

Strategic Plan

2021-2025

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS)

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



Message from the Dean

The University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS) is a nationally renowned leader in the field of health care education, research and clinical practice preparation. With 13 different disciplines related to health and rehabilitative care, SHRS shapes future generations of health care professionals—therapists, counselors, advocates, scientists, providers and practitioners—trained to serve the needs of all people regardless of background, levels of health or mobility. We are built on a legacy of academic excellence and innovation and fueled by passionate educators and researchers, allowing us to meet the health care and rehabilitation needs of today and drive meaningful change in the future.

As we look to redefine health care, we find that people with serious injuries or chronic disabling conditions are among the most challenging with respect to cost and access to care and services. SHRS is dedicated to: (1) primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of injury and disability through health promotion and wellness initiatives that are tailored to susceptible populations and (2) treating, rehabilitating and advocating for the growing number of people living with disabling conditions. As such, we focus much of our academic and research attention on uncovering best practices and optimal solutions to quality-of-life concerns related to activity and participation, function, mobility and independence. SHRS strives to do its part contributing to health care reform's triple aim of improving patient care, improving the health and well-being of all populations and reducing/controlling costs. We must redefine the roles of the professions represented within SHRS in the context of a fundamental focus on value, quality and cost-effective initiatives.

As health care systems move to value-based payment structures that factor in quality and patient satisfaction as a determinant of reimbursement, SHRS must respond by:



Dean Anthony Delitto
Professor

- Raising performance expectations of our students and new graduates to include:
 - reduced variability of care through more consistent delivery of evidence-based practice as part of an inter-professional team
 - active involvement in health management for people with severe injuries or disabling conditions, as well as people who are at risk for disease, injury or disability
 - engagement in community education, prevention and wellness services to affect the health and well-being of all people
 - advocacy for and design of models of care by which the professionals will be an integral part of the primary care model in affecting individual and population health.
- Expanding our research portfolio to include investigations that address maximizing human potential through movement systems optimization and cutting-edge rehabilitation and disability-related innovation.
- Improving the quality and value of health care by spurring research that includes the contributions of health and rehabilitation professionals and assistive technologies.
- Committing to action-oriented policies to address inequity and implement solutions to recruit, develop and retain a diverse body of students, faculty and staff and simultaneously create an academic environment in which all campus community members' contributions are sought and valued.
- Developing and translating key technologies that advance innovation in rehabilitation science and accelerating the pace of innovation in rehabilitation to have an even greater positive impact on the lives of people served by SHRS disciplines.



Established in 1969 and representing the youngest of the University's six health science schools, the *School of Health Related Professions (SHRP)* initially focused on educating entry-level practitioners in a variety of health related professions and preparing established clinicians to assume leadership roles in the region, state and country.



The 1990s began an extraordinary period of expansion and transformation in the School beginning with a name change from SHRP to the *School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS)*. We were one of the first schools to introduce the term **rehabilitation science** which not only represents the rehabilitation fields but, more importantly, precisely captures the body of science that encompasses the breadth of research within SHRS.



Additionally, since 1992 the School has experienced unprecedented growth in scholarly productivity. Present research budgets in excess of \$30 million in fiscal year 2021 span the translational spectrum from basic to applied sciences. Overall, these research programs are focused on health system optimization and personal and performance engagement focusing on mechanisms, strategies and systems to improve the health and wellness of individuals across the lifespan who are at risk for or experience chronic conditions or disability.

50 Years Bold: A Brief History of SHRS

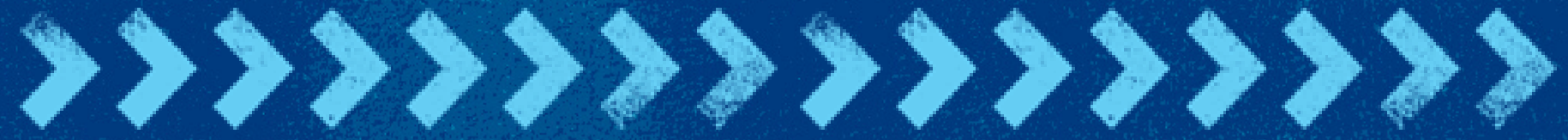
Currently, SHRS' educational offerings are comprised of **rehabilitation fields** (assistive and rehabilitation technology, audiology, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, prosthetics and orthotics and rehabilitation counseling) and **health care related fields** (physician assistant studies, emergency medicine, health information management/informatics, mental health counseling, sports medicine/sports science/athletic training and nutrition).

Four SHRS graduate programs earned top-10 spots in the most recent U.S. News and World Report graduate school rankings (#1 in Physical Therapy; #3 in Occupational Therapy; #3 in Speech-Language Pathology and #7 in Audiology). They are also the most highly rated in their respective disciplines among colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 2020, SHRS launched its first online master's program in health informatics. Since then, the School has continued to expand its online and hybrid program offerings to improve access to its cutting-edge curriculum and world renowned faculty while demonstrating a strong commitment to lowering the cost of higher education and high-quality health care training.



SHRS Vision, Mission and Values



As a health sciences school of the University of Pittsburgh, SHRS stands on its solid reputation as an international leader in rehabilitation and disabilities education, research and community service, improving the lives and independence of all people with a focus on people at risk for or having chronic conditions or disabilities and those who have traditionally been underserved and underrepresented.



Our Vision

To be a catalyst for a world free of barriers and disparities that allows all people, regardless of health, to have opportunities to participate in life to the fullest; to be accomplished through education, research and service.

Our Mission

To advance health, rehabilitation and reintegration service delivery through teaching, research and professional service. We advance our Mission and pursue our Vision by:

- Providing an unparalleled environment for education and training
- Supporting an inter-professional approach to research to address challenges of people with acute and chronic conditions and disabilities
- Collaborating with local, national and international partners to address and improve integration of rehabilitation services in health care delivery systems, community engagement and models of care.

Our Values

- **Advocacy** – for those less fortunate or with limited access seeking greater independence
- **Excellence** – in all endeavors and facets of our work
- **Inclusion** – in student, faculty and staff composition, recruitment, retention and advancement with a major focus on inclusion of all people regardless of race, culture, gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic experience, ability, disability, religion, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation
- **Innovation** – in teaching and educational curricula, research, technology and product development
- **Integrity** – through uncompromising adherence to ethical principles, truthfulness, dignity and respect in all that we do
- **Service** – to all, including the disabilities community, in regard to rehabilitation and health services with a commitment to social responsibility



University of Pittsburgh Mission and Values

University's Mission: To leverage knowledge—through teaching, research and community service—for society's gain.

University's Values: Our values shape who we are today and where we are going next. These values include Academic Excellence, Collaboration, Community, Inclusion, Innovation and Sustainability.

The University's Mission focuses success in three areas: **Our People, Our Programs and Our Purpose.**



Community

Collaboration

Academic Excellence

University Values

Innovation

Sustainability

Inclusion

Introduction

The SHRS Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 is comprehensive in its scope and aligns with the University's [Plan for Pitt](#), its Mission and Values as well as SHRS' Mission, Vision and Values. Key strategic initiatives prioritized by SHRS, all of which focus on Our People, Our Programs and Our Purpose, include the following:

- **Faculty and staff support** and professional development
- **Online education** to reach persons where they live, educate health care professionals to meet growing demand and gaps in care, and reduce the cost of education while maintaining/improving national rankings and sustaining the quality and rigor of SHRS programs
- Implementation of our plan for developing, assessing and recognizing **teaching excellence**
- Execution of strategies to **reduce student debt**, right-size tuition and **reduce the time to degree completion**
- **Expansion of our undergraduate outreach efforts, advising services and academic partnerships**
- Robust **diversity, equity, inclusion and community engagement** plans
- **Interprofessional education** opportunities for all students
- Engagement in **research of impact, innovation and strategic collaborations**
- Realization of the **SHRS facilities master plan** to meet current and future academic, research and service needs.



**BOLD
MOVES**

Our People



The **Plan for Pitt** gives students, faculty and staff the opportunities and environment needed to thrive. The plan prioritizes inclusion—building channels for connection and collaboration within a community that is vibrant in voice, identity and experience. It also advocates for autonomy, recognizing the importance of pursuits and perspectives that break barriers. By encouraging smart risks, meaningful growth and supportive structures, the plan enables our people to do what they do best: drive Pitt’s programs, purpose and success.

[Read how Pitt is enabling faculty, staff and students to succeed.](#)

Our People

SHRS Initiatives

The important work of empowering our students, faculty and staff to realize their full potential is always evolving—and always worth it.

01

Create an inclusive and equitable campus environment—one that welcomes, values and embraces the diverse perspectives of every member of our community.



02

Protect academic freedom; institutional independence; and the associated rights, responsibilities and privileges.



03

Enrich the student experience with transformative opportunities to learn, grow and thrive.



04

Enhance the employee experience through robust talent development as well as transformative opportunities to collaborate, engage and advance.



05

Update our physical and operational environment to encourage risk-taking, exploration and collaboration.





Create an inclusive and equitable campus environment—one that welcomes, values and embraces the diverse perspectives of every member of our community.

- Develop and implement a multi-faceted plan to recruit, matriculate and retain a diverse student body that is representative of the demographics of the country and includes students of different races, cultures, genders, ages, ethnicities, socio-economic experiences, abilities, religions, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations and includes students from veteran’s and military groups.
- Develop more direct pathways for the enrollment of students from rural, underserved localities and our regional campuses in an effort to increase access to SHRS’ many health care training programs.
- Develop collaborative outreach programs and partnerships at the pre-college and undergraduate levels.
- Leverage partnerships with the Community Engagement Centers, Pittsburgh Public Schools, rural school districts and regional campuses to increase access for underrepresented students.
- Recruit, develop and retain a diverse faculty, staff and leadership team committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, community engagement, the elimination of health disparities, and advocacy in education, research, service and clinical practice.
- Engage alumni in efforts to promote, recruit and retain students, faculty and staff from underrepresented groups.
- Create and sustain a welcoming climate where SHRS community members can bring their “whole true self” and develop and maintain a sense of community for all students, faculty and staff.
- Provide insight into the health experiences of our LGBTQIA+ community through education, mentoring and research.
- Promote inclusion and accessibility for people across the University by disseminating our best practices in accommodating students, faculty and staff with disabilities and veterans in classrooms, research engagement and extracurricular activities and removing barriers imposed by ableism.
- Develop systems and programs that include mentoring, peer and social support.
- Partner with community organizations to build capacity and increase community-based learning opportunities for SHRS students, faculty and staff.

- Develop SHRS student, faculty and staff affinity groups to foster an inclusive and welcoming school environment.
- Conduct advanced research focused on health and rehabilitation equity, quality and outcomes that actively engages multiple stakeholder perspectives. Periodically evaluate and re-direct, if necessary, recruitment efforts to attract and retain a diverse and inclusive SHRS community.
- Facilitate organizational change that supports and sustains a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, community engagement, advocacy and the elimination of health disparities.
- Develop a common understanding and commitment to valuing, achieving and celebrating diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Ensure that curriculum content considers contemporary social issues facing the SHRS community and that it fosters inter-cultural and intracultural insight.
- Provide a fair, equitable and transparent process to ensure accessibility and reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities.



Protect academic freedom; institutional independence; and the associated rights, responsibilities and privileges.

- Develop and implement the SHRS Mentoring Academy to support and facilitate encouragement of faculty in their pursuit of research, scholarship and creative expression.



Enrich the student experience with transformative opportunities to learn, grow and thrive.

- Increase availability of student self-care and personal wellness resources, including those recently developed by SHRS’ Counseling program through a Pitt Forge Your Own Path grant.
- Develop a centralized SHRS advising and student success center.
- Establish and publish a student calendar of events, activities and webinars.
- Develop programs that connect students to immersive experiences that involve community stakeholders, alumni, potential employers and various perspectives external to the University.
- Develop Canvas website that enables all SHRS students to participate in engagement opportunities.

Our People

- Support existing and create new interprofessional educational programming to ensure that all SHRS degree-seeking students share meaningful learning activities with students from other SHRS professions and other disciplines both within and outside of the Health Sciences.
- Develop an interprofessional journal club to expose students to other professions while also enabling them to develop critical thinking and appraisal skills.
- Develop and sustain a culture of shared and supportive learning and collaboration that invites and engages multiple perspectives towards common goals of understanding and respect.
- Expand SHRS opportunities for interprofessional interaction within SHRS to enable greater understanding and respect for each of the disciplines. This can be accomplished through planned academic events (i.e., seminars, forums, speakers' series) or through social events across programs.
- Critically evaluate and augment SHRS programming and curricula to identify strengths and opportunities for interprofessional learning activities.
- Develop common, core coursework and embed courses across disciplines with the goal of offering classes that include students from multiple disciplines.
- Critically evaluate and augment SHRS opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in research.



Enhance the employee experience through robust talent development as well as transformative opportunities to collaborate, engage and advance.

- Develop and implement a standard process to recognize excellence in teaching and mentoring in annual reviews, through promotion and tenure considerations, and the creation and distribution of awards.
- Formalize and implement an SHRS standardized annual review form and process across the School.
- Launch a faculty mentoring assessment process.
- Increase submissions for teaching awards in SHRS, through the University and on a national level.
- Design and implement a systematic process to assure teaching excellence, including but not limited to: (a) best practices; (b) assessments of teaching; and (c) resources for professional skills development.

- Offer teaching and career development seminars at least once per term.
- Establish a documented, transparent process for appointment, promotion and tenure for both appointment and tenure-stream faculty.
- Create a resource to support faculty as they prepare to seek promotion and/or tenure.
- Establish a systematic process by which the University, SHRS and associated departments link recruitment and hiring of faculty and staff to achieve the goals of the SHRS strategic plan.
- Establish a process for the retention of key faculty and staff to teach, serve and conduct research that advances the goals of the School and University.
- Systematically review faculty and staff positions to assign duties and responsibilities to meet the needs of the School.
- Evaluate current faculty and staff compensation package structures for enhancement opportunities through benchmarking against peer institutions, positions and programs to assure that SHRS offers are competitive.
- Query faculty and staff for value-added initiatives and explore the feasibility of adopting them.
- Evaluate current faculty and staff professional development and skill-building programs and identify opportunities to expand upon current offerings.
- Partner with University resources to offer SHRS-specific development programs.



Update our physical and operational environment to encourage risk-taking, exploration and collaboration.

- Expand collaborations within our School and with other University stakeholders to reinforce and expand the academic, research and service aspects of the SHRS mission and strategic priorities.
- Build a marketing, communications and recruitment infrastructure to develop and support a strong SHRS brand that strengthens our relationships with prospective and current students, alumni, prospective and current donors, and community partners.
- Create operational efficiencies by reorganizing and/or consolidating administrative support services, such as grant administration and human resources support, to serve the academic, research and service functions of SHRS.
- Advocate for the short- and long-term physical plant, space and technology needs to support SHRS academics, research, service and operational functions through the campus master planning processes, the SHRS facilities master plan and financial pro forma.

Our People

Our Programs



The **Plan for Pitt** builds on our historic strengths in individual research, scholarship and creative endeavors. It calls for expanding our bench of experts—across schools, sectors and subjects—to tackle society-sized problems. And it compels us to pursue transformative teaching, learning and research experiences—in the classroom and beyond—while raising bars and reimagining involvement across the graduate and nontraditional education landscape. Such changes will grow our strengths while expanding Pitt’s reach and relevance in communities and networks across the globe.

[Read how Pitt is achieving excellence in our academic and research programs.](#)

Our Programs

SHRS Initiatives

The very best programs grow in ways that connect students, faculty and staff with the knowledge, experiences and networks needed to drive transformative change.

01

Enhance graduate and professional offerings in terms of their reputation, relevance and impact.

02

Create more preeminent teaching, learning, scholarship and research experiences.

03

Increase our participation and presence in multidisciplinary, solution-sized research projects.

04

Broaden our academic opportunities to include more nontraditional students and settings.

05

Expand opportunities for civic and global engagement.



1**Enhance graduate and professional offerings in terms of their reputation, relevance and impact.**

- Develop online and hybrid graduate entry-level professional degree programs, credit-bearing and non-credit bearing post-professional degree and certificate programs, and undergraduate programs.
- Develop post-professional continuing education programs to meet professional licensure requirements and support lifelong learning and clinical practice that employs current evidence-based best practices.
- Develop and implement interdisciplinary and interschool degree and/or certificate programs.

2**Create more preeminent teaching, learning, scholarship and research experiences.**

- Engage students in personalized professional development opportunities and mentorship relationships.
- Engage PhD students in personalizing their experience through the milestones and achievements survey process established by SHRS.
- Develop a tracking mechanism to quantify and expand undergraduate student participation in research, scholarship or innovation.
- Create an SHRS center for advising and student success.
- Create partnerships with international/multinational institutions to establish global collaborations for research, service and training activities.
- Establish extended (>1 month) exchange programs for faculty at international locations.
- Expand study abroad and student exchange options for students within SHRS professional degree programs.
- Establish a coordinated approach to sharing study abroad and student exchange opportunities across all SHRS programs.
- Maintain excellence with all accreditation reviews.
- Develop and incorporate RAMPed pain management modules into the curriculum of all SHRS programs (at undergraduate and graduate levels).

3**Increase our participation and presence in multidisciplinary, solution-sized research projects.**

- Develop and launch common foundational courses across individual professional degree programs (at undergraduate and graduate levels).
- Support and advocate for individualized clinical experiences for undergraduate and graduate-level students based on their interests (experiences such as internships, fieldwork, supervised practice, student research collaborations/laboratory exchanges at other institutions, etc.).
- Create opportunities internal and external to SHRS that incorporate interprofessional interaction and the development of real-life interprofessional delivery models through spaces like the SHRS Wellness Pavilion, Pitt's Community Engagement Centers, Falk Trauma Clinic and others, or develop new spaces for such interprofessional activities.
- Evaluate and implement technology-based solutions to enrich residential and online/hybrid learning (e.g. simulations; virtual patients; telehealth).
- Collaborate with the CTSI, Health Sciences Research Deans, Health Policy Institute, Innovation Institute and other University organizations to engage in: (a) health system optimization research to explore provider behavior and training, program and system development, health care equity and quality, and policy-relevant effectiveness and efficiency studies to optimize health system outcomes; (b) personal performance and engagement research in the areas of health and wellness, mobility and activity, functional cognition, communication, education and vocation, community participation, physical and social environmental adaptation, and assistive and rehabilitation technologies.
- Engage in dissemination and implementation research to study the effectiveness of executing the innovative research results obtained across SHRS.
- Expand implementation science efforts into an operating unit (Department, Center or Institute) where SHRS innovations can be implemented in everyday care and evaluated for cost-effectiveness; barriers to execution can be identified; and strategies formulated to eliminate barriers.
- Demonstrate the value of a rehabilitation-first approach to disabling conditions (e.g., pain) and redirect the use of medical, surgical and pharmacological strategies to those in the rehabilitation realm through dissemination and implementation (D&I) research.
- Substantiate the effectiveness of rehabilitation professionals in post-acute phases of care delivery in reducing inpatient re-admissions.

Our Programs

- Establish a school-wide Data Center with sufficient personnel and resources to support the education, conduct and dissemination of high impact, policy-relevant research for SHRS students, trainees and investigators.
- Expand existing research infrastructure to support pre-award, post-award and project management of larger multi-site studies that have the potential for widespread research impact.
- Develop a comprehensive research infrastructure and collaborations to support management and analysis of large clinical and health administration datasets focused on efficiency and effectiveness of rehabilitation care.
- Strengthen and advance collaborative networks and data sharing to support widespread implementation of effective wellness and rehabilitation interventions in health systems and community-based settings.
- Create computing collaborations and informatic infrastructure to bridge the physical-digital divide and harness cyber-physical and intelligent interface technologies for developing innovations consistent with the SHRS research framework.
- Translate health services and comparative effectiveness research into public policy through the advancement of new models of care and reimbursement to policy makers and governmental agencies.
- Translate research outcomes through commercialization.
- Establish a school-wide center for developing, promoting, evaluating and translating rehabilitation technology.

4 Broaden our academic opportunities to include more nontraditional students and settings.

- Develop online and hybrid graduate entry-level professional degree programs, credit-bearing and non-credit bearing post-professional degree and certificate programs, and undergraduate programs.
- Execute a plan to increase the number of partnerships and student placements, new programs, prototypes and services with UPMC, external community stakeholders, and other health care entities to expand access to educational opportunities for the community and to address health disparities.
- Augment and build upon partnerships with UPMC and non-UPMC affiliated health care systems, community settings and service providers to expand clinical education offerings for all programs.

Our Programs

5 Expand opportunities for civic and global engagement.

- Perform an assessment and review of public membership in SHRS advisory boards and committees to better align our efforts with the expressed priorities of the community.
- Explore new and innovative program offerings through partnership with community stakeholders that are consistent with health care reform.
- Design, develop and implement effective and necessary health and wellness services in the University's Community Engagement Centers.
- Develop innovative long-term collaborations that take advantage of ongoing community initiatives, such as the Pittsburgh Promise.
- Develop student-led programs and initiatives that encourage civic engagement.
- Create opportunities to include service and community-based learning in health and wellness initiatives through interprofessional experiences.
- Internationalize current activities to increase engagement of global audience to attend and contribute to SHRS initiatives.
- Design and execute globally oriented activities to increase exposure of SHRS to global issues and increase international engagement from our partners.



Our Purpose



The **Plan for Pitt** defines the success of our people and programs by their impact—including their role in enhancing scholarship, partnerships and society. It advocates for expanding academic access, equipping all students to graduate on time and ready to excel and supporting the ongoing success of our alumni. The plan also positions Pitt to actively partner with communities—around our campuses and across the world—to level life’s playing field, expand opportunities and improve outcomes and lives.

[Read how Pitt is changing lives for the better.](#)

Our Purpose

SHRS Initiatives

Pitt is a powerful force for good, and our effort to improve lives—near and far—never ends.



01

Extend networks and supports to help students graduate on time, secure meaningful employment and realize early career success.



02

Enhance the professional trajectories and personal success of our alumni.



03

Fuel economic development throughout the region and economic growth throughout the commonwealth.



04

Collaborate with communities—near and far—to improve outcomes and opportunities for their residents.





Extend networks and supports to help students graduate on time, secure meaningful employment and realize early career success.

- Design and implement systematic processes to reduce the time-to-degree for entry-level graduate programs and/or 3+2 models to earn bachelor's and master's degrees.
- Develop and implement strategies to reduce the tuition burden and/or time-to-degree for SHRS undergraduate, entry-level professional and graduate students while maintaining the quality and integrity of our programs and meeting or exceeding accreditation requirements.
- Develop a centralized advising and student success center.
- Identify, qualify, cultivate and steward sources of support for need and merit-based scholarships.
- Develop short range plan for right-sizing tuition to help address the need for greater inclusivity.
- Establish incremental decreases in tuition to align more closely with peer institutions as well as internal units.
- Develop program that connects students with potential employers and train students to market themselves.
- Train students to develop e-portfolio and develop central job-market website for programs.
- Develop a program where students identify an external mentor to enhance their professional network.



Enhance the professional trajectories and personal success of our alumni.

- Develop and support meaningful engagement opportunities for SHRS alumni, current students, faculty, staff and professionals in the community to promote personal/professional growth and development.

- Engage the alumni base with opportunities for interaction with faculty, staff and current students through outreach, volunteerism, educational and social offerings and mentorship.
- Gather and more widely communicate the impact and results of our work to elevate SHRS' reputation.
- Establish annual alumni events (virtual and in-person) that highlight SHRS activities and more closely link alumni to ongoing activities.
- Develop dynamic content to expand on FACETS magazine and support broader engagement with our alumni and partners.
- Develop discrete SHRS alumni affinity networks (e.g., African American SHRS Alumni Council, SHRS Muslim Alumni Council, etc.)
- Provide financial support for SHRS alumni affinity networks.



Fuel economic development throughout the region and economic growth throughout the commonwealth.

- Collaborate with other research institutions/companies to enhance local and regional economy.
- Develop and support strategies to increase public/private partnerships in education, technology transfer and innovation that involve underserved communities, underrepresented groups and minority owned enterprises.
- Expand the development of partnerships, new programs and services with UPMC, external community stakeholders, and other health care entities to expand access to educational opportunities for the community and to address health disparities.
- Leverage partnerships with Pitt's Community Engagement Centers, Pittsburgh Public Schools, rural school districts and regional campuses to increase access for underrepresented students.

Our Purpose

4

Collaborate with communities—near and far—to improve outcomes and opportunities for their residents.

- Support the development of prototypes and/or products that involve partnerships with underserved communities, underrepresented groups and minority owned business enterprises and assist in commercialization of products.
- Develop partnerships with school districts that serve predominantly underrepresented minority students to increase their access to post-secondary education, health sciences professions and mentorship opportunities (Pittsburgh Promise, etc.).
- Explore opportunities for interprofessional collaboration with entities, clinics and shelters that serve the underserved populations in our region.
- Establish a continuous monitoring process to ensure the SHRS Wellness Pavilion is adapting services to the needs of the community.
- Develop and commercialize decision-assist tools for patients and clinicians addressing a variety of health issues across the health care continuum.
- Develop a system to examine newly funded SHRS projects to identify potential for commercialization.
- Partner with community stakeholders and investigators outside the School to increase SHRS research activities aimed at the investigation of social determinants of health and wellness and the health disparities facing communities locally, nationally and globally.
- Partner with stakeholders to identify systemic barriers to and solutions for disparities in health care access, quality and outcomes in communities locally, nationally and globally.
- Collaborate with students, community and clinical stakeholders to engage in health and rehabilitation research that addresses critical needs of marginalized populations.
- Design and execute a philanthropic giving plan to support collaborations with communities—near and far—to improve outcomes and opportunities for their residents.

Our Purpose



**BOLD
MOVES**

Pitt SHRS Research Framework

**Personal
Performance
and Engagement**



Measurement and Intervention

**Health System
Optimization**



Health Services and Implementation

Research Foci

In 2020, SHRS released a new research framework that depicts current and projected research foci for the next five years (see figure on next page). SHRS research addresses a breadth of themes across the full research continuum—basic science to clinical science to health services research and implementation science. Collectively, SHRS research examines mechanisms, measures, interventions and systems to improve the health and wellness of individuals across the lifespan who are at risk for or who experience disability.

Specifically, SHRS investigators conduct studies that 1) examine and manipulate the basic building blocks of health and function (that is our bodies' cells and tissues); 2) develop new measures, interventions and assistive technology devices to optimize the prevention and rehabilitation of functional deficits; 3) examine health care quality and equity; and 4) design and implement optimized models of health care delivery in health systems across the world. In doing so, SHRS research informs health and rehabilitation practices in a variety of care settings—including the home and community, inpatient and ambulatory care—and tests new models of care delivery and provider training.

