

# The Impact of Trauma on Women's Experiences of Pregnancy, Birth and Postpartum Adjustment

Thursday **March 18th, 2004** 1 – 2:30 pm

## ***A presentation by:***

Dr. Olivia Scalzo, Registered Psychologist

Olivia Scalzo, Ph.D., is a registered psychologist, who began working with women survivors of trauma over 20 years ago. She currently works in private practice and supervises counsellors in several community agencies around the Lower Mainland.

**Pregnancy, childbirth and mothering are powerful experiences in women's life. The lingering impact of past traumas, particularly childhood sexual abuse, can be triggered (e.g., flashbacks, body memories, dissociation) during many aspects of pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding. Also, some women, with or without prior trauma history, are traumatized by their birth experience. Mother-infant and mother-partner relationships may be affected. The presentation will outline the aspects of birth trauma experienced by women, review the impact of traumatic birth on women's relationships and parenting, and offer strategies for assisting women recover from traumatic birth experiences.**



British Columbia  
Centre of Excellence  
for Women's Health

## **Location: BCCEWH**

Room E311

Women's Health Centre of BC  
Street Address: 4500 Oak Street  
Vancouver

*(Note: Entrance to the Women's Health Centre is at Heather and 29<sup>th</sup> Streets, Parking Lot 3)*

## **Information**

604.875.2633

[bccewh@cw.bc.ca](mailto:bccewh@cw.bc.ca)

[www.bccewh.bc.ca](http://www.bccewh.bc.ca)

**Admission is FREE. Everyone welcome!**

**Please RSVP to**

**[bccewh@cw.bc.ca](mailto:bccewh@cw.bc.ca) or 604-875-2633.**