Annual Report
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## Who We Are

**University Center for Social and Urban Research**

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) was established in 1972 to serve as a resource for researchers and educators interested in the basic and applied social and behavioral sciences. As a hub for interdisciplinary research and collaboration, UCSUR promotes a research agenda focused on the social, economic, and health issues most relevant to our society. UCSUR maintains a permanent research infrastructure available to faculty and the community with the capacity to: (1) conduct all types of survey research and data analysis; (2) carry out regional econometric modeling; (3) analyze qualitative data using state-of-the-art computer methods, including web-based studies; (4) obtain, format, and analyze spatial data; (5) acquire, manage, and analyze large secondary and administrative data sets including Census data; and (6) design and carry out descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies. UCSUR plays a critical role in the development of new research projects through consultation with faculty investigators.

The long-term goals of UCSUR fall into three broad domains: (1) provide state-of-the-art research and support services for investigators interested in interdisciplinary research in the behavioral and social sciences; (2) develop nationally recognized research programs within the Center in a few selected areas; and (3) support the teaching mission of the University through graduate student, postdoctoral, and junior faculty mentoring, teaching courses on research methods in the social sciences, and providing research internships to undergraduate and graduate students. Achieving these goals requires that we continually upgrade and improve the research infrastructure of the Center, and that we recruit, develop, and maintain a core staff of investigators capable of being leaders in their fields.
I am pleased to share with you an update on activities and accomplishments of the Center for the academic year 2007-2008. The Center continues to aggressively pursue opportunities to enhance its research infrastructure, broaden the range of support services available to faculty and the community, expand the participation of faculty and graduate students in Center research programs, and strengthen University-community collaborations. The Center continues to serve as the interdisciplinary crossroads for schools throughout the University and has become a major resource in mentoring and supporting the research careers of junior faculty and post-doctoral students. More than 50 research projects involving most of the schools of the University were carried out, and several dozen graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty were mentored by Center staff. Finally, the Center had an impressive record of academic achievement this year, including over 60 peer-reviewed journal publications and 19 book chapters. Center staff also edited the Encyclopedia of Aging, 4th Edition.

The Center remains committed to continued self-assessment and improvement, and we look to your input and guidance for shaping the future development of the Center.
What We Do: Center Resources

Survey Research Services and Capabilities

UCSUR provides survey research services through the Survey Research Program (SRP). SRP maintains a highly experienced staff of survey professionals, trained interviewers, and data management specialists. SRP services are available to faculty, staff, and students throughout the University and to local, state, and federal agencies and others working in the public interest.

SRP is able to carry out any or all phases of a survey research project, including sample design, questionnaire design, data collection, data processing, statistical analysis, and reporting. SRP staff have the training and experience to design scientifically valid studies customized to client research needs. SRP can help clarify study objectives, and provide advice on how to obtain the highest quality data within available resource constraints. More specifically, SRP provides assistance in the following areas:

Sample Design
SRP staff provide advice on sampling methodology and sample size to meet study objectives and budget. Services include in-house development of specialized sample frames, or consultation with commercial sampling firms to obtain an appropriate sample. Examples of the types of samples provided include:

- Random digit dialing (RDD) samples: particularly suited for telephone surveys of the general population, computer-generated telephone numbers are used to target specific geographic areas, including both listed and unlisted phone numbers. RDD sampling for any region of the United States is available.
- Targeted/listed samples: samples to reach specific subgroups or rare populations. These are useful for telephone recruitment of participants for larger studies. They are also used for supplementing RDD samples with oversamples of rare populations.

Data Collection Methodology
SRP staff can provide:

- Advice on the most productive and cost-effective method of data collection (mail, telephone, in-person, or Internet/web-based).
- Specification of procedures for maximizing response rates within the framework of available resources. For example, recommended number of attempts to contact respondents, securing initial cooperation, follow-up incomplete interviews, converting refusals into acceptances, and use of mixed-mode designs.

Questionnaire Development
SRP staff can provide assistance with all aspects of the development of a reliable and valid instrument, including:

- Writing, formatting, and ordering questions
- Asking sensitive questions
- Instrument pre-testing

Interviewing and Data Collection
SRP conducts local, regional, and national telephone and mail surveys with both general and special populations, as well as in-person surveys in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. SRP also conducts Internet/web-based surveys. SRP relies on a pool of experienced interviewers for telephone and in-person surveys. These include both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as non-students under the management of senior field work supervisors.

Interviewer training and quality control: Interviewers are trained in general and project-specific interviewing techniques, such as maintaining objectivity, reading questions as written, and securing respondent cooperation. Training involves a combination of lecture, written handouts, video instruction, and role-playing. Interviewers are continuously monitored during data collection for quality assurance, and periodic re-training sessions occur as necessary.

Computer-assisted telephone interviewing: A thirty-two line phone bank at UCSUR is dedicated to a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. Interviewers read questions as they appear on the screen and enter the respondents’ answers directly into the computer. CATI allows complex question contingencies, sample management, and call scheduling to be handled automatically.

Web-based data collection: SRP has the capability to conduct web-based surveys and other online data collection and
management. UCSUR operates secure servers that host such activities. Additional data collection services: Telephone surveys using paper/pencil methodology, mail surveys, and in-person surveys in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region, are also available.

Data Management
Using a variety of computer programs, languages, database management software, and operating systems, SRP staff are available to perform a number of data management functions, including database development, editing, coding, and survey data processing. SRP staff also have the capability to integrate survey respondent data with GIS-based spatial data, and with other secondary data sources.

Statistical Analysis of Survey Data
SRP staff can perform statistical analyses of survey data, ranging from simple tabulations to relatively complex statistical modeling using a variety of statistical packages. Analytic capabilities include:
- Descriptive statistical analyses of survey responses, including calculations of sampling error, and statistical adjustments for unequal selection probabilities and non-response
- Cross-classification analyses with demographic or other predictive factors
- Multivariate analyses, including ANOVA, factor analysis, linear and non-linear regression, logistic regression, categorical methods, and structural equation modeling
- Longitudinal analyses

Program-Evaluation Services
UCSUR can assist faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and community agencies with their program-evaluation needs. We provide assistance in developing and designing evaluation plans, collecting and analyzing data, and writing evaluation reports. Depending on the focus of the project, the services can be provided by the Survey Research Program, Qualitative Data Analysis Program, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, or Gerontology Program. UCSUR’s interdisciplinary staff has evaluation experience in a wide range of content areas, including social service programs, behavioral and mental health services, public health programs, and educational services. UCSUR has conducted evaluations on family support, home visiting, after-school and youth development, conflict resolution, developmental disabilities, maternal and child health, fatherhood, and parent education programs, among many others. In addition, UCSUR has expertise in developing and implementing management information systems and needs assessments. UCSUR provides training and technical assistance to increase the capacity of staff to carry out evaluations, either independently or in collaboration with program-evaluation specialists.

Specific evaluation services offered include the following:
- Development of evaluation designs, including process and outcome evaluations
- Assistance with program design, focusing on connecting program activities to expected outcomes (program logic models)
- Needs assessments
- Selection of appropriate outcomes and measurement methods
- Identification of assessment instruments
- Development of surveys for program evaluation
- Data analysis consultation and research design
- Referral to evaluation consultants with expertise in specific content areas

Qualitative Data Analysis
From biomedical, public health, and educational research, to the behavioral, computational, and social sciences and beyond, effective qualitative data collection and analysis plays a critical role. The goal of the Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP) at UCSUR is to provide a resource to the University community in all aspects of qualitative data collection and analysis. Established in 2005, QDAP has historically offered a rigorous approach to qualitative data coding and analysis. While maintaining and enhancing this
What We Do: Center Resources, continued

capability, QDAP is currently expanding and strengthening its capabilities in qualitative data collection and project management. QDAP can carry out or assist with all phases of a qualitative research project including study design, project management, data collection, transcription, coding and analysis of data, and reporting.

Value-Added Coding

Accurate and reliable coding using computers is central to the qualitative analysis process. For new and experienced researchers, learning advanced project management skills or even software basics adds hours of struggle in trial-and-error sessions. QDAP offers a rigorous approach to analyzing text and managing projects. Our experienced coders can deliver the data you need in a timely and expert manner, without the struggle.

QDAP can code text from a wide variety of sources. Original material for analysis might include in-depth interviews, open-ended survey answers, field notes, transcripts from focus groups or web logs (blogs), e-mails, web site content, results from database searches (such as LexisNexis™), congressional testimony or other historical texts, and a host of other unstructured but digitized text data sets. We work with your research team to craft a plan with a tailored methodology designed to code the text for key concepts and relationships. This allows you to focus on the larger analytical questions while we quickly and reliably extract the data that you tell us you need to reach valid inferences.

QDAP employs University of Pittsburgh students and UCSUR professional staff trained in using qualitative analysis software. We maintain a 5-station audio transcription lab and a 10-station coding lab which utilizes ATLAS.ti, a PC-based workbench that supports project management, enables multiple coders to collaborate on a single project, and generates output that facilitates the analysis process. On the QDAP web site, we support the Coding Analysis Toolkit (CAT), a web-based suite of tools which facilitates efficient and effective post-coding analysis of qualitative data. In addition, we offer ATLAS.ti and CAT training seminars and one-on-one training sessions for faculty, staff, and students.

Geographical Information Systems and Visual Analytics Program

Geographical Information System

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is an information system designed to work with data referenced by spatial or geographic coordinates. GIS technology has proven to be invaluable in many areas of application, including municipal and federal government operations, health care, business management, and the social and natural sciences. It is a complex technology with many subtle nuances that requires considerable training, tools, and experience to fully exploit.

Visual Analytics

Visual Analytics (VA) is the use of graphical, image, and other pictographic techniques to display and navigate large sets of data for the purpose of discovering relationships among the data. Analysts are quickly overwhelmed by large listings or tables of data. Through visualization techniques, millions of data points can be summarized in displays such as dashboards, maps, and diagrams. Color, size, position, orientation, and other features are used to represent characteristics of the data. Specialized tools have been developed to highlight relationships and changes in relationships. Anomalies are easily detectable. Real-time and varying data can be shown by animation.

Services Provided

- GIS needs analysis
- GIS system design and implementation
- Custom GIS programming
- Digital spatial database design, development and maintenance
- Network analysis
- Global positioning systems
- Web-based systems
Regional Economic Analysis

UCSUR studies major economic and demographic trends in the Pittsburgh region in the national context. The policy consequences of these shifts, especially the strategies for economic development and job creation, are analyzed. In addition to the performance of the regional economy, specific strategic economic sectors are analyzed through in-depth studies. The results of such studies are disseminated widely to the region’s policymakers and relevant organizations. The Center continues to maintain this model and provide support to local agencies as part of the need for quality regional economic forecasting and impact analysis in the region.

The Pittsburgh REMI model is calibrated by UCSUR staff based on local conditions and our 11 years of experience with applying the model to the Pittsburgh region. This capability to forecast future regional economic conditions and conduct detailed impact analysis of potential changes in the regional economy is unique in the region.

The model includes the seven county Metropolitan Statistical Area (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland) plus Greene and Indiana counties. This model enables us to analyze economic and demographic impacts across the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

Recently, the REMI model was used for projects for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Allegheny Places - The Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan, and the Taxpayer Return on Investment in Pennsylvania Public Libraries Study.

Support of the Southwestern Planning Commission (SPC)

UCSUR continues to support the Southwestern Planning Commission (SPC) in developing its forecast of regional population and employment for the region. This is a primary function of the REMI model, which is essential to this project because of its extensive demographic modeling capability. UCSUR staff provide both technical and research consulting to SPC to aid its use of the REMI model and in producing as accurate a forecast as is possible for the region. The SPC needs these baseline forecasts and the REMI model in order to evaluate

UCSUR also conducts demographic, economic, and policy research and analysis and reports on secondary data and data trends relevant to the Pittsburgh region, both alone and in combination with various primary data sources. This research is reported through a number of venues, including research reports and newsletters, such as the Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly.
What We Do: Center Resources, continued

a range of transportation projects for the region and decide on funding priorities. The SPC is also required by federal mandate to provide 30-year projections of population and employment to the Department of Transportation as part of their planning process.

**Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System (PNCIS)**

The PNCIS is a property-based geographic information system that serves the Pittsburgh community through the collection, maintenance, and analysis of quality neighborhood-based data. PNCIS promotes and assists in neighborhood development and revitalization with the City of Pittsburgh through a data sharing agreement and with surrounding communities. PNCIS supports efforts to reduce blight, promote neighborhood investment, and improve communities. UCSUR operates PNCIS in agreement with the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND), a leader in community development in the City of Pittsburgh. PPND was instrumental in securing the financial support to build the PNCIS and expand and develop it over the years. In 2008, PNCIS joined the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, a consortium of neighborhood indicator systems across the United States, based at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC.

**Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly (PEQ)**

UCSUR continues to publish the Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly (PEQ) to support organizations and staff involved with economic development throughout the region. The goal of the PEQ has been to highlight the important economic trends that impact the regional economy and the competitiveness of local industries. PEQ is an extension of the continuing work done at UCSUR. Each issue includes the latest data on regional employment and economic conditions. Feature articles cover a variety of issues relating to the regional economy and how it is changing, along with analyses of other economic and social factors that directly impact the future of the region. Significant positive response to the PEQ has resulted and has filled a major need in the region for ongoing study of current economic trends. Recent issues of PEQ addressed these key topics:

- REMI forecast for the Pittsburgh region
- Internal migration within Southwestern Pennsylvania
- Recessions in the Pittsburgh region
- Disaster modeling for emergency planning
- New scenarios for senior workers
- Profile of Pittsburgh's population not in the labor force
- Pennsylvania's population growth crescent
- Fiscal health of municipalities in the Pittsburgh region
- Trends in foreign trade and the Pittsburgh region
- Foreclosures in Allegheny County
- Comprehensive planning and affordable housing
- Movers to the Pittsburgh region by occupation
- Racial demographic differences and disparities
- Pittsburgh's nuclear industry

**Acquisition and Management of Secondary Data**

UCSUR provides assistance for secondary data acquisition and management to the academic community and to the Pittsburgh region as a whole. As an affiliate of the Pennsylvania State Data Center, the official source of demographic and economic data for the state, UCSUR is a repository for electronic and printed Census information, including Census 2000 data. UCSUR also acquires and maintains a variety of government statistics, economic and labor market data, and other types of secondary information on a regular basis. This information is available to the academic community and to the general public.

The data acquisition and management services UCSUR provides include:

- Assistance in acquiring secondary data stored at UCSUR to interested individuals and organizations
- Assistance in locating and acquiring a variety of other types of secondary information
- Expertise and consultation in the appropriate use and understanding of various secondary data sources
- Evaluation and interpretation of policy relevant secondary information data for government, business, labor, media, and other organizations

**Program Evaluation Services**

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) can assist faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and community agencies with their program evaluation needs. We provide assistance in developing and designing evaluation plans, collecting and analyzing data, and writing evaluation reports. Depending on the focus of the project, these services can be provided by the Survey Research Program, Qualitative Data Analysis Program, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, or Gerontology Program.

UCSUR’s interdisciplinary staff have evaluation experience in a wide range of content areas, including social service programs, behavioral and mental health services, public health programs, and educational services. UCSUR has
conducted evaluations on family support, home visiting, after school and youth development, conflict resolution, developmental disabilities, maternal and child health, fatherhood, and parent education programs, among many others.

In addition, UCSUR has expertise in developing and implementing management information systems and needs assessments. UCSUR provides training and technical assistance to increase the capacity of staff to carry out evaluations, either independently or in collaboration with program evaluation specialists.

In response to faculty interests and current domestic policy issues, UCSUR develops interdisciplinary research programs that address regional and national policy issues. The resources described in the previous section are provided by one or more of these programs. As new policy issues emerge, UCSUR is prepared to facilitate and coordinate the development of additional programs identified by interested faculty. Existing research programs include:

### Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP)

**Interim Director**

Donald Musa

Offers a rigorous approach to qualitative collection and analysis including focus groups and interviews; audio transcriptions; data preparation, cleaning, and management; codebook development and testing; online coding adjudication; rater reliability and validity reporting; and results analysis and expression.

### Survey Research Program (SRP)

**Program Director**

Scott Beach

Maintains a highly experienced staff of survey professionals, trained interviewers, and data management specialists. SRP services are available to faculty, staff, and students throughout the University and to local, state, and federal agencies and others working in the public interest. SRP offers the capability to execute any or all phases of a survey research project, including sample design, questionnaire construction, data collection, data processing, statistical analysis, and reporting.

### Geographical Information Systems and Visual Analytics Program

**Program Director**

Ken Sochats

Provides analytical services relating to mapping and visual display. Program staff has expertise in creating sophisticated maps and the analysis and mining of extremely large databases. The staff has expertise in applying these techniques to a wide variety of disciplines including education, medicine and health, crime, and emergency management.

### Gerontology

**Gerontology Program Director**

Richard Schulz

**Associate Program Director**

Lynn Martire

Initiate, coordinate, and facilitate research on aging. In collaboration with faculty in more than a dozen different disciplines (e.g., Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, Rheumatology, Nursing, Epidemiology), program faculty and staff play an active role in developing proposals for research focused on psychosocial, behavioral, cognitive, and physical aspects of aging.

Projects conducted in all these areas illustrate the Center’s commitment to enhancing scientific understanding of social phenomena while generating information for improved policymaking in both the public and private sectors.
Faculty Development Awards

In memory of Steven D. Manners, who began working at the Center in 1974 and served as its Assistant Director from 1989 until his death in September 2000, UCSUR initiated a Faculty Development Awards program in recognition of Mr. Manners’ contributions to the Center and the University community.

UCSUR offers annually two awards of up to $10,000 each. Faculty may apply for awards in two categories: (1) Research Development Grants to support pilot research in the social, behavioral, and policy sciences; and (2) Infrastructure Development Awards aimed at enhancing faculty capabilities to carry out interdisciplinary research in the social, behavioral, and policy sciences.

2008 awardees: Peter J. Gianaros, Assistant Professor, and J. Richard Jennings, Professor, Department of Psychiatry; Keith Morgenlander, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine.

2007 awardees: Patricia Isabel Documet, Assistant Professor, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences; Jeffrey Shook and Michael Vaughn, Assistant Professors, School of Social Work.

2006 awardees: Shanti Gamper-Rabindran and Aaron Swoboda, Assistant Professors, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Larissa Myaskovsky, Core Faculty, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

2005 awardees: Charlotte Brown, Associate Professor, Center on Race and Social Problems; Bruce S. Ling, Assistant Professor, Institute for Doctor-Patient Communication; Eva Marie Shivers, Assistant Professor, School of Education.

2004 awardees: Ellen Olshansky, Professor, School of Nursing; Seung-Hyun Yoo, Research Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public Health; Susan Zickmund, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine.

Due to the large number of 2003 applications, UCSUR funded six awards: Pamela Peele, Associate Professor, Health Economics; William Klein, Assistant Professor, Psychology; Daniel Rosen, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work; Lisa Brush, Associate Professor, Sociology; Audrey Murrell, Associate Professor, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business; Jeannette Trauth, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public Health.

2002 awardees: Maureen Porter, Assistant Professor, Administrative and Policy Studies; Scott F. Kiesling, Assistant Professor, Linguistics.

2001 awardees: Miriam Hertz, Assistant Professor, Health Information Management/Rehabilitation Science and Technology; Paul E. Griffiths, Professor, History and Philosophy.

Board of Visitors

Mr. Michael A. Bryson
Chair, UCSUR’s Board of Visitors
Mellon Financial Corporation
Pittsburgh, PA

Anderson Dodd Smith, Ph.D.
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA

Mr. Earl F. Hord
University of Pittsburgh Emeritus Trustee
Pittsburgh, PA

James House, Ph.D.
ISR, University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Larry C. Ledebrur, Ph.D.
Cleveland State University
Cleveland, OH

Ms. Cynthia L. Roth
Vice Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA
Core Staff

Administration

Director:
Richard Schulz

Business Manager:
Greg Six

Administrators:
Anna Aivaliotis
Donna M. King

Systems Administrator:
James R. Lefcakis

Administrative Assistant:
Barbara Dughri

Urban and Regional Analysis

Co-Program Director:
Ralph L. Bangs

Co-Program Director:
Sabina Deitrick**

Research Specialist:
Christopher Briem

Survey Research

Program Director:
Scott R. Beach

Research Associate:
Donald Musa

Senior Research Specialists:
Janet Schlarb
Stephen Strotmeyer

Web Development/Data Analyst:
Robert Keene

Research Specialist:
Christine Bottles

Fieldwork Coordinators:
Lynda Connelly
Dana Killmeyer
Olivia Wilson

Data Entry Specialist
Olivia Kirsch

Gerontology

Program Director:
Richard Schulz

Associate Program Director:
Lynn Martire**

Associate Program Director
Geriatric Education Center:
John Hennon

Project Coordinators/Assistants:
Sarah Aerni
Katie Acerni
Elaine Aivaliotis
Amber Barton
Jennifer Bissell
Angela Dodds
April Kane
Julie Klinger
Karen Schmidt**

Research Specialists:
David Halpern
Kevan Schultz

Systems Analysts/Statisticians:
Bozena Zdaniuk

Interviewers/Interventionists:
Sally Hostein

Generations Together

Journal Editor/Emeritus Director:
Sally Newman

Geographical Information Systems and Visual Analytics Program

Program Director
Ken Sochats**

** Indicates participating faculty, not UCSUR staff

Qualitative Data Analysis

Interim Director
Donald Musa

Program Assistant Director:
Laurel Person Mecca
### Faculty Associates

The following individuals serve as faculty associates, representing numerous schools, departments, institutes, and centers.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles David Boucek</td>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
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<td>Lakshmipathi Chelluri</td>
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<td>William R. Love</td>
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<td>Stanley J. Kabala</td>
<td>Center for Environmental Research &amp; Education</td>
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<td>Alberta Sbrigia</td>
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<td>Yuji A. Ito</td>
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<td>Ronald B. Herberman</td>
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<td>Carolyn J. Carson</td>
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<td>Michelle Robinson</td>
<td>Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic</td>
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Projects*

A Study on Churning in Employment Programs

**Principal Investigators:** Ralph Bangs, URA, UCSUR
**Funder:** Educational Data Systems Inc.
**Period:** 01/08-04/09

Determine the extent and nature of repeated use of employment services by low-income clients.

Evaluation of the Pittsburgh Homeownership Initiative

**Principal Investigators:** Ralph Bangs, URA, UCSUR
**Funder:** Educational Data Systems Inc.
**Period:** 10/04-12/07

Determine the employment and homeownership effects of a tiered employment and homeownership program for public housing residents.

Pittsburgh Regional Analysis

**Principal Investigators:** Ralph Bangs, URA, UCSUR
**Funder:** Pittsburgh Regional Alliance
**Period:** Ongoing

Regional impact studies of industries and firms. Assessment of investments on cost-benefit basis.

Alternate Energy and Environmental Issues Survey

**Principal Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
**Funder:** Southern Company Services, Inc.
**Period:** 01/08-04/08

Conduct telephone interviews with a national sample (n=1200) to study environmental attitudes and transparency in the practices and policies of electric utility companies.

A New Measure of Adaptive Strategies and its Relation to Late-Life Depression

**Principal Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
**Funder:** National Institutes of Health
**Period:** 06/07-05/09

Conduct telephone interviews with a national sample (n=500) of persons with and without physical difficulties, aged 40 and older, to evaluate a new scale for assessing personal health goals and its relation to depression.

Cognitive Impairment Related to Anastrozole Use in Women

**Principal Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
**Funder:** National Institutes of Health
**Period:** 05/05-03/09

Assist in the recruitment of healthy women between the ages of 40 and 75 suitable for follow-up in a study of the effects of Anastrozole on cognitive function.

Community Service Database Project

**Principal Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
**Funder:** Office of the Provost
**Period:** 07/01-06/08

Assist Office of the Provost in the development of a searchable database with information about faculty community service activities.

Core Curriculum Mental Health Training Program

**Principal Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
**Funder:** Staunton Farm Foundation
**Period:** 06/08–05/09

Development of web-based training materials for use by community-based agencies providing mental health services.

Ethnicity and Culture in Unrelated Stem Cell Donation

**Principal Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
**Funder:** National Institutes of Health
**Period:** 04/06–03/10

Conduct telephone surveys of stem cell donors to determine the role of ethnic and cultural factors on donor-related outcomes.

Frequent Hemodialysis Network Quality of Life Core

**Principal Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
**Funder:** National Institutes of Health
**Period:** 09/04-8/08

Conduct quality of life interviews as part of a multi-site, randomized clinical trial comparing different methods of delivery of hemodialysis to end stage renal disease patients.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator*
Projects, continued

Healthy Futures
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Lydia O’Donnell, Education Development Center
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/08–09/09
Conduct baseline telephone interviews with adult study participants enrolled in a parent-education program being offered at 8 New York City (Brooklyn and Queens) public schools.

Hormone and Ovarian Cancer Prediction
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Roberta Ness, Epidemiology
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/03-04/08
Recruitment of community control females between the ages 45-75 for a study of ovarian cancer.

Impact Study
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
David Brent, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 08/02-07/07
Recruitment of community control families for comparison to families with a parent who committed suicide or died suddenly.

Impact of Nocturnal Hemodialysis on Sleep Apnea, Sleep Quality, and Daytime Symptoms
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Mark Unruh, School of Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 07/07-05/12
Conduct telephone interviews assessing sleep quality of patients receiving nocturnal hemodialysis. Patients also provide daily diary data (4 times/day for one week) via IVR (interactive voice response) technology.

Interpersonal Functioning and Emotion in Borderline Personality
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Paul Pilkonis, Department of Psychiatry
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 07/07-06/12
Recruitment of community subjects across the range of Borderline Personality Disorder for a study of interpersonal functioning and emotion in borderline personality.

Kidney Transplant Decision Making Pilot Study
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Larissa Myascovsky, Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System
Funders: Manners Faculty Development Award
UCSUR Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System
Period: 07/06-12/07
Telephone interviews with 125 kidney transplant candidates focusing on attitudes, knowledge, and family factors in transplant decision making.

Neuro-development Maturation and Alcohol Use in Adolescents
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Duncan Clark, Department of Psychiatry
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/07-08/09
Recruitment of community families (a parent and adolescent) to study characteristics that can predict alcohol problems in adolescents.

Nursing School Alumni Survey
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, School of Nursing
Funder: School of Nursing
Period: 03/08-08/08
Conduct telephone and web-based surveys with School of Nursing alumni to determine professional career path outcomes.

Patient/Provider Attitudes Towards Hepatitis Study
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Susan Zickmund, Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System
Funder: Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System
Period: 09/06-11/08
Telephone interviews with 700 hepatitis C virus patients from the VA healthcare system to determine attitudes towards treatment and perceptions of communication with health providers.
Peripheral Blood Stem Cells vs. Marrow Donor Quality of Life Surveys

Principal

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, Medicine
Mary Amanda Dew, Psychiatry

**Funder:** National Marrow Donor Program

**Period:** 01/04-12/09

A series of telephone follow-up surveys focusing on quality of life issues as part of a randomized clinical trial comparing peripheral blood stem cell vs. bone marrow donation.

Phase Shift Tolerance in the Elderly

Principal

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Timothy Monk, Psychiatry

**Funder:** National Institute on Aging

**Period:** 04/07-03/11

Telephone interviews with 1600 Allegheny County residents age 65 and older over four years to study the impact of former shift work on long-term sleep quality and health outcomes.

Provost’s Advisory Committee on Women’s Concerns (PACWC) Survey

Principal

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Patricia Beeson, Office of the Provost

**Funder:** Office of the Provost

**Period:** 01/08-06/08

Conduct web-based surveys of female faculty and staff focused on perceived importance of various issues of concern to women at the University.

Psychological Stress Exposure: Real-time and Structured Interview Technologies

Principal

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Thomas Kamarck, Department of Psychology

**Funder:** National Institutes of Health

**Period:** 08/07-04/11

Assist in computerization of the LEAP stress exposure structured interview instrument; assist in the conduct of a study to explore a new measure of psychosocial stress in real-time settings using interactive voice response (IVR) technology.

RAND Pittsburgh Public Schools Teacher and Principal Surveys

Principal

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Shannah Tharp-Taylor, RAND Corporation

**Funder:** RAND Corporation

**Period:** 01/08-04/08

Conduct web-based and paper surveys of principals and teachers from Pittsburgh Public Schools (K-12) as part of an evaluation of the Instructional Improvements Initiative.

Testing Survey Methods for Collecting Data on Elder Mistreatment Prevalence

Principal

**Investigator:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR

**Funder:** National Institute on Aging

**Period:** 09/06-08/08

Telephone and face-to-face interviews with 900 Allegheny County residents age 60 and older to test new survey technologies—interactive voice response (IVR) and audio-computer-assisted self-interviewing (A-CASI)—for obtaining self-reports about elder abuse.

Undergraduate Student Satisfaction and Retention Study

Principal

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR
Patricia Beeson, Office of the Provost

**Funder:** Office of the Provost

**Period:** 09/05-08/08

Conduct telephone and web-based surveys of University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students and withdrawing students to determine factors related to student satisfaction and retention.

University of Pittsburgh Off-Campus Living Survey

Principal

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Deborah Bon, University of Pittsburgh
Julie Gismondi, University of Pittsburgh

**Funder:** University of Pittsburgh

**Period:** 04/07-03/08

Web survey of 2400 University of Pittsburgh students not residing in campus housing focused on evaluations of off-campus apartments and landlords to be used in the development of a landlord “report card” web site.
Projects, continued

**Western Pennsylvania Manufacturing Industry Study**

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Christine Kush, Katz Graduate School of Business

**Funder:** Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence

**Period:** 04/07-09/07

Assisted with the conduct and statistical analysis of a web-based survey of local manufacturing firms focusing on their performance and business practices.

**Secure CITI: Secure Critical Information Technology Infrastructure for Disaster Management**

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Louise Comfort, EDS, UCSUR  
Rami Melhem, Computer Science  
Daniel Mosse, Computer Science

**Funder:** National Science Foundation

**Period:** 09/03-09/08

Collaborative effort with Carnegie Mellon University, George Washington University, and the University of California-Berkeley to support research to develop a program to address interorganizational coordination in extreme events.

**Pittsburgh Regional Indicators Project**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** John Craig, SWPA Regional Indicators Consortium

**Funders:** Benedum Foundation  
Heinz Endowments  
McCune Foundation  
R.K. Mellon Foundation

**Period:** ongoing

Developing a comprehensive set of regional indicators and benchmarking them against other places.

**Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** McCormick Taylor (from Allegheny County Department of Economic Development)

**Period:** 04/05-12/08

Preparing demographic, housing, and economic baseline studies and forecasts for the Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan.

**PA CleanWays**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** PA CleanWays

**Period:** ongoing

Provide "as-needed" GIS mapping services for the PA CleanWays sites.

**Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Regional Impact Analysis**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

**Period:** 06/04-09/07

Estimate the impact of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute on the regional economy using the REMI Model.

**Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development  
Multiple Funders

**Period:** 07/03-12/09

Enhance and expand access to data and information to help Pittsburgh and Allegheny County residents, organizations, and governments improve their communities.

**Pittsburgh Regional Association**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** Pittsburgh Regional Association

**Period:** ongoing

Period/annual economic impact analysis of key projects for the year.

**The Impact of the Nonprofit Sector on the Pittsburgh Regional Economy**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** The Forbes Fund

**Period:** 06/08-01/09

Estimate the economic impact of the nonprofit sector in Southwestern Pennsylvania using the REMI model and additional information obtained by survey of Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership members.

**Impacts of the Programs of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence

**Period:** 09/08-03/09

Estimate the employment impact and other economic effects of the programs under the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence at the Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh.
Daily Assessment in Arthritis Study

Principal Investigator: Lynn Martire, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 09/07-08/12

This study will investigate the extent to which daily patient-spouse concordance (agreement) regarding osteoarthritis (OA) patient symptom severity, arthritis self-efficacy, and symptom catastrophizing is associated with positive spousal support (empathic and autonomy-supportive responses) and problematic spousal support (insensitive and solicitous responses).

Relationships in Late-Life Mood Disorder Project (RELATE)

Principal Investigators: Lynn Martire, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 12/02-11/07

The aims of this research are to: (1) examine the effects of patient adherence and depression recurrence during maintenance treatment on caregiver attitudes, burden, and psychiatric symptomatology; (2) examine the effects of caregiver factors on treatment adherence and depression recurrence in late-life patients; and (3) evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of a psychoeducational intervention for adult child caregivers to older depressed adults.

Alcohol Associated Outcomes Among HIV+-Ageing Veterans

Principal Investigators: Kathleen McGinnis, Gerontology, UCSUR
Amy Justice, Yale University
Funder: National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
Period: 09/06-08/11

The study examines the relationship between HIV disease and alcohol use and the impact of aging, medical and psychiatric comorbidities, alcohol and drug use on disease progression, health behaviors, and patient outcomes on racially diverse adults with and without HIV. The long-range objectives of the study are to design and implement interventions to improve outcomes of aging patients with comorbid conditions.

Psychosocial Health and Facial Nerve Disorder

Principal Investigator: Karen Schmidt, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 07/03-06/08

Investigate symptoms of depression and anxiety and psychosocial health in general in patients with facial paralysis or movement disorder caused by disorders of the facial nerve.

Aging Well, Sleeping Efficiently: Intervention Studies, Project 2

Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Martica Hall, Psychiatry
Timothy Monk, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 06/03-05/08

This project is concerned with spousal caregivers age 65 and over of early Alzheimer’s disease patients and an intervention designed to enhance their sleep and reduce the stress of caregiving.

Cancer and Aging Center

Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Ronald B. Herberman, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/03-08/08

Focus on the psychosocial impact of cancer on patients and families as well as psychobiological processes that mediate response to the stresses of cancer.

Data Management and Statistical Resources
Core: Pittsburgh Mind Body Center II

Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Karen Matthews, Psychiatry
Funder: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
Period: 09/04-08/09

Provide a data management infrastructure and statistical support to Pittsburgh Mind Body Center investigators.

Family Relationships in Late Life (FRILL 2)

Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Gail Williamson, University of Georgia
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 09/02-07/07

Study the circumstances under which the distress of the caregiver leads to abuse or neglect of the care recipient.
Projects, continued

Geriatric Education Center of Pennsylvania (GEC/PA)

Principal
Investigator: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: Health Resources and Services Administration
Period: 07/02-12/06

The GEC/PA is a consortium of the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, and Temple University. The mission of the GEC/PA is to provide various educational programs to healthcare professionals in the areas of elder care issues.

Pittsburgh Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center

Principal
Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Stephanie Studenski, Medicine
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 06/04-05/09

Develop interventions to improve function and independence in older adults with balance disorders, integrate studies of physiologic, biomechanical and psychosocial mechanisms affecting balance with clinical studies, and foster multi-disciplinary research and research training.

Quality of Life Technology Engineering Research Center

Principal
Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Takeo Kanade, Carnegie Mellon University
Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 06/06-05/11

The mission of the QoLT ERC is to transform the lives of people with reduced functional capabilities due to aging or disability. A unique partnership between Carnegie Mellon and Pitt will bring together a cross-disciplinary team of technologists, clinicians, industry partners, end users, and other stakeholders to create revolutionary technologies that improve and sustain the quality of life for all people. By integrating information technologies and biomedical innovations, the resulting systems will allow people to independently perform valued and necessary activities of daily living so that they can more fully participate in society.

The Advanced Center for Intervention and Services Research, Research Methods Core

Principal
Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Lynn Martire, Gerontology, UCSUR
Charles F. Reynolds III, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 08/05-05/10

Focus on the social, psychological, and behavioral factors relevant to understanding the interactive nature of physical illness and depression in late life.

Coding Across the Disciplines

Principal
Investigator: Stuart W. Shulman, QDAP, UCSUR
Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 09/06-08/07

This workshop focuses on annotation science and building interdisciplinary teams of computer and social scientists.

Language Processing Technology for Electronic Rulemaking

Principal
Investigator: Stuart W. Shulman, QDAP, UCSUR
Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 11/04-10/08

Focus on the impact and development of new language technologies tailored to the electronic rulemaking tasks of the federal government.

Competitiveness Research

Principal
Investigator: Vijai Singh, Office of the Chancellor
Funders: Heinz Endowments
Consolidated Natural Gas
Period: ongoing

Analyze the factors which promote regional competitiveness of the biotech industry in Pittsburgh. Part of an international comparative study with the University of Jena, Germany.

Comprehension Impairment

Principal
Investigator: Connie Tompkins, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/99-11/07

This project is designed to contrast “suppression deficit” and “coarse coding deficit” hypotheses as factors in poor comprehension performance of adults who have strokes that affect the right side of the brain and assess the relationship of these deficits to particular regions of damage in the right hemisphere.
Publications 2007–08

Journals


Books/Book Chapters/Other Publications


Technical Reports


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