Juan José Gómez Cadenas was born in Cartagena (Spain) in 1960. He obtained a Ph.D. in Physics at the University of Valencia, Spain in 1987. From

1987 to 1988 he was a Fulbright Fellow at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), USA. From 1988 to 1990 he was a postdoctoral associate at the Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics (SCIPP), USA. From 1990 to 1992 he was a CERN fellow and from 1992 to 1994 he was CERN Research Staff. From 1994 to 1996 he was an assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst). From 1996 to 1998 he was CERN Research Staff. In 1998 he joined the faculty at the Department of Atomic and Nuclear Physics at the University of Valencia, first as an associated professor (until 2006), then as a full professor. In 2008 he joined the Spanish Council for Research (CSIC) as a full professor. He has been visiting professor at the University of Harvard (joint appointed with his UMass position), at the University of Genève (2002 to 2003) and at the Japanese Laboratory for High Energy Physics, KEK (in 2004).

During his career, he has played leading roles in several experiments including Mark-II (1987-1990, responsible of the WISRD energy spectrometer of the LSC), DELPHI (tau analysis convener and one of the leaders of the upgrade of the silicon microvertex detector), NOMAD (one of the analysis conveners, and leader of the NOMAD-STAR prototype), K2K (analysis of far-near ratio using HARP data), HARP (analysis convener), and T2K(head of the group). He has made major contributions to the design of future experiments for measuring leptonic CP violation.

In 2009 he proposed, together with Dr. David Nygren (LBNL, inventor of the TPC), the NEXT experiment. NEXT will search for neutrinoless double beta decay events (its discovery would mean that the neutrino is its own antiparticle) using a high-pressure gas xenon TPC with EL readout. The apparatus is characterized by excellent energy resolution and the capability of reconstructing the trajectories of the electrons emitted in the decay. The combination of both features with a radiopure detector makes NEXT on of the best technologies of the field, as recognized by the favorable review of the Subcommittee of the U.S. Nuclear Science Advisory Board (NSAC).

In 2009 he secured, together with Dr. Concepción González-García, a CONSOLIDER grant (CUP), which made possible the intense R&D that has demonstrated the NEXT concepts, through the construction of the NEXT-DEMO apparatus, currently operating at IFIC. NEXT became a CERN recognized experiment in March 2013, and in June 2013, Gómez-Cadenas obtained the prestigious Advanced Grant (AdG) from the ERC, which will co-fund the construction of the NEXT detector and its commissioning and operation at the Canfranc Underground Laboratory (LSC).

Gómez Cadenas is currently the spokesperson of the international NEXT collaboration, consisting of over 75 members from 14 institutions.

According to the SPIRES database, he has 260 citable papers with an average of 69.6 citations per paper, and 4 papers with 500+ citations. He has supervised 10 PhD theses and one Marie Curie scholar. He teaches regularly in international schools, such as the recent International Neutrino Summer School (INSS 2014) and has served in several scientific committees such as the LHCC. He has been in numerous advisory panels for the organization of international conferences, including, in 2014, the two largest of the neutrino field WIN and NEUTRINO.