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WHO WE ARE: UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND URBAN RESEARCH

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:

• conduct all types of survey research and quantitative data analysis;
• 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, evaluative, 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.

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.
MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

This annual report for UCSUR reflects the continued transition between former long-time director Richard Schulz and my appointment as interim director on September 1, 2016. Several of the accomplishments detailed in this annual report were initiated under Richard’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 priorities, as Chancellor Patrick Gallagher continues to implement his strategic vision. Several schools and units also 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, which have received approximately 5,000 citations; participated in more than 70 funded grants, the majority of which involve multidisciplinary collaborations; conducted more than 100 student trainings in the use of local policy-relevant data; and trained close to 2,000 students and health care professionals as part of the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program. The Center also has continued to be the go-to resource for data and analysis to inform regional public policy, with more than 50,000 Web visits to PittsburghTODAY, SWPA Profiles, and the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC). These resources contain more than 250 downloadable data sets and 500 indicators covering more than 20 topic areas. Other notable achievements include UCSUR’s receipt of a $3.2 million National Institute on Aging grant on financial decision making and susceptibility to financial fraud in older adults; continued collaboration with the Health Policy Institute on a regional caregiving initiative, including dissemination of the Pittsburgh Regional Caregiver Survey and convening a Pitt caregiver research summit; completion of an economic study of the impact of potential military base relocations and closures (BRAC) to inform state-level policy; and continued expansion 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 the Center’s evolution.

Scott Beach
Interim Director

These resources contain more than 250 downloadable data sets and 500 indicators covering more than 20 topic areas.
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. Existing research programs include the following:

> **Gerontology**
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, 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**
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 multi coder adjudication; reliability and validity reporting; and results analysis and reporting.

> **Survey Research**
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. 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. Features a 45-line telephone bank for Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI).

> **Urban and Regional Analysis**
Promotes scholarly analysis of urban and regional development through multidisciplinary research and technical assistance in local, national, and international issues. 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 policymaking 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, or consultation with commercial sampling firms to obtain an appropriate sample. Examples of the types of samples provided include:

- **Random digit dialing (RDD)** samples are: 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 are**: samples 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 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
- 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 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 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 cellphone only households, estimated at 50 percent of the U.S. population (and growing). Cellphone 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 a 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
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 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.

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, 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 IRB-approved research registry currently containing more than 8,000 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 non-response
- 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
- 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
- Oral presentations of results to interested parties

We advise 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.
UCSUR’s Urban and Regional Analysis Program (URA) 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 across the globe to advance urban and regional knowledge. URA’s research extends from regional development to community change and examines the 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 to 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 are often 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.

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 data 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 datasets from these and other public sector agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations. The Data Center is managed by the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Social and Urban Research, 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) is 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 presents 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 allows users to understand and visualize data along a range of geographic areas in our communities and region. Data are organized along 11 domains: Arts & Culture, Demographics, Economy, Education, Environment, Governance & Civic Vitality, Health, Housing & 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 shows 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 the 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. Significant positive response to PEQ has resulted in substantial press coverage and has filled a major need in the region for ongoing study of current economic trends. Recent issues of PEQ addressed these key topics:

- Profiles of Change in the City of Pittsburgh
- Regulatory Gaps May Increase Risks of Lead in Drinking Water with Service Line Replacements
- Bridging the Digital Divide: Libraries Become All-Purpose Education Hubs
- The Use of 311 Requests as a Measure of Neighborhood Conditions in the City of Pittsburgh
- Mining Employment and Industry Trends Across 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 (WPRDC) and Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles.
WHAT WE DO: CENTER RESOURCES, continued

**Gerontology Program**

The Gerontology Program at the University of Pittsburgh has been conducting federally funded research on critical issues related to health, aging, and family caregiving for more than 30 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 the psychosocial, behavioral, cognitive, and physical aspects of aging. Our principal goals are to:

- stimulate 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, and
  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 training 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, gerontology, law, mental health, nursing, occupational therapy/rehabilitation, public health, and social work.

Whether to gain credentials and skills for a competitive advantage in the marketplace or to enhance understanding of aging to inform the delivery of services, programs, or products, students may solely enroll in this certificate program or they may pursue the certificate in conjunction with a degree program. Credits earned for the certificate may often be applied toward a degree program. Information about this Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Program can be found at: agingcertificate.pitt.edu.

**Center for Caregiving Research, Education, and Policy**

In collaboration with the Health Policy Institute, the Gerontology Program of UCSUR launched the Center for Caregiving Research, Education, and Policy. The mission of the Center is to enhance research on caregiving; train professionals and family caregivers to be as effective as possible; institute support programs integrating caregivers into existing health care services, long-term services, and support systems; and inform public policy on the role of caregivers in state and national health care regulations.

For more than three decades, our multidisciplinary faculty and clinicians at the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC have been at the forefront of research documenting the impact of caregiving on family caregivers and the persons they care for, developing intervention strategies to mitigate the negative effects and enhance the positive effects of caregiving, and formulating policy to support caregivers.

The Center consolidates and synergizes this expertise to accelerate the impact of our research on policy, health care systems, and the health of family members who are providing and receiving care.

**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 multi-user 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 utilization during and up to 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 in the health professions, social sciences, engineering, computer science, and informatics from several universities.

**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 UPMC Aging Institute. 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
WHAT WE DO: CENTER RESOURCES, continued

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, and document or website 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 utilizing a variety of methods and sources. This includes conducting in-depth 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 websites, blogs and emails. 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, web blogs, e-mails, website content, videos 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 in using qualitative analysis software. We maintain a 15-station transcription and qualitative data coding lab that utilizes 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; and 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)
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 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

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 website (www.ucsur.pitt.edu).
UCSUR Technology Services provides customizable 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 the University of Pittsburgh’s Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD) department and cloud-based services from Oracle, Google, and Amazon. These relationships enhance our capability to utilize 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 the tools needed to meet critical and unique project requirements. Using this approach, UCSUR can meet strict data integrity, security, and privacy demands of entities such as Institutional Review Boards, funding agencies, and the federal government.

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
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

2018 Awardees:
Jamie Hanson, Psychology;
Junia Howell, Sociology;
Chelsea Pallatino, Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences

2017 Awardees:
Courtney Dunn-Lewis, Health and Physical Activity;
Aidan Wright, Psychology

2016 Awardees:
Victoria Shineman, Political Science;
Alicia Sufriniko and Anthony Kontos, Orthopaedic Surgery

2015 Awardees:
Carissa Low, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute;
Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal, Psychology

2014 Awardees:
Anthony Fabio and Dara Mendez, Epidemiology;
Lyn Robertson, Medicine

2013 Awardees:
Brian Beaton and Rosta Farzan, School of Information Sciences;
Kathryn Monahan, Psychiatry;
Ming-Te Wang, School of Education

2012 Awardee:
Nicholas Castle, Graduate School of Public Health

2011 Awardees:
Jane Clougherty, Graduate School of Public Health;
Fengyan Tang, School of Social Work

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

2003 Awardees:
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

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 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.

Steven D. Manners
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Sally Hostein
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QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS
David Halpern
Kevan Schultz
Research Specialists

GENERATIONS TOGETHER
Sally Newman
Emeritus Director
Rafael Engel
Journal Editor

*Indicates participating faculty, not UCSUR staff
The following is a list of current and former collaborators, representing numerous schools, departments, institutes, and centers.

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Psychology

Thomas Kamarck
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John Levine
Psychology

Kathryn Roeklein
Psychology

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Lisa D. Brush
Sociology

Waverly Duck
Sociology

Vijay P. Singh
Sociology

Daniel Hall
Surgery

James D. Luketich
Surgery

Aaron Brenner
University Library System

Carolyn J. Carson
Urban Studies Program
10 Keys to Healthy Aging—An Innovative Community-Based Program

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

**Funder:** Research Development Fund  
**Period:** 07/14–present

UCSUR is helping to track study enrollees through a secure website.

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**Biobehavioral Studies of Cardiovascular Disease**

**Principal Investigators:**
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR  
Peter Gianaros, Psychology  

**Funder:** National Institutes of Health  
**Period:** 05/18–06/23

Telephone interviewing will be used to recruit and screen subjects to participate in this project. Results of the studies will advance mechanistic and translational science on the neurobiology of cardiovascular disease risk in midlife.

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**Does a New Supermarket Improve Dietary Behaviors of Low-Income African Americans?**

**Principal Investigators:**
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Tamara Dubowitz, RAND  

**Funder:** National Institutes of Health  
**Period:** 05/10–12/18

Interviewer training, programming for data collection, and data management in a study of the impact of a new grocery store on dietary behavior in 1,600 residents of low-income neighborhoods.

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**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:** 09/15–08/20

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

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**Employer Cohort Project**

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

**Funder:** Vibrant Pittsburgh  
**Period:** 08/17–09/17

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

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**Esophageal Cancer Patient Survey**

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

**Funder:** National Institutes of Health  
**Period:** ongoing

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

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

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

**Funder:** National Institutes of Health  
**Period:** 01/17–12/21

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

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*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator*
Factors Contributing to Oral Health Disparities in Appalachia
Principal Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Mary Marazita, Dental Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/11–06/21
Conduct prenatal and ten post-birth 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.

Healthy Steps for Older Adults: A Statewide (PA) Approach to Preventing Falls
Principal Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Steven Albert, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences
Funder: Research Development Fund
Period: 07/14–present
UCSUR is using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to track balance, falls, activity, and hospital visits monthly over the course of 6 months.

Identifying Predictors of Poor Health-Related Quality of Life among Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors
Principal Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/11–06/21
A telephone interview data collection effort of kidney transplant patients. The goals of the study are 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 LDKT.

Improving the Availability of Younger Unrelated Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors
Principal Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/16–04/21
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 Myasovskyn, Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/18–12/18
Telephone interviews with 1000 local informal caregivers and 200 care recipients to assess the state of caregiving in the region.

Melanopsin Photosensitivity and Psychopathology
Principal Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Stephen Strotmeyer, SRP, UCSUR
Kathryn Roecklein, Psychology
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/14–05/19
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, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Period: 10/14–present
SRP is using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) among group exercise participants to track falls, activity, and hospital visits monthly over the course of one year.

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: 08/16–07/18
Telephone interview data collection effort of kidney transplant patients. The goals of the study are 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 LDKT.
Social Integration, Daily Social Interaction, and Health Risk Pathways in Midlife
Principal Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Thomas Kamarck, Psychology
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/14–03/19
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, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Period: 07/15–09/20
Surveys (web and phone) of 12,000 patients (across 5 sites) at 6 and 12 months after an initial doctor’s visit for lower back pain.

Technology Assisted Collaborative Care Intervention
Principal Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Manisha Jhamb, Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 07/17–06/22
This study will look at the effect of a 12-week stepped care intervention on changes in depression, pain, fatigue, and health-related quality of life. Consented participants are interviewed via CATI and IVR.

Undergraduate Student Satisfaction & Retention Study
Principal Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR
Juan Manfredi, Office of the Provost
Funder: Office of the Provost
Period: 09/97–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 Investigators:
Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Sara Czaja, Weill Cornell Medical College
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/17–03/22
The aims of this project are to: examine the impact of financial scam susceptibility on incidence of financial exploitation (FE); examine the impact of socio-demographic 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 between socio-demographic 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: 01/14–present
This project helps the Human Engineering Research Laboratories at the University of Pittsburgh efficiently and securely register and track participants in a wheelchair registry for research participation. The system involves a custom database working in conjunction with an online survey instrument for data collection and maintenance.

Developing Leaducated: A Web-based, Citizen Science Approach to Detecting Lead Water Lines
Principal Investigator:
Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR
Funder: Heinz Endowments
Period: 01/18-12/18
This project develops, tests, and deploys a smart-phone app that allows users to determine the material of their drinking water service line.

Do Lead Water Laterals Affect Property Values? A Case Study of Pittsburgh, PA
Principal Investigator:
Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR
Funder: Research Development Funds
Period: 01/18-06/18
This study explores whether the expected presence of a lead water lateral affects property sales in Pittsburgh, PA.

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: 04/16-ongoing
This project will assess the impact of energy conservation training on energy use in the Detroit, Michigan area.
Identifying Small Area Fair Rental Sub-Markets  
**Principal Investigator:** Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR  
**Funder:** Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh  
**Period:** 10/17-ongoing  
This project uses rental listings in the City of Pittsburgh to identify rental submarkets for the purposes of providing affordable housing vouchers.

Predicting Lead Water Service Line Locations for Improving Mitigation Strategies  
**Principal Investigator:** Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR  
**Funder:** Research Development Funds  
**Period:** 01/18-06/18  
Data describing the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority’s drinking water distribution system were merged with property data to develop predictions of lead service line locations, and these predictions were merged with property-specific estimates of line replacement costs. Replacement costs were merged with demographic data at the Census block group and neighborhood levels to develop criteria for prioritizing prevention and lateral replacements.

Evaluation of Rent Reform Policy and Family Self-Sufficiency Program and Alternative Small Area Fair Market Rent Program  
**Principal Investigators:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR; Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR  
**Funder:** Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh  
**Period:** 08/17-08/18  
Evaluations of participation in the Family Self-Sufficiency program related to increased minimum monthly rent and rental income revenue; analysis of Small Area Fair Market Rent program through creation of a rental price-gradient map of the City of Pittsburgh and rental price map.

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, Psychiatry; Karen Courtney, University of Victoria; Sandra Engberg, Nursing; Jennifer Hagerty Lingler, Nursing; Kathleen McTigue, Internal Medicine; Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR; Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri; Asim Smailagic, Carnegie Mellon University; Jessie Van Swearingen, Physical Therapy  
**Funder:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
**Period:** 09/14-09/19  
This project will study older adults’ views, motivations, and patterns of use of an adaptive, community-based, multi-user 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.

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center  
**Principal Investigator:** Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR  
**Funders:** R.K. 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 in partnership with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.
2018 Graduate Research Practicum (GRP) Portfolio Analysis

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Marzia Cozzolino, Katz Graduate School of Business

Funder: Katz International Business Center
Period: 04/17-present

Qualitative methods consultation and coding of Katz Graduate School of Business students’ journals based on their Global Research Practicum.

A Comparison of Treatment Methods for Patients Following Total Knee Replacement

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

Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Period: 04/17-10/17

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.

A Statewide Trial to Compare Three Training Models for Implementing an EBT

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Amy Herschell, West Virginia University

Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 08/17-01/18

Coding of open-ended survey responses from Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) trainees regarding their learning experience.

Analysis and Refinement of the International Knee Documentation Committee (IKDC) Subjective Knee Evaluation Form (SKF), 2018 Follow-up

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
James Irgang, Physical Therapy
Andrew Lynch, Physical Therapy

Funder: American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
Period: 01/18-05/18

Data collection, transcription, and coding of cognitive interviews with knee injury patients interviews to determine comprehension and relevance of the questions on the IKDC SKF and to identify gaps in content coverage.

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, School of Nursing

Funder: Start-up Funds
Period: 04/17-09/17

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.

Eager: Maker: Researching a School District’s Integration of the Maker Movement Into Its Middle and High School

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Stephanie Maietta Romero, School of Education

Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 06/17-06/18

Transcription of interviews with community partners, administrators, and teachers, and focus groups with students regarding Elizabeth Forward School District’s transformation into a leader in the integration of the Maker Movement in schools.

Eleven Smaller Short-Term Transcription and Consulting Projects with a Variety of Investigators and Funders

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

Funders: Multiple
Period: 07/17-06/18

Eleven smaller, short-term transcription and consulting projects with a variety of investigators and funders.

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, School of Nursing

Funder: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
Period: 04/17-10/17

Collection, transcription and coding of interviews with adults with asthma and comorbid insomnia following participation in an internet-based Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment for Insomnia (CBT-I) intervention to assess the feasibility and acceptability of the intervention and to explore the need for asthma-related adaptations to the intervention’s content.
From Barely Making It To...? Effects of Raising Wages Among Low-Wage Workers

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Ray Engel, School of Social Work

Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 07/17-present

Transcription of interviews with low-wage earners at Allegheny Health Network that explore ways in which unionization and increased wages have made a difference.

Implementation of Outpatient Clinical Pharmacy Services for Cystic Fibrosis Patients

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Olufunmilola Abraham, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Funder: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Period: 07/17-10/17

Transcription and coding of interviews with healthcare providers regarding medication management and counseling in pediatric Cystic Fibrosis patients.

Informed Choices – A Decision Aid Designed in Partnership with CF Patients and Caregivers

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Melissa Basile, Northwell Health

Funder: Start-up Funds
Period: 12/17-02/18

Transcription of interviews with Cystic Fibrosis patients and their caregivers regarding a decision aid for the advanced care planning for Cystic Fibrosis.

Linguistic Impressions: Language as a Mechanism to Build a Firm’s Organizational Code

Principal Investigator:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Emily Bulger, Katz Graduate School of Business

Funder: Berg Center & Center for Healthcare Management
Period: 10/17-01/18

Transcription of interviews, speeches, and panel discussions involving four Eli Lilly & Company CEOs to explore how the CEOs’ description of what personalized medicine means at Eli Lilly (and in other contexts) evolves as they pioneer a transformative business model innovation surrounding the concept of personalized medicine.

Perceptions About Disease Flares in Rheumatoid Arthritis

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

Funder: Research Development Funds
Period: 04/17-10/17

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.

Perspectives of Secondary School Leaders and Key Stakeholders Concerning Adolescent Depression

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Andrea Nottingham, Concordia University Chicago

Funder: Self-funded
Period: 05/18-06/18

Coding of interviews with secondary school administrators, counselors, and teachers to examine adolescent depression as it manifests in the developing stages of middle school, exploring the underlying causes and effects of adolescent depression and strategies for teachers to employ in the classroom.

Redesign of University of Pittsburgh Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Curriculum

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
James Irrgang, Physical Therapy
Andrew Lynch, Physical Therapy

Funder: Departmental Funds
Period: 02/18-05/18

Collection, transcription, and coding of focus groups with stakeholders to explore mechanisms to reduce the duration of the DPT program without sacrificing the quality of DPT education.

Schizophrenia

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Armando Rotondi, VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP)

Funder: VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Period: 06/17-06/18

Data collection via interviews with veteran patients diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Service-Learning Experiences in Free Clinics: Perspectives of Student Pharmacists

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Sharon Connor, School of Pharmacy
Olufunmilola Abraham, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Funder: Start-up Funds
Period: 07/17-09/17

Coding of approximately 400 reflective essays/papers from all second- and third-year pharmacy students who participated in a required service learning experience in underserved and free clinics.

July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018, ANNUAL REPORT 23
Sexual Function in Older Women: Identifying Treatment and Outcome Preferences

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Holly Thomas, UPMC, Division of General Internal Medicine

Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 12/17-present

Transcription of interviews and coding of data for three projects examining the role of higher education with undergraduate students to understand their sexual function, and what sort of treatments they would prefer for sexual problems.

Targeted Intervention for Insufficient Sleep Among Typically-Developing Adolescents

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Jessica Levenson, Psychiatry

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 11/17-04/18

Transcription of focus groups with healthcare providers, parents, and youth regarding the development and refinement of a sleep intervention program for typically developing adolescents between the ages of 13-15 who report insufficient sleep.

The Role of Higher Education Programs to the Future of the Wastewater Industry

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Kimberly Wahl, Baker College

Funder: Self-funded
Period: 05/18-present

Transcription and coding of interviews with undergraduate students to examine the role of higher education programs in the future of the wastewater industry.

Transcription Projects for University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

Principal Investigators:
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Jill Radtke Demirici, School of Nursing
Melissa Glaser, School of Nursing

Funders: National Institutes of Health; Departmental Funds
Period: 07/17-present

Transcription for three projects addressing various aspects of mothers’ recent breastfeeding experiences.

Civic Switchboard

Principal Investigators:
Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR
Aaron Brenner, University Library System

Funder: Institute of Museum and Library Services
Period: 10/17-12/19

Civic Switchboard aims to develop the capacity of academic and public libraries in civic data ecosystems. This project encourages partnerships between libraries and local data intermediaries, which will better serve data users, further democratize data, and support equitable access to information. The project will create a toolkit for libraries interested in expanding (or beginning) their role around civic information. Civic Switchboard is a partnership of UCSUR, the University Library System at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

A Qualitative Study of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Fighters’ Perceptions about Injury-Related Risk Factors

Principal Investigators:
Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Keri Rodriguez, VA Pittsburgh

Funder: Research Development Funds
Period: 03/16-07/17

Transcription and coding management and support for semi-structured interviews with professional and amateur Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighters regarding their perceptions about 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, SRP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Amber Johnson, Cardiology

Funder: Department Funds
Period: 02/16-09/17

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

Chronic Conditions and Mutuality of Care in Late Life Marriage

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

Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 01/17-09/17

Transcription and coding of interviews with patients regarding how they meet health concerns to understand how support dynamics in late-life marriage influence health, particularly cardiovascular health and depression, and longevity.

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

Principal Investigators:
Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Caitlin Bruce, Communication

Funder: UCIS–Hewlett International Grant
Period: 03/17-present

Spanish transcription of interviews that explore how a city-sponsored graffiti program in León Guanajuato, Mexico impacts graffiti artists’ civic status.
Supporting Practices to Adopt Registry-based Care (SPARC)
Principal Investigators:
Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR
Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Rebecca Etz, Virginia Commonwealth University
Martha Gonzalez, Virginia Commonwealth University
Funder: National Institute on Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Period: 03/15-02/18
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.

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, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 02/15-01/19
The purpose of this research is to gather evidence for the feasibility of the 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, Weill Cornell Medical College
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 04/13-03/19
This investigation focuses on gathering systematic data on the acceptability and efficacy of a unique technology-based, culturally-tailored psycho-social intervention program that targets ethnically/culturally diverse family caregivers of patients with Alzheimer’s Disease.

Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program
Principal Investigators:
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Judith Matthews, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: Health Resources and Services Administration
Period: 07/15-06/19
The Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) is a consortium of the University of Pittsburgh, the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Penn 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, Nursing
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 06/14-05/19
The purpose of this study is to test the efficacy and feasibility of a dyadic-based intervention program (DT), 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 AD) and the integration of an evidenced-based caregiver intervention and evidenced-based cognitive/functional training for the care recipient.

Competitiveness 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**


Briem, C. (Ed.). (Ongoing). *Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly (PEQ)*, a publication of the Urban and Regional Analysis Program at UCSUR covering economic conditions/changes in the Pittsburgh region.

