

You're Invited!

Join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the
University Center for Social and Urban Research

Celebrating 50 Years

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

1-6 p.m.

University Club, Ballroom A

123 University Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

"Housing in the 21st Century: Challenges and Solutions"

AGENDA

Off-site Tour

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Pitt Healthy Home Lab Open House
(257 Oakland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213)

Welcome and Brief History

1 p.m. | University Club, Ballroom A

Panel Discussions

1:20 p.m. | Affordable Housing Challenges and Opportunities

3:20 p.m. | Aging and Housing: Strategies for Aging in Place

Poster Session

2:50 p.m. | Showcasing Current Applied Research

Reception

5 p.m. | University Club, Ballroom A

For more information, please contact ucsur@pitt.edu.



University of
Pittsburgh

University Center for
Social and Urban Research

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR)

Celebrating 50 Years
“Housing in the 21st Century: Challenges and Solutions”

Wednesday, November 29, 2023
The University Club – Ballroom A

AGENDA

11:00am- Pitt Healthy Home Lab (HHL) Open House
12:30pm: 257 Oakland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

The Pitt Healthy Home Laboratory is a community laboratory that brings the best science into home settings to maximize health and safety. This is done through the design, development, and evaluation of new and existing technologies, advancing healthy home services and interventions, and creating comprehensive health and environmental assessments to help people live safely and independently at home.

1:00pm: Welcome Remarks and Brief History

Sabina Deitrick, PhD
Director, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, UCSUR
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
University of Pittsburgh

Joseph J. McCarthy, PhD
Interim Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
William Kepler Whiteford Professor of Chemical Engineering
University of Pittsburgh

Scott R. Beach, PhD
Interim Director and Director of Survey Research, UCSUR
University of Pittsburgh

1:20pm: Affordable Housing Challenges and Opportunities

Panel Moderator

Sabina Deitrick, PhD
Director, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, UCSUR
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
University of Pittsburgh

Panel Discussant

Omer Ali, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
University of Pittsburgh

Achieving Housing Stability

Andrew Aurand, PhD

Senior Vice President for Research

National Low Income Housing Coalition

Housing is foundational to our economic, physical, and mental well-being. Yet most, if not all, communities in the U.S. have an inadequate supply of housing for people with extremely low incomes, who account for nearly one-quarter of the country's renters. This shortage is due to structural failures in a private market that often will not provide housing at an affordable price and a public sector not given adequate resources to intervene at the scale necessary to ensure housing stability for all. As a result, too many renters continually and routinely experience housing instability. This presentation discusses current challenges and solutions, including greater and better targeted public investment in housing and stronger tenant protections.

Maximizing Resources to Support Public Housing Residents

Jennifer Bert, PhD

Program Analyst, Office of Public Housing, Pittsburgh and Buffalo Field Offices

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The importance of stable housing has been the foundation for numerous federal and local housing programs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's public housing program aims to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing that will serve as a platform for improving the quality of life for its residents. Despite numerous attempts to couple subsidized housing with services, there is still much work to be done to effectively serve residents in subsidized housing. Currently the availability of services and programs is uneven and largely dependent upon the availability of local resources. This presentation offers strategies for creating communities that support public housing residents by providing much-needed services and resources.

Human Rights Tools for Defending Access to Affordable and Healthy Housing

Jackie Smith, PhD

Professor, Department of Sociology

University of Pittsburgh

Human rights provides a powerful tool for supporting advocacy for affordable and healthy housing in cities and communities, and organizers in Pittsburgh have been coming together in more unified ways to advocate for a human rights-based housing strategy. This strategy can help improve city planning and policy coordination by centering resident needs, facilitating community input, and shifting resources in ways that reinforce community interests over the interests of private developers and outside financial interests. This presentation shares some of the work being done locally to advance human rights and the right to housing, including how cross-city organizing can strengthen the capacity of city governments to protect housing and other human rights.

2:50pm- Poster Session

3:20pm: Showcasing Current Applied Research
Conversation/Q&A

3:20pm- Aging and Housing: Strategies for Aging in Place

4:50pm:

Panel Moderator

Scott R. Beach, PhD

Interim Director and Director of Survey Research, UCSUR

University of Pittsburgh

State of Aging in Pittsburgh and What it Means for Housing

Christopher Briem, MPA

Regional Economist, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, UCSUR

University of Pittsburgh

Overview of UCSUR's recent State of Aging, Disability, & Family Caregiving in Allegheny County report, including demographic trends of Allegheny County residents, housing conditions, and future projections.

Overview of Pitt Healthy Home Lab

Jon Pearlman, PhD

Professor & Chair, Department of Rehab Science & Technology

Director, IMPACT Center on Assistive Technology Translation

Technical Director, Pitt's Health Home Laboratory

University of Pittsburgh

The Healthy Home Laboratory (HHL) is an interdisciplinary collaboration that bridges our renowned basic science laboratories with a dedicated community demonstration house to develop applied solutions that optimize health and safety in home settings. The HHL serves as a community-based laboratory to research, design, develop, and evaluate technology, assessments, services, and interventions. HHL studies include development and evaluation of mobility technology, improving in-home health assessments, smart home technology service models and integrating environmental remediation into health-related home modifications. The lab is contained in a 105-year-old demonstration home that exemplifies older housing stock where many people reside. The HHL measures 2,500 square feet and is comprised of three floors and a basement. Amenities include three bathrooms (on basement, 2nd, and 3rd floors), two kitchens (on 1st and 3rd floors), two living rooms, two dining rooms, and four bedrooms. Two of the bedrooms are outfitted to be used as office space for the HHL team, and the basement includes prototyping equipment. The HHL is being fully outfitted with aging in place technology and currently includes smart-home, accessibility modifications, and stairclimbing technology.

Home Environmental Hazards

Steven M. Albert, PhD, MS, FGSA, FAAN

Professor and Hallen Chair, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

University of Pittsburgh

Home environment exposures, such as poor indoor air quality, mold, and pests, may severely affect the health and function of older adults and people with disabilities receiving in-home supportive care. Chronic health conditions render this population more vulnerable to residential environmental hazards. Current home health assessment and care planning tools used to deliver home and community-based services (HCBS), such as home modifications, therapy, and personal assistance care, do not comprehensively capture key environmental health and safety hazards. The highly vulnerable population receiving HCBS may face substantial risk from unmeasured home environment hazards that interact with their health conditions and interfere with or delay implementation of other needed services. This HUD-funded technical study will: (1) review major tools currently used in home health/HCBS to assess the feasibility of incorporating a residential environmental hazards assessment module into existing home health assessment tools; (2) develop and iteratively refine a residential environmental hazards

assessment tool (Healthy Home Assessment Tool, H-HAT) that can be used as an add-on component to current assessment tools for Medicaid HCBS or other home healthcare services; and (3) test the usability of the tool with home health assessors and the feasibility of adding it to the resident assessment workflow. In addition, we will prepare training materials with partner organizations for dissemination.

Mobility & Safety Technology in the Home

Jon Pearlman, PhD

Professor & Chair, Department of Rehab Science & Technology

Director, IMPACT Center on Assistive Technology Translation

Technical Director, Pitt's Health Home Laboratory

University of Pittsburgh

By 2050, the U.S. population over 65 will almost double. The vast majority of older adults and people with disabilities here and nationwide prefer to remain in their homes and age in place. In Pittsburgh and surrounding areas in the Middle Atlantic region, where older adults comprise around 20% of the population, only 5.8% of homes are considered "aging-ready". Prohibitors of homes being "aging-ready" include many challenges like steep stairways, lack of first floor bedroom and bathroom access, environmental hazards, and the need for costly modifications to accommodate aging and disability needs, often with limited insurance coverage. This highlights a growing need for solutions to make existing homes more accessible and safer for an ageing population. To address these growing needs, the HHL activities include several mobility and safety technology projects to improve safe living at home. These projects address the key injury risks including falling and medication management. Key technologies being developed and tested include smart home technologies and mobility support systems on stairs and in bathrooms.

Implementing Aging in Place Programs and Technology in the Community

Pamela Toto, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, FGSA

Professor and Director, CScD in Occupational Therapy

University of Pittsburgh

Aging in place, or the ability to live in one's own home and community safely and independently, is the preference of most older adults and a growing economic necessity to accommodate a rapidly expanding older adult population. With less than 10% of housing in the U.S. being "age-ready", this presentation will illustrate the opportunities and challenges of implementing evidence-supported strategies and technologies for aging in place through our current work implementing an evidence-based program called CAPABLE in partnership with the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging.

4:50pm- Closing Remarks

5:00pm: Scott R. Beach, PhD

Interim Director and Director of Survey Research, UCSUR

University of Pittsburgh

5:00pm- Reception

6:00pm:

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SPEAKERS



Steven M. Albert, PhD, MS, FGSA, FAAN
Professor and Hallen Chair
Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences
University of Pittsburgh

Steven Albert’s research centers on the assessment of health outcomes in aging and chronic disease, including physical and cognitive function, health service use, and clinical decision making. Current efforts include modeling the dynamics of health behavior change across the lifespan and prevention of violence. He teaches courses on aging as a field of public health, modeling the dynamics of health behavior change, and evaluation of health program interventions. He received his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Chicago.



Omer Ali, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
University of Pittsburgh

Omer Ali works on topics in economic history, political economy, and urban economics, with a focus on racial inequality. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Andrew Aurand, PhD
Senior Vice President for Research
National Low Income Housing Coalition

Andrew Aurand leads NLIHC’s research team. Recent research includes the preservation needs of the affordable housing stock, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program’s data quality for tracking preservation, the implementation and impact of emergency rental assistance programs in response to COVID-19, long-term recovery of rental housing after disasters, and state and locally-funded affordable rental housing programs. Andrew received his PhD from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh and worked on projects at UCSUR while a graduate student.



Scott R. Beach, PhD
Interim Director and Director of Survey Research
University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR)
University of Pittsburgh

Scott Beach has over two decades of experience in survey methodology and gerontology-related research. He has designed and directed dozens of large-scale surveys of both general and targeted populations. In addition to survey methodology and measurement, his research interests are focused on the health effects of family (informal) caregiving; the development and application of technologies that enhance functioning and promote independence in older individuals; and elder abuse, including application of survey technology for collecting self-report data on abuse and racial/ethnic differences in the prevalence and experience of elder abuse. He received his PhD in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.



Jennifer Bert, PhD

Program Analyst

*Office of Public Housing, Pittsburgh and Buffalo Field Offices
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Jennifer Bert's work focuses on increasing public housing occupancy in Western Pennsylvania and Upstate New York. Her prior research is on the Family Self Sufficiency Program and programs for providing supportive services to public housing residents. She received her PhD from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh and worked on housing projects at UCSUR while a graduate student.



Christopher Briem, MPA

*Regional Economist, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, UCSUR
University of Pittsburgh*

Christopher Briem's work focuses on regional competitiveness, economic and demographic forecasting, and industry analysis in the Pittsburgh region. He holds a master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from the School of Public and International Affairs at Columbia University.



Sabina Deitrick, PhD

*Director, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, UCSUR
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
University of Pittsburgh*

Sabina Deitrick is an avid proponent of community outreach and engagement and has led numerous research efforts, as well as the development of partnerships like the Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System. Her focus is on the impacts of the nonprofit sector and higher education institutions in their regional communities. She received her PhD in City and Regional Planning at the University of California at Berkeley.



Joseph J. McCarthy, PhD

*Interim Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
William Kepler Whiteford Professor of Chemical Engineering
University of Pittsburgh*

As interim provost and senior vice chancellor, Joseph J. McCarthy has primary responsibility for the University of Pittsburgh's academic mission, including supporting scholarly excellence among more than 5,700 faculty members and academic success among nearly 34,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students on all five campuses. Prior to this role, McCarthy served as vice provost for undergraduate studies, focusing on enhancing the academic experience of Pitt's undergraduates. McCarthy is also the William Kepler Whiteford Professor in the Swanson School of Engineering's Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. A member of Pitt's faculty since 1998, he has been recognized for his contributions to teaching and curriculum development and for his leadership of undergraduate research programs. McCarthy holds a PhD in chemical engineering from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Notre Dame.



Jon Pearlman, PhD

*Professor & Chair, Department of Rehabilitation Science & Technology
Director, IMPACT Center on Assistive Technology Translation
Technical Director, Pitt's Health Home Laboratory
University of Pittsburgh*

Jon Pearlman is a translational researcher focused on developing and improving technologies that support physical rehabilitation and improve the lives of people with disabilities. He supports the innovation, testing and commercialization of technology through the Pittsburgh Low Vision Research Collaborative. He received his PhD in Rehabilitation Science and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh.



Jackie Smith, PhD
Professor, Department of Sociology
University of Pittsburgh

Jackie Smith serves on the leadership committee of the national Human Rights Cities Alliance. Her research examines how people and communities respond to problems arising from economic inequality and globalization, and how they employ global human rights norms and institutions to transform conflict and promote equity and justice in local settings. Much of her current work focuses on the right to housing and on racial equity, and she has been working with activists and policymakers to improve local government compliance with global human rights treaties. In addition, Dr. Smith teaches courses on globalization and health, urban sociology, social movements, and coalitions. She received her PhD from the University of Notre Dame.



Pamela Toto, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, FGSA
Professor and Director, CScD in Occupational Therapy
University of Pittsburgh

Pamela Toto is an occupational therapist, a researcher, and an educator who is internationally recognized within her field for her expertise in gerontology. She has over 30 years of experience as an occupational therapist developing and integrating services for older adults in the community and in long-term care settings. Her clinical and research interests focus on the implementation of client-centered interventions in “real world” settings to promote independence, participation, and healthy aging in older adults. She received her PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Pittsburgh.