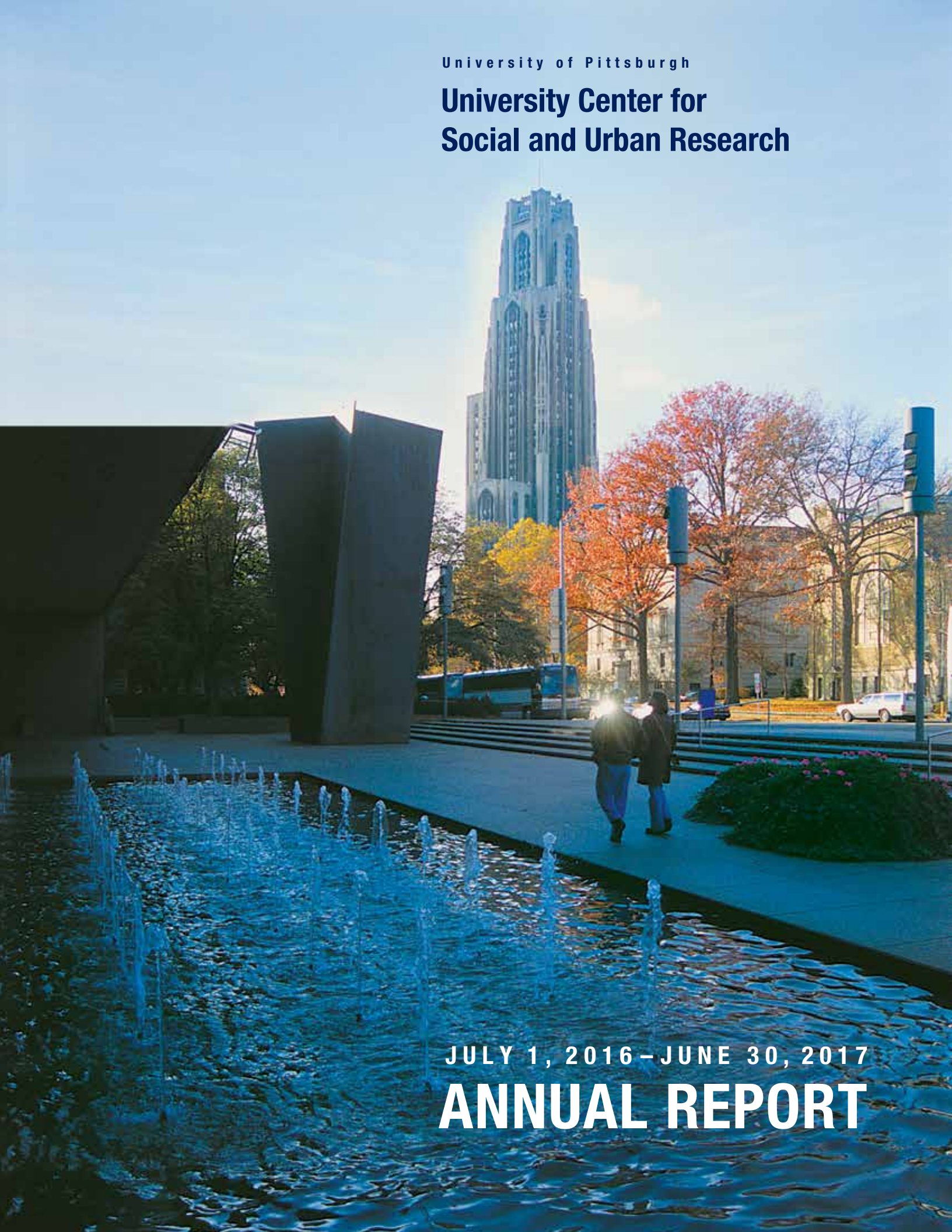


University of Pittsburgh

**University Center for
Social and Urban Research**



JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017

ANNUAL REPORT

UCSUR

University Center for
Social and Urban Research

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Who We Are: University Center for Social and Urban Research

The mission of the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) is to work collaboratively to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves communities and addresses social, economic, health, and policy issues most relevant to society. UCSUR carries out this mission by providing research support infrastructure and training; conducting original research in a few focused areas, including urban impact analysis, survey methodology, and psychosocial aspects of aging; and enhancing access to local and national policy-relevant data.

UCSUR Goals

UCSUR was established in 1972 to serve as a resource for researchers and educators interested in the basic and applied social and behavioral sciences. UCSUR promotes and coordinates interdisciplinary research focused on the social, economic, and health issues most relevant to our society. Specific goals of UCSUR fall into four broad domains:

1. Provide state-of-the-art research support services and infrastructure for investigators interested in interdisciplinary research in public policy and the social, behavioral, and health sciences.
(Engage in research of impact; build foundational strength)
 2. Support the community service mission of the University by providing data and conducting policy analysis for the region.
(Strengthen communities; engage in research of impact)
 3. Develop nationally recognized research programs within the center in a few selected areas—currently family caregiving, elder abuse, technology and aging.
(Engage in research of impact)
 4. Support the teaching mission of the University by offering interdisciplinary training and mentoring diverse graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty members.
(Advance educational excellence; embrace diversity and inclusion)
- To achieve these strategic goals, UCSUR maintains a permanent research infrastructure available to both the University and the community with the capacity to:
- acquire, manage, store, and analyze secondary and administrative data sets, including census data and data of unique local interest;
 - obtain, format, and analyze spatial data;
 - carry out regional econometric modeling;
 - design and carry out descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies; and
 - conduct qualitative data collection and analysis.
- Our research infrastructure is organized under four core programs:
1. the Survey Research Program (SRP), which is responsible for all aspects of survey research and quantitative data analysis;
 2. the Urban and Regional Analysis Program (URA), which acquires, manages, and analyzes secondary and administrative data sets; does regional econometric modeling; and obtains, formats, and analyzes spatial data;
 3. the Gerontology Program, which provides expertise in the design, measurement, and analysis of descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies focused on older adults; and
 4. the Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP), which supports the collection and analysis of open-ended text data using rigorous computer-based methods.

Message From the Interim Director



Scott R. Beach, PhD

This annual report for the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) reflects the continued transition between former longtime director Richard Schulz and my appointment as interim director on September 1, 2016. Several of the accomplishments detailed in this annual report occurred under Schulz's leadership, and I look forward to continuing the momentum he has built over the past 20 years and moving UCSUR forward during this exciting time.

This transition for UCSUR also occurs within the broader context of evolving University of Pittsburgh priorities, as Chancellor Patrick Gallagher continues to implement his strategic vision. Several schools and units are in leadership transitions; the new School of Computing and Information has been formed; and other administrative reorganization is occurring, including the appointment of a new senior vice chancellor for research.

I strongly believe that UCSUR is well positioned to adapt to potential changes, as we have always been opportunistic in responding effectively to evolving University and faculty interests and priorities.

During the past year, UCSUR has produced more than 40 peer-reviewed publications; participated in more than 70 funded grants, the majority of which involve multidisciplinary collaborations; conducted 75 student training sessions in use of local policy-relevant data; mentored three junior faculty and three postdoctoral fellows; and trained close to 1,400 students and health care professionals as part of the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program. UCSUR also has continued to be the go-to resource for data and analysis to inform regional public policy, with more than 40,000 Web visits to PittsburghTODAY, SWPA Profiles, and the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center. These resources contain more than 200 downloadable data sets and 500 indicators covering more than 20 topic areas. Other notable achievements include UCSUR's design and implementation of the largest survey of informal caregivers ever conducted in the Pittsburgh region and the development of a new environmental policy initiative in the Urban and Regional Analysis Program. Finally, UCSUR continues to build its permanent research infrastructure with the capacity to conduct all types of survey research; obtain, format, and analyze spatial data; acquire, manage, and analyze large secondary and primary data sets; carry out regional econometric modeling; and carry out qualitative research.

I hope this report will give you a sense of the value that UCSUR provides to the University and the broader community, and I look forward to continued collaboration during this new phase in UCSUR's evolution.

Scott Beach
Interim Director

Programs

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 next 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. 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. Existing research programs include the following.

Gerontology

Program Director
Richard Schulz

Associate Program Director
Judith Matthews

This program initiates, coordinates, and facilitates research on aging. In collaboration with faculty in more than a dozen different disciplines (e.g., psychiatry, anesthesiology, rheumatology, nursing, epidemiology, engineering, and computer science), 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

Interim Program Director
Laurel Person Mecca

This program offers a rigorous approach to qualitative data collection and analysis, including focus group facilitation; in-depth interviewing; cognitive interviewing; analysis of textual or Web site information; audio and video transcription and analysis; data preparation, cleaning, and management; codebook development and testing; coding and multicoder adjudication; reliability and validity reporting; and results analysis and reporting.

Survey Research

Program Director
Scott Beach

This program maintains a highly experienced staff of survey professionals, trained interviewers, and data management specialists. 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. It 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, and features a 45-line telephone bank for computer-assisted telephone interviewing.

Urban and Regional Analysis

Program Codirectors
Michael Blackhurst
Sabina Deitrick

This program promotes scholarly analysis of urban and regional development through multidisciplinary research and technical assistance in local, national, and international issues. It furthers our understanding of the causes and consequences of regional economic development and social change, enhances the analytic basis for public policy decisions and civic engagement, aids in the evaluation of policy alternatives, and applies GIS and neighborhood indicators to understand community revitalization.

Projects conducted in all these areas illustrate the Center's commitment to enhancing scientific understanding of social phenomena while generating information for improved policy making in both the public and private sectors.

What We Do: Center Resources

Survey Research Services

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 to 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 and consultation with commercial sampling firms to obtain an appropriate sample. Examples of the types of samples provided include the following:

- **Random digit dialing (RDD) samples:** Particularly suited for telephone surveys of the general popula-



tion, 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:** These samples are used to reach specific subgroups or rare populations. These are useful for telephone recruitment of participants for larger studies. They also are 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) 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 on incomplete interviews, converting refusals into acceptances, and use of mixed-mode designs and incentives.

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; and instrument pretesting.

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 nonstudents under the management of senior fieldwork 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 retraining sessions occur as necessary.

Computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI):

A 45-line phone bank at UCSUR is dedicated to a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system. Interviewers read questions as they appear on the screen and enter the respondents' answers directly into the computer. CATI allows for complex question contingencies, sample management, and call scheduling to be handled automatically.

RDD cell phone surveys: UCSUR has experience conducting random digit dialing (RDD) cell phone surveys in order to supplement traditional landline RDD telephone surveys. This methodology insures inclusion of cell phone-only households, estimated at 50 percent of the U.S. population (and growing). Cell phone-only households are typically younger, more likely to be employed, and more ethnically diverse, and their exclusion can result in significant biases in landline-only surveys.

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 and provides the same advantages (automated skips, randomized experiments, etc.).

Audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI): With this application, a respondent operates the computer. The computer 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 ACASI 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 in which 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 also is ideal for ecological momentary assessment.

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.

Mobile device data collection: SRP has capabilities to design applications for the collection of data on smartphones and other mobile devices. These include tools for the collection and integration of self-reported survey, location tracking, and physiological monitoring data for real-time ecological momentary assessment studies.

Additional data collection services: Telephone surveys using paper/pencil methodology, mail surveys, and in-person surveys in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region also are available.

Surveys of special and hard-to-reach populations: UCSUR has conducted numerous surveys of special and hard-to-reach populations, including numerous clinical populations, children, and ethnically and linguistically diverse samples. UCSUR has conducted interviews in Spanish, Chinese, and Korean and has the capability to conduct international surveys.

Research Registry

UCSUR has developed and maintains an institutional review board-approved research registry currently containing more than 6,500 local residents who have agreed to be contacted for possible surveys and other research studies. The participants are recruited to the registry on an ongoing basis from the pool of respondents to UCSUR-conducted population-based telephone surveys. The registry includes detailed contact information and demographic information, including age, gender, race, education level, marital status, household composition, employment status, and income. This allows for targeting of participants for studies with specific eligibility requirements. External investigators can contract with SRP to access the registry for study recruitment.

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 weighting adjustments for unequal selection probabilities and nonresponse;
- cross-classification analyses with demographic or other predictive factors;
- multivariate analyses, including ANOVA, factor analysis, linear and nonlinear regression, logistic regression, categorical methods, and structural equation modeling; and
- 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 reports, and oral presentations of results to interested parties.



Urban and Regional Analysis Services

UCSUR's Urban and Regional Analysis (URA) Program analyzes major economic and demographic trends in the Pittsburgh region in national and international contexts. URA brings together faculty, research staff, and graduate students to examine important urban and regional issues, with the results disseminated widely to state and regional policymakers, local officials, and community and economic development organizations. URA also partners with other researchers and organizations around the globe to advance urban and regional knowledge. URA's research extends from regional development to community change and examines their consequences for regional restructuring, equity implications, and policy analysis. In addition to the performance of the regional economy, specific strategic economic sectors are examined through in-depth studies and their implications for workforce development and job creation. The program also fosters the development of new methods of data collection and analysis. URA research is published in scholarly journals and technical reports and has been an important element of UCSUR's commitment to providing regional economic development analysis to both the academic community and the Pittsburgh region. Through URA's work, UCSUR is one of two research affiliates of the Pennsylvania State Data Center, the official source of demographic and economic data for the state.

Environmental Policy Analysis

In the spring of 2017, UCSUR initiated the Environmental Policy Analysis program led by Michael Blackhurst. The Environmental Policy Analysis program integrates engineering and social science methods to address society's environmental challenges through open-source publications and decision support resources. The Environmental Policy Analysis program also serves to connect researchers at the University of Pittsburgh with sponsors and interests external to the University.

The Pittsburgh Regional Economic Model

Regional economic models describe the flow of monetary and labor resources within and across both regions and economic sectors. They often are used to assess the economic and labor impacts of policy alternatives, such as tax revisions, economic development, large-scale infrastructure investment, and many other similar scenarios.

UCSUR uses software published by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) to develop and maintain a regional economic model for Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh's REMI model is supported by UCSUR in partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, which uses REMI for planning transportation infrastructure. UCSUR has more than 25 years of experience applying the model to the Pittsburgh region. Previous applications of Pittsburgh's REMI model include economic, population, and labor forecasting and regional economic impact analysis.

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center supports key community initiatives by making public information easier to find and use. The data center provides a technological and legal infrastructure for data sharing to support a growing ecosystem of data providers and users. The data center maintains Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh's open data portal and provides a number of services to data publishers and users. The data center also hosts data sets from these and other public sector agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations. The data center is managed by UCSUR and is a partnership of the University, Allegheny County, and the City of Pittsburgh. The data center is made possible through support provided by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Heinz Endowments, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles

Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles (SWPA Community Profiles) are a new way to collect, analyze, and understand information across a range of domains to look at our neighborhoods and communities in a comprehensive data fashion. SWPA Community Profiles present community data and indicators in a series of interactive tables and maps. With data and indicators from local, state, and federal government sources, along with a select set of other databases, SWPA Community Profiles allow users to understand and visualize data along a range of geographic areas in our communities and region. Data are organized along 11 domains: Arts and Culture, Demographics, Economy, Education, Environment, Governance and Civic Vitality, Health, Housing and Properties, Human Services, Public Safety, and Transportation. Within each domain is important information in understanding the changes, trends, and developments that are affecting our local areas. Data are available by different geographies, from county and municipal levels down to neighborhood and census tract and block groupings.

Regional Indicators Project: PittsburghTODAY.org

PittsburghTODAY.org is an in-depth journalism and regional indicators program that compares Greater Pittsburgh with 14 other regions on hundreds of measures. The statistical indicators provide reliable and timely information that show this region's strengths and weaknesses and how it compares with other regions. Additionally, PittsburghTODAY.org undertakes in-depth journalistic projects in subjects that are important to the region's future.

Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly

UCSUR publishes *Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly* (PEQ) to support organizations and staff involved with economic development throughout the region. PEQ highlights important economic and demographic trends that impact the regional economy and the competitiveness of the regional economy. 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. A significant number of positive responses to PEQ have resulted in substantial press coverage, and the publication has filled a major need in the region for the ongoing study of current economic trends. Recent issues of PEQ have addressed change in the city of Pittsburgh, lead in drinking water, the role of libraries as all-purpose education hubs, the use of 311 requests as a measure of conditions in city neighborhoods, and trends in mining employment and industry in Pennsylvania.



Geographic Information System (GIS)

Geographic information systems visualize and analyze spatial trends in data. UCSUR staff have decades of leadership experience using GIS systems to manage and analyze spatial data, including executing original research and providing data publishing, technical assistance, online decision support, and data educational and training. Our staff have led GIS-driven projects across a diversity of domains, including environmental policy, health care, land use and housing policy, and public health. Exemplary recent projects include the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center and Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles.

Gerontology Services

The Gerontology Program at UCSUR has been conducting federally funded research on critical issues related to health, aging, and family caregiving for more than 25 years. Much of what is known about living with different illnesses has resulted from medical and psychological research such as that conducted in our program. This program is recognized as one of the leading social gerontology research programs in the nation. Program faculty and staff play an active role in developing proposals for research focused on psychosocial, behavioral, cognitive, and physical aspects of aging. Our principal goals are to do the following:

- Stimulate training in and the development of externally funded research in six areas:
 1. physical and mental health of older adults
 2. use of technology to improve older adults' quality of life
 3. work and retirement
 4. aging and social institutions
 5. socialization and social support
 6. cultural differences and aging
- Operate as the information hub for interdisciplinary aging-related research

and training resources throughout the University

- Assist in the development of new gerontological and service programs that serve the research and training missions of the University

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

This educational program is designed to serve individuals from diverse educational, employment, and professional backgrounds who are interested in acquiring basic knowledge about gerontology and geriatrics and specialized knowledge of aging and aging processes. Students may focus broadly on a course of study in a general multidisciplinary track offered both on campus as well as through Pitt-Online. They also may select specialty tracks focused on prevention and healthy aging, dentistry, gerontechnology, law, mental health, nursing, occupational therapy/rehabilitation, public health, and social work. Whether their goal is to gain credentials and skills for a competitive advantage in the marketplace or to enhance their understanding of aging to inform the delivery of services, programs, or products, students may enroll in this certificate program alone or may pursue the certificate in conjunction with a degree program. Credits earned for the certificate often may be applied toward a degree program. Information about the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology can be found at www.ucsur.org/gerontology-certificate.

Technology and Aging

A major research project led by the Gerontology Program focuses on how and why community-residing older adults, particularly those with limited access to personal computers and mobile devices, use multiuser health kiosks located in congregate settings to self-monitor and manage several aspects of their health. In addition to tracking user engagement with the assessment and intervention features of the kiosk, the project explores health services use during the 18 months

of study participation and promotes patient/provider communication regarding personal health and family caregiving concerns. This project is supported by the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research and involves multidisciplinary collaboration among researchers from several universities in the fields of health professions, social sciences, engineering, computer science, and informatics

Geriatric Education

The Geriatric Education Center of Pennsylvania, based at UCSUR, leads a consortium comprising the University of Pittsburgh, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pennsylvania State University Center on Healthy Aging, and the Aging Institute of UPMC Senior Services and the University of Pittsburgh. Six initiatives provide training and resources to professional and paraprofessional health care providers, older adults, and family caregivers. Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, these initiatives address several regional needs and national directives regarding geriatric education:

- Improving the care of elderly veterans through education of primary care providers and family members
- Transforming clinical training for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and providing training to health and social services professionals in rural and underserved urban areas
- Advancing dementia care competency and preparedness across disciplines in multiple primary care settings
- Improving mental health care for older adults in primary care settings
- Improving healthy lifestyles of older adults by training health and social service providers to implement preventive interventions for older adults in community settings
- Establishing a regional community-based outreach and resource center

Qualitative Data Analysis Services

The Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP) at UCSUR provides a resource to the University community in all aspects of 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 and coordination, data collection utilizing interviews, focus groups, document or Web site analysis, audio and video transcription, data coding and analysis, and results reporting.

Data Collection and Management

QDAP staff have the expertise to collect and manage a range of qualitative data using a variety of methods and sources. This includes conducting in-depth interviews and cognitive interviews; facilitating focus groups; and collecting qualitative data from both traditional and innovative sources, such as document and textual material; videos; images and other visual material; and Web sources such as Web sites, blogs, and e-mails. QDAP provides high-quality transcription of audio and video recordings for further analysis. QDAP staff can provide management services ranging from full project management to assistance in the management of data collection, including recruitment, screening, and scheduling of participants, depending on project needs. Using qualitative data analysis and management software, QDAP staff also can organize and manage qualitative data in preparation for analysis.

Value-added Coding

Accurate and reliable coding is central to qualitative and mixed-methods analysis. QDAP offers a rigorous approach to analyzing a variety of qualitative materials. Experienced coders deliver the data you need in a timely and expert manner 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, blogs, e-mails, Web site content, vid-

eos and images, results from database searches (such as LexisNexis), congressional testimony, historical texts, and a host of other unstructured but digitized data sets. QDAP staff work with your research team to craft an analysis plan and codebook with a tailored methodology designed to code the material for key concepts and relationships. Multiple coders can quickly and reliably extract the data you need to reach valid inferences.

QDAP employs University of Pittsburgh students and UCSUR professional staff trained in data collection and using qualitative analysis software. We maintain a 15-station transcription and qualitative data coding lab that uses Olympus transcription software; ATLAS.ti, a widely used qualitative data analysis software package that supports project management, enables multiple coders to collaborate on a single project, and generates output that facilitates the analysis process; NVivo, another widely used qualitative data analysis software package; Transana, a video coding software package; and a specialized in-house program for quality control that calculates inter-coder reliability statistics and simplifies adjudication of coder disagreement. In addition, we offer training seminars and one-on-one training sessions for faculty, staff, and students in using ATLAS.ti, NVivo, and Transana.

Services Provided:

- Study design, management, and coordination
- Interviewer training and management
- Participant recruitment
- Data collection, including focus group facilitation, in-depth interviewing, cognitive interviewing, and document analysis
- Transcription of audio and video recordings
- Data preparation, cleaning, and management
- Codebook development and testing
- Coding and coding adjudication

- Coder reliability and validity reporting
- Results analysis and expression
- Software training for qualitative data analysis software (ATLAS.ti, NVivo, Transana)

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 2010 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 in and consultation on the appropriate use and understanding of various secondary data sources; and
- evaluation and interpretation of policy-relevant secondary information data for government, business, labor, media, and other organizations.

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 *Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly*, and up-to-date neighborhood information on the UCSUR Web site (ucsur.pitt.edu).

Information Technology Infrastructure

UCSUR's Technology Services unit provides robust data management systems and services for our programs and clients. These systems and services focus on high levels of security, data integrity, reliability, and performance. UCSUR partners with Pitt's Computing Services and Systems Development and cloud-based services from Oracle, Google, and Amazon. These relationships enhance our capability to use modern computing technologies, deploy enterprise quality software, implement contemporary security protocols, and leverage protective network infrastructures. These vital partnerships enable UCSUR to provide staff and researchers with the tools needed to meet critical project requirements. These alliances also allow UCSUR to meet strict data integrity, security, and privacy demands of entities such as institutional review boards and the federal government.

UCSUR's Technology Services unit also supports the latest data mining and data analytics software/techniques helping researchers to identify relationships and draw conclusions from collected data. This integrated, data-based analytical methodology is fundamental to research conducted and supported by UCSUR's interdisciplinary research team.

Program Evaluation Services

UCSUR can assist individuals 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 members 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; and
- referral to evaluation consultants with expertise in specific content areas.

Faculty Development Awards



Steven D. Manners

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, and in recognition of his contributions to the Center and the University community, UCSUR initiated a faculty development awards program. UCSUR annually offers 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.

2017 Awardees:

Courtenay Dunn-Lewis, Department of Health and Physical Activity

Aidan Wright, Department of Psychology

Previous Awardees:

2016: Anthony Kontos, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Victoria Shineman, Department of Political Science

Alicia Sufrinko, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

2015: Carissa Low, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal, Department of Psychology

2014: Anthony Fabio, Department of Epidemiology

Dara Mendez, Department of Epidemiology

Lyn Robertson, Department of Medicine

2013: Brian Beaton, School of Computing and Information

Rosta Farzan, School of Computing and Information

Kathryn Monahan, Department of Psychiatry

Ming-Te Wang, Department of Psychology in Education

2012: Nicholas Castle, Department of Health Policy and Management

2011: Jane Clougherty, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

Fengyan Tang, School of Social Work

2010: Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Jennifer H. Lingler, Department of Health and Community Systems

Werner Troesken, Department of Economics

Jennifer Nicoll Victor, Department of Political Science

Randall Walsh, Department of Economics

2009: Irina Murtazashvili, Department of Economics

Brian A. Primack, Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics

2008: Peter J. Gianaros, Department of Psychiatry

J. Richard Jennings, Department of Psychiatry

Keith Morgenlander, Department of Medicine

2007: Patricia Isabel Documet, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Jeffrey Shook, School of Social Work

Michael Vaughn, School of Social Work

2006: Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Larissa Myaskovsky, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Aaron Swoboda, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

2005: Charlotte Brown, Center on Race and Social Problems

Bruce S. Ling, Institute for Doctor-Patient Communication

Eva Marie Shivers, Department of Psychology in Education

2004: Ellen Olshansky, Department of Health and Community Systems

Seung-Hyun Yoo, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Susan Zickmund, Department of Medicine

2003: Lisa Brush, Department of Sociology

William Klein, Department of Psychology

Audrey Murrell, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business

Pamela Peele, Department of Health Economics

Daniel Rosen, School of Social Work

Jeannette Trauth, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

2002: Scott F. Kiesling, Department of Linguistics

Maureen Porter, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies

2001: Paul E. Griffiths, Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Miriam Hertz, Department of Health Information Management

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Emeritus Director
Sally Newman

Journal Editor
Rafael Engel*

*Indicates participating faculty,
not UCSUR staff

Faculty Associates

The following is a listing of current and former collaborators, representing numerous schools, departments, institutes, and centers.

Charles David Boucek	Anesthesiology	Amber Barnato	Internal Medicine	Pouran Famili	Periodontics
John P. Williams	Anesthesiology	Kathleen McTigue	Internal Medicine	Olufunmilola Abraham	Pharmacy
Steven Albert	Behavioral and Community Health Sciences	Lawrence Feick	Katz Graduate School of Business	Pam Smithburger	Pharmacy
Jessica Griffin Burke	Behavioral and Community Health Sciences	Carrie R. Leana	Katz Graduate School of Business	James J. Irrgang	Physical Therapy
Mary Hawk	Behavioral and Community Health Sciences	John E. Prescott	Katz Graduate School of Business	Andrew Lynch	Physical Therapy
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Richard Boyce	Biomedical Informatics	Mary Crossley	Law	Barry Ames	Political Science
Gary M. Marsh	Biostatistics	Vivian Curran	Law	Boris Birmaher	Psychiatry
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Melissa Bilec	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Alan Meisel	Law	David Brent	Psychiatry
Kenneth Sochats	College of General Studies	Richard Correnti	Learning Research and Development Center	Charlotte Brown	Psychiatry
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Rami Melhem	Computer Science	Sonya Borrero	Medicine	Mary Amanda Dew	Psychiatry
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Douglas White	Critical Care Medicine	Katie Nason	Medicine	Jordan Karp	Psychiatry
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Mary Marazita	Dental Medicine	P. Sudhakar Reddy	Medicine	Mike Marshal	Psychiatry
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Jane A. Cauley	Epidemiology	Heidi Donovan	Nursing	Robert McCall	Psychology
Andrea Kriska	Epidemiology	Willi M. Doswell	Nursing	Kathryn Roecklein	Psychology
William B. Kory	Geography	Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob	Nursing	Daniel Shaw	Psychology
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Marcela Gonzalez Rivas	Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Jennifer Hagerty Lingler	Nursing	Mary Goldberg	Rehabilitation Science and Technology
Jennifer Brach	Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Faith Luyster	Nursing	Ralph Bangs	Social Work
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Everette James III	Health Policy and Management	Margaret Rosenzweig	Nursing	Catherine Greeno	Social Work
Judith R. Lave	Health Policy and Management	Elizabeth A. Schlenk	Nursing	Helen Petracchi	Social Work
Beaufort B. Longest, Jr	Health Policy and Management	Susan Sereika	Nursing	Mary Rauktis	Social Work
Margaret Potter	Health Policy and Management	Paula Sherwood	Nursing	Tracy M. Soska	Social Work
Jonathon Erlen	Health Sciences Library System	Pamela Toto	Occupational Therapy	Hide Yamatani	Social Work
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Edward K. Muller	History	Juan Manfredi	Office of the Provost	Lisa D. Brush	Sociology
Lisa S. Parker	Human Genetics	Mark Redfern	Office of the Provost	Waverly Duck	Sociology
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Terry Miller	Institute of Politics	Parmjeet Randhawa	Pathology	Carolyn J. Carson	Urban Studies Program
		Raymond Pitetti	Pediatrics		
		Dianna Ploof	Pediatrics		
		Kristin Ray	Pediatrics		
		Abhay Vats	Pediatrics		
		Selma F. Witchel	Pediatrics		

Projects*

10 Keys to Healthy Aging: An Innovative Community-based Program

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Steven Albert, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Funder: Research Development Fund

Period: 7/14–present

UCSUR is using an interactive voice response system to track balance, falls, activity, and hospital visits monthly over the course of six months.

Animal Ownership in Insecure Households

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Mary Rautkis, School of Social Work

Funder: Florence Stier Research Development Award

Period: 1/17–12/19

Assistance with a self-administered survey on tablets focused on the intersection of human and companion animal food insecurity

Does Mindfulness Meditation Training Improve Social Relationship Functioning?

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
David Creswell, Carnegie Mellon University

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 9/15–8/20

Telephone recruitment of N=269 older adults for participation in a mindfulness meditation training program

Employer Cohort Project

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Rhaven Nelson, Technology Services, UCSUR
Melanie Harrington, Vibrant Pittsburgh

Funder: Vibrant Pittsburgh

Period: 8/17–9/17

Web-based data collection with large local employers about diversity-related hiring and staffing and best practices regarding encouraging diversity in the workforce

Enhancing Highland Park

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Traci Jackson, Jackson/Clark Partners

Funder: City of Pittsburgh

Period: 5/16–7/16

Web survey of community members, park users, zoo visitors, and interested stakeholders about experiences, input, and opinions related to improving Heth's Run Valley

Esophageal Cancer Patient Survey

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Katie Nason, Department of Medicine

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 9/13–present

Telephone interviews of 200 patients either diagnosed with or at risk for esophageal cancer exploring risk factors and patient interactions with the health care system

Experimental Study of Stress and DNA Damage in Humans: Mediators and Moderators

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Dana Bovbjerg, Department of Psychiatry

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 1/17–12/21

Recruitment of 336 persons to participate in an experimental study looking at the effects of brief stresses on DNA in blood samples

Factors Contributing to Oral Health Disparities in Appalachia

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Mary Marazita, Department of Oral Biology

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 4/11–6/21

Conduct prenatal and 10 postbirth follow-up telephone interviews of 1,000 new mothers (500 in Pittsburgh and 500 in West Virginia) to explore factors related to childhood oral health disparities

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator

Healthy Steps for Older Adults: A Statewide (PA) Approach to Preventing Falls

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Steven Albert, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Funder: Research Development Fund

Period: 7/14–present

UCSUR is using an interactive voice response system to track balance, falls, activity, and hospital visits monthly over the course of six months.

Impact of Green Space Improvement on Physical Activity in a Low-income Community

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Tamara Dubowitz, RAND Corporation

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 7/12–4/17

Interviewer training, data management, and technical support in a study of the impact of neighborhood green space renovation and other sustainable development on physical activity in 1,600 residents of low-income neighborhoods

Improving the Availability of Younger Unrelated Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, Department of Medicine

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 4/16–4/21

Web survey of several hundred younger potential unrelated hematopoietic stem cell donors (aged 18–30) with the ultimate goal of improving availability of this younger donor group

Increasing Equity in Transplant Evaluation and Living Donor Kidney Transplantation

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Larissa Myascovsky, Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 9/14–7/19

A telephone interview data collection effort of kidney transplant patients to help pave the way for transplant centers to implement a fast-track system at their sites, improve quality of care by transplanting a larger number of vulnerable patients, and help address stark race/ethnic disparities in rates of living donor kidney transplantation

Melanopsin Photosensitivity and Psychopathology

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Kathryn Roecklein, Department of Psychology

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 9/14–5/19

Telephone recruitment of N=130 persons with seasonal affective disorder

On the Move: Optimizing Participation in Group Exercise

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Jennifer Brach, Department of Physical Therapy

Funder: Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Period: 10/14–present

SRP is using interactive voice response among a group exercise participants to track falls, activity, and hospital visits monthly over the course of one year.

Perspectives on Sustainable Water Management in Latin American Cities

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Marcela Gonzalez Rivas, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA)

Funder: GSPIA

Period: 10/15–12/16

Web survey regarding sustainable water management of N=150 officials in several Latin American cities

Pittsburgh Caregiver Survey

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Everette James, Health Policy Institute

Funders: Pittsburgh Foundation, Stern Center for Evidence Based Policy

Period: 8/16–7/18

Telephone interviews with 1,000 local informal caregivers and 200 care recipients to assess the state of caregiving in the region

Pittsburgh Project on Brain Pathways to Heart Health

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Peter Gianaros, Department of Psychology

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 2/12–1/17

Recruitment of 120 community controls for a study on blood pressure reactivity to psychological stress and greater preclinical carotid atherosclerosis

PittsSmartLiving Project

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Alexandros Labrinidis, Department of Computer Science
[note: now School of Computing and Information]

Funder: University of Pittsburgh

Period: 10/16–9/17

Survey regarding the use of public transportation, focusing on persons' flexibility in transportation schedules and use of incentives to change their schedules

Social Integration, Daily Social Interaction, and Health Risk Pathways in Midlife

Principal

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

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 4/14–3/19

Telephone recruitment of 400 healthy adults to participate in a study about social interactions, stress, and health

Targeted Interventions to Prevent Chronic Lower Back Pain (TARGET Trial)

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Anthony Delitto, Department of Physical Therapy

Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Period: 7/15–9/20

Surveys (Web and phone) of 12,000 patients (across five sites) at six and 12 months after an initial doctor's visit for lower back pain

Undergraduate Student Satisfaction and Retention Study

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Juan Manfredi, Office of the Provost

Funder: Office of the Provost

Period: 9/97–present

Conduct telephone and Web-based surveys of University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students (n=1800 per year) and withdrawing students (n=400 per year) to determine factors related to student satisfaction and retention

Understanding Factors Influencing Financial Exploitation among Diverse Samples of Older Adults

Principal

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

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 4/17–3/22

Examine the impact of financial scam susceptibility on incidence of financial exploitation (FE); examine the impact of sociodemographic factors and social integration/isolation on scam susceptibility and FE; examine the impact of general cognitive abilities and financial skills/advice and support on scam susceptibility and FE and as mediators of relationships among sociodemographic factors, social integration/isolation, scam susceptibility, and FE; and examine the impact of psychosocial factors on scam susceptibility and FE

Wheelchair Registry

Principal

Investigators: **Scott Beach**, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Rory Cooper, Human Engineering Research Laboratories

Funder: Human Engineering Research Laboratories

Period: 1/14–present

Help the Human Engineering Research Laboratories at the University of Pittsburgh efficiently and securely register and track participants in a wheelchair registry for research participation using a custom database working in conjunction with an online survey instrument for data collection and maintenance

Evaluating the Impact of Energy Conservation Education on Energy Use in the Detroit, Michigan Area

Principal

Investigator: **Michael Blackhurst**, URA, UCSUR

Funder: EcoWorks Detroit

Period: 4/16–present

This project will assess the impact of energy conservation training on energy use in the Detroit, Michigan area.

Evaluating the Impact of White Roofs on Air Conditioning in Austin, Texas

Principal

Investigator: Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR

Funder: White Roof Research, Inc.

Period: 7/15-6/17

Evaluate the impact on residential cooling loads of painting conventional asphalt shingles white, demonstrating an experimental design that controls for self-selection bias using the nighttime performance of white roofs

Green Infrastructure Implementation

Principal

Investigator: Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Heinz Endowments

Period: 7/16-9/16

Estimates the cost-effectiveness of parcel-scale green infrastructure installations throughout the city of Pittsburgh and summarize implications for wet weather policy

Survey of Willingness to Pay for and Participate in Mitigating Lead in Drinking Water

Principal

Investigator: Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Research Development Funds

Period: 6/17–present

Survey residents in Allegheny County, Pa., with respect to their stated preferences for mitigation of lead in drinking water and willingness to pay for respective alternatives

Neighborhood Attraction Factors Impacting the Young Professional African American Population in the City of Pittsburgh

Principal

Investigators: Christopher Briem, URA, UCSUR

Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR

Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR

Funder: POISE Foundation

Period: 07/15-02/17

A study of factors influencing the choice of residence of young professional African Americans in the city of Pittsburgh

Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles

Principal

Investigator: Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Allegheny County Department of Human Services Integrated Fund

Period: ongoing

Web-based software tool to present community data and indicators through visualizations, including tables, maps, graphs, and charts, for 10 counties of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center

Principal

Investigator: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funders: Richard King Mellon Foundation, University of Pittsburgh

Period: ongoing

The data center supports key community initiatives by making public information easier to find and use. The data center is managed by UCSUR and is a partnership with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.

Regional Indicators Project: PittsburghToday.org

Principal

Investigator: Douglas Heuck, URA, UCSUR

Funders: Hillman Foundation, Anonymous, Richard King Mellon Foundation, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Period: ongoing

The Regional Indicators Project: PittsburghToday.org is an in-depth journalism and regional indicators program that compares greater Pittsburgh with 14 other regions on hundreds of measures. Since its inception, hundreds of reports have been published on key regional quality of life issues.

Self-management via Health Kiosk by Community-residing Older Adults

Principal

Investigators: Judith Matthews, Gerontology, UCSUR

Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR

Daniel Buysse, Department of Psychiatry

Karen Courtney, University of Victoria

Sandra Engberg, Department of Health Promotion and Development

Jennifer Hagerty Lingler, Department of Health and Community Systems

Kathleen McTigue, Department of Internal Medicine

Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR

Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri

Asim Smailagic, Carnegie Mellon University

Jessie Van Swearingen, Department of Physical Therapy

Funder: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Period: 9/14–9/19

This project will study older adults' views, motivations, and patterns of use of an adaptive, community-based, multiuser health kiosk over 18 months of study participation. The goal is to understand how and why older adults use a health kiosk to live a healthier lifestyle and monitor and manage selected chronic conditions.

A Comparison of Treatment Methods for Patients Following Total Knee Replacement

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Sara Piva, Department of Physical Therapy

Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Period: 4/17–10/17

Facilitation, transcription, coding, and reporting of focus groups with patients who have undergone total knee replacement surgeries and physical therapists who treat those conditions to compare their perceptions of clinic-based individual outpatient rehabilitative exercise and community-based group exercise classes after surgery

Development of a Culturally Relevant Web-based Intervention to Promote Physical Activity among African Americans at High Risk for Cardiovascular Disease

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Jacob Kariuki, Department of Health and Community Systems

Funder: Start-up Funds

Period: 4/17–9/17

Recruitment, facilitation, transcription, and coding of focus groups with African Americans at high risk for cardiovascular disease regarding their needs and preferences for a culturally relevant Web-based intervention to promote physical activity

Feasibility and Acceptability of an Internet-based Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment for Insomnia in Adults with Asthma

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Faith Luyster, Department of Health and Community Systems

Funder: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Period: 4/17–10/17

Collection, transcription, and coding of interviews with adults with asthma and comorbid insomnia following participation in an Internet-based cognitive-behavioral treatment for insomnia intervention to assess the feasibility and acceptability of the intervention and to explore the need for asthma-related adaptations to the intervention's content

Perceptions about Disease Flares in Rheumatoid Arthritis

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Nancy Baker, Department of Occupational Therapy
Sara Piva, Department of Physical Therapy

Funder: Research Development Funds

Period: 4/17–10/17

Facilitation, transcription, coding, and reporting of focus groups with rheumatoid arthritis patients regarding flare signs, triggers, prevention strategies, and management approaches to guide development of a patient-centered research program to identify disease flares before they happen and improve clinical care of those patients

The Impact of Ubiquitous Use of Mobile Technology on Social Studies Students and Teachers: A Case Study

Principal

Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Subrina Oliver, Pace University

Funder: Self-funded

Period: 4/17–6/17

Coding of observations and focus groups regarding the ways in which ubiquitous access to iPads impacts teaching and learning experiences for ninth grade social studies honors students

Penn Hills Neighborhood Stabilization

Principal

Investigator: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Municipality of Penn Hills

Period: 7/15–7/16

Provide support to implement and analyze a parcel survey in the Frankstown-West neighborhood in order to help guide community improvement efforts

A Qualitative Study of Mixed Martial Arts Fighters' Perceptions about Injury-related Risk Factors

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Keri Rodriguez, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Funder: Research Development Funds

Period: 3/16–7/17

Transcription and coding management and support for semistructured interviews with professional and amateur mixed martial arts fighters regarding their perceptions about risk factors associated with fight- and training-related injuries

An In-depth Assessment of Patient Factors That Affect One's Choice to Accept or Decline an AICD

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Amber Johnson, Cardiovascular Institute

Funder: Department Funds

Period: 2/16–9/17

Transcription and coding of interviews with patients regarding factors that affect their choice to accept or decline an automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (AICD)

Capturing the Therapist's Perspective of the UPMC Centers for Rehab Services Low Back Initiative

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Joel Stevans, Department of Physical Therapy

Funder: UPMC

Period: 3/16–7/16

Recruitment, collection, transcription, coding, and reporting of interviews with physical therapists regarding their adherence to evidence-based treatment of low back pain

Chronic Conditions and Mutuality of Care in Late-life Marriage

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Joan Monin, Yale University

Funder: National Institute on Aging

Period: 1/17–9/17

Transcription and coding of discussions between married couples aged 60+ regarding how they met and health concerns to understand how support dynamics in late-life marriage influence health, particularly cardiovascular health and depression, and longevity

Examining Contraceptive Use and Unmet Need among Women Veterans

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Sonya Borrero, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Funder: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Period: 5/15–8/16

Transcription of interviews with female veterans regarding contraception use, types of methods used, unmet need for contraception, and rate of unintended pregnancy

Feasibility Testing of a Decision Aid to Support Shared Decision Making about Invasive Mechanical Ventilation in Severe COPD

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Negin Hajizadeh, North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 2/15–8/16

Transcription of interviews and focus groups with COPD patients and caregivers about using a Web-based tool as a decision aid and information needed for end-of-life/advance care planning decisions

From Periphery to Center: Transitioning Public Art Practices in Contemporary Mexico

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Caitlin Bruce, Department of Communication

Funder: Hewlett International Grant, University Center for International Studies

Period: 7/15–12/16

Spanish transcription of interviews that explore how a city-sponsored graffiti program in León Guanajuato, Mexico, impacts graffiti artists' civic status

Making It to the Doctor's: Failed Appointments in a Residency Primary Care Continuity Clinic

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Ana Malinow, Department of Pediatrics

Funder: American Academy of Pediatrics

Period: 11/16–1/17

Transcription, coding, analysis, and reporting of focus groups with low-income parents regarding barriers to attending well-child visits

Review and Revision of International Knee Documentation Committee (IKDC) Subjective Knee Form

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Andrew Lynch, Department of Physical Therapy
James Irrgang, Department of Physical Therapy

Funder: American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine

Period: 10/16–present

Collection, transcription, and coding of cognitive interviews with knee injury patients to determine comprehension and relevance of the questions on the IKDC Subjective Knee form and to identify gaps in content coverage

Supporting Practices to Adopt Registry-based Care

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Rebecca Etz, Virginia Commonwealth University

Funder: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Period: 3/15–present

Transcription of interviews regarding the effectiveness of a low-resource, low-impact process for initiating improvement in the primary care management of patients with type 2 diabetes through implementation of a diabetes registry

Text Messaging for Hypertension Self-management Support

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Matthew Muldoon, Department of Medicine

Funder: University of Pittsburgh Physicians Foundation

Period: 10/16–6/17

Transcription and coding of interviews with hypertension patients to test the feasibility and acceptability of educational videos and an automated and bidirectional texting program to proactively help patients measure and understand their blood pressure

Texting to Reduce Alcohol Consumption

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Brian Suffoletto, Department of Emergency Medicine

Funder: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Period: 9/14–9/16

Transcription and coding of interviews with young adults with past binge drinking to identify preferences for a mobile phone-delivered intervention and barriers and solutions to text message dialogue supporting self-regulation with young adults during drinking episodes

Transcription Projects for Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Jesse Crosson, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Lee-Lee Ellis, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Deborah Peikes, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Funder: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Period: 3/15–present

Transcription for three projects addressing a variety of policy and health care issues

Twenty-three Smaller Short-term Transcription Projects

Principal

Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR

Funder: Multiple Funders

Period: 7/16–6/17

Twenty-three smaller, short-term transcription projects with a variety of investigators and funders

A Nonpharmacological Intervention for Patients with Alzheimer's Disease and Family Caregivers

Principal

Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Sara Czaja, University of Miami

Funder: National Institute on Aging

Period: 9/16–4/21

The study will develop and test the efficacy and feasibility of a dyadic-based intervention program delivered through state-of-the-art computer tablet technology. A novel feature of the investigation is its focus on both the caregiver and the recipient of care (person with Alzheimer's disease) and the integration of an evidenced-based caregiver intervention and evidenced-based cognitive/functional training for the care recipient.

A Randomized Pilot Study of Behavioral Self-monitoring to Promote Mental Health among Spousally Bereaved Older Adults

Co-mentor: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR

Principal

Investigator: Sarah Stahl, Department of Psychiatry

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 2/15–1/19

The purpose of this research is to gather evidence for the feasibility of a behavioral intervention to prevent the onset or delay the progression of depression, anxiety, and/or complicated grief disorder(s) in adults who experience late-life spousal bereavement.

A Tailored Technology Intervention for Diverse Family Caregivers of AD Patients

Principal

Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Judith Matthews, Gerontology, UCSUR
Sara Czaja, University of Miami

Funder: National Institute of Nursing Research

Period: 4/13–3/18

This investigation focuses on gathering systematic data on the acceptability and efficacy of a unique technology-based, culturally tailored psychosocial intervention program that targets ethnically/culturally diverse family caregivers of patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD).



Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program

Principal

Investigators: Richard Schulz, *Gerontology, UCSUR*
Judith Matthews, *Gerontology, UCSUR*

Funder: Health Resources and Services Administration

Period: 7/15–6/18

The Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is a consortium of the University of Pittsburgh, the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pennsylvania State University, and UPMC, with Pitt as the lead institution. Through this collaboration, we are able to provide interprofessional training and access to resources for older adults and their families throughout HHS Region III.

Return of Amyloid Imaging Research Results in MCI

Principal

Investigators: Richard Schulz, *Gerontology, UCSUR*
Jennifer Hagerty Lingler, *Department of Health and Community Systems*

Funder: National Institute on Aging

Period: 6/14–5/18

The purpose of this study is to use a series of qualitative interviews and content analysis to identify the information and support needs of MCI care dyads who are offered amyloid imaging research results.

Competiveness Research

Principal

Investigator: Vijai Singh, *Office of the Chancellor*

Funders: Heinz Endowments, Consolidated Natural Gas

Period: ongoing

Projects include analysis of factors that promote regional competitiveness of the biotech industry in Pittsburgh

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