Our long-standing goals are to achieve the highest levels in science, training, and clinical service. We strive to stay on the path of achieving these goals by constantly evaluating and modernizing our curricula, actively searching for and attacking the next set of scientific questions in our disciplines, and translating this new knowledge into practice in our clinics. While keeping a steady eye on these long-term standards, we also invest in short-term goals that enhance our overall mission. At the present time we are focusing on curricular improvements for our PhD and AuD programs; seeking to bolster our undergraduate program; continuing to build and strengthen collaborations within and outside the department to advance basic and translational research endeavors; engaging our students in a process of life-long learning even after the formal completion of their professional and/or scientific training programs; and increasing the cultural, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic diversity of those who seek our training or clinical services.

We are pursuing these goals by focusing on the following tasks:

Improve PhD Curriculum by –
- Bolstering training in scientific thinking, methods, and dissemination of information.
- Developing a set of seminars that broadly cover our disciplines while highlighting the interconnectedness between various areas of scientific work.
- Incorporating up-to-date training in responsible conduct of research.
- Incorporating professional development and career guidance into the curriculum.

Bolster undergraduate program by –
- Reviewing the size of the program and focusing on appropriate recruitment.
- Developing modules that connect coursework in CSD with that offered by other units within SoC and NU.

Support life-long learning by –
- Stabilizing the new SLP-D program.
- Maintaining and strengthening the CSDConnect program, a free day-long conference for alums.

Increase client/patient diversity by –
- Pursuing enrollment in Medicare.
- Deepening our collaborative relationship with various facilities under the Northwestern Medicine umbrella.