexican Ministry of Health Technical Meeting*, Mexico City, Mexico. 2011.
8. Breast cancer delay and health system performance in middle-income countries. *National Congress of Public Health*, INSP, Cuernavaca, Mexico. 2012.
9. Barriers to Timely Medical Care for Breast Cancer. *First National Forum of Patients with Cancer in Mexico: "Voice of Cancer"*. National Museum of Anthropology Auditorium. Mexico City, Mexico. 2013.
10. Diagnostic Delay and Its Relationship with Clinical Stage of Breast Cancer. *General Hospital Grand Rounds Session*. Mexico. 2013.
11. Barriers to Timely Diagnosis and Treatment of Women with Breast Cancer. Invited lecture. *Advanced Breast Cancer Meeting for Non-Governmental Organizations.* Crown Plaza Hotel at the World Trade Center. Mexico City. 2013.
12. Impact of Diagnostic Delay on Breast Cancer in Mexico. *Division of Economics Seminar Series.* CIDE, Mexico. 2014.
13. Innovation as a Driver of Change in Survival and Quality of Life. *Forum "Technological Advances in the Fight Against Breast Cancer"*. Legislative Palace of San Lázaro. Mexico City. 2014.
14. Impact of Delays in Medical Care on Clinical Stage of Breast Cancer. *Forum "Understanding the Needs of Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer".* Organized by Fundacion Cima and Fundacion Rebeca de Alba. Mexico City. 2015.
15. Policies, Resources, and Programs for Breast Cancer in Mexico. (Invited lecture in the course "Health Policies, Resources and Programs"). Master's Program in Health Policy and Management. National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Mexico City. 2015.
16. Health Care-Seeking Pathways of Women with Breast Cancer in Mexico. (Invited lecture in the course "Social Processes: Formalizations, Theorization, and Practices". Colegio de Mexico (Colmex). Mexico City, 2015.
17. Delays in Medical Care for Breast Cancer. Epidemiology Seminar Series. Mexican National Cancer Institute (INCan). Mexico City. 2015.
18. Breast Cancer Care in Mexico: Challenges and Opportunities. Public Health Seminar Series. Faculty of Medicine, UNAM. Mexico City. 2015.
19. Health System Delays and Their Effect on Clinical Stage of Breast Cancer. National Center for Gender Equity and Reproductive Health (CNEGSR). *Midterm Review Meeting of the Women's Cancer Action Program 2013–2018*. Monterrey, Mexico. 2016.
20. Early breast cancer diagnosis programs in resource-limited settings. *Academic Seminar*, National Cancer Institute (INCan), Mexico City. 2016.
21. Impact of Delays in Care on the Clinical Stage of Breast Cancer. Roundtable discussion organized by Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Monterrey, Mexico. 2016.
22. Impact of Healthcare Timeliness on Breast Cancer Survival. *World Breast Cancer Day Forum, Mexican Senate*. Mexico City. 2016.

23. Breast Cancer Care in Mexico: Challenges and Opportunities. Monthly Meeting of Epidemiology, Health Jurisdiction of Tlalpan. Mexico City. 2016.
24. Health System Delays and Their Effect on Clinical Stage of Breast Cancer. *First Evaluation Meeting of the Care Model at UNEME DEDICAM, Center for Organized Invitation (CIOS) and Emotional Support Program.* Querétaro, Mexico, 2016.
25. From early detection to timely treatment of breast cancer in Mexico. *Congress: Advances in Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment*, FUCAM, Mexico City, 2017.
26. From early detection to early treatment: challenges and opportunities in Mexico. *First Women's Health Conference*, Campeche, Mexico. 2017.
27. Breast cancer care pathways and delays in Mexico. *National Meeting on Cancer Care Quality* organized by the Ministry of Health, Mexico City. 2018.
28. Challenges and Implications of Timely Referral in Patients with Suspected Breast Cancer. *XLII National Congress of Internal Medicine*, Mexico City. 2019.
29. Seminar "Introduction to Implementation Science for Cancer Control". National Institute of Public Health (INSP), Cuernavaca, Mexico City. 2019.
30. Applying implementation science to cancer control programs. *National Cancer Institute of Mexico Grand Rounds Meeting*. Mexico City, 2020.
31. Care-Seeking Pathways for Timely Diagnosis and Treatment of Cervical Cancer Patients. Public Health Seminar Series. Faculty of Medicine, UNAM. Mexico City. 2020.
32. Cancer care pathways and diagnostic delays in Mexico. *National Cancer Control Technical Meeting*, Mexican Ministry of Health, Mexico City, Mexico. 2021.
33. Early diagnosis and timely access to quality treatment as key components of Breast Cancer control. *Mi lucha es rosa* 2021, Fundación IMSS, Mexico City, 2021.
34. Implementation science approaches to improve cancer outcomes. Cancer *Research Seminar Series,* National Cancer Institute (INCan), Mexico City. 2021.
35. Improving health system performance for cancer control in Mexico. *Health Systems Research Seminar*, National Institute of Public Health (INSP), Cuernavaca, Mexico. 2021.
36. Strategies to reduce diagnostic delays in breast cancer. *National Breast Cancer Symposium*, Mexico City. 2023.
37. Programs to strengthen breast cancer early diagnosis. *National Meeting on Early Cancer Detection*, Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS), Mexico City, 2024.
38. Closing the Gap in Cancer Control: Translating Research into Real-World Practice. *National Cancer Congress*. Sociedad Mexicana de Oncología (SMEO). León, Mexico. 2024.
39. Using Implementation Science to improve timely breast cancer diagnosis in Mexico. IMSS National Research Conference, Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico. 2025.
40. Public Policies for Cancer Control in Mexico. *National Cancer Congress*, Sociedad Mexicana de Oncología (SMEO), Cancún, Mexico. 2025.

Poster Presentations

1. **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. Breast cancer diagnostic delays in young Mexican patients are associated with lack of suspicion by healthcare providers at first presentation. *World Cancer Congress*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 2018.

2. **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. Symptomatic presentation, diagnostic delays and advanced stage among cervical cancer patients in Mexico. *World Cancer Congress*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 2018.
3. **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. Delays and health service use experiences of uninsured cancer patients treated at two federal hospitals in Mexico. *12th Annual Cancer and Primary Care Research International Network (Ca-PRI) Conference*. Toronto, Canada, 2019.
4. **Unger-Saldaña K**, et al. Delays to diagnosis and barriers to care for breast cancer in Mexico and Peru: a cross sectional study. *CUGH Conference Abstract,* published in the *Lancet Global Health*, 2020.
5. **Unger-Saldaña K**, Cruz-Bañares AL, Sanchez-Blas H, Lajous M, Fernández ME. Pragmatic Readiness Assessment in LMICs: Applying R=MC² and Rapid Qualitative Analysis to Inform Colorectal Cancer Screening Implementation in Mexico. *Dissemination and Implementation Science Conference*, Maryland, 2025.
6. Espinosa-Tamez P, **Unger-Saldaña K**, Sánchez-Blas H, Cruz-Bañares AL, Rodríguez Atristain A, Potter MB, Lajous M, Fernández ME. Using IM-ADAPT to adapt evidence-based interventions for colorectal cancer screening in Monterrey, Mexico. *Dissemination and Implementation Science Conference*, Maryland, 2025.
7. **Unger-Saldaña K,** Cruz-Bañares AL, Allen C, Sanchez-Blas H, Cervantes MJ, Reyes-Carpinteiro L, Balasubramanian B, Fernandez ME. Intervention Mapping to Improve Timely Breast Cancer Diagnosis in Mexico. *McGovern Award Lecture Series – 30th Anniversary*, Houston, Texas, USA 2026.
8. **Unger-Saldaña K,** Lajous M, Allen C, Balasubramanian B, Potter M. Torres-Ibarra L. Sanchez-Blas H, Espinosa-Tamez P, Fernandez ME. Implementation Science Across Systems, Cancers and Populations: Insights from the LISTOS Center. *International Agency for Cancer Research (IARC) 60th Anniversary Conference*. Lyon, France, 2026.

Non-refereed Publications

1. Handbook for training of community promoters on breast cancer early detection: Unger-Saldaña K, Durán-Rodríguez A. Manual para trabajar el laminógrafo "Información para la detección oportuna de cáncer de mama". Ciudad de México, México: Asociación Mexicana contra el Cáncer de Mama, A.C. & Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar; 2011.
2. Technical Report: Unger-Saldaña K. Monterrey health system assessment for breast cancer care. Susan G. Komen Foundation. 2016.
3. Essay published in a non-scientific journal:Unger-Saldaña K & Reich M. The unacceptable high mortality of Breast Cancer (*in Spanish*). Revista Nexos, Blog de la Redacción. October 8, 2022.

3. Videos / Media

Health promotion materials:

1. Printed materials to promote early breast cancer detection, created to be used as visual support for health promoters in their breast cancer awareness community workshops.

Developed in Spanish with funds from Mexfam and Fundacion Cima (National Association against Breast Cancer). Mexico, 2011.

2. Desktop flipchart to be used by primary care providers in the clinic to provide breast cancer information to their patients. Developed in Spanish with funds from Fundacion Cima (National Association against Breast Cancer). Mexico, 2014.
3. Educational video and media materials (infographics) to promote colorectal cancer screening as part of a FIT-based screening program developed in Spanish with funds from the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Mexico City, 2019.
4. Educational materials (printed materials for patients, including posters and brochures) to promote FIT-based colorectal cancer screening as part of a new program to be implemented in Nuevo León, Mexico, 2026.

Media Outreach / Public Communication:

1. Radio interview. Early Detection of Breast Cancer. National broadcast: "Las voces de la salud". UNAM, Mexico. Jan 31, 2008.
2. Radio interview. Early Detection of Breast Cancer. National broadcast: interview with Salvador García Soto. Mexico. October 19, 2012.
3. Television interview. Early Detection of Breast Cancer. National broadcast: El Primer Café. Mexico. Oct 19, 2012.
4. Television interview. Breast Cancer Awareness. National Broadcast: Marisa en Efekto. Mexico. Oct 7, 2013.
5. Television interview. Early Detection of Breast Cancer.
   National broadcast: Canal 11 with Javier Solorzano. Mexico, Oct 18, 2013.
6. Science communication article: The Impact of Diagnostic and Treatment Timelines in Breast Cancer Care. Revista *Líderes Médicos*. Mexico. August 2017.
7. Science communication video: Why Are There Delays in Breast Cancer Diagnosis? *CONACYT (National Council of Science and Technology) News Agency*. Mexico City. May 16, 2018.
8. Interview for science communication article: Los estados del norte, con más frecuencia de casos y mortalidad. *Gaceta UNAM*, Octubre 17, 2022.
9. Interview for science communication article: Gender inequalities worsen women's access to cancer prevention, detection and care. *El País*, September 27, 2023.
10. Interview for science communication article: ¡A explorarse! 70% de los casos de cancer de mama no se detectan a tiempo. *Milenio*, Octubre 18, 2024.
11. Science communication article: Lancet Commission on Women, Power, and Cancer to Launch North American Effort. *ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) Daily News*, May 1, 2024.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Formal courses:

- Introduction to Implementation Science, 2021–2026
  30-hour summer course within the Public Health Programa de Actualización en Salud Pública (PASPE), Escuela de Salud Pública, México.
- Clinical Research Methodology, 2018–2020
  Medical Sciences Master's Program, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).
- Health Promotion, 2013–2014
  Medical School, UNAM, México.
- Community Health, 2010–2012
  Instructor, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), México.
- Research Methodology, 2009–2012
  Sociomedical Sciences Master's Program, UNAM, México.

Workshops:

- Introduction to Implementation Science, 2025.
  2-hour workshop for clinical and public health researchers. Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS), Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico, 2025.
- Introduction to Implementation Science, 2026.
  2-day training workshop for clinicians and public health researchers collaborating in City Cancer Challenge Rosario, Argentina, 2026.

MENTORING AND ADVISING ACTIVITIES:

Postgraduate informal mentoring

- Leticia Torres, early career researcher at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico. (2024-Present)
- Priscilla Espinosa, postdoctoral fellow at UTHealth. (2025-Present)

Doctoral Students:

- Gardenia Mayo – DSc Health Systems, INSP Mexico, Academic Adviser (2022 – Present)

Master's Students:

- Samuel Bravo – MSc Sociomedical Sciences, UNAM, Academic Adviser (2021 – 2023)
- Gardenia Mayo – MSc Sociomedical Sciences, UNAM, Academic Adviser (2016 – 2018)
- Bianca I. Farías– MSc Sociomedical Sciences, UNAM, Academic Adviser (2015 – 2017)

Medical School Social Service Research Advising:

- Miguel Zambrano Lucio – Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (2024)
- Lynda P. Paredes López – Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (2023)
- Andrés González González – Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (2022)

- Kenneth Fitch Picos – Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (2018)
- Giulia Sánchez Turrubiates – Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (2017)

SERVICE:

- Cancer prevention and early detection advocacy through academic–community partnerships and engagement activities with non-governmental organizations and public-sector institutions to improve access to cancer prevention, timely diagnosis and care in Mexico. (2010–ongoing)
- Scientific publication review for: The Lancet, Lancet Global Health, Lancet Regional Americas, Implementation Science Communications, Frontiers in Public Health, Health Policy, Journal of Cancer Policy, JCO Global Oncology, BMC Global Health, BMC Public Health, BMC Health Services, Salud Publica de Mexico.
- Collaborator in the Technical Consultation Group for the World Health Organization's Global Breast Cancer Initiative. (2019 – 2020)
- Commissioner and coauthor in "The Lancet Commission on Women, Power and Cancer" published in The Lancet in 2022. (2020 – 2022)
- Commissioner and coauthor in "The Lancet Oncology Commission on the Human Crisis of Cancer", published in The Lancet Oncology Journal in 2025. (2023 – 2025)
- Abstract Reviewer for Dissemination and Implementation Conference 2024, 2025 and 2026.
- Application reviewer for the Institute for Implementation Science Workshop, UTHealth, 2026.