School of Physical Therapy
Strategic Plan 2017-2022

Our vision
We will be the outstanding School of Rehabilitation Science in Saskatchewan, nationally and internationally recognized for innovative research and graduate programs, high quality interprofessional education, and exceptional knowledge translation. We will demonstrate leadership in physical therapy and rehabilitation science to advance research, learning, knowledge sharing, and reconciliation and inclusion with and by Indigenous peoples and communities.

Our mission
Excellence in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science teaching, research, scholarship and leadership to improve the quality of life and well-being for all people of Saskatchewan and beyond.

Who we are
The School of Physical Therapy fosters a healthy environment that promotes a positive work experience, life-long learning, and professional pursuits of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science students, faculty, and staff. As part of the University of Saskatchewan, we are situated in the vibrant city of Saskatoon on Treaty Six territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis.

Recognized for a growing and diverse student body, we have gained a reputation nationally and internationally for preparing high-quality collaborative physical therapy clinicians and rehabilitation researchers, focused on improving function while promoting optimal ability, mobility, activity, and participation. As a socially accountable organization, we are proud of our alumni, students, faculty and staff, who since 1965 have been engaged citizens and leaders. We respond to changing environments, contribute to high quality clinical care in local and global communities, and are committed to improving health and the healthcare system through innovative research and evidence-based practice.

Collaboration is a hallmark of our School and is embedded in all aspects of our mission. A dynamic forward-looking faculty and staff demonstrate resilience, compassion, humility, professionalism and a passion for advancing rehabilitation science and health-related learning, teaching, research, and mentorship.
Our principles and values

The aspirations of the School of Physical Therapy community are best achieved through a belief in principles that are fundamental to the University of Saskatchewan and through commitment to and practice of values—ways of conducting ourselves— that serve to guide our policies, behaviors and collaborations.

*The School of Physical Therapy community believes in the following principles:*

- Academic freedom
- Collaboration
- Commitment to communities
- Diversity, equality, and human dignity
- Different ways of knowing, learning, and being
- Excellence
- A healthy work and learning environment
- Innovation, curiosity, and creativity
- Openness, transparency, and accountability
- Reconciliation
- Sustainability

*The School of Physical Therapy community is committed to acting in accordance with the following values:*

- Collegiality
- Fairness and equitable treatment
- Inclusiveness
- Integrity, honesty, and ethical behavior
- Professionalism
- Respect
School of Physical Therapy Strategic Priorities

As is common in the health sciences, many of our priorities are influenced directly or indirectly by changes in the health and education sectors and environments outside the university (local, provincial, regional, national and international). We will continue to strengthen and integrate activities with our partners and maintain organizational flexibility to respond to opportunities as they arise. We will continue to direct our work and measure our progress in consideration of the goals of the university and the College of Medicine. Four priorities have been identified for further development, enhancement and/or requiring new resources into the next planning cycle. These priorities directly link to initiatives and opportunities in the College of Medicine strategic plan. It is also important to emphasize our ongoing commitment to the Masters of Physical Therapy (MPT) program as a core strength and priority.

At this stage the university has identified four themes as overarching criteria on which units may assess their progress. It has been suggested that units ask how each of their priorities would make the university more sustainable, connected, diverse and creative. Each of the identified priorities is directly linked to one or more of these themes and as the institutional plan takes shape we will continue to reflect on and refine specific goals as appropriate.

Establish a School of Rehabilitation Science
Establishing a hub for rehabilitation science education, research and community engagement continues to be a strategic priority carried forward from the College of Medicine and School of Physical Therapy previous integrated plans.

Enhancing Indigenous Initiatives
Working closely with the College of Medicine, other health professional programs, university and members of our Indigenous communities, we are committed to advancing initiatives that will strengthen education and research related to Indigenous content and approaches in our school.

Research Graduate Programming and Clinical Research
Enhanced and innovative graduate programming is considered critical to positioning the School as the hub for rehabilitation science education and research in Saskatchewan. Connected with this priority is the advancement of clinical research supported by high quality research facilities.

Interprofessional Education and Research
To advance interprofessional collaborative practice and patient centred care, we continue our commitment to working with health professional colleagues to further develop the Interprofessional Education (IPE) curriculum and strengthen interdisciplinary research.