

# **Laura Vandenberg**

**Associate Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost for Research and Engagement and Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at University of Massachusetts Amherst**

Amherst, MA, US

Laura Vandenberg looks at how exposures to plastics, and other chemicals especially early in life, can predispose individuals to diseases.

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## **Biography**

A renowned environmental health scientist, Laura Vandenberg looks at how exposures to chemicals and chemical mixtures, especially early in life, can predispose individuals to diseases. Her work instead addresses how low doses of chemicals during critical windows of development can alter gene expression, cell differentiation, and tissue organization in subtle ways that can lead to diseases in adulthood, including such as cancer, obesity and infertility. Vandenberg is specifically interested in the class of chemicals termed "endocrine disruptors" and have worked extensively with chemicals used as plasticizers and flame retardants. Her research also focuses on how traditional toxicology assays have failed to identify a number of ubiquitous endocrine disruptors, and how current risk assessment practices can be improved in the study and regulation of this class of chemicals.

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## **Expertise**

Plastics and Human Health, Endocrine Disruptors, Plastic Exposure, Developmental Biology, Hazard Assessment, Chemical Exposure

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## **Education**

**Tufts University School of Medicine**

Ph.D. Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology

**Cornell University**

B.S. Biology

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