

CSD Connects: Summer 2025

As we begin a new academic quarter, there is fresh energy and anticipation in the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Each new term offers opportunities to build on our strengths in research, teaching, clinical service, and community partnerships—and this fall promises to be no exception.

Looking back, Summer 2025 was a highly productive season. Our faculty secured competitive NIH and foundation funding, launched innovative interdisciplinary projects, and presented their work on national and international stages. We celebrated new publications that span the breadth of our field, from bilingualism to neurobiology to clinical innovations in dysphagia and hearing health. Our students and postdoctoral fellows also distinguished themselves through fellowships, presentations, and leadership development opportunities, while faculty and staff marked important career milestones through promotions, recognitions, and programmatic innovations.

At the same time, our clinical and community partnerships thrived—from intensive therapy programs to interprofessional health fairs—extending the reach of our expertise and impact. As we turn to the new quarter, we do so with gratitude for the remarkable achievements of the summer and with excitement for the discoveries, collaborations, and successes that lie ahead.

Bharath Chandrasekaran, PhD

Ralph and Jean Sundin Endowed Professor and Chair

ASHA Fellow, Knowles Fellow

Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Megan Roberts, PhD, CCC-SLP

Professor and Associate Chair, ASHA Fellow

Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Research Excellence and Innovation

Martin-Harris Receives Funding From the Ryan Family Research Acceleration Fund

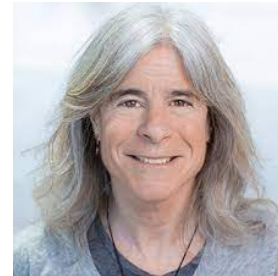
Alice Gabrielle Twight Professor Bonnie Martin-Harris and Professor Ying Wu (Engineering) received funding from the Ryan Family Research Acceleration Fund. Their project

involves developing an AI-powered tool to improve how clinicians assess dysphagia, making evaluations more accurate, efficient, and reliable. Read more: <http://bit.ly/45v36E2>



Kraus Serves as Subaward PI on NIH R01

Professor Nina Kraus is a subaward PI on an R01 *Do auditory tests predict future Alzheimer's disease pathophysiology* with Dartmouth College (1R01AG087264). This project will use an objective marker of Alzheimer's disease—protein deposition in the brain—to determine the relationship between hearing ability and the progression of Alzheimer's disease.



Roberts Receives NIH Funding

Professor Megan Roberts R01 *Early communication intervention for deaf/hard of hearing toddlers: Long-term language and literacy outcomes* was renewed (2R01DC016877). This project is a follow-up longitudinal study to a randomized clinical trial of a parent-mediated communication intervention for deaf/hard of hearing toddlers. As the first large-scale evaluation of the effects of early intervention on school-age language and literacy outcomes for deaf/hard of hearing children, results are expected to have immediate implications for intervention research and clinical practice.



She also received funding for an R21 *Breaking barriers: Harnessing implementation mapping to promote caregiver coaching in early intervention* (1R21DC022857). Despite robust empirical support for the caregiver-mediated interventions, fewer than 25% of caregivers report being involved in their community-based early intervention sessions, highlighting the need to develop and test implementation strategies that will support the widespread use of caregiver coaching in Early Intervention. This project is a qualitative early-stage implementation research study in which Implementation Mapping will yield an Implementation Research Logic Model and corresponding implementation materials that can be tested in a future Type 2 hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial.

Sitek Awarded Early Career Award R21

Research Assistant Professor Kevin Sitek was awarded an R21 for his project *Auditory-motor interactions in neural processing and the frequency-following response* (1R21DC022906-01). This project will uncover fundamental information about how the typical human brain monitors our own self-generated sounds when the sounds do or do not match expectations—and can help us develop effective auditory feedback strategies for conditions such as persistent developmental stuttering.



Norton Awarded Funding from the Moebius Syndrom Foundation

Associate Professor Elizabeth Norton and PhD candidate Judith Licht received a grant from the Moebius Syndrome Foundation. Moebius syndrome is a rare condition characterized by facial and eye movement limitations, and often co-occurs with substantial language and communication challenges. Their study will engage experts and community members to review how current child communication assessments could be better aligned for children with Moebius (such as adjusting social smile as a milestone). They will then track communication development in children with Moebius via their lab's remote assessment methods and the adjustments. Norton and Licht attended the biennial Moebius conference in Salt Lake City to present and share this opportunity with the community. Learn more at <http://learnlab.northwestern.edu/moebius>.



Bilingualism and Psycholinguistics Research Group Presents at International Conference

Professor Dr. Viorica Marian and her current postdoctoral fellow Dr. Concepción Soto, and former postdoctoral fellow Dr. Ashley Chung-Fat-Yim presented two talks and five posters at the International Symposium on Bilingualism in San Sebastián, Spain. The theme of the conference was The Different Faces of Bilingualism, aimed at creating a space for researchers with a diverse range of interests to share their knowledge and gain new perspectives, and to foster meaningful cross-disciplinary collaborations.



Speights Shares Research Findings with Public

Assistant Professor Marisha Speights' work is a powerful blend of science, advocacy, and community partnership—driven by a mission to make speech and language services more equitable and effective. She was interviewed by the Cook County Chronicle about addressing the under-diagnosis of speech and language disorders in communities of color. Her research and clinical experience has revealed disparities in how children are identified and treated, particularly between white children from affluent areas and children in underserved communities. Read more here:

<https://chronicleillinois.com/news/cook-county-news/northwestern-lab-targets-disparities-in-speech-screenings/>



New Publications Involving CSD Faculty and Students

Alkhuwaiter, M., Lee, J., & Martin-Harris, B. (2025). [Diagnostic Validity of Clinical Observations for Detecting Physiologic Swallowing Impairment](#). *Dysphagia*, 40(4), 775-785.

Bhutada, A. M., Carnaby, G. D., Broughton, W. A., Beverly, B. L., & Garand, K. L. (2024). [Effects of Expiratory Muscle Strength Training on Oropharyngeal Swallow Physiology in Persons with](#)

[Obstructive Sleep Apnea \(OSA\): A Preliminary Study](#). *Dysphagia*, 1-11.

Cury, J., Delgado Ayala, A. K., Burns, J., & Richter, C. P. (2025). [Subglottic imaging puncture scope \(SIPS\) for minimally invasive endoscopy](#). *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), 22350.

Glavin, C. C., & Dhar, S. (2025). [Cochlear Tuning in Early Aging Estimated with Three Methods](#). *Trends in Hearing*, 29, 23312165251364675.

Guo, Z. C., McHaney, J. R., Parthasarathy, A., McFarlane, K. A., & Chandrasekaran, B. (2025). [Reduced neural distinctiveness of speech representations in the middle-aged brain..](#) *Neurobiology of Language*, 1-29.

Jones, M. K., Zanzinger, K., Grauzer, J., Sudec, L., Kaat, A.J., and Roberts, M.Y (2025). [Early communication intervention for deaf/hard of hearing toddlers: a randomized clinical trial](#). *Pediatrics* 155(6).

King, K. A., Dhar, S., Schurman, J., & Nieman, C. L. (2025). [Guest Editorial on Accessible and Affordable Hearing Care for Adults: Progress Made and a Continued Call](#). *Ear and hearing*, 10-1097.

Korzyukov, O., Gumenyuk, V., & Larson, C. R. (2025). [Oscillatory brain indexes of auditory-induced predictions about contingences during vocalizations](#). *Experimental Brain Research*, 243(8), 1-15.

Krekeler, B. N., Hopkins, A., Vollman, C., Davidson, K., Broderick, E., Altaye, M., ... & Hutcheson, K. A. (2025). [Preliminary Validation of Dynamic Imaging Grade of Swallowing Toxicity \(DIGESTV2\) for Characterizing Swallow Safety and Efficiency in Post-Stroke Populations](#). *Dysphagia*, 1-9.

Lai, M. C., Abrams, E., Dargham, S. B., Fallon, J., Goldman, E., Hauptman, M., ... & Pylkkänen, L. (2025). [Changes in auditory evoked responses at different levels of linguistic processing in adults and school-age children: An MEG Study](#). *Neuropsychologia*, 109219.

Liu, Y., Choi, J. Y., & Perrachione, T. K. (2025). [Systematic bias in surface area asymmetry measurements from automatic cortical parcellations](#). *Brain Structure and Function*, 230(7), 126.

MacNeill, L. A., Zhang, Y., Giase, G. M., Wiggins, J. L., Norton, E. S., Smith, J. D., ... & Wakschlag, L. S. (2025). [Developmental Foundations of a Pediatric Mental Health Risk Calculator for Young Children](#). *Academic Pediatrics*, 103128.

Marchman, V. A., & Weisleder, A. (2025). [A Glass Half Full: Limitations in ChiLDES Point to Ways Forward for a More Representative Developmental Science. Commentary on Scaff et al. \(2025\)](#). *Developmental Science*, 28(5), e70065.

Morton-Jones, M. E., & Sandage, M. J. (2025). [Preliminary Development of an Anaerobic Vocal Fitness Task: Exploring the Relationship Between Lower Body Anaerobic Power and Vocal Function Measures](#). *Journal of Voice*.

Ordiway, G., McLellan, K., & Sanchez, J. T. (2025). [A comprehensive review of HCN channel expression and Ih in the auditory system: Then, now, and future perspectives](#). *Journal of neurophysiology*, 134(2), 458-470.

Rachman, L., Babaoğlu, G., Yazgan, B. Ö., Ertürk, P., Gaudrain, E., Nagels, L., ... & Başkent, D. (2025). [Vocal Emotion Recognition in School-Age Children With Hearing Aids](#). *Ear and hearing*, 46(4), 1069-1084.

Roy, A., Bradlow, A., & Souza, P. (2024, May). [Comparing Long-Term Average Speech Spectra \(LTAS\) across languages using natural and AI speech samples](#). In *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* (Vol. 54, No. 1, p. 050008). Acoustical Society of America.

Saxon, M., Jackson, S., Seth, M., Koralnik, I. J., & Cherney, L. R. (2025). [Cognitive Rehabilitation Improved Self-Reported Cognitive Skills in Individuals With Long COVID: An Observational Study](#). *Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation*.

Takahashi, S., Zhou, Y., Dépreux, F., Whitlon, D. S., Cheatham, M. A., & Homma, K. (2025). [Hearing loss and audiogenic seizures induced by hypofunctional prestin variants](#). *Journal of Neuroscience*, 45(30).

Weisleder, A., Pabalan, L., Miller-Fitzwater, A., Venzor-Strader, A., Dennis, E., & Glusman, M. (2025). [Pediatricians' Knowledge of Bilingualism and Provision of Culturally Responsive Care for Latine Dual Language Learners: A Pilot Study](#). *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 1-11.

Zellner, M. A., Kaat, A. J., & Roberts, M. Y. (2025). [The Impact of COVID-19 on Early Intervention Referrals and Enrollments: An Interrupted Time Series Analysis](#). *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 1-8.

Education, Growth, and Professional Development of Students and Postdoctoral Scholars



Clara Fridman

Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Clara Fridman was awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship to study multilingualism and language learning at the University of Konstanz. These Postdoctoral Fellowships are for researchers holding a PhD who wish to carry out their research activities abroad, acquire new skills and develop their careers.



Hannah Feiner

PhD student Hannah Feiner recently completed the 8-week Management for PhD Scholars Program at Northwestern University - Kellogg School of Management. This intensive summer certificate program is designed to introduce doctoral students to basic business and leadership skills and includes content from the Kellogg MBA curriculum.



Zoë Kiemel

PhD student Zoë Kiemel successfully defended her qualifying research project *Concurrent Use of Videofluoroscopic and Nutritional Intake Measures in the Assessment of Pediatric Patients with Dysphagia: A scoping review* advancing her to candidacy.

Jiyeon Kim

PhD student Jiyeon Kim successfully defended her qualifying research project *Beyond Total Time in Rapid Automatized Naming: Assessing Whether Pause Time Variability and Alternate Task Lengths*



Improve Prediction of Future Reading advancing her to candidacy.

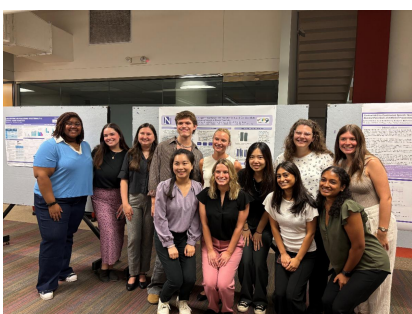


Shengyue Xiong

PhD student Shengyue Xiong gave an oral presentation on her recent work at Interspeech2025 in Rotterdam , “Language and Accent Familiarity Effects on the Use of Acoustic Cues in Talker Identification.”

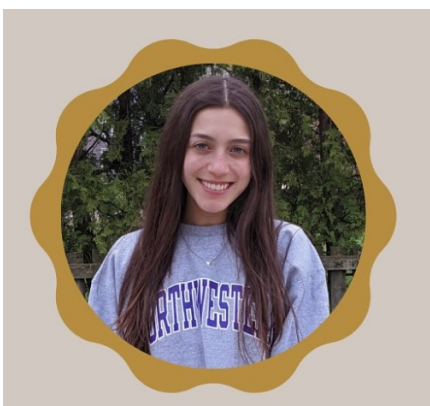
Read the full paper here: [https://www.isca-](https://www.isca-archive.org/interspeech_2025/xiong25b_interspeech.pdf)

[archive.org/interspeech_2025/xiong25b_interspeech.pdf](https://www.isca-archive.org/interspeech_2025/xiong25b_interspeech.pdf)



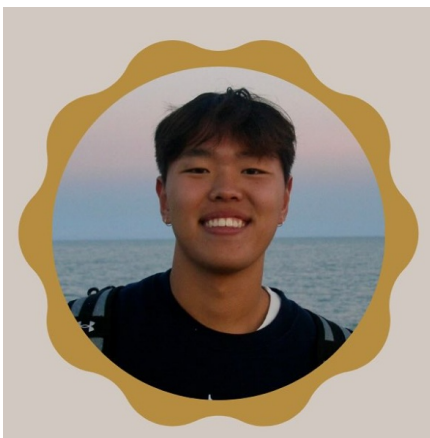
Capstone Poster Presentation 2025

Second year AuD Students presented their capstone projects. The capstone poster presentation event is a celebration of the three quarter process of developing and executing a project relevant to clinical audiology.



Maya Page

Maya was awarded the School of Communication Summer Internship Grant and the Office of Undergraduate Research Conference Travel Grant to study language development in bilingual preschoolers and language processing in bilingual adults.



Nik Sung

Nik received the Summer Undergraduate Research Grant to study neural underpinnings of bilingualism using EEG and eye tracking.

Grace Juarez

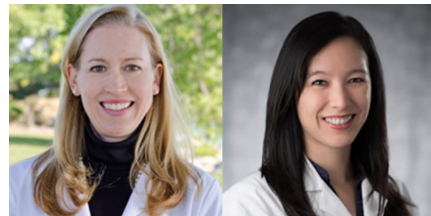


Grace was awarded the Posner Summer Research Program Grant to study memory in bilinguals using EEG and eye tracking.

Faculty and Staff Development

Promotions

Dr. Tracy Winn and Jonelyn Langenstein were promoted to the rank of Associate Clinical Professor.



Judy Roman

Associate Clinical Professor Judy Roman earned a digital badge by engaging deeply with the practicum and completing a flexible set of required components at the Searle Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching's Supporting Student Success practicum.



Kevin Sitek

Research Assistant Professor Kevin Sitek received the inaugural Best Reviewer Award at the [Organization for Human Brain Mapping](#) conference.



Cindy Coy

This summer we celebrate the retirement of Program Coordinator Cindy Coy, whose career at Northwestern spanned an extraordinary 44 years. Cindy joined the NU Temp Pool in 1981 and became part of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in 1989.

For more than three decades, Cindy was a steady and joyful presence in CSD—supporting faculty, students, and staff with dedication, warmth, and care. Her impact is woven into the fabric of our department, and generations have benefited from her kindness and commitment.



We thank Cindy for her decades of service and celebrate the lasting mark she leaves on our community.

Breaking Silos: Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Strategic Partnerships and Global Outreach

Intensive Aphasia Program

Drs. Belma Hadziselimovic, Karen Kinderman, Sarah Penzell and Aaron Wilkins, with a team of eight MS SLL students, welcomed a new Intensive Aphasia/Apraxia Program (IAP) client in early July for four weeks of intensive speech and language therapy. The 4x4x4 model of IAP services is designed to provide sixteen hours of therapy services per week for four weeks, and our current client is receiving even more, as they are also enthusiastically participating in two Aphasia Center groups: Film Club and Current Events Group.



Sound Connections

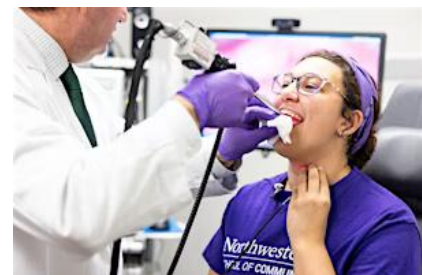
Assistant Clinical Professor Katherine Swem and Justin Drogos, DPT from Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine partnered for a Hearing and Balance Assessment Fair on Saturday July 12 hosted by the Irving Park Community Food Pantry at Irving Park Lutheran Church. Students and faculty provided hearing screenings and balance assessments for older adults. Dr. Swem and first and second year AuD students were able help about 30 community members with their hearing and engage in interprofessional collaboration.



High Quality Clinical Services

Laryngeal Imaging Course was a Success

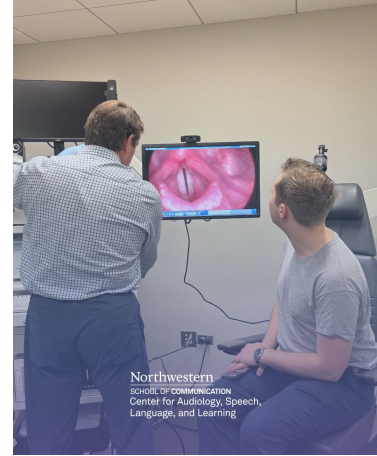
We hosted our annual summer Laryngeal Imaging course. This two-day course is designed to help speech-language pathologists develop and refine technical performance and interpretation of laryngeal videostroboscopic exams. Thanks to Assistant Clinical Professor Emma Laurash, Associate Clinical Professor Jonelyn Langenstein, and Clinical Research Associate Kahla Graham for coordinating and running the event.



School of Music Screenings

NUCASLL partnered with the School of Music to screen 20 new master's students, performing laryngeal exams, aerodynamic acoustic screenings, and hearing assessments. Second-year MS SLL students Madison Barrera, Victoria Garelli, and Chloe Teodoridis-Clarke volunteered to assist,

alongside faculty from CSD (Jonelyn Langenstein, MM, MS, CCC-SLP; Kailyn MacFarlane, PhD; Mariah Morton-Jones, PhD, CCC-SLP), the School of Music (Theresa Brancaccio, MM), and Northwestern Medicine (James Burns, MD).



Cognitive Fitness Program

Our clinical faculty are launching a 6-week virtual series designed to empower adults of all ages to optimize their brain health through lifestyle and education.



Cognitive Fitness:
Boost Your Brain

Better brain health matters at EVERY age.

Build habits today that support how you think and feel for years to come.

Join our 6-part virtual lecture series on protective and preventative health measures to maintain a sharp and healthy brain. Includes a complimentary hearing, cognitive, and balance screening at our clinic!



Oct. 8 – Nov. 12, 2025
Wednesdays, 6–7 p.m.
Zoom

Northwestern
School of Communication
Center for Audiology, Speech,
Language, and Learning

NUCASLL Monthly Newsletter

This summer we started *NUCASLL News*. Each month, we share updates about upcoming programs and events, helpful articles about communication health, tips from our clinical team, and highlights from our work in the community.

Check out the recent and previous issues here: [NUCASLL News](#)



Community Engagement

Join the Communication Research Registry

Our clinic, NUCASLL, is partnering with Northwestern University's **Communication Research Registry** (CRR; STU00070769) to support research on the cause and treatment of conditions related to communication, learning, and development. The Communication Research Registry connects individuals and families with research study opportunities at Northwestern University. To do this, the Communication Research Registry maintains a confidential database of information about individuals and families who are interested in participating in research.

Our goals are to provide individuals and families with access to research opportunities in their community and to support cutting edge research on human communication and development. Are you interested in helping support research by participating? Adults can register by clicking this short link (<https://redcap.link/4f6pl16l>). If you are a parent who would like to register your

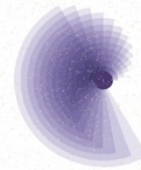
Alumni News



Hannah Fipp-Rosenfield

PhD program graduate Dr. Hannah Fipp-Rosenfield started a new position as a Postdoctoral Research Affiliate at The University of Texas at Austin.

Upcoming Events



Hearing Care & Wellness

Toward Hearing Health For All



ASHA CEUs will be offered.

Friday, October 24, 2025

7:45am - 4:45pm

Hilton Orrington Hotel
Evanston, Illinois

S P E A K E R S

* **Kelly King**, National Institutes on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIH

* **Judy Dubno**, Medical University of South Carolina

* **Larry Humes**, Indiana University

* **Theresa Chisolm**, University of South Florida

* **Pamela Souza**, Northwestern University

* **Carrie Nieman**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

* **De Wet Swanapoel**, University of Pretoria

* **Matt Bush**, University of Kentucky, College of Medicine

* **Kevin Zhan**, Northwestern University

* **Claus-Peter Richter**, Northwestern University

Northwestern | Knowles Hearing Center

Registration: <https://knowleshearingcenter.northwestern.edu/support-for-research-scholarship/#symposia>

CSD Faculty Retreat 2025

October 17, 2025

Dialogue with the Dean

A series of conversations with emerging and established communicators who are advancing their fields, challenging paradigms, and creating new knowledge

Dialogue with the Dean on October 20th with Dr. Fan-Gang Zeng

Fan-Gang Zeng, Ph.D., is Chancellor's Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Biomedical Engineering, Cognitive Sciences, Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, and Director of the Center for Hearing Research at University of California, Irvine. He is a leader in hearing science and technology, with 323 publications, 20,381 citations, and an h-index of 68 (Google Scholar, August 19, 2025). He serves as the Editorial Board Chairman for The Hearing Journal and has provided advisory service to the NIH, NSF, American Tinnitus Association, Hyperacusis Research, Beijing Audiology Association, Paris Hearing Institute, Providence Center, Syntiant, and over a dozen AI and medical device companies. He led the development of the Nurotron 26-electrode cochlear implant and SoundCure tinnitus suppressor.

Register to attend

<https://events.ard.northwestern.edu/en/Dn8g9BS7/dialogue-with-the-dean-fan-gang-zeng-5a65UzRDIBG/overview>



CSD Connects Grand Rounds: Where Evidence Meets Practice

What is it?

CSD Connects Grand Rounds is a new departmental series designed to bring our community together around complex clinical cases that challenge, teach, and inspire. Each 60-minute session will highlight a de-identified client case—preferably from NUCASLL, though not exclusively—with a strong emphasis on the evidence base that informs assessment, diagnosis, and intervention. The goal is to create a forum where faculty, students, clinicians, and researchers can engage in shared inquiry and dialogue across specialties.

What makes it unique?

- Case-based learning focused on complexity, nuance, and real-world constraints
- Interdisciplinary commentary drawing from audiology, speech-language pathology, neuroscience, and related fields
- Evidence-focused discussions that promote critical thinking and application of current research
- Integration of teaching, research, and service, reflecting the core mission of our department

Format:

- 60-minute sessions, once per academic quarter
- Case presentation followed by 2–3 interdisciplinary discussants
- Q&A and open discussion with attendees
- In-person with optional hybrid participation

Ideal Cases:

We're particularly interested in complex cases that span disciplines, raise diagnostic or treatment challenges, or reflect emerging areas of practice. Cases should offer opportunities to explore the scientific literature and reflect on translational relevance.

Interested in Featuring a Case?

We are actively seeking faculty and clinical colleagues who would like to:

- Present or co-present a case (NUCASLL or external source)
- Serve as a session discussant
- Help curate or moderate sessions. Multiple faculty can collaborate on a session, and we encourage partnerships between clinical and tenure-line faculty to foster dialogue across research and practice.

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