Annual Report
july 1, 2009–june 30, 2010
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, including complex Web surveys; (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, social, and clinical 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 of activities and accomplishments of the center for the academic year 2009–2010. 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 serves 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 postdoctoral students. More than 60 research projects involving most of the schools of the University were carried out, and several dozen undergraduate students, 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 50 peer reviewed journal publications and 12 invited book chapters. I am particularly proud of the academic productivity of the center, which puts it on par with some of the larger departments on campus. This is a remarkable achievement when you consider that this represents the work of a core center staff comprised of a few part-time faculty members and two PhD level staff. Some highlights of the past year:

- The Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System continues to expand and has become a major tool in promoting neighborhood development and revitalization in Pittsburgh. This is a property-based geographic information system that serves the community through the collection, maintenance, and analysis of quality neighborhood-based data.
- Published research on racial disparities in financial exploitation of older adults in Allegheny County was featured in newspapers and on the Web throughout the U.S.
- Another publication reporting the results of a randomized trial to improve the quality of life of caregivers of persons with spinal cord injury received the Harold Yuker Prize as the best publication in Rehabilitation Psychology for 2009.
- Center faculty wrote an invited state-of-the-art paper on Informal Caregiving in the U.S. for the National Academy of Sciences.
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 over-samples 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), and the effective use of technology for surveys.
- 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, following-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 32-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.

Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI): With this type
of interview an interviewer, using a laptop computer, reads questions to the respondent and then enters the answers directly into a database on the laptop computer. CAPI is programmed similar to Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI), and provides the same advantages (automated skips, randomized experiments, etc.).

**Audio Computer-Assisted Self Interviewing (Audio CASI, ACASI):**
With this application a respondent operates a computer, that displays the questions on screen and plays recordings of the questions to the respondent, who enters answers directly into a database on the computer. A respondent typically uses headphones with our Audio CASI solutions in order to maintain response privacy. ACASI enhances perceived privacy for sensitive questions and is ideal for less literate populations. ACASI is similar to CATI, CAPI, and CASI in programming requirements and function.

**Interactive Voice Response (IVR):** (IVR is an automated system where a recorded voice administers survey questions/scripts and detects voice and keypad inputs from a home phone or cell phone. Privacy is enhanced by switching to IVR from a live interviewer for the administration of sensitive questions. IVR is also ideal for ecological momentary assessment (EMA).

**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.

**Report Preparation and Presentation**
SRP staff have experience in the production of a variety of reports, including:

- Simple tabulations
- Executive summaries
- In-depth narrative report
- Oral presentation of results to interested parties

**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 offers a rigorous approach to qualitative data collection and analysis. Experienced QDAP staff can carry out or assist with all phases of a qualitative research project including study design, project management, focus group facilitation, interviewing, audio transcription, data coding and analysis, and results 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. 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
What We Do: Center Resources, continued

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.

Services Provided
• Study design, management, and coordination
• Interviewer training and management
• Participant recruitment
• Data collection including focus group facilitation and in-depth interviewing
• Audio transcription
• Data preparation, cleaning, and management
• Codebook development and testing
• Coding and online coding adjudication
• Rater reliability and validity reporting
• Results analysis and expression
• Software training for qualitative data analysis software (ATLAS.ti, Coding Analysis Toolkit)

Geographical Information Systems and Visual Analytics Program

Geographic Information Services
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
• Spatial and simulation modeling
• Integration of artificial intelligence techniques
• Consulting
• Training
• Education
• Satellite and aerial imagery

• System integration
• Real time GIS

Experience
UCSUR has decades of experience in applying GIS technology to many situations. Our efforts have consistently withstood the test of time and post-project scrutiny. Refer to website for specific examples: www.ucsur.pitt.edu

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 program also fosters the development of new methods of data collection and analysis as well as scholarly publications by participating faculty, research staff, and graduate students. Urban Regional Analysis has been an important element of UCSUR’s commitment to providing regional economic policy analysis capabilities to policymakers and the academic community. For the latest urban and regional developments, visit the Pittsburgh Urban Blog (PUB) at www.ucsur.pitt.edu/thepub.php.

The Pittsburgh Regional Economic Model
The Pittsburgh Regional Economic model is a large-scale regional econometric model developed by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) and supported by UCSUR in partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission. The REMI model provides
a powerful framework for economic analysis related to structural change in the Pittsburgh region and complements a variety of activities undertaken by the center. The center continues to maintain this model and provide support to local agencies as needed 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 South Western 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 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. 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, D.C.

Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly

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 it has filled a major need in the region for ongoing study of current economic trends. Recent issues of PEQ addressed these key topics:

- Racial disparities in financial exploitation of older adults in Allegheny County
- Real estate owned property and impacts on neighborhoods in Pittsburgh
- 2010 Census and redistricting
- Higher education enrollment and graduation trends in the Pittsburgh region
- Pittsburgh’s role in national emergency preparedness
- Educational attainment in the Pittsburgh regional workforce
- Property tax collection and neighborhoods
- 2010 Census almost here: Or, all you want to know about the upcoming Census but were afraid to ask
- Unemployment in Pittsburgh by educational attainment in the current recession
What We Do: Center Resources, continued

• The challenges of vacant property: New data and information available through the Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System
• Older people in the Pittsburgh Region: Impacts and opportunities
• The Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security (PRBCHS)
• More than support and services: The nonprofit sector as an economic asset
• Clean energy and the Pittsburgh region
• Recent trends in manufacturing employment
• Foreclosures and their impact in the Pittsburgh regional economy

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.

Specific evaluation services offered include:
• 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

In response to faculty interests and 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, and up-to-date neighborhood information on the UCSUR Web site (www.ucsur.pitt.edu).
Programs

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:

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

Program Director
Richard Schulz

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.

Qualitative Data Analysis

Program (QDAP)

Program Director
Donald Musa

Offers a rigorous approach to qualitative data 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.

Urban and Regional

Projects conducted in 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.

Analysis (URA)

Coprogram Director
Ralph L. Bangs

Coprogram Director
Sabina Deitrick

Promotes scholarly analysis of urban and regional problems. Its multidisciplinary research, which is local, national, and international in character, touches on issues that further our understanding of the causes and consequences of economic and social change, enhances the analytic basis for public policy decisions, and aids in the evaluation of policy alternatives.
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.

2010 awardees: Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Jennifer H. Lingler, School of Nursing; Werner Troesken and Randall Walsh, economics; Jennifer Nicoll Victor, political science

2009 awardees: Irina Murtazashvili, economics; Brian A. Primack, medicine and pediatrics.

2008 awardees: Peter J. Gianaros and J. Richard Jennings, psychiatry; Keith Morgenlander, medicine.

2007 awardees: Patricia Isabel Documet, behavioral and community health sciences; Jeffrey Shook and Michael Vaughn, School of Social Work.

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

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

2004 awardees: Ellen Olshansky, School of Nursing; Seung-Hyun Yoo, Graduate School of Public Health; Susan Zickmund, medicine.

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

2002 awardees: Maureen Porter, administrative and policy studies; Scott F. Kiesling, linguistics.

2001 awardees Miriam Hertz, health information management; Paul E. Griffiths, history and philosophy.

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Survey Research

Program Director
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Donald Musa

Senior Research Specialists
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Fieldwork Supervisors
Olivia Kirsch, Olivia Wilson

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Research Specialists
Brian Alley, Christine Byerly

Qualitative Data Analysis

Program Director
Donald Musa

Program Assistant Director
Laurel Person Mecca

Research Specialists
David Halpern, Kevan Schultz

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

### Faculty Associates

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Hugo Nutini</td>
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<td>Michelle Robinson</td>
<td>Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic</td>
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Projects*

Churning in Employment Programs
Principal
Investigator: Ralph Bangs, URA, UCSUR
Funder: Educational Data Systems Inc.
Period: 01/08-04/09

Report on churning was completed in February 2009. The study was based on data collected from administrative records at a local welfare-to-work agency. The study found that welfare churning - return of participants to welfare after a prior exit - varied by program type.

A Multi-Institutional Study of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donor Safety
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, School of Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 12/08-11/13

Telephone surveys of 400 adult and child stem cell donors before and after donation to assess quality of life and other donation-related outcomes.

A New Measure of Adaptive Strategies and its Relation to Late-Life Depression
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Jennifer Morse, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 06/07-05/10

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.

Assessing Instructional Content and Interaction at Scale
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Richard P. Correnti, LRDC
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 06/08-05/10

Assist in the development and administration of Web-based data collection tools for 120 K-12 teachers to assess instructional activities and the nature of interaction with students.

Bi-Annual National Committee of Neuroscience Departments and Programs (CNDP) Web Survey
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Ed Stricker, Neuroscience
Funder: Committee of Neuroscience Departments and Programs
Period: 08/02-present

Bi-annual national CNDP web survey of neuroscience departments, focused on faculty, student, and curriculum characteristics.

Colorectal Cancer Framing Study
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
William Klein, Psychology
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 07/09-04/10

Telephone recruitment of 180 50- to 75-year-olds with no history of cancer and who are not up-to-date on colorectal cancer screening guidelines for a study of self-affirmation and cancer screening behavior.

Ethnicity and Culture in Unrelated Stem Cell Donation
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, School of Medicine
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
Mark Unruh, School of Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/04-8/10

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.

Healthy Futures
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Lydia O’Donnell, Education Development Center
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/08-01/10

Conduct baseline telephone interviews with adult study participants enrolled in a parent-education program being offered at eight New York City (Brooklyn and Queens) public schools.

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 Institute of Health
Period: 07/07-05/12

Conduct telephone interviews assessing sleep quality of patients receiving nocturnal hemodialysis. Patients also provide daily diary data (four times/day for one week) via IVR (interactive voice response) technology.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator
Projects, continued

Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE) Client Impact Survey
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Christine Kush, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
Funder: University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business-Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence
Period: 08/08-07/09
Web-based and paper surveys of 182 businesses using various IEE programs to assess satisfaction with IEE services.

Interpersonal Functioning and Emotion in Borderline Personality
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Paul Pilkonis, 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.

Neuro-development Maturation and Alcohol Use in Adolescents
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Duncan Clark, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/07-12/09
Recruitment of community families (a parent and adolescent) to study characteristics that can predict alcohol problems in adolescents.

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 versus 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.

Pittsburgh Public Schools’ Excellence for All
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Shannah Tharp-Taylor, RAND Corporation
Funder: Fund for Excellence (consortium of Pittsburgh foundations)
Period: 03/08-present
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.

Police Search Warrant Practices in Allegheny County, PA: A Pilot Study
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Andrew Taslitz, University of Pittsburgh Visiting Scholar
Funder: University of Pittsburgh Center for Race and Social Problems
Period: 04/09-03/10
Design mobile data collection tool for extraction of police search warrant information to examine racial differences in issuance of warrants.

Psychological Stress Exposure: Real-time and Structured Interview Technologies
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Thomas Kamarck, 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.

Sanctuary Model Implementation Evaluation Survey
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Brad Stein, Community Care Behavioral Health
Funders: Andrus Foundation, Pennsylvania Department of Public Works
Period: 07/08-12/10
Conduct annual Web-based and paper surveys of 2000 staff of youth and family service agencies to assess experiences and perceptions of newly implemented Sanctuary Model at their agency.
Undergraduate Student Satisfaction and Retention Study  
Principal Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Donna Musa, SRP, UCSUR  
Patricia Beeson, Office of the Provost  
Funder: University of Pittsburgh Office of the Provost  
Period: 09/05-06/10
Conduct telephone and Web-based surveys of University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students and withdrawing students to determine factors related to student satisfaction and retention.

Understanding Race and Culture in Living Donor Kidney Transplantation  
Principal Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Larissa Myascovsky, Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System  
Funder: National Institutes of Health  
Period: 09/09-08/14
Telephone interviews with 1200 kidney transplant candidates focusing on attitudes, knowledge, and family factors in transplant decision-making.

Understanding Race and Culture in Living Donor Kidney Transplantation Among Veterans  
Principal Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Larissa Myascovsky, Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System  
Funder: Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System  
Period: 04/10-07/12
Telephone interviews with 600 veteran kidney transplant candidates focusing on attitudes, knowledge, and family factors in transplant decision-making.

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-present
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.

Veterans Impact of Chronic Pruritis  
Principal Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Suephy Chen, Atlanta VA  
Funder: Atlanta VA Healthcare System  
Period: 04/10-03/11
Conduct telephone surveys of 2000 veterans across the United States to assess the prevalence and impact of chronic pruritis.

Western Pennsylvania Manufacturing Industry Study  
Principal Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Christine Kush, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business  
Funder: University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business-Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence  
Period: ongoing
Assist with the conduct and statistical analysis of a Web-based survey of local manufacturing firms focusing on their performance and business practices.

Estimating the Supply and Demand of Affordable Housing in Allegheny County  
Principal Investigator: Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR  
Funder: Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania  
Period: 08/10-04/11
Estimate the supply and demand of affordable housing in the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County and review existing housing rehabilitation programs for the Housing Alliance project Lessons from the Foreclosure Crisis: An Agenda for Rebuilding Pennsylvania’s Housing Market.

Impacts of Vanpooling in Pennsylvania and SWPA and Future Opportunities  
Principal Investigator: Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR  
Funder: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
Period: 06/09-12/10
Analyze the current conditions for vanpooling in Pennsylvania with an emphasis on SWPA; review the current programs of SWPA Commission and other vanpooling operations; and develop a model for an expansion of vanpooling programs. In addition, assess vanpooling options today and what new options can be developed under different funding and agency scenarios.

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 Neighborhood and Community Information System  
Principal Investigator: Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR  
Funder: Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, multiple funders  
Period: 07/03-12/12
Enhance and expand access to data and information to help Pittsburgh and Allegheny County residents, organizations, and governments improve their communities.
Projects, continued

Small Colleges and Universities and Their Economic and Community Impacts

Principal

Investigators: Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR
William Lafe, Independent Consultant

Funder: McCune Foundation
Period: 10/09-03/11

The proposed study will assess the economic and community impact of small, private liberal arts colleges located in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia on the towns in which they are located. The study will be divided into two phases: a pilot study conducted from 11/09-01/10 will focus on two prototype colleges in order to test the proposed methodology and determine what factors play a key role in determining the colleges’ economic and community impact.

Mt. Oliver and Hilltop Communities Data Collection

Principal

Investigator: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Hilltop Alliance
Period: 08/10-12/10

This project will incorporate administrative data from Mt. Oliver borough into the Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System and analyze housing and foreclosure data in the Hilltop communities of Pittsburgh.

Barriers to Quitting Smoking During Pregnancy

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Laura Miller, Family Medicine

Funder: University of Pittsburgh Department of Family Medicine
Period: 05/09-08/09

Code semi-structured interviews with pregnant smokers to explore the barriers to quitting smoking in pregnancy.

Daily Kos Diaries: Distributed Gatekeeping and the Potential of Blogs as News Media

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Adam Schiffer, Texas Christian University

Funder: Texas Christian University
Period: 06/09-09/09

Code diaries from the Daily Kos online community to examine gatekeeping choices made by community members.

Gateway Health Plan Member Satisfaction Study

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Marnie Schilken, Gateway Health Plan

Funder: Gateway Health Plan
Period: 01/09-01/10

Facilitate focus groups with Medicaid members of Gateway Health Plan and code results to assess the effectiveness and customer-appeal of health education materials, campaigns, and initiatives.

Patterns of Substance Use Among Aging HIV Positive and Negative MSM

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Jessica Griffin Burke, Graduate School of Public Health

Funder: National Institute on Drug Abuse
Period: 06/10-present

The goal of this study is to examine the patterns of substance use over time among a cohort of HIV positive and negative gay men who are participating in the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS). Transcribed interviews with gay men over the age of 50.

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program Evaluation

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Mary Goldberg, Rehabilitation Science and Technology

Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 06/09-05/10

Conduct a series of semi-structured interviews with REU student interns and mentors and code results to gauge satisfaction with the program and to assess students’ domain knowledge and research skills.

Understanding Practitioner Perspectives and Preferences Regarding Training

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Amy Herschell, Psychiatry

Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 01/09-01/10

Conduct focus groups and semi-structured interviews with community-based practitioners to develop a training protocol that will meet practitioners’ needs while incorporating evidence-based practices.
Workforce Turnover in the Behavioral Health Field  
**Principal**  
**Investigators:** Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR  
Amy Herschell, Psychiatry  
**Funder:** Community Care Behavioral Health  
**Period:** 03/10-12/10  
Code interviews with community-based practitioners who have left their respective agencies over the last few years to determine issues related to staff turnover.

Physiological Indicators of Perceived Suffering in a Loved One’s Spousal Reactions  
**Principal**  
**Investigators:** Joan Monin, Gerontology, UCSUR  
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR  
**Funder:** Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award  
**Period:** 08/08-07/10  
The proposed research will focus on the manifestation of suffering in care recipients with musculoskeletal conditions, specifically individuals with osteoarthritis and lower back pain, and the ways suffering impacts on spousal caregivers.

Analysis of U.S. News & World Report Law School Rankings  
**Principal**  
**Investigators:** Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
Mary Crossley, School of Law  
**Funder:** University of Pittsburgh School of Law  
**Period:** 06/10-12/10  
Analyze the *U.S. News & World Report* annual ranking of law schools for the University of Pittsburgh School of Law to better understand the factors that contribute to the rankings and develop insight into the effects of potential law school modifications.

Beyond Formal Institutions: Legislative Member Organizations in a Comparative Perspective  
**Principal**  
**Investigators:** Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR  
Jennifer Nicoll Victor, Political Science  
**Funder:** University of Pittsburgh Steven D. Manners Faculty Development Award  
**Period:** 06/10-present  
Transcribed interviews with U.S. Congress, European Parliament, and Scottish Parliament legislators and their staff examining the activities of legislative member organizations, how they operate, and how they relate to actors outside of the legislative arena.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening in Obese Women  
**Principal**  
**Investigators:** Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Jeanne Ferrante, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  
**Funder:** National Cancer Institute  
**Period:** 04/07-09/10  
Transcribed interviews with obese women regarding delay in breast and cervical cancer screening.

Deliberative Civilian Deaths During Armed Conflict  
**Principal**  
**Investigators:** Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR  
Betsy Jose-Thota, University of St. Thomas  
**Funder:** National Science Foundation  
**Period:** 12/09-04/10  
Explore the definitions of the term "civilian" during wartime and examine the rationales provided by belligerents for explaining civilian deaths. Code interviews with former belligerents in an African refugee camp.

Engineering Education Assessment and Evaluation  
**Principal**  
**Investigators:** Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Mary Besterfield-Sacre, Industrial Engineering  
**Funder:** National Science Foundation  
**Period:** 02/10-05/10  
Transcribed focus groups with undergraduate students in order to assess their problem-solving processes.

Factors Affecting Men’s Decisions Regarding Prostate Cancer Screening and Treatment  
**Principal**  
**Investigators:** Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Jeanne Ferrante, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  
**Funder:** Department of Defense  
**Period:** 03/09-05/10  
Transcribed interviews with men regarding influences on their decisions regarding prostate cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment.
Projects, continued

Partnerships in the U.K. Children’s Voluntary Sector
Principal Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Thorsten Roser, London School of Economics
Funder: The London Research and Consulting Group
Period: 06/08-11/09
Code interviews with CEOs and staff of various U.K. children’s charities to investigate perceptions of project-based partnerships in the U.K. children’s voluntary sector.

Preferences about Treatment of Chronic Pain and Sub-threshold Depression in Late-Life
Principal Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Jordan Karp, Psychiatry
Funders: Clinical and Translational Science Institute, RAND-University of Pittsburgh Health Institute
Period: 08/09-07/10
The goal of this study is to learn about patient and Primary Care Physician (PCP) preferences for treatment of people aged 60 and older with chronic pain and mild depression. Semi-structured interviews with 20 patients and 10 PCPs will inform the design of a clinical trial of treatments most preferred by both patients and PCPs.

Research Center of Excellence in Minority Health Disparities at the University of Pittsburgh
Principal Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Stephen Thomas, Graduate School of Public Health
Funder: National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Period: 04/09-08/10
Conduct analyses and provide consultation contributing to project goal of translating evidence-based research into community-based interventions designed to prevent disease and promote health in Pittsburgh’s African-American community.

Sensemaking Following a Work-related Trauma
Principal Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
                      David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Sally Maitlis, University of British Columbia
Funder: Social Science and Humanities Research Council
Period: 03/10-present
Transcribed interviews with professional artists regarding their careers following debilitating injury.

The Impacts of Enlargement and of Administrative and Political Reform on the Role and Management of the European Commission
Principal Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Carolyn Ban, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Funders: U.S. State Department, Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission
Period: 02/09-07/10
Transcribed interviews with European Union (EU) staff at all levels regarding organizational culture and the arrival of entry level staff from the new EU member states.

Veteran’s Evidence-based Research, Dissemination and Implementation Center (VERDICT)
Principal Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
                      David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
                      Maria Alvarado, South Texas Veterans Health Care System
Funder: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Period: 07/09-04/10
Transcribed interviews with staff at VA clinics in the South Texas area regarding staff working with one another in order to promote learning among VA employees and resolve conflicts.

Daily Individual and Marital Processes in Osteoarthritis
Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
                      Lynn Martire, Penn State University
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 09/07-08/12
This study focuses on the effects of spousal social support and control on older osteoarthritis patients’ daily functioning, illness cognitions, and physical activity.

Data Management and Statistical Resources Core: Pittsburgh Mind Body Center II
Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
                      Karen Matthews, Psychiatry
                      Michael Scheier, Carnegie Mellon University
Funder: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
Period: 09/04-06/11
Provide a data management infrastructure and statistical support to Pittsburgh Mind Body Center investigators.
Geriatric Education Center of Pennsylvania (GEC/PA)

Principal Investigator: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: Health Resources and Services Administration
Period: 07/10-06/15

The GEC/PA is a consortium of the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, and UPMC, with Pitt as the lead institution. The GEC/PA will focus on training to enhance geriatric mental health expertise throughout the state.

Intervention to Facilitate Family Caregiver Adaptation to Nursing Home Transition

Principal Investigator: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: National Institute of Nursing Research
Period: 07/07-05/12

Assess the effects of an intervention designed to enhance health and quality of life of caregivers and their placed relatives by focusing on caregivers who recently placed their relative in a long-term care facility.

Measuring Suffering in Persons with Alzheimer's Disease

Principal Investigator: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: Alzheimer’s Association
Period: 09/07-08/10

The purpose of this study is to show that patient suffering is a measurable and unique feature of the Alzheimer's Disease patient experience and that it independently contributes to caregiver health and well-being.

Mind-body Interactions in Neuro-oncology Family Caregivers

Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Paula Sherwood, School of Nursing
Funder: National Cancer Institute
Period: 05/07-04/12

The purpose of this study is to explore psycho-behavioral and biologic interactions in neuro-oncology caregivers.

Quality of Life Technology Engineering Research Center (QoLT ERC)

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

By integrating information technologies and biomedical innovations, the QoLT ERC will allow people to independently perform valued and necessary activities of daily living so that they can more fully participate in society.

Social Behaviors and Health in Older Adulthood: A Secure Base from which to Thrive

Principal
Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Brooke Feeney, Carnegie Mellon University
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/10-03/15

The purpose of this study is to identify specific social behaviors that are responsible for the effects of social relations on health and well-being in older adulthood. In particular, focus on social behaviors that occur within the closest relationships of older adults and involve the support of older adults’ exploration, goal strivings, and continued self-growth.

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

Principal
Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Charles F. Reynolds III, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 08/05-05/11

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

Competiveness Research

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

Projects include analysis of factors which promote regional competitiveness of the biotech industry in Pittsburgh. Partner in a research network with Transatlantic Comparison of Continental Innovation Models. Project Director: Professor Ulrich Hilpert, University of Jena, Germany.
Journals


### Books/Book Chapters/Other Publications


### Technical Reports


**Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly (PEQ).** Publication of the Urban and Regional Analysis Program at the University Center for Social and Urban Research. The PEQ covers economic conditions and changes in the Pittsburgh region.
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