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Toshiaki Kawakami, M.D., Ph.D., is Professor of La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology and Leader of Laboratory for Allergic Disease, RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, Yokohama, Japan. He received both degrees from The University of Tokyo. Dr. Kawakami has been studying mast cell biology and signal transduction for more than two decades. In addition to numerous contributions to basic research in mast cells, his recent studies showed that monomeric IgE enhances mast cell survival and activation, and his finding of the heterogeneity of IgE molecules in their effects has led to another major discovery that a subset of IgE and IgG molecules bind histamine-releasing factor (HRF) and the development of HRF inhibitors, which can suppress allergic inflammation. His publications in *Nature Immunology*, *Nature Reviews Immunology*, *Immunity*, *Cancer Cell*, *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *PNAS*, *Trends in Immunology*, *Current Opinion in Immunology*, etc. have led to invited talks at a Major Symposium at an American Association of Immunologists meeting, FASEB and Aegean conferences as well as platform presentations at other national and international meetings. He also served as Section Editor and Associate Editor for the *Journal of Immunology* and as a reviewer for many major research journals and numerous grant agencies including NIH. He is an elected member of Collegium Internationale Allergologicum.