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UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND URBAN RESEARCH



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Some photos in this publication were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not necessarily reflect current health and safety guidelines.

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).

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.



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

Our research infrastructure is organized under four core programs:

1. **Survey Research Program (SRP)**, which is responsible for all aspects of survey research and quantitative data analysis;
2. **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. **Gerontology Program**, which provides expertise in the design, measurement, and analysis of descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies focused on older adults; and
4. **Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP)**, which supports the collection and analysis of open-ended text data using rigorous computer-based methods.



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.

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

I am happy to update the University community on the recent activities and accomplishments of the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR).

During the past year, UCSUR 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.



Scott R. Beach, PhD

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. 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.

UCSUR:

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

UCSUR:

A research collaborative network (FY 2020)

Internal Pitt Inputs
(UCSUR received sub-awards)

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

External Organization Inputs
(UCSUR received sub-awards)

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

UNIVERSITY
CENTER
FOR SOCIAL AND
URBAN RESEARCH
(UCSUR)

UCSUR Manners Pilot Awards

Psychiatry
Economics

Internal Pitt Outputs
(UCSUR provided sub-awards)

Medicine
Psychiatry
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
School of Nursing
School of Social Work

External Organization Outputs
(UCSUR provided sub-awards)

Carnegie Mellon University
Cornell University
Penn State University
University of Miami (FL)
University of Missouri
University of Victoria, Canada
UPMC
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 50 percent of the U.S. population (and growing). Cell phone only households are typically younger, more likely to be employed, and more ethnically diverse, and their exclusion can result in significant biases in landline only surveys.

Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI):

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

Audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI):

With this application a respondent operates 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 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 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, children, 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 with 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



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.

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center supports key community initiatives by making public information easier to find and use.

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 Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, which uses REMI for planning transportation infrastructure. UCSUR has over 25 years of experience applying the model to the Pittsburgh region. Previous applications of Pittsburgh's REMI model include economic, population, and labor forecasting and regional economic impact analysis.

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) supports key community initiatives by making

public information easier to find and use. The 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 GSPIA'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 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
 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



The Gerontology Program is recognized as one of the leading social gerontology research programs in the nation.

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, gerontechnology, 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

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-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 Health-care System, Pennsylvania State University Center on Healthy Aging, and 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

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 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 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 which 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 which 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)

WHAT WE DO:
Center Resources

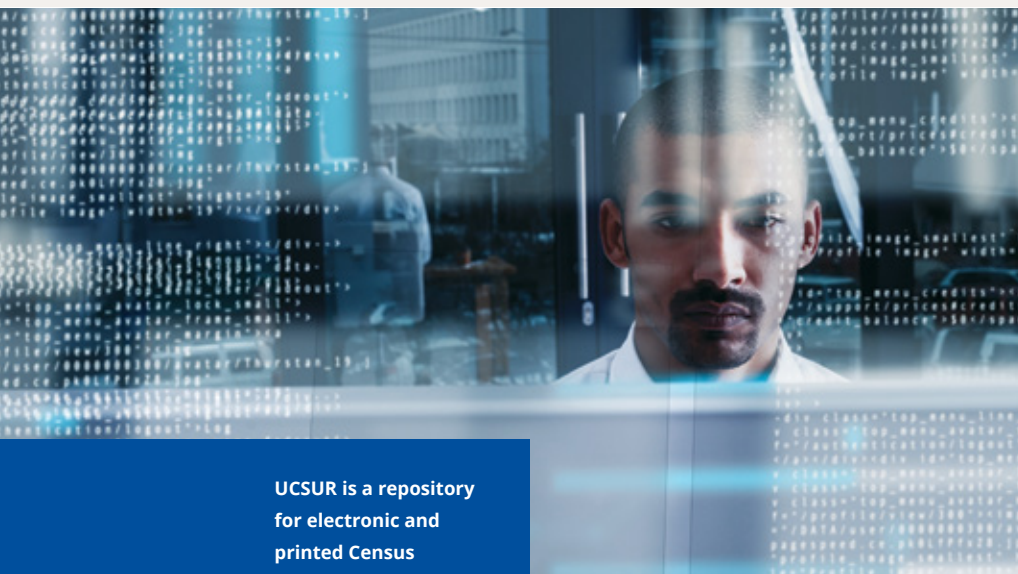
ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY DATA

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).



UCSUR is a repository for electronic and printed Census information, including Census 2010 data.



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.



UCSUR has conducted evaluations on family support, home visiting, education, and child health programs among many others.

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

2020

Jessica Levenson, Psychiatry and Pediatrics;
Randall Walsh, Economics

2019

Jessica Hamilton, WPIC;
Marlo Perry, School of Social Work

2018

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

2017

Courtenay Dunn-Lewis, Health and Physical Activity;
Aidan Wright, Psychology

2016

Victoria Shineman, Political Science;
Alicia Sufrinko and Anthony Kontos, Orthopaedic Surgery

2015

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

2014

Anthony Fabio and Dara Mendez, Epidemiology;
Lyn Robertson, Medicine

2013

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

2012

Nicholas Castle, Graduate School of Public Health

2011

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

2010

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

Irina Murtazashvili, Economics;
Brian A. Primack, Medicine and Pediatrics

2008

Peter J. Gianaros and J. Richard Jennings, Psychiatry;
Keith Morgenlander, Medicine

2007

Patricia Isabel Documet, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences;
Jeffrey Shook and Michael Vaughn, School of Social Work

2006

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

2005

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

2004

Ellen Olshansky, School of Nursing;
Seung-Hyun Yoo, Graduate School of Public Health;
Susan Zickmund, Medicine

2003

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

Maureen Porter, Administrative and Policy Studies;
Scott F. Kiesling, Linguistics

2001

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 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 Beach

Business Manager:
Greg Six

Administrators:
Anna Aivaliotis,
Donna M. King

Financial Administrator:
Abena Boadi-Agyemang

Pre-Award Administrator:
Carrie Rodzicz

Administration - Technology Services

IT Director/Database Administrator:
Robert Keene

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 Supervisors:
Olivia Kirsch, Olivia Wilson

Fieldwork Supervisor/Research Specialist:
Amber Barton

Research Specialist:
Christine Byerly

Research Specialists/Interviewers:
Carolyn Baker,
Victoria Casilli,
Jane Dirks,
Paula Kubrick,
Patricia Lietz,
Matthew Maielli,
Susan Stringfellow,
Meg Streiff

Center Manager, National Research and Training Center on Family Support:
Julie Klinger

Outreach Coordinator, National Research and Training Center on Family Support:
Heather Tomko

Urban and Regional Analysis

Co-Program Director:
Michael Blackhurst

Co-Program Director:
Sabina Deitrick**

Regional Data Center Director:
Robert Gradeck

Regional Economist:
Christopher Briem

GIS Database Analyst:
Ellen Kinnee

Project Manager:
Elizabeth Monk

PittsburghTODAY Director:
Douglas Heuck

PittsburghTODAY Research Coordinators:
Julia Fraser,
Bill O'Toole

Gerontology
Program Director:
Richard Schulz

Associate Program Director:
Judith Matthews

Project Coordinators:
Jennifer Bissell

Qualitative Data Analysis
Research Specialists:
David Halpern,
Kevan Schultz

Generations Together
Emeritus Director:
Sally Newman

Journal Editor:
Rafael Engel**

Qualitative Data Analysis
Research Specialists:
David Halpern,
Kevan Schultz

Generations Together
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Sally Newman

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Qualitative Data Analysis
Research Specialists:
David Halpern,
Kevan Schultz

Generations Together
Emeritus Director:
Sally Newman

** 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 Sochats
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

Taieb Znati
Computer Science

Jeremy Kahn
Critical Care Medicine

Douglas White
Critical Care Medicine

James Guggenheimer
Dental Medicine

Mary Marazita
Dental Medicine

Robert Weyant
Dental Medicine

Patricia Beeson
Economics

Randall Walsh
Economics

Linda DeAngelo
Education

Michael Gunzenhauser
Education

Maureen Porter
Education

Vince N. Mosesso, Jr.
Emergency Medicine

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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

Everette James III
Health Policy and Management

Laurence A. Glasco
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

FACULTY ASSOCIATES

James M. Roberts
Magee-Women's Research
Institute

Derek C. Angus
Medicine

Medicine Robert M. Arnold
Medicine

Sonya Borrero
Medicine

Michael Fine
Medicine

Manisha Jhamb
Medicine

Wishwa Kapoor
Medicine

John Kellum, Jr.
Medicine

Anne B. Newman
Medicine

P. Sudhakar Reddy
Medicine

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Edward Stricker
Neuroscience

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Nursing

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Nursing

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Nursing

Jill Radtke Demirci
Nursing

Annette DeVito Dabbs
Nursing

Heidi Donovan
Nursing

Willa M. Doswell
Nursing

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Nursing

Sandra Engberg
Nursing

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Nursing

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Nursing

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Nursing

Ann M. Mitchell
Nursing

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Nursing

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Nursing

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Nursing

Paula Sherwood
Nursing

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Office of the Provost

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Pathology

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Pediatrics

Dianna Ploof
Pediatrics

Kristin Ray
Pediatrics

Selma F. Witchel
Pediatrics

Pouran Famili
Periodontics

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Victorial Hornyak
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Physical Therapy

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Physical Therapy

Jessie VanSwearingen
Physical Therapy

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Dana Bovbjerg
Psychiatry

David Brent
Psychiatry

Charlotte Brown
Psychiatry

Daniel Buysse
Psychiatry

Duncan Clark
Psychiatry

Mary Amanda Dew
Psychiatry

Andrea Dimartini
Psychiatry

Jordan Karp
Psychiatry

Karen A. Matthews
Psychiatry

Richard Morycz
Psychiatry

Vishwajit Nimgaonkar
Psychiatry

Paul Pilkonis
Psychiatry

Neal Ryan
Psychiatry

Lalith Kumar Solai
Psychiatry

Sarah Stahl
Psychiatry

Ellen Whyte
Psychiatry

Kirk Erickson
Psychology

Peter Gianaros
Psychology

Thomas Kamarck
Psychology

Kathryn Roecklein
Psychology

Daniel Shaw
Psychology

Steven E. Stern
Psychology-Johnstown

Rory Cooper
Rehabilitation Science and
Technology

Dan Ding
Rehabilitation Science and
Technology

Mary Goldberg
Rehabilitation Science and
Technology

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Social Work

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Social Work

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Social Work

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Social Work

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Social Work

Mary Rauktis
Social Work

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Sociology

Lisa D. Brush
Sociology

Waverly Duck
Sociology

Vijai P. Singh
Sociology

Daniel Hall
Surgery

James D. Luketich
Surgery

Aaron Brenner
University Library System

Projects*

Biobehavioral Studies of Cardiovascular Disease

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

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

Telephone recruitment of participants for the NOAH (N=389) and eBACH (N=150) studies designed to advance mechanistic and translational science on the neurobiology of cardiovascular disease risk in midlife.

Climate and Rural Systems Partnership

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR**

**Kevin Crowley, UPCLOSE, LRDC
Mary Ann Steiner, UPCLOSE, LRDC**
Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 07/19-present

Data collection, management, and analysis support for a study of residents in a rural Western PA county designed to assess attitudes toward climate change before and after an informal educational intervention.

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

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Tamara Dubowitz, RAND**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/10-12/20

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.

Does Mindfulness Meditation Training Improve Social Relationship Functioning?

**PIs: 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=189 older adults for participation in a mindfulness meditation training program.



Effects of COVID-19 on Family Caregivers

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR**

**Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Heidi Donovan, School of Nursing
A. Everette James, Healthy Policy Institute**

**Julie Klinger, National Research and Training Center on Family Support, Health Sciences
Heather Tomko, National Research and Training Center on Family Support, Health Sciences**

Funder: The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research
Period: 04/20-present

A mixed mode (web & phone) survey of persons from a local area research registry, and persons associated with several national disability and caregiving-related organizations. The goal of the survey was to assess the impacts of the pandemic on employment, financial well-being, social interactions, health behaviors, and physical and mental health. Responses were received from over 600 family caregivers and nearly 3000 non-caregivers.

Esophageal Cancer Patient Survey

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR**

Katie Nason, Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: ongoing

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

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

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR**

Dana Bovbjerg, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 01/17-12/21

Telephone recruitment of 160 persons to participate in an experimental study looking at the effects of brief stresses on DNA in blood samples.

Factors Contributing to Oral Health Disparities in Appalachia

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Mary Marazita, Dental Medicine**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/11-06/21

Telephone interviews of 1,000 new mothers—500 in Pittsburgh and 500 in West Virginia—to explore factors related to childhood oral health disparities.

Identifying Predictors of Poor Health-Related Quality of Life among Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR**

Galen Switzer, Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 01/18-12/21

Telephone interviews with several hundred pediatric stem cell donors and their family members to gather information that will be used to design interventions to improve quality-of-life in donors and their families.

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 Myascovsky, 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 UCSUR's expertise in qualitative analysis, 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: 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

PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Everette 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 Kamarck, 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 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

PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Manisha Jhamb, 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
Heidi Donovan, School of Nursing
Julie Klinger, National Research and Training Center on Family Support, Health Sciences
Bambang Parmato, SHRS
Heather Tomko, National Research and Training Center on Family Support, Health Sciences

Funder: The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research
Period: 09/19-08/24

Through a \$4.3 million grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, the Center will serve as a national hub that leverages modern medical research to improve the care, health, and quality of life of all persons with disabilities and the families who support them.

The PittsburghTODAY Regional Education Survey

PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Douglas Heuck, URA, UCSUR
Funder: PittsburghTODAY
Period: 07/19-06/20

A web survey of nearly 2300 Allegheny County residents that provides insight into their views regarding local public education, thoughts about key education issues, and experiences of those whose children are taught in public schools.

Undergraduate Student Satisfaction and Retention Study

PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR
Joseph McCarthy, Office of the Provost

Funder: Office of the Provost
Period: 09/97-present

Telephone interviews and web-based surveys of University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students (n=1800+ per year) and withdrawing students (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
David Loewenstein, University of Miami

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

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

Funder: Human Engineering Research Laboratories
Period: 01/14-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.

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: 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.

Predicting Lead Water Service Lines in the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Service Area

PI: Michael Blackhurst, URA, UCSUR
Funder: Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
Period: 04/19-12/19

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) is currently required to replace lead water service lines to comply with state and federal drinking water regulations. The goal of this project is to develop a predictive model of service line materials for each PWSA customer and apply that model to improve PWSA programming, including lead service line detection, replacements, and inventory estimates.

Older Workers in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Workforce

PI: 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 collaboratives.

Census 2020 Asset Map

PI: Robert Gradeck
Funder: Allegheny County Complete Count Committee, Grantmakers of Western PA
Period: 1/20-20/20

Project to develop a community asset map to support outreach activity related to a complete count for 2020 Census, as well as other community engagement projects.

PROJECTS*

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR
Funders: R.K. Mellon Foundation; University of Pittsburgh
Period: ongoing

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) supports key community initiatives 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 Chelsea Pallatino, School of Medicine
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

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

Pain Management Strategies for Knee Osteoarthritis: Use, Intention to Use, and Differences in Pain and Arthritis Pain Self-Efficacy

PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR Xiaojun Shi, School of Nursing
Funder: Mrs. Margaret Wilkes & Mr. James Wilkes 2018 Scholarship
Period: 05/19-01/20

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: Volunteerism 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

PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR Margaret Rosenzweig, School of Nursing
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 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.

Association of Particulate Matter and Incident Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation (AF)

PIs: Ellen Kinnee, URA, UCSUR Jane Clougherty, Drexel University Jared Magnani, UPMC, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Funder: UPMC
Period: 08/18-09/19

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.

Association of Pulmonary Hypertension with Environmental and Social Factors

PIs: Ellen Kinnee, URA, UCSUR Steve Chan, UPMC 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.

GIS Asthma Denver Research Project, Spatial Analysis of Asthma Emergency Room Visits in Colorado

PIs: Ellen Kinnee, URA, UCSUR Jane Clougherty, Drexel University Fernando Holguin, University of Colorado
Funder: University of Colorado School of Medicine
Period: 09/18-09/19

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

Pediatric Health and Extreme Weather – Health Effects of Ambient Temperature (PHEW-HEAT)

PIs: Ellen Kinnee, URA, UCSUR Jane Clougherty, Drexel University Perry Sheffield, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 08/19-08/23

Examine susceptibility of pediatric subpopulations to ambient 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 Kinnee, URA, UCSUR Jane Clougherty, Drexel University
Funder: Health Effects Institute
Period: 08/18-09/19

Examine spatial relationships between multiple "chronic" pollutant and stressor exposures and age-adjusted community CVD rates.

Validating GIS-based Methods to Address Spatial Uncertainty in Clinical Trials

PIs: Ellen Kinnee, URA, UCSUR Jane Clougherty, Drexel University Fernando Holguin, University of Colorado
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 06/13-06/18

Assess whether socio-economic position (SEP) and environmental exposures 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

PIs: Judith Matthews, Gerontology, UCSUR Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR Daniel Buysse, Psychiatry Karen Courtney, University of Victoria

Sandra Engberg, Nursing Jennifer Hagerty Lingler, Nursing Kathleen McTigue, Internal Medicine Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri Asim Smailagic, Carnegie Mellon University Jessie Van Swearingen, Physical Therapy

Funder: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Period: 09/14-09/20

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.



Building Civic Open Data Capacity through Instructional Design

PIs: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR Nora Mattern, School of Computing and Information (SCI)
Funder: Institute of Museum and Library Services
Period 11/20-11/22

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center is partnering with SCI to produce data literacy, management, and analytics instructional materials 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; and (3) address existing data information needs 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 Kelci Degnian, Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA)
Period: 07/20-05/21
Funder: National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Partnering with ACLA to host a learning collaborative and develop asynchronous health data literacy training.

Civic Switchboard

PIs: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR Aaron Brenner, University Library System
Funder: Institute of Museum and Library Services
Period: 10/17-04/21

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.

Comprehensive Primary Care Plus

PIs: Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR Deborah Peikes, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Funder: 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 Caitlin Bruce, Communication
Funder: UCIS - 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 Practicum (GRP) Portfolio Analysis

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' journals 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: 06/19-06/20

Transcription and coding of 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.

PROJECTS*

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

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
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, UCSUR
Ray Engel, School of Social Work

Funder: National Institute 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, UCSUR
Rich Boyce, Biomedical Informatics

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 11/17-present

Transcription of interviews with users of a web site that will provide evidence-based information regarding purported pharmacokinetic natural product-drug interactions (PK-NPDI).

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

PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR

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, UCSUR
Joan Monin, 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 (WOOP) 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, UCSUR
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,
UCSUR

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,
UCSUR

**Judith Matthews, Gerontology,
UCSUR**

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.

Publications 2019-2020

JOURNALS

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University Center for Social and Urban Research

3343 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

T. 412-624-5442
F. 412-624-4810
E. ucsur@pitt.edu
ucsur.pitt.edu

To learn more about UCSUR's
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