Dr. Wlodawer received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1974. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University, then joined the National Bureau of Standards, and in 1987 moved to the National Cancer Institute. Between 1987 and 2020 he was Chief of the Macromolecular Crystallography Laboratory, and is now a Senior Scientist in the Center for Structural Biology.

Some of the areas of his interest are directly involved in elucidating structural features of molecules that could explain their importance to understanding cancer and AIDS, but he is also active in the development of methods for protein crystallography. Dr. Wlodawer is a coauthor of over 400 publications, with over 20,000 citations and the H index of 71.

Dr. Wlodawer serves on the Editorial Boards of the FEBS Journal, FEBS OpenBio, Protein Science, and Current Research in Structural Biology. He was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Technical University of Lodz, Poland, was elected Foreign Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and is a recipient of the Heyrovsky Honorary Medal of the Czech Academy of Science. He is a Fellow of the American Crystallographic Association and a recipient of the AAAS – FNP Science Award for Collaborative Research (with Prof. Mariusz Jaskolski).