



Elizabeth McNally MD, PhD

Elizabeth Ward Professor and Director
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Elizabeth directs the Center for Genetic Medicine at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago and is the Elizabeth J. Ward Professor of Genetic Medicine. She is a practicing cardiologist with expertise in cardiovascular genetics. As a clinician, she developed one of the first cardiovascular genetics clinics in the nation, integrating genetic information into cardiovascular care for patients and families with inherited forms of heart disease.

Her research team at Northwestern discovers genetic causes of cardiac disorders and then defines the mechanisms of how these genetic variants cause disease. By developing a deeper understanding of how these genetic mutations exert their effects, she is using these genetic signals to drive the development of new treatments for cardiovascular disease. She has a special interest in neuromuscular genetic diseases like muscular dystrophy since these disorders often have accompanying cardiovascular complications.

Elizabeth's translational accomplishments have been recognized through an award from the Burroughs Wellcome Foundation and as a recipient of a Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and is currently the chair of the Association's Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences. She is a past president of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and past president of the Association of American Physicians. She received the Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Heart Association. In 2021, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine.