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WHO WE ARE

University Center for Social and Urban Research

The mission of 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: (1) providing research support infrastructure and training; (2) conducting original research in a few focused areas, including urban impact analysis, survey methodology, and psychosocial aspects of aging; and (3) enhancing access to local and national policy-relevant data.

Goals

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) was established in 1972 to serve as a resource for researchers and educators interested in the basic and applied social and behavioral sciences. 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; and 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, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty (advance educational excellence; embrace diversity and inclusion).

To achieve the strategic goals of the Center, UCSUR maintains a permanent research infrastructure available to faculty and the community with the capacity to:

1. Conduct all types of survey research and quantitative data analysis
2. Acquire, manage, store, and analyze secondary and administrative data sets including Census data and data of unique local interest
3. Obtain, format, and analyze spatial data
4. Carry out regional econometric modeling
5. Design and carryout descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies
6. Conduct qualitative data collection and analysis

Some photos in this publication were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not necessarily reflect current health and safety guidelines.
During the past year, Pitt’s Center for Social and Urban Research has produced over 40 peer-reviewed publications receiving approximately 5,600 Google scholar citations, and participated in over 50 funded grants, the majority of which involve multidisciplinary collaborations. UCSUR received $1.5M in external funding for multiple research infrastructure support projects through the Survey Research Program (SRP) in collaboration with University faculty across schools and departments. We continued our nationally recognized research in family caregiving, financial exploitation of older adults, and technology and aging. UCSUR also helped co-found and provides leadership for the Center for Caregiving Research, Education and Policy with the Health Policy Institute and Schools of Nursing, Public Health, and Medicine, which involves approximately 30 affiliated faculty representing a range of health and behavioral science disciplines. As part of that effort, Dr. Beach became Co-Director (Co-PI) of an Administration for Community Living (ACL) / National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Family Support. This is a five-year, $4.3 million Center grant focused on facilitating the rapid translation and dissemination of state-of-the-art research and training into direct services and support programs designed to improve care, health, and quality of life of persons with disability, their families, and informal caregivers. UCSUR also continues to be the go-to resource for data and analysis to inform regional public policy through the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) and the PittsburghTODAY regional benchmarking initiative. These resources contain over 300 downloadable datasets (many updated on a frequent basis) and 500 indicators covering more than 20 topic areas. The WPRDC also contains several data extraction and visualization tools that enhance user access and support statistical analyses. UCSUR’s Environmental Policy Initiative, part of the Urban and Regional Analysis (URA) Program, continues to expand with projects on lead water line detection and integrating engineering and social science methods and modeling.

UCSUR continues to build its permanent research infrastructure. Highlights include our regional research registry with more than 9,000 local residents (including 1,200 family caregivers) willing to participate in research studies; continued refinement of the UCSUR SRP in-house longitudinal multi-mode survey data management and collection system; and continued expansion of our Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities.

Finally, UCSUR has played a key role in conducting research to understand the social, economic, and quality of life impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, UCSUR has collaborated on community-based efforts to assist with response to the pandemic.

I hope this report will give you a sense of the value that UCSUR provides to the University and the broader community.
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. Existing research programs include:

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 website 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. Further 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.

UCSUR:
A hub for social, behavioral, economic, and health sciences research

UCSUR: A research collaborative network (FY 2020)

UCSUR Manners Pilot Awards

Psychiatry
Psychology
Economics
Veterans Research Foundation (Pittsburgh)

Internal Pitt Inputs (UCSUR provided sub-awards)

Dental Medicine
Engineering
Graduate School of Public Health, Epidemiology
Health Policy Institute
Katz Graduate School
School of Nursing
Psychiatry
Psychology
Science
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
University Library System

Internal Pitt Outputs (UCSUR provided sub-awards)

Carnegie Mellon University
Cornell University
RAND Corporation
Veteran’s Administration
Drexel University
University of New Mexico
University of Colorado

External Organization Inputs (UCSUR received sub-awards)

Carnegie Mellon University
Carnegie University
ARAO Corporation
Instream Administrator
Carnegie University
University of New Mexico
University of Colorado

External Organization Outputs (UCSUR provided sub-awards)

Carnegie Mellon University
Carnegie University
Penn State University
University of Colorado
University of Victoria, Canada
Global
Veterans Research Foundation (Pittsburgh)
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 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:
    - Online panel/research registry samples: geographically and demographically targeted samples using commercially available web panels or in-house research registries. These are also useful for cost-effective samples of rare populations.
    - **Random digit dialing (RDD) samples:** particularly suited for telephone surveys of the general population, computer-generated telephone numbers are used to target specific geographic areas, including both listed and unlisted phone numbers, landline and cellular. RDD sampling for any region of the United States is available.
    - **Targeted/listed samples:** samples to reach specific subgroups or rare populations. These are useful for telephone recruitment of participants for larger studies. They are also used for supplementing RDD samples with oversamples of rare populations.

- **Data Collection Methodology**
  - **SRP staff can provide:**
    - Advice on the most productive and cost-effective method of data collection (mail, telephone, in-person, or internet/web-based), 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 non-students 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 hand-outs, video instruction, and role-playing. Interviewers are continuously monitored during data collection for quality assurance, and periodic re-training sessions occur as necessary.

Computer-assisted telephone interviewing (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 ensures inclusion of cell phone only households, estimated at 30 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 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 computer. A respondent typically uses head-phones with our ACASI solutions in order to maintain response privacy. ACASI allows respondents perceived 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 and uses the University-approved Qualtrics software platform.

Mobile device data collection: SRP has capabilities to design applications for the collection of data on Smart Phones 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, are also available.

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

Participant Recruitment and Screening

In addition to assisting with primary survey data collection, SRP can assist researchers with locating, contacting, screening, consenting, and scheduling research participants. We use a variety of sample sources (e.g., telephone samples, research registries) and methods (telephone, web, social media) to cost-effectively recruit and enroll research participants for observational, clinical, and intervention studies.

Research Registry

UCSUR has developed and maintains an IRB-approved research registry currently containing more than 9,000 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. Over the past year, SRP has added an indicator for participants who are providing unpaid care to an ill or disabled family member or friend. To date, more than 1,200 family caregivers have been identified who are willing to participate in research studies.

Patient-Reported Outcomes Data Collection for Clinical Research

SRP conducts Patient-Reported Outcomes (PRO) studies using telephone, web, in person, and other technologies, including mixed-mode designs. These are typically part of clinical trials or intervention studies that follow patients over time. The SRP call center is staffed 7 days per week by trained supervisory and interviewer staff. SRP maintains a secure project dashboard that allows transfer of research participant data and contact information to initiate data collection protocols, schedule assessments, and enable two-way data dialog between the principal investigator’s (PI) team and SRP staff. SRP has conducted dozens of complex, longitudinal PRO assessment studies using varying clinical populations and has consistently attained response / retention rates above 90%.
WHAT WE DO:
Center Resources
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 non-linear regression, logistic regression, categorical methods, and structural equation modeling
- Longitudinal analyses

Report Preparation and Presentation

- SRP staff have experience in the production of a variety of reports, including:
  - Simple tabulations
  - Executive summaries
  - In-depth narrative reports
  - Oral presentations of results to interested parties

Survey Data

• Oral presentations of results to SRP staff have experience in the preparation and use of 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 non-linear regression, logistic regression, categorical methods, and structural equation modeling
- Longitudinal analyses

WHAT WE DO:
Urban and Regional Analysis Services

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 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 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.

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 Western Pennsylvania Commission, which uses REMI for planning transportation infrastructure. UCSUR has over 25 years of experience using 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 Data Center

The Western Pennsylvania Data Center (WPRDC) supports key community initiatives by making public information easier to find and use. WPRDC provides a community infrastructure for data sharing to support a growing ecosystem of data providers and data users. Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh are partners in this project, and hosts datasets from these and other public sector agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. The WPRDC also provides support for research and community-engaged projects led by researchers, administrators, and students at the University.

The WPRDC has been involved in a number of projects and initiatives over the past year. A large share of our efforts listed here have provided support for initiatives related to the pandemic.
- Working with Graduate School of Public Health faculty and other leaders in Pittsburgh’s Black community through the Black COVID-19 Equity Coalition, the WPRDC collects, documents, hosts, and analyzes data about COVID-19 testing, cases, case investigations, hospitalizations, and deaths by community and neighborhood. This information is analyzed in weekly meetings by the Coalition to inform testing and communications strategies in Allegheny County.
- Supporting the work of the Neighborhood Resilience Project, the WPRDC created a prototype tool that members of the Project can use to share information about community services and assistance programs in the Hill District. The Hill CEC is a partner in this effort. https://assets.wprdc.org/hill-district-resources/
- Data Literacy Workshops are being offered by the WPRDC to the Neighborhood Health Deputies with the Neighborhood Resilience Project and members of the Black COVID-19 Equity Coalition. Attendees at the workshop will learn how to find and interpret the latest data about the pandemic and use it to inform local interventions and communication strategies.
- In collaboration with the Pittsburgh Public Schools, the WPRDC developed and maintained a lookup tool enabling students and their family members to know where to pick-up student learning packets in spring 2020. https://www.wprdc.org/pps-pickup/
• The WPRDC, participating in weekly calls organized by the Center for Analytical Approaches to Social Innovation led by GSPAI’s Sera Linardi (http://caasi.pitt.edu), are designing projects to address local justice issues connected to Black Lives Matter and COVID-19.

• The WPRDC staff served on the Allegheny County/City of Pittsburgh 2020 Census Complete Count Committee and developed a map and database of community assets in Allegheny County in support of Census 2020 Outreach activities. https://assets.wprdc.org/. The WPRDC staff also worked through the Committee to make sure students at local colleges and universities were counted.

• The WPRDC continued to provide community information and data visualization tools in support of the Pittsburgh Study, a community-partnered study to find out what works to help children thrive. The study will follow children in Allegheny County from birth through high school.

• The Civic Switchboard project is supporting a second round of grants to projects designed to develop the capacity of academic and public libraries in civic data ecosystems and is creating a toolkit for libraries interested in expanding (or beginning) their role around civic information. Civic Switchboard is a partnership of the WPRDC, the University Library System at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

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.

The PittsburghTODAY project had the most productive year in its history despite and in part because of the extraordinary challenges this year produced. We started the year with our PittsburghTODAY & Tomorrow project, comparing the Pittsburgh metro area with 15 others across the country. At the same time, we launched Pittsburgh Tomorrow, which was intended to be a response and a regional call to arms to address Greater Pittsburgh’s continuing population loss and the future problems that loss portends. As part of this, we published the ideas and solutions of 30 regional leaders. We also assembled the leaders of the region’s top media organizations and met with the leaders of the region’s top philanthropic foundations in an effort to launch a broad-based and multi-pronged program for Pittsburgh’s future. As fate would have it, however, this coincided with the beginning of the Coronavirus lockdown, which has put most aspects of this project on hold. Part of the project was to be the launch of a 25-part podcast called Pittsburgh Tomorrow. This podcast features interviews with a series of Pittsburgh leaders asking them for their thoughts and visions for improving this region. We held off publishing this until June 2020, at which point, we decided to go ahead, even though most of the region’s leadership was focused almost solely on the pandemic. The series will continue through early December 2020. Finally, in April 2020, we changed our reporting from our usual benchmark–related topics to pandemic-related topics, and that has continued apace, providing in-depth reporting on issues not covered by other media.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Geographic Information System software is used to 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 education 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 tools and training developed by the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC), interactive maps of neighborhood data in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles, and primary collaborations with UPMC physicians investigating spatial aspects of cardiovascular disease.

Pittsburgh Perspectives

The URA Program has expanded public outreach with a new online section of the UCSUR web page, which publishes short analyses of topics related to economic and demographic change in the Pittsburgh region.

WHAT WE DO:
Center Resources

Gerontology Services

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 over 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 psycho-social, 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
  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 may also 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.

Graduate Certificate in Regional 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 may also 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 Regional Gerontology Program can be found at: agingcertificate.pitt.edu.

Graduate Certificate in Local 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 may also 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 Local Gerontology Program can be found at: agingcertificate.pitt.edu.
WHAT WE DO:
Center Resources

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 up to 18 months of study participation and promotes patient-providers’ engagement in all aspects of their care.

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 UPMC Aging Institute. Six initiatives provide training and resources to professionals and paraprofessionals. 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
- 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

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

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 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 can also 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 logs, 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 coding lab which utilizes Olympus transcription software; ATLAS.8, a widely used qualitative data analysis software package that supports project management, recommends 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.8, NVivo and Transana.

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.

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.8, NVivo, Transana)
WHAT WE DO: Center Resources

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 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).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

UCSUR Technology Services provides customized data management systems and services for our programs and clients. These systems and services focus on high level security, data integrity, reliability, performance, and function. UCSUR partners with the University of Pittsburgh’s Information Technology (PittIT) and cloud-based services from Amazon and Microsoft. 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 (IRBs), funding agencies, and the federal government.

UCSUR Technology Services also supports data mining and data analytics software and methods that enable 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 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

In memory of Steven D. Manners, who began working at the Center in 1974 and served as its Assistant Director from 1989 until his death in September 2000, UCSUR initiated a Faculty Development Awards program in recognition of Mr. Manners’ contributions to the Center and the University community. UCSUR offers annually two awards of up to $20,000 each, contingent upon the quality of applications and availability of funds. These awards will support pilot research in the social, behavioral, and policy sciences that has the potential of leading to larger, externally funded projects of interest to local, national foundations or state/federal agencies.

The proposed research must align with UCSUR’s mission of working collaboratively to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves communities and addresses social, economic, health, and policy issues most relevant to society.

Core Staff

Administration

Interim Director: Scott Reach

Business Manager: Greg Six

Admissions: Anna Alvalditis, Donna M. King

Financial Administrator: Alena Boadi-Agyemang

Pre-Award Administrator: Carrie Rodwicz

Administration - Technology Services

IT Director/Database Administrator: Robert Kneen

Systems Administrator: Eric Wolfe

Senior Research Programmer: David Walker

Research Programmers: Rhaven Nelson, Steven Saylor

Survey Research

Program Director: Scott Beach

Research Associate: Donald Musa

Senior Research Specialist: Janet Schlarb

Senior Fieldwork Supervisor: Lynda Connelly

Fieldwork Supervisor: Olivia Kirsch, Olivia Wilson

Fieldwork Supervisor/Research Specialist: Amber Barton

Research Specialist: Christine Byerly

Research Specialists/Interviewers: Amber Barton, Olivia Kirsch, Olivia Wilson

Fieldwork Supervisor/Research Specialist: Amber Barton

Journal Editors: Scott Beach, Steven Saylor

Qualitative Data Analysis

Research Specialists: David Halpern, Kevan Schultz

Generations Together

Emeritus Director: Sally Newman

Public Administrator: Amanda Warilait

Research Associates: Jennifer Bissell, Robert Yaw

Co-Program Director: Michael Blackhurst

Co-Program Director: Sabina Deitrick

Program Coordinator: Julia Frasier

Project Coordinator: Bill O’Toole

Gerontology

Program Director: Richard Schulz

Associate Program Director: Judith Matthews

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Research Specialists: David Halpern, Kevan Schultz

** Indicates participating faculty not UCSUR staff

Faculty Associates

Charles David Boucek

Anesthesiology

John P. Williams

Anesthesiology

Steven Albert

Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Jessica Griffin Burke

Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Mary Hawk

Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Richard Boyce

Biomedical Informatics

Amber E. Johnson

Cardiology

Melissa Bilec

Civil and Environmental Engineering

David Sanchez

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Kenneth Sohats

College of General Studies

Caitlin Bruce

Communication

Catherine V. Palmer

Communication Science and Disorders

Alexandros Labrinidis

Computer Science

Rami Melhem

Computer Science

Daniel Mosse

Computer Science

Taleb Znati

Computer Science

Jeremy Kahn

Critical Care Medicine

Douglas White

Critical Care Medicine

James Guggenheimer

Dental Medicine

Mary Marazita

Dental Medicine

Robert Weary

Dental Medicine

Patricia Beeson

Economics

Randall Walsh

Economics

Linda DeAngelo

Education

Michael Gunzenhauser

Education

Maureen Porter

Education

Vince N. Mossoro, Jr.

Emergency Medicine

Steven H. Belle

Epidemiology

Jane A. Cauley

Epidemiology

Andrea Kriska

Epidemiology

Sabina Deitrick

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Marcela Gonzalez Rivas

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Jennifer Brach

Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Anthony Delitto

Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Bambang Parmanto

Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Howard B. Degenholtz

Health Policy and Management

Ettridge James III

Health Policy and Management

Laurence A. Glascio

History

Lisa S. Parker

Human Genetics

Mary Besterfield-Sacre

Industrial Engineering

Kathleen McTigue

Internal Medicine

Lawrence Feick

Katz Graduate School of Business

Carrie R. Leana

Katz Graduate School of Business

John E. Prescott

Katz Graduate School of Business

Ronald A. Brand

Law

Mary Crossley

Law

Vivian Curran

Law

Richard Correnti

Learning Research and Development Center

Kevin Crowley

Learning Research and Development Center

Mary Kay Steiner

Learning Research and Development Center
### Projects*

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<td>Does Mindfulness Meditation Improve Diet Behavior in Low-Income African Americans?</td>
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<td>Does a New Supermarket Improve Dietary Behaviors?</td>
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<td>Experimental Study of Stress and DNA Damage in Humans: Mediators and Moderators</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR</td>
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</table>

### Effects of COVID-19 on Family Caregivers

- **Sponsor**: National Institutes of Health
- **PIs**: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR

This project aimed to understand the impact of COVID-19 on family caregivers. The study involved 160 participants who were recruited to participate in an experimental study looking at the effects of brief stressors on DNA in blood samples.

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

- **Sponsor**: National Institutes of Health
- **PIs**: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR

This project sought to explore the effects of brief stressors on DNA in blood samples. 

### Mindfulness Meditation Training Improve Social Relationship Functioning?

- **Sponsor**: National Institutes of Health
- **PIs**: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR

This project aimed to assess the impact of mindfulness meditation training on social relationship function.
PROJECTS*

Improving the Availability of Younger Unrelated Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors
PIs: 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
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Larissa Myasovsky, University of New Mexico
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/14-12/19
Telephone interviews of N=1300 kidney transplant patients to collect information that will help pave the way for transplant centers to implement fast-track systems, improve quality of care, and address racial disparities in rates of LDKT.

Jefferson Area Community Data and Technical Assistance
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Mary Phan-Gruber, Jefferson Regional Foundation
Funder: Jefferson Regional Foundation
Period: 01/19-12/20
This project leverages UCSURs expertise in qualitative research, survey design, focus groups, database tools and training to provide analysis, guidance and technical assistance to the Foundation and Jefferson Community Collaborative. UCSUR is filling an essential role in the production of community data, evaluations and in building local capacity in the application of data for community impact through various projects.

On the Move: Optimizing Participation in Group Exercise
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Jennifer Brach, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Period: 09/14-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
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schultz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Evette James, Health Policy Institute
Funders: Pittsburgh Foundation; Stern Center for Evidence Based Policy
Period: 08/16-present
Telephone interviews with 1000 local informal caregivers and 200 care recipients to assess the state of caregiving in the region.

Regional Quality of Life 2018
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Douglas Heuck, URA, UCSUR
Funders: UCSUR, PittsburghTODAY
Period: ongoing
Web survey of N=1900 local residents assessing their views regarding quality of life in Allegheny County. This is an update to a similar survey conducted in 2011.

Social Integration, Daily Social Interaction, and Health Risk Pathways in Midlife
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Thomas Kamarch, Psychology
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/14-03/20
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)
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Anthony Der, 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
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Manish Arora, Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 07/17-06/22
Telephone and IVR interviews with 150 hemodialysis patients in Pittsburgh and New Mexico to examine the effect of a 12-week stepped care intervention on changes in depression, pain, fatigue, and health-related quality of life.

The National Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Family Support at the University of Pittsburgh
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Cara Czaja, Weill Cornell Medical College
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 02/15-present
Telephone interviews and web-based surveys of N=1800+ per year and withdrawing patients (n=600+ per year) to determine factors related to student satisfaction and retention.

Understanding Factors Influencing Financial Exploitation among Diverse Samples of Older Adults
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Sara Czaja, Weill Cornell Medical College
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 02/15-present
Technical support for a study which is testing the feasibility of a behavioral intervention that uses technology and motivational health coaching to encourage a regular routine of healthy eating, sleeping, and physical activity among older adults who are at high-risk for depression following the death of their spouse.

Widowed Elders’ Lifestyle after Loss (WELL)
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Sarah Stahl, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 07/19-06/20
Telephone interviews to determine factors related to student satisfaction and retention.

Wheelchair Registry
PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Rory Cooper, Human Engineering Research Laboratories
Funder: Human Engineering Research Laboratories
Period: 07/19-present
Development of a system to 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. The system involves a custom database working in conjunction with an online survey instrument for data collection and maintenance.

Older Workers in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Workforce
PIs: Christopher Briem, URA, UCSUR
Funder: Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging
Period: 06/19-10/19
Compilation of recent trends and future projections of the role of older workers in the labor force in the 10-county area of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Advancing Equity and the Health of Children through Open Data in Allegheny County
PI: Robert Gradeck
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Period: 2/20-2/21
The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center will work with existing multi-sector data partners and establish data sharing partnerships with new organizations in order to obtain, transform, and provide open child health data within an existing multi-sector partnership to advance child health and health equity.

Data Across Sectors for Health Mentorship Project
PI: Robert Gradeck
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Period: 11/19-11/20
Project staff mentored for five cross-sector health data collaborations.

Census 2020 Asset Map
PI: Robert Gradeck
Funder: Allegheny County Complete Count Committee, Grantmakers of Western PA
Period: 2/20-2/20
Project to develop a community asset map to support outreach efforts related to a complete count for 2020 Census, as well as other community engagement projects.
Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center*  
PI: Robert Gradeck, QDAP, UCSUR  
Funders: R.K. Mellon Foundation; University of Pittsburgh  
Period: ongoing  

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) is a data science community by making public information easier to find and use. The WPRDC is managed by UCSUR and is in partnership with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.

Co-occurring Intimate Partner Violence and Substance Use: Understanding Barriers to Collocated Integrated Services  
PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR, Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Funder: Steven D. Manners Faculty Development Award  
Period: 05/19-07/19  

Transcription of interviews with pregnant and postpartum women with co-occurring intimate partner violence (IPV) and opioid use disorder (OUD), and stakeholders interfacing with women with co-occurring OUD and IPV.

Five Smaller Short-Term Transcription and Consulting Projects with a Variety of Investigators and Funders  
PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR, Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Period: 07/19-06/20  

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

Payment Management Strategies for Knee Osteoarthritis: Use, Intention to Use, and Differences in Pain and Arthritis Pain Self-Efficacy  
PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR, Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Funders:  
Period: 07/19-06/20  

Transcription of interviews with older adults with knee OA and hypertension about their pain management strategies, and the effect of new pain management strategies on changes in pain and arthritis pain self-efficacy.

Resident Leadership and Local Capacity Building: Volunteering in Disadvantaged Communities  
PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR, Emily Zimmerman, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Funder: Corporation for National and Community Service  
Period: 01/19-07/19  

Transcription of interviews with neighborhood-based and regional volunteers in economically disadvantaged communities, exploring their synergy, collaboration, and best practices.

The Symptom Experience, Management and Outcomes According to Race and Social Determinants of Health (SEMOARS) During Breast Cancer Chemotherapy  
PI: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR, Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Funder: National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities  
Period: 06/19-present  

Transcription of interviews exploring the breast cancer symptom experience among black and white women.

Regional Indicators Project: PittsburghToday.org  
PI: Douglas Heuck, URA, UCSUR  
Funders: Hillman Foundation; Richard King Mellon Foundation; Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation; Anonymous  
Period: ongoing  
The Regional Indicators Project: PittsburghToday.org is an independent, online 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 questions of life issues.

Association of Pulmonary Hypertension with Environmental and Social Factors  
PIs: Ellen Kinne, URA, UCSUR, Jane Clougherty, Drexel University  
Funder: UPMC  
Period: 08/18-08/19  

Spatial analyses are used to characterize the relationship between heart failure incidence and the identified environmental and social determinants of health and to visualize spatial patterns, clusters, and other relationships.

G1S Asthma Denver Research Project, Spatial Analysis of Asthma Emergency Room Visits in Schools  
PIs: Ellen Kinne, URA, UCSUR, Jane Clougherty, Drexel University, Fernando Holguin, University of Colorado  
Funder: University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Period: 09/18-09/19  

G1S code asthma patient locations to explore the distribution of asthma emergency room visits in Colorado and characterize neighborhood environments.

Pediatric Heart and Extreme Weather - Health Effects of Ambient Temperature (PHEAT)  
PIs: Ellen Kinne, URA, UCSUR, Jane Clougherty, Drexel University, Penny Sheffield, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
Funder: National Institutes of Health  
Period: 08/18-08/23  

Examine susceptibility of pediatric subgroups to extreme temperature and disseminate research-informed strategies on reducing heat risks to children's health to public health departments and clinicians.

Susceptibility to Multiple Air Pollutants in Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)  
PIs: Ellen Kinne, URA, UCSUR, Jane Clougherty, Drexel University  
Funder: Health Effects Institute  
Period: 08/18-08/19  

A large cohort study (N = 31,414) of individuals with atrial fibrillation is used to quantify associations between fine particulate air pollution and risk of ischemic stroke.

Validating GIS-based Methods to Address Spatial Uncertainty in Clinical Trials  
PIs: Ellen Kinne, URA, UCSUR, Drexel University  
Period: 06/13-06/18  

Assess whether socio-economic position (SEP) and environmental exposure measures among participants in national scale asthma randomized controlled trials differ from those of the general population and examine the effect of SEP on response to clinical interventions.

Self-management via Health Kiosk by Community-residing Older Adults  
PI: Judith Matthews, Gerontology, UCSUR  
Funder: Center for Healthcare  
Period: 08/18-08/19  

Design, implement, and evaluate a toolkit for libraries interested in expanding community loneliness research, and associated data resources.

Building Civic Open Data Capacity through Instructional Design  
PIs: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR, Nora Mattorn, School of Computing and Information (SCI)  
Funder: Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Data Center: 22  

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center is partnering with SCI to produce data literacy, management, and training in partnership with Allegheny County designed to: (1) foster MLIS students' capacity to engage in local civic data ecosystems in their careers; (2) build curation skills needed among civic data workers through curriculum for academic programs such as public policy, urban studies, and political studies; (3) address gaps in data information among academic and public librarians and civic sector employees through professional development workshops and resources.

Building Health Data Literacy Through Public Libraries  
PI: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR, Keli Davis, Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA)  
Funder: Health Resources in Action  
Period: 07/20-05/21  

Provide online training to public libraries to support a library-based approach to the Health Information Initiative.

Civic Switchboard  
Pis: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR, Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Funder: Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Period: 03/15-present  

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 expand equitable access to information. The project will create a toolkit for libraries interested in expanding (or beginning) their role around civic data. Civic Switchboard is a partnership of the UCSUR, the University Library System at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie Mellon Library.

Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (PCP)  
Pis: Michelle Kuehn, QDAP, UCSUR, David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR, Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR, Deborah Palasis, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.  
Funders: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Period: 03/15-present  

Transcription of interviews with multiple stakeholders regarding the implementation of CMS’s CPC Classic and CPC+ programs.

From Periphery to Center: Transitioning Public Art Practices in Contemporary Mexico  
Pis: Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR, Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR, Caleb Bruce, Communication  
Funder: UCS - Hewlett International Grant  
Period: 07/15-08/19  

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

2019 Graduate Research Pracicum (GRP)  
Pis: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR, Marzia Cozzolino, Katz Graduate School of Business  
Funder: Katz International Business Center  
Period: 05/19-11/19  

Qualitative methods consultation and coding of Katz Graduate School of Business students' journaling based on their Global Research Practicums.

Caregiver Perception of High-Quality Care in the Medical Home for Children with Medical Complexity  
Pis: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR, Justin Yu, General Internal Medicine  
Funder: HRSA Career Development Award  
Period: 06/19-06/22  

These qualitative interviews with the parental caregivers of Children with Medical Complexity to identify the features of a CMC medical home that provide a high-quality experience.

Building Pediatric Health and Extreme Weather - Health Effects of Ambient Temperature (PHEAT)  
PIS: Ellen Kinne, URA, UCSUR  
Funder: National Institutes of Health  
Period: 09/14-09/20  

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.
Development of an Obesity Prevention Intervention for Young Children with Down Syndrome

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSC
Angela Caldwell, Department of Occupational Therapy
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 06/20-present

Transcription and coding of interviews with parents of young children with Down syndrome to provide data to customize active ingredients of a new intervention to prevent obesity among young children with Down syndrome.

From Barely Making It To... Effects of Raising Wages Among Low-Wage Workers

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSC
Ray Engel, School of Social Work
Funder: National Institutes of Mental Health
Period: 02/17-07/19

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

Natural Product-Drug Interaction

User Studies

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSC
Rich Boyce, Biomedical Informatics
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 11/17-present

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSC
Joan Morin, Yale University
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 09/19-06/20

Transcription of interviews with study participants examining the feasibility of the Wish Outcome Obstacle Plan (WOMP) intervention for married or cohabiting, committed couples in which one partner has early stage AD or a related dementia.

The Intersection of LGBT Identity and Bipolar Disorder in Adolescence: Understanding Psychological Experiences, Treatment Course, and Risk for Suicide

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSC
Sophia Choukas-Bradley, Psychology
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 02/19-09/19

Transcription and coding of interviews with LGBT youth with bipolar disorder to examine the intersection of bipolar symptomatology, suicidal events, and LGBT identity and stressors, in the context of an ongoing treatment outcome study.

A Non-Pharmacological Intervention for Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease and Family Caregivers

PIs: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSC
Sara Czaja, Weill Cornell Medical College
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 09/16-04/21

The study will develop and 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.

Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

PIs: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSC
Judith Matthews, Gerontology, UCSC
Funder: Health Resources and Services Administration
Period: 07/15-06/20

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.

Competitiveness Research

PI: Vijai Singh, Sociology
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.

Pennsylvania Medicaid Research Center: Evaluation of the Community Health Choices Evaluation Program

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSC
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSC
Howard Degenholtz, Public Health
Funder: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Period: 11/19-present

Transcription of interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders as part of the evaluation of the Community Health Choices program.

Stress Reduction Study for Partners of Persons with Early Stage Dementia

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSC
Joan Morin, Yale University
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 06/20-present

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 11/19-present

The study will develop and 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.

Impact of Coastal Disasters on Human Health and the Environment

PI: Vijai Singh, Sociology
Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 09/19-06/20

The study will develop and 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.

Publications 2019-2020

**JOURNALS**


**PROJECTS**


Publications 2019-2020


Publications 2019-2020

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.


Regional Indicators Project, PittsburghTODAY. (Ongoing). Pittsburgh today & tomorrow: The facts and the future of our region. UCSUR, University of Pittsburgh.
To learn more about UCSUR’s survey research capabilities, programs, ongoing projects, and staff, visit our web site at: http://www.ucsur.pitt.edu

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