

Lawrence Schwartz, MD PhD FAAAAI

Speaker Biography

Lawrence (Larry) Schwartz, Distinguished Professor of Medicine, at Virginia Commonwealth University, is a translational research investigator who, with colleagues, has made fundamental discoveries about human mast cells. These include identifying different types of mast cells; and discovering human α -, β -, and α/β -tryptases, characterizing their proteolytic activities, producing an anti-tryptase inhibitor of potential therapeutic utility, and inventing clinically useful tryptase immunoassays that facilitate the diagnosis of systemic mastocytosis (FDA and WHO approved) and of anaphylaxis, the discovery and diagnosis of mast cell activation syndromes and of hereditary alpha-tryptasemia, and the monitoring of mast cell cyto-reductive therapies. By caring for patients with such disorders and being involved in related basic, translational, and clinical research, he has a unique perspective to share.