

FEATURED PROFILE

# Erma Drobnis

**University of Missouri researcher**

**Dr. Erma Drobnis is an internationally recognized expert in sperm biology and male infertility.**

Drobnis has studied sperm for several decades. Early work determined the physical forces generated by sperm during fertilization. She also studied sperm freezing, performs sperm banking for cancer patients and authored a book reviewing medication effects on male reproduction.

In clinical andrology (medicine related to males), Drobnis has contributed book chapters and national guidelines on laboratory management and participates in writing the board exam for clinical laboratory directors. She established an MU program helping HIV-infected men safely father children, and she gives lectures and international webinars on this topic.

Through collaborative projects, Drobnis has shown that agricultural chemical exposure decreases semen quality, complex sugars protect sperm from the immune system and hormones at HIV transmission sites may increase infection risk with some contraceptives. Additionally, Drobnis found that chemicals near gas drilling sites impair reproduction in prenatally-exposed male mice; she is now investigating fertility of men living near drilling sites.

For many years, Drobnis has assisted department colleagues with experimental design and research logistics. She currently supports all clinical research as associate director of the Research Success Center.

Dr. Erma Drobnis is an associate professional practice professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women's health in the School of Medicine. She is a board-certified high complexity laboratory director and leads MU's Andrology Laboratory.

