Dr. Thomas Lawley was appointed dean of the School of Medicine in 1996.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Dr. Lawley graduated magna cum laude from Canisius College and received his MD from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He trained in dermatology at Yale University, in Buffalo, New York, and at the National Institutes of Health, where he began as a clinical associate and became a senior investigator. Board certified in dermatology and in dermatological immunology, he came to Emory's School of Medicine as chair of the Department of Dermatology in 1988 and increased the then-unranked department's national rating to third place.

Dr. Lawley is president of the Emory Medical Care Foundation and the Children's Research Center, and he chairs the board of the Emory Children's Center. He also serves on the boards of The Emory Clinic and Emory Healthcare. He has written more than 200 book chapters, research articles, and abstracts, and has been on the editorial boards of several journals. He has received numerous academic prizes and is a member of several honorable medical societies, including the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Professors.