I am a renal physiologist and pharmacologist who explores how the kidneys work during pregnancy.

Jenny Sasser, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Mississippi Medical Center at Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Learn more about physiology careers at the-aps.org/careercards
One of my research questions:
When women get pregnant, they need more blood in their bodies to make sure that both the mom and the baby get enough oxygen and nutrients. The mother’s kidneys must keep just the right amount of water. I am exploring how the kidneys know that they need to save more water in the bloodstream instead of letting it out into the urine.

Technology I use:
Rats and humans are very similar in the way their kidneys, hearts, and blood vessels work. Rats help us understand how the human body works, what happens during pregnancy, and how medicines can treat diseases while keeping mothers and their unborn babies stay safe.

My most exciting discovery:
As a graduate student, my research helped show that certain drugs can protect rats’ kidneys from damage caused by diabetes. Now similar drugs are being tested in human patients, and may help prevent kidney failure in people with diabetes.

I knew I wanted to be a scientist when...
One of my Georgia Tech engineering professors talked about different ways to deliver medicines to specific parts of the body instead of just taking a pill that goes through your whole body. I began working in his lab and fell in love with medical research.

You can check out some science articles I’ve written at http://bit.ly/JennySasserArticles

To be a scientist, you need:
Curiosity, teamwork, determination, and communication skills

Answer a question and release more cards at the-aps.org/careercards