



## Fadi A. Fathallah

**Fadi A. Fathallah** is the 2021 recipient of the SMV Technologies Ergonomics, Safety, and Health award for his contributions in the development of mechanical and robotic aids to improve safety and reduce occupational injuries and stresses.

Fathallah is a professor and chair of the biological and agricultural engineering department at the University of California - Davis. He has a joint appointment in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the College of Engineering, where the majority of his time is spent conducting mission-oriented research in agriculture through the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources' Agricultural Experiment Station. He teaches courses on agricultural safety and health, occupational musculoskeletal disorders, and ergonomics and occupational biomechanics.

Fathallah has a broad background in ergonomics and human factors engineering, with specific training in occupational biomechanics and has over 30 years of experience conducting research on ergonomics and occupational biomechanics. Since joining UC Davis, Fathallah has led or co-led several extramurally funded projects related to evaluating biomechanical risk factors faced by agricultural workers, including vineyard and orchard workers, and developing practical interventions to abate these risk factors. Fathallah is an active member of the NIOSH-supported Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and is currently its Associate Director and a project leader, studying

the effects of strawberry harvest aids on the risk of farmworker injury.

Fathallah directs the USDA/NIFA California AgrAbility Project, which provides various resources and training to farmers and farmworkers with disabilities on how to stay active in agriculture. This opens opportunities for program trainees to conduct research on issues facing disabled farmers and farmworkers. He also directs the agricultural safety and health doctoral training program through the NIOSH-supported Northern California Education and Research Center in occupational safety and health.

Fathallah's publication record spans several decades and covers several scientific areas related to occupational safety and health. For instance, he was involved in several studies and resulting publications related to the quantification of spinal kinematics in occupational settings and their relation to low back disorders, and has contributed to the basic understanding of the effect of time of the day on occupational injuries and spinal kinematics.

A 21-year member of ASABE, Fathallah has contributed on a number of committees including, serving as the editor of the *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health*, and has served as an associate editor for the *Journal of Agromedicine*. He served on the Board of Directors of the Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics and was a member of the ASABE Foundation Board of Trustees.