

**David Cella, PhD**

Ralph Seal Paffenbarger Professor  
Chair of the Department of Medical Social Sciences  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Chicago, IL, USA

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David Cella, PhD, is the Ralph Seal Paffenbarger Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He led the steady and rapid growth of the department from its inception in 2009, more than quadrupling its size in the first 10 years.

Dr. Cella's research portfolio extends from health outcomes measurement and applications to clinical trials, comparative effectiveness, and learning health system implementation. The driving motivation of his work has been to bring the voice and perspective of the patient to research study design and the assessment of treatment values and preferences. He is careful to ensure that measurement is sensitive to diverse populations, including health literacy, health disparities, and developmentally-sensitive measurement across the lifespan.

As an expert in applied health status measurement, Dr. Cella has led the development and validation of the FACIT Measurement System, PROMIS, Neuro-QoL, and the emotional health domain of the NIH Toolbox. These measurement systems are used around the world by thousands in clinical practice and research. In 2016, he received the National Academy of Medicine's Gustav O. Lienhard Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in improving personal health care in the United States.