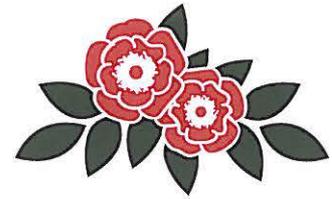


NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY
— OF CENTRAL —
LANCASHIRE



What women want Launch of new Midwifery Research Unit

An innovative new research unit, which will focus on a greater understanding of all aspects of labour and childbirth is being launched at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston.

A great deal of research has already been carried out by staff in the University's Faculty of Health which looked at the normal physiology of childbirth, including the processes which can maximise normal birth. The philosophy underpinning the work of the new **Midwifery Studies Research Unit** is salutogenesis, or the creation of well-being. Research will be developed across three disciplines – midwifery, neonatal studies and sexual and reproductive health.

Leading researcher Dr Soo Downe says: "Much of the research carried out in childbearing, sexual health and neonatal nursing is based on ill-health and treatment. The Midwifery Studies Research Unit will be focused on the creation of well-being and of health, in collaboration with local people and communities. We hope the work will bring benefits locally, nationally and internationally".

The Unit's launch is one of the highlights of a three day international research conference on 'Normal Labour and Birth' taking place at the University of Central Lancashire from 28th to 30th October.

-ends-

25 October 2002

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Note:

1. All press are invited to attend the launch of the Midwifery Studies Research Unit on **Tuesday 29 October 2002, from 4.30pm to 5.30pm** in the Greenbank Building, University of Central Lancashire, Preston. Further details from Claire Wrigley, tel: 01772 893840, email: cwrigley@uclan.ac.uk, or Pam Culley, Media Office, tel: 01772 894425

2. The First Research Conference on Normal labour and Birth will be taking place from Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 October 2002. Further details from Pam Culley, Media Office, tel: 01772 894425.