

Media Contact: Kathleen Kennedy
Ph # 520-360-7035
Email: krkenndey30@hotmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: Tucson Premiere of new science documentary "Microbirth"

Date: Thursday, October 9th

Time: 6:30pm Doors Open 7:00pm Movie Starts

Where: The LOFT Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd

Cost: Tickets \$8.00 Available: www.loftcinema.org or call 759-7777

Hosted by the Friends of Midwifery at El Rio partnering with the Tucson Waldorf School's Treasuring Childhood program.

Short synopsis of "Microbirth":

"Microbirth" is a new documentary looking at birth in a whole new way, through the lens of a microscope. Investigating the latest scientific research, the film reveals how we give birth could impact the lifelong health of our children.

**NEW DOCUMENTARY "MICROBIRTH"
REVEALS THE MICROSCOPIC SECRETS OF CHILDBIRTH**

[\[http://microbirth.com\]](http://microbirth.com) - The way we give birth has changed dramatically over the past 30 years. Some leading scientists are now warning that these changes could have serious repercussions for the lifelong health of our children.

"MICROBIRTH" is a new documentary premiering in Tucson on Thursday, October 9th, 2014 at the LOFT Cinema followed by special Q&A panel after the film with pioneering physicians who are researching the realm of epigenetics, the microbiome and birth.

Featuring prominent scientists from the UK and North America, **"Microbirth"** examines how modern birth practices could be interfering with critical biological processes potentially making our children more susceptible to disease later in life. Recent population studies have shown babies born by Caesarean have approximately a 20% increased risk of developing asthma, 20% increased risk of developing type 1 diabetes, a similar risk with obesity and slightly smaller increases in gastro-intestinal conditions like Crohn's disease or celiac disease. All of these conditions are linked to the immune system.

"Microbirth" explores several possible explanations. If a baby is born by Caesarean Section, scientists hypothesise this could alter the "seeding" of the baby's microbiome, the critical transfer of good bacteria from mother to baby at birth. Scientists suggest this could lead to the baby's immune system not developing to its full potential. Another hypothesis is the actual process of vaginal birth, including the cocktail of hormones produced during labour, could profoundly affect the baby's immune regulation and metabolism.

The film's co-director Toni Harman says, *"The World Health Organization has declared that non-communicable disease is already at epidemic levels and is still on the rise. Leading economists have predicted that, by the year 2030, the cost of treating this epidemic has the potential to bankrupt healthcare systems right around the world. Governments are already extremely concerned about the repercussions of antibiotic resistance and the effect this unprecedented level of disease could have upon social and economic stability on a global scale. What is not even on their agenda, however, is the possible effect of mode of birth. In light of this emerging scientific research, surely now is the time for childbirth to be the focus of serious, urgent attention at the highest level?"*