

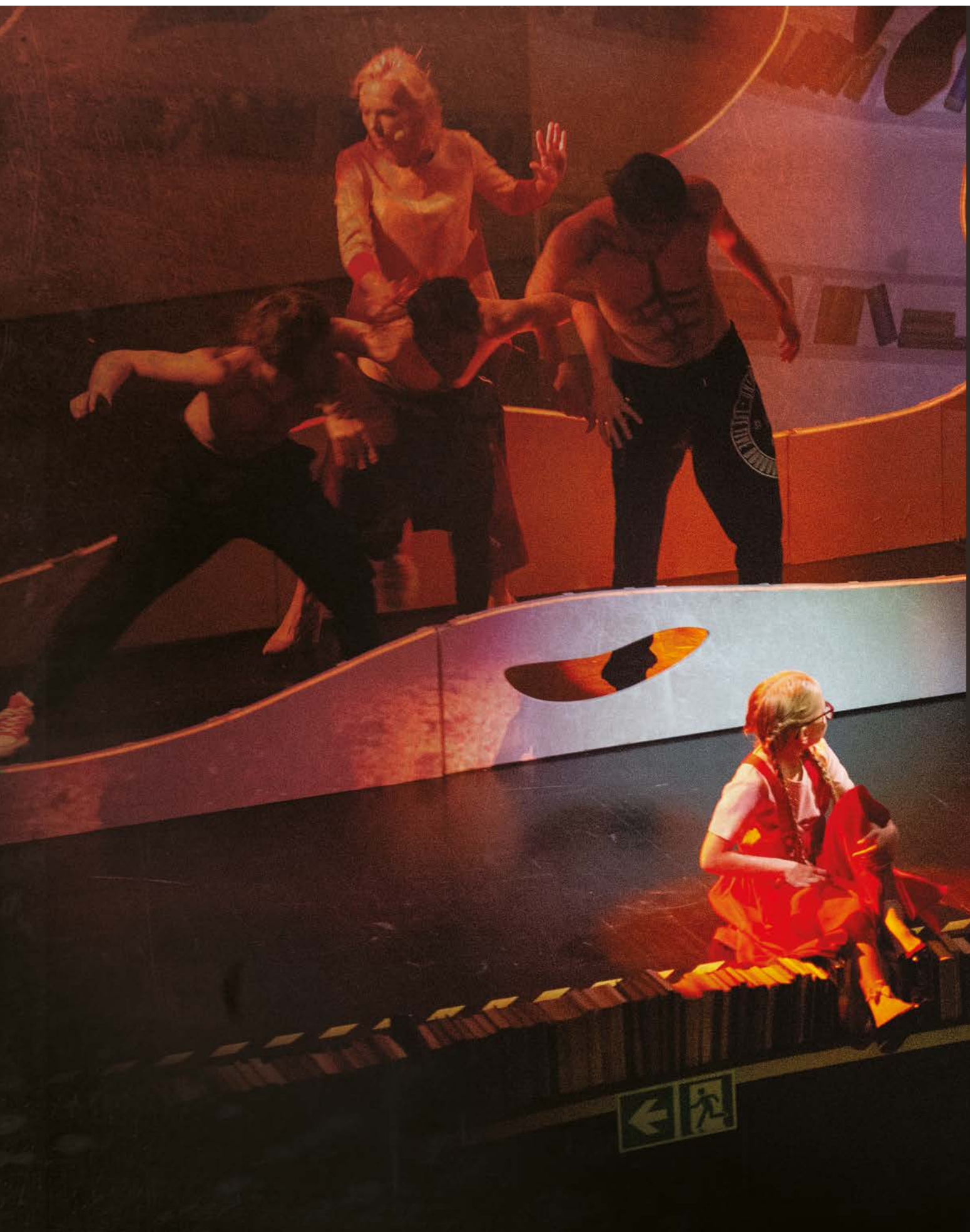


WRITTEN BY  
Prof. Henryk Skarżyński

DIRECTED BY  
Michał Znaniecki

MUSIC BY  
Krzysztof Dębski

# SILENCE INTERRUPTED



One of the main characters - little Zosia is about 4 years old, she is deaf and helpless. The child lives in silence, and her mother is looking for possibilities to help her daughter.

# Libretto "Silence Interrupted" (outline)

AUTHOR: PROF. HENRYK SKARŻYŃSKI

The musical presents real-life stories of people treated for deafness. Their stories reflect one of the most outstanding achievements of science and medicine.

## FIRST ACT

The musical starts in silence, with limited-stage design. Zosia, one of the main heroines, is 4- years old. As a deaf child, she is lost, fragile and helpless. Her mother is looking for treatment options for her. The first contact of mother and a doctor shatters her hopes for effective treatment. Zosia is deaf; she cannot hear a single sound. Her mother is discussing the situation with the doctor. Their conversation is "fuzzy." The doctor is helpless, which is emphasized by a choir of doctors. The choir performs the "Diagnosis" song. "She does not hear and will not hear..." they predict. Zosia's mother is in despair, hopeless.

Zosia is on the proscenium. The audience has a chance to observe the events unfolding onstage from the perspective of Zosia. Zosia observes children playing

hoodman-blind. The second main character of the story enters the stage. Piotr is around Zosia's age. He wants to play with her and starts dancing, making a few ballet moves. Piotr covers his mouth with his hand, suggesting he is profoundly deaf. Zosia starts to imitate his movements. In the background, a woman with a boy appears on stage – Olaf and his mother. Zosia's mother learns from her that the boy was deaf, but he has a cochlear implant now, and it works great for him. The boy will even go to a mainstream school, just like his peers from the neighbourhood. Zosia's mother starts to see a chance for her daughter. She searches for a new treatment option, and Zosia receives a cochlear implant too. The choir sings "A chance, a chance, a chance..." The rehabilitation in Zosia's case is not easy at first as the girl received implant late. Zosia's mother sings the "Hope" piece, solo first, then the choir joins. Time flies, Zosia's mother practices

# Selection of song lyrics from the “Silence interrupted” musical

Lyrics: Henryk Skarżyński  
Music: Krzesimir Dębski

## DIAGNOSIS

Performed by – THE CHOIR OF DOCTORS

This is the diagnosis, such is the result.  
She does not hear and will not hear.  
This is not avoidance of action  
on our part.

They will tell you that everywhere.  
We already know that  
And this is what we announce.  
There will be no other diagnosis.  
We always do our best  
to help

They will tell you that everywhere.  
We don't tempt the fate.  
We don't dream of power.  
We are sorry to say that now.  
They will repeat that to you everywhere.  
They will repeat that to you everywhere.  
They will repeat that to you everywhere.

## MOTHER'S HOPE

Performed by – LITTLE ZOSIA'S MOTHER WITH THE CHOIR

ZOSIA'S MOTHER  
Will you hear me,  
Will you recognise my voice,  
Will I change your life  
And your fate  
My sweetheart.

CHOIR  
My sweetheart...

ZOSIA'S MOTHER  
Today I wish so much  
That you can know the world of sound  
That we can be happy  
You will bloom like a rose.  
My sweetheart.

CHOIR  
My sweetheart...

ZOSIA'S MOTHER  
Let's go together on a journey  
Where there is no longer silence  
The world of sounds  
Will find you  
And joy will be everywhere.  
My sweetheart.

CHOIR  
My sweetheart.  
My dear mum...

ZOSIA'S MOTHER  
We will dance, Zosia  
We will sing, Zosia  
Your life will change  
The world will spin.  
My sweetheart.

CHOIR  
My sweetheart...  
My dear mum...

ZOSIA'S MOTHER  
The implant takes you out of silence  
The silence comes to an end today  
My voice reaches you  
Joyful, it lifts you and wraps around you  
My sweetheart.

CHOIR  
My sweetheart...  
My dear mum...

# TRANSFORMATION

Performed by – LITTLE AND OLDER ZOSIA

Today I no longer recognise myself  
It's still me – but a newcomer  
I feel I'm beloved  
This is the new me, the better me

I can learn at any school  
Enjoy the life like other kids

Dream about the role of even the queen  
Everything is possible in the world.  
I feel good at home, in the park, everywhere  
At school, in the church, at the Disneyland  
I approach life happily  
I'm in the clear, it will be OK

## I CAN SING

Performed by – OLDER ZOSIA WITH THE CHOIR

ZOSIA  
How unusually it begins  
When a chance is given to a girl  
Who was born deaf  
Nobody listened to me.

CHOIR  
Nobody listened to her, nobody listened to her.

ZOSIA  
So it happened – it is incomprehensible  
Beautiful sounds came to me suddenly  
It is real power  
I can hear, I came out of the night of silence.

CHOIR  
She came out of the night of silence.  
She came out of the night of silence.

ZOSIA  
Music allows me to live a better life  
I can dream about it  
A good hearing unlocks the door  
I can hear you hearing.

CHOIR  
I can hear and you can hear.

ZOSIA  
The world with sounds opens up before me  
I discover it and read about it  
I pursue my passions  
I can hear and everything is clear  
I can hear and everything is clear  
I can hear and everything is clear.

CHOIR  
She can hear and everything is clear  
She can hear and everything is clear.

## THE IMPLANT OF HOPE

Performed by – ADAM WITH THE CHOIR

ADAM  
The implant of hope the programme was called  
The Institute was set up, it boasts the most operations  
Thousands were given a new chance  
It would not have happened without inspiration

CHOIR  
It would not have happened without inspiration.

ADAM  
On the screens and in the air  
It turned into a huge hype  
Nobody will take away the chance from people  
A crowd of patients is the proof.

CHOIR  
A crowd of patients, a crowd of patients.

ADAM  
You can argue if you want  
Disbelievers were a few  
They didn't know how to bring back the hearing  
This work haunted them at nights.

CHOIR  
Haunted them at nights, at nights, at nights!

## BEATS OF COCHLEA

Performed by – CLERK WITH THE CHOIR

CLERK

It's the hundredth application, there are so many of them  
To sing or to play, no filter  
I'm not constrained by slowness.  
These are two words: youth and freedom.

CHOIR

They are not constrained by slowness.  
These are two words: youth and freedom.

CLERK

I'm part of the machinery  
The Initiative that sounds so every year  
It's a miracle of medicine that I know  
They are singing it to us.

CHOIR

It's a miracle of medicine that we know  
They are singing about it to us.

CLERK

Beats of Cochlea break the silence  
Let's show the talents that can hear today  
Everyone can be a star  
Sing and play, seize your chance

CHOIR

Everyone can be a star  
Sing and play, seize your chance.  
Plenty applications for the audition  
Everyone has their own animation  
And the participants - high grade.  
And good people – great deal of them

CHOIR

And the participants - high grade.  
And good people – great deal of them

CLERK

Beats of Cochlea, awakened beats,  
A picture of rebellion against the sentence  
Beats of Cochlea, created beats,  
Only the outstanding will qualify.

CHOIR

Beats of Cochlea, created beats,  
Only the outstanding will qualify.

## WHEN EVERYTHING BEGINS

Performed by – OLDER ZOSIA WITH THE CHOIR

ZOSIA

Suddenly bewildered,  
I'm confused  
I feel invited  
By the world of art.

CHOIR

By the world of art.

ZOSIA

In peace with myself  
I will stand with a dream  
You are close to me  
Completely speechless.

CHOIR

Completely speechless.

ZOSIA

The mobilisation will not end  
There will be no disaster either,

I have been fighting a dozen years  
I hear these verses sound

CHOIR

I hear these verses sound.

ZOSIA

Now I'm dealing the cards  
And I'm convinced  
I know the melody of the beats  
Like the colourful rainbow.

CHOIR

Like the colourful rainbow.

ZOSIA

I will not reject the chance I have  
To be wise and sensible  
I will trust the fate  
And become serious.

CHOIR  
And you will become serious.

ZOSIA  
Without any chances, they said  
No chances  
For a success, even a small one  
My new hearing has given me strength  
It can pierce rocks.

CHOIR  
It can pierce rocks.

ZOSIA  
Without a chance, you cannot give up  
Nobody can stop me any more  
I sing and gather momentum  
Because everything begins.

CHOIR  
Because everything begins.  
Because everything begins.

## WHEN I REGAIN THE HEARING

Performed by – OLDER ZOSIA WITH THE CHOIR

ZOSIA  
When I regain the hearing  
Like the sunshine,  
Your voice came to me,  
It visited me in my dreams.  
It spoke my name  
Until the night came to an end,  
And it brought relief  
– You know about that.

CHOIR  
So, now don't tell us  
That this is how life is.  
When you regained the hearing  
And now can hear our voice.  
So now don't think either  
That everything was only a dream.  
Your voice gave me strength  
to go through another day.

ZOSIA  
I can now hear my heart beating.  
It gives me strength it wants you.  
Today I get to know the world  
You already know.  
The world of sounds is beautiful  
It is not only in my dreams.

CHOIR  
So, now don't tell us

ZOSIA  
I can freely talk  
As I wish.  
I know the effect of science  
And its good name too.  
It gives me this strength  
And the glow that you need in life.  
This is true  
Like a constellation of stars.

CHOIR  
So, now don't tell us  
That this is how life is.  
When you regained the hearing  
Now can hear our voice.  
So, now don't think either  
That everything was only a dream.  
Your voice gave me strength

# YOU HAVE TO GIVE A CHANCE TO HAPPINESS

Performed by – DIRECTOR WITH THE CHOIR

DIRECTOR

When there is a feeling and good luck  
Everything sounds different  
I'm delighted by the tone of your voice  
I know how much strength it gave to me  
My dear, my dear.

CHOIR

Because you have to give a chance to happiness  
The feeling needs constant care  
You don't only take from life  
You should know how to appreciate kindness  
You should know how to appreciate kindness

DIRECTOR

I know that there come difficult moments  
And you have to know how to cope with them  
Then something tells you tenderly  
That still everything can happen  
My dear, my dear.

CHOIR

Because you have to give a chance to happiness  
The feeling needs constant care  
It's not good to only take from life  
You should respect otherness  
You should respect otherness

DIRECTOR

I don't want to regret the chance that was given  
I want to love people, the whole world  
To paint our future  
So that it lasts many years, many years.  
My dear, my dear.

CHOIR

Because you have to give a chance to happiness  
The feeling needs constant care  
You don't only take from life  
You should know how to appreciate kindness  
You should know how to appreciate kindness

# GIFT OF THE FATE

Performed by – GROWN-UP ZOSIA WITH THE CHOIR

You have to appreciate the gift of the fate  
Undo the harm done  
Be able to change the life of others  
Friendship will be an anchor today  
Friendship will be an anchor today  
No one will understand my regret

CHOIR

Won't understand your regret.

ZOSIA

For being once so mean.

CHOIR

Being so mean.

ZOSIA

Life is not playing at a festival.

CHOIR

Not playing at a festival.

ZOSIA

Why did it happen?

CHOIR

It happened.

ZOSIA

My dear friend.

CHOIR

Her dear friend.

ZOSIA AND THE CHOIR

You have to appreciate the gift of the fate

Want to undo the harm done

Be able to change the life of others

This gives a chance, may redeem

This gives a chance, may redeem

ZOSIA

Unforeseeable is our future.

CHOIR

Our future.

ZOSIA

Even when I try.

CHOIR

You will try.

ZOSIA

I have not forgotten that love.

CHOIR

That love.

ZOSIA

That was sent on us by Providence.

CHOIR

Was sent on us by Providence.

ZOSIA AND THE CHOIR

You have to appreciate the gift of the fate

Want to undo the harm done

Be able to change the life of others

This gives a chance, may redeem

This gives a chance, may redeem



# A LIFE CHANGE

Performed by – GROWN-UP ZOSIA WITH THE CHOIR

ZOSIA

When I regained the hearing  
A relief came  
I didn't notice this friendship  
That left a memory

CHOIR

You were easing your sorrow in a dream  
Nobody will recognise those dreams  
Nobody knows who was the hero  
Of those nights and days

ZOSIA

I dreamt about the affection  
That you offered to me  
Maybe even love  
That you didn't express

CHOIR

You were easing your sorrow in a dream...

ZOSIA

It sometimes happens  
That you make a mistake  
Lose what is most precious  
Before you know it.

CHOIR

You were easing your sorrow in a dream...

ZOSIA

I've learnt  
What needs nurturing  
That you have to preserve what was good  
Not to regret the chances given

CHOIR

You were easing your sorrow in a dream...

ZOSIA

I already know what I've lost  
Sorrow, leave my heart  
Even when our paths don't cross  
I feel closer to you today.

CHOIR

You were easing your sorrow in a dream... (together)  
Nobody knows who was the hero  
Of those nights and days.

# INTERRUPTED SILENCE

The hymn of the International Music Festival "Beats of Cochlea", "THE WORLD I HEAR"

PIOTR

A lot changes in our life  
When our dreams come true.  
The hearing changes  
The voice changes  
Everything takes on a new meaning.

ZOSIA

A lot changes in our life  
When our dreams come true.  
The hearing changes  
The voice changes  
Everything takes on a new meaning.

EVERYBODY

Silence is like a haunting dream  
It torments you too long, it lasts too long  
That's why you want to break it today  
Just as I once did  
Just as I once did  
Just as I once did

ZOSIA

Do you know what changes you so much.  
You probably think it's looks.  
But it's sound that changes  
The sound that I hear  
That moved this deep silence.

PIOTR

Do you know what changes you so much.  
You probably think it's looks.  
But it's sound that changes  
The sound that I hear  
That moved this deep silence.

EVERYBODY

Silence is a vanished dream today.  
It doesn't torment me or last.  
You are breaking it now  
Just as I did once  
Just as I did once  
Just as I did once  
ZOSIA AND PIOTR  
The sound is wrapped around me.  
And the sun is shining so brightly.  
A miracle has taken me out of silence.  
The world is spinning – I give my word.  
It got crazy.

EVERYBODY

There is no silence, I sleep well.  
Nothing torments me, I hear sound.  
Thank you God for this world  
Thank you God for this world  
The world I hear  
The world I hear  
The world I hear  
The world I hear  
The world I hear  
The world I hear

# THE POWER OF HEARING, VOICE AND SPEECH

Performed by – ALL THE ARTISTS

## LITTLE CHILDREN

A kitten climbed a...

La, la, la.

It's a pretty story

La, la, la.

## CHOIR

You will hear me

You will recognise my voice

Which will change you

And your life

Which will change you

And your life

## OLDER CHILDREN

Life has a different script for everybody

You regain the hearing, you learn the words

Every day I hear something new

We develop our voice and our speech.

## CHOIR

The hearing is the life melody

The music that is everywhere

Vibrant words help your development

And they help your memory

Vibrant words help your development

And they help your memory

## YOUTH

We have all interrupted the silence

As was shown today

Many of you will hear about us

We can achieve any successes.

## CHOIR

We have dreams from many years

And our chances are still growing

Let's remember these few dates

And almost everything will be clear.

## ADULTS/THE ELDERLY

When we avoid the silence

We can make all astonished

And our life will be sweeter

The whole world will hear about Poland.

## CHOIR

We've had our chances for a quarter of a century

We write new life stories

We discover new therapies

We refute the old theories

We discover new therapies

We refute the old theories.