

Laura Schulz

University of Missouri researcher Dr. Laura Schulz is contributing to the scientific understanding of fetal growth and health.

The placenta is a crucial part of pregnancy in humans and other mammals, acting as a lifeline that enables transport of oxygen and nutrients from the mother to the fetus. Schulz works to understand how maternal hormones and nutrients affect placental function — and how that, in turn, affects the fetus' development and future health. Through a study of mice, she has investigated the role of the hormone leptin in combating the effects of poor nutrition or diabetes. Additionally, she is part of multi-lab efforts to better understand how the placenta develops, as well as how the pre-birth environment affects bone health in offspring.

Schulz's findings have appeared in many peer-reviewed journals. These include *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*, *Endocrinology* and other prestigious publications.

Numerous professional organizations have recognized Schulz's outstanding research. In 2009, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine honored Schulz with its New Investigator Award. She is a member of the American Diabetes Association and the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) and has served as chair of the SSR's Public Affairs Committee.

Dr. Laura Schulz is an associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women's health in the School of Medicine.

