

David A. Schwartz, M.D.

Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program

Dr. David A. Schwartz became the fourth Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in May, 2005. Dr. Schwartz oversees the Institute's comprehensive research portfolio of basic and applied research to reduce the burden of human diseases that are triggered by the environment. Dr. Schwartz also serves as the Director of the National Toxicology Program, an interagency program established in 1978 by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to test chemicals and other agents of public health concern.

Prior to accepting the role of NIEHS Director, Dr. Schwartz, a nationally recognized researcher and practicing physician specializing in environmental lung disease, served at Duke University, where he held concurrent positions at the Medical Center including Vice Chair for Research and Director of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Schwartz was Professor in the Department of Medicine, Genetics, and Environmental Sciences at the University since 2000. While at Duke, Dr. Schwartz played a pivotal role in establishing three interdisciplinary Centers in Environmental Health Sciences, Environmental Genomics, and Environmental Asthma, illustrating his commitment to bring together an array of scientific expertise with state-of-the-art technology to tackle critical public and individual health issues.

Throughout his career as a physician-scientist, Dr. Schwartz has made numerous contributions toward understanding the role that biological and genetic determinants play in the onset of diseases like asthma and other chronic pulmonary diseases that are influenced by environmental exposures. His research identified endotoxins or lipopolysaccharide (LPS) as an important cause of airway disease among those exposed to agricultural dusts. He is recognized for his role in identifying that a specific genetic variation in the Toll-4 gene is associated with a diminished airway response to inhaled LPS in humans, and that this same variation places individuals at higher risk of sepsis. Dr. Schwartz's interest in environmental and occupational lung disease has provided new insights into many other areas including; the pathophysiology and biology of asbestos induced lung disease, interstitial lung disease or lung scarring, environmental airway diseases, and innate immunity, or an organism's natural ability to resist diseases.

Dr. Schwartz has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed research papers, 38 book chapters, and a textbook. He has served on numerous editorial boards and scientific review committees including, most recently, the NIH/National Heart Lung and Blood Institute's Innovative Grant Program Review Committee and the VA Merit Review Board. He is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. The recipient of many awards, the American Thoracic Society presented Dr. Schwartz with a Scientific Accomplishment Award in 2003.

A native of New York, Dr. Schwartz earned his BA in biology from the University of Rochester in 1975. He received his medical degree from the University of California, San Diego, in 1979. After completing a residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital, he completed a fellowship in Occupational Medicine at Harvard School of Public Health, where

he received his MPH in 1985. While at the University of Washington, Dr. Schwartz completed a research fellowship in the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program, then served as a Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow. In 1988, he joined the faculty at the University of Iowa, where he rose through the ranks becoming Director of Occupational Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, until he joined Duke University in 2000. Dr. Schwartz is married to Dr. Louise Sparks and they have three children.