



NEWS, VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Declaration of Rights and Statement of Needs of Twins and Higher Order Multiples

adopted by the Council of Multiple Birth Organizations of the International Society for Twin Studies May 1995

Introduction: The mission of the Council of Multiple Birth Organizations (COMBO) of the International Society for Twin Studies is to promote awareness of the special needs of multiple birth infants, children, and adults. The multi-national membership of COMBO has developed this Declaration of Rights and Statement of Needs of Twins and Higher Order Multiples as benchmarks by which to evaluate and stimulate the development of resources to meet their special needs.

Declaration of Rights

WHEREAS myths and superstitions about the origins of multiples have resulted in the culturally sanctioned banishment and/or infanticide of multiples in some countries:

I. Multiples and their families have a right to full protection, under the law, and freedom from discrimination of any kind.

WHEREAS the conception and care of multiples increase the health and psychosocial risks of their families, and whereas genetic factors, fertility drugs, and in vitro fertilization techniques are known to promote multifetal pregnancies:

II. Couples planning their families and/or seeking infertility treatment have a right to information and education about factors which influence the conception of multiples, the associated pregnancy risks and treatments, and facts regarding parenting multiples.

WHEREAS the zygosity of same sex multiples cannot be reliably determined by their appearance; and whereas 1) the heritability of dizygotic (two-egg) twinning increases the rate of

conception of multiples; 2) the similar biology and inheritance of monozygotic (one-egg) multiples profoundly affect similarities in their development; 3) monozygotic multiples are blood and organ donors of choice for their co-multiples; and 4) the availability of the placenta and optimal conditions for determining zygosity are present at birth:

III.

A) Parents have a right to expect accurate recording of placentation and the diagnosis of the zygosity of same sex multiples at birth.

B) Older, same sex multiples of undetermined zygosity have a right to testing to ascertain their zygosity.

WHEREAS during World War II twins were incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps and submitted by force to experiments which caused disease or death:

IV. Any research incorporating multiples must be subordinated to the informed consent of the multiples and/or their parents and must comply with international codes of ethics governing human experimentation.

WHEREAS inadequate documentation, ignorance, and misconceptions regarding multiples and multiple birth increase the risk of misdiagnosis and/or inappropriate treatment of multiples:

V.

A) Multiple births and deaths must be accurately recorded.

B) Parents and multiples have a right to care by professions who are knowledgeable regarding the management of multiple gestation and/or the lifelong special needs of multiples.

WHEREAS the bond between co-multiples is a vital aspect of their normal development:

VI. Co-multiples have the right to be placed together in foster care, adoptive families and custody agreements.

Statement of Needs

Summary: Twins, and higher order multiples have unique: conception, gestation and birth processes; health risks; impacts on the family system; developmental environments; and individuation processes. Therefore, in order to ensure their optimal development, multiples and their families need access to health care, social services, and education which respect and address their differences from single born children.

WHEREAS twins and higher order births are at high risk of low birth weight (< 2500 grams), and very low birth weight (< 1500 grams), disability, and infant death:

I. Women who are expecting multiples have a need for:

A) education regarding the prevention and symptoms of pre-term labor,

B) prenatal resources and care designed to avert the pre-term birth of multiples, including:

1. diagnosis of multiple pregnancy, ideally by the fifth month, which is communicated tactfully, with respect for the privacy of the parents;

2. nutrition counseling and dietary resources to support a weight gain of 18-27 kilos (40-60 pounds);

3. obstetrical care which follows protocols of best practice for multiple birth;

and when the health of the mother or family circumstances warrant:

4. extended work leave;

5. bed rest support; and

6. child care for siblings.

(See References, Section I).

WHEREAS breastfeeding provides optimal nutrition and nurture for pre-term and full-term multiples; and whereas the process of breastfeeding and/or bottle feeding of multiples is complex and demanding;

II. Families expecting and rearing multiples need the following:

- A) education regarding the nutritional, psychological, and financial benefits of breastfeeding for pre-term and full-term infants;
- B) encouragement and coaching in breastfeeding techniques;
- C) education and coached practice in simultaneous bottle feeding of co-multiples; and,
- D) adequate resources, support systems, and family work leave to facilitate the breastfeeding and/or bottle feeding process.

(See References, Section II).

WHEREAS 60% of multiples are born before 37 weeks gestation and/or at low birth weight and experience a high rate of hospitalization which endangers the bonding process and breastfeeding; and whereas newborn multiples are comforted by their fetal position together:

III. Families with medically fragile multiples need specialized education and assistance to promote and encourage bonding and breastfeeding. Hospital placement of medically fragile multiples and hospital protocols should facilitate family access, including co-multiples' access to each other.

(See References, Section III).

WHEREAS multiple birth infants suffer elevated rates of birth defects and infant death:

IV. Families experiencing the disability and/or death of co-multiples need:

- A) care and counseling by professionals who are sensitive to the dynamics of grief associated with disability and/or death in co-multiples; and
- B) policies which facilitate appropriate mourning of a deceased multiple or multiples.

(See References, Section IV).

WHEREAS the unassisted care of newborn, infant, and toddler multiples elevates their families' risk of illness, substance abuse, child abuse, spouse abuse, divorce, and potential for child abuse:

V. Families caring for multiples need timely access to adequate services and resources in order to:

- A) ensure access to necessary quantities of infant and child clothing and equipment;
- B) enable adequate parental rest and sleep;
- C) facilitate healthy nutrition;
- D) facilitate the care of siblings;
- E) facilitate child safety;
- F) facilitate transportation; and
- G) facilitate pediatric care.

(See References, Section V).

WHEREAS families with multiples have the unique challenge of promoting the healthy individuation process of each co-multiple and of encouraging and supporting a healthy relationship between the co-multiples; and, whereas the circumstance of multiple birth affects developmental patterns:

VI. Families expecting and rearing multiples need:

- A) access to information and guidance in optimal parenting practices regarding the unique developmental aspects of multiple birth children, including the processes of: socialization, individuation, and language acquisition; and
- B) access to appropriate testing, evaluation, and schooling for co-multiples with developmental delays and/or behavior problems.

(See References, Section VI).

WHEREAS twins and higher order multiples are the subjects of myths and legends and media exploitation which depict multiples as depersonalized stereotypes:

VII: Public education, with emphasis upon the training of professional health and family service providers, and educators, is needed to dispel mythology and disseminate the facts of

multiple birth and the developmental processes in twins and higher order multiples.

(See References, Section VII).

WHEREAS twins and higher order multiples suffer discrimination from public ignorance about their biological makeup and inflexible policies which fail to accommodate their special needs:

VIII. Twins and higher order multiples need:

- A) information and education about the biology of twinning; and
- B) health care, education, counseling, and flexible public policies which address their unique developmental norms, individuation processes, and relationship. For example by permitting and/or fostering:

1. the treatment of medically fragile co-multiples in the same hospital;
2. the neonatal placement together of co-multiples in isolettes and cribs to extend the benefits of their fetal position together;
3. medical, developmental, and educational assessment and treatment which is respectful of the relationship between co-multiples;
4. the annual review of the classroom placement of co-multiples, and facilitation of their co-placement or separate placement according to the particular needs of each set of co-multiples;
5. the simultaneous participation of co-multiples on sports teams and other group activities;
6. specialized grief counseling for multiples at the death of a co-multiple;
7. counseling services addressing the special needs of adult multiples.

WHEREAS the participation by multiple birth infants, children, and adults as research subjects has made important contributions to scientific understanding of the heritability of disease, personality variables, and the relative influence of nature and nurture on

human development; and, WHEREAS relatively little is known about optimal management of plural pregnancy and the unique developmental patterns of multiples:

IX: Scientists must be encouraged to investigate:

- A) the optimal management of plural pregnancies;
- B) norms for developmental processes which are affected by multiple birth such as: individuation, socialization, and language acquisition;
- C) benchmarks of healthy psychological development, and relevant therapeutic interventions for multiples of all ages and at the death of a co-multiple.

Adopted by the Council of Multiple Birth Organizations (COMBO) (comprised of representatives of 16 organizations from ten countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Sweden, Taipei, United Kingdom, United States) of the International Society for Twin Studies at the Eighth International Twin Congress, Richmond, Virginia. May 31, 1995.

Patricia Malmstrom, Chair
Council of Multiple Birth Organization

Endorsed by the Board of the International Society for Twin Studies, May 31, 1995.

Lindon Eaves, President
International Society for Twin Studies

Bibliography

STATEMENT OF NEEDS

Section I: Prenatal care

- 1 Brown JE, Scholeser PT. Prepregnancy weight status, prenatal weight gain, and the outcome of term twin gestations. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 1990; 162: 182–186.
- 2 Bryan E, Higgins R, Harvey D. Ethical dilemmas. In: Harvey, D, Bryan E (eds). *The Stress of Multiple Birth* Multiple Births Foundation: London, pp 35–42.
- 3 Callahan TL et al. The economic impact of multiple gestation pregnancies and the contribution of assisted reproduction techniques to their incidence. *New England Journal of Medicine* 1994; 331: 244–249.

- 4 Cirello P, Cohn B, Malmstrom P. Twin-shock: a statistical profile of multiple births in California 1986–1989. Twin Services Inc: Berkeley, 1974.
- 5 Dimperio DL. Nutritional Management of Multiple Pregnancy The Perinatal Nutrition Report, The American Dietetics Association, 1994.
- 6 Dubois S et al. Twin pregnancy: the impact of the Higgins Nutrition Intervention Program on maternal and neonatal outcomes. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 1991; 53: 1397–1403.
- 7 Ellings JM et al. Reduction in very low birth weight deliveries and perinatal mortality in a specialized, multidisciplinary twin clinic. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 1993; 81(3): 387–391.
- 8 Grether JK, Schulman J. Sudden infant death syndrome and birth weight. *The Journal of Pediatrics* 1989; 114(4): 561–567.
- 9 Jewell SE, Yip R. Increasing trends in plural births in the United States. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 1995; 85(2): 229–232.
- 10 Kiely JL. The epidemiology of perinatal mortality in multiple births. *Bulletin of New York Academy of Medicine*, second series 1990; 666: 618–637.
- 11 Keith L, Papiernik E, Keith D, Luke B (eds). *Multiple Pregnancy: Epidemiology, Gestation & Perinatal Outcome*. Parthenon Publishing Group: New York, 1995.
- 12 Luke B. The changing pattern of multiple births in the United States: maternal and infant characteristics, 1973 and 1990. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 1994; 84(1): 101–106.
- 13 Luke B. Maternal characteristics and prenatal nutrition. In: Keith L, Papiernik E, Keith D, Luke B (eds). *Multiple Pregnancy: Epidemiology, Gestation & Perinatal Outcome* Parthenon Publishing Group: New York, 1995; 299–307.
- 14 Luke B et al. The association between maternal weight gain and the birth-weight of twins. *Journal of Maternal and Fetal Medicine* 1992; 1: 267–276.
- 15 Luke B et al. The ideal twin pregnancy: patterns of weight gain, discordancy, and length of gestation. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 1993; 169(3): 588–597.
- 16 Malmstrom PM, Biale R. An agenda for meeting the special needs of multiple birth families. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1990; 39: 507–514.
- 17 Malmstrom PM, Faherty TJ, Wagner P. Essential nonmedical perinatal services for multiple birth families. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1988; 37(2): 193–197.
- 18 Malmstrom PM, Wedge MW, Faherty TF, Wagner P. Respite care – a lifeline for low-income families. Paper presented to International Society for Twin Studies Congress, Amsterdam. 1986.
- 19 National Academy of Sciences. *Nutrition During Pregnancy*. National Academy Press: Washington, 1990.

- 20 Papiernik E, Keith LG. The cost effectiveness of preventing preterm delivery in twin pregnancies. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1990; 39: 361–369.
- 21 Papiernik E. Reducing the risk of preterm delivery. In: Keith L, Papiernik E, Keith D, Luke B (eds) *Multiple Pregnancy*. Parthenon Publishing Group: New York, 1995; 437–451.
- 22 Papiernik E. Social cost of twin births. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1983; 32: 105–111.
- 23 Papiernik E, Mussly MA, Vial M, Richard A. A low rate of perinatal death for twin births. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1985; 34: 201–206.
- 24 Powers WF, Kiely JL, Fowler MG. The role of birth weight, gestational age, race and other infant characteristics in twin intrauterine growth and infant mortality. In: Keith L, Papiernik E, Keith D, Luke B (eds). *Multiple Pregnancy: Epidemiology, Gestation & Perinatal Outcome*. Parthenon Publishing Group: New York, 1995, 163–174.
- 25 Powers WF, Kiely JL. The risks confronting twins: a national perspective. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 1994; 170(2): 456–461.
- 26 Worthington-Roberts B. Weight gain patterns in twin pregnancies with desirable outcomes. *Clinical Nutrition* 1988; 7(5): 191–196.

Section II: Breastfeeding and bottle feeding

- 27 Gromada KK. Breastfeeding multiples. *Doubletalk* 1991; 11: 18–21.
- 28 Gromada KK. *Mothering multiples*. La Leche League International, Inc: Franklin Park, IL, USA 1985.
- 29 Keith D, McInnes S, Keith L (eds). *Breastfeeding Twins, Triplets and Quadruplets: 195 Hints for Success*. The Center for the Study of Multiple Birth: Chicago, 1982.
- 30 Malmstrom PM, Biale R. An agenda for meeting the special needs of multiple birth families. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1990; 39: 507–514.
- 31 Malmstrom PM, Faherty TJ, Wagner P. Essential nonmedical perinatal services for multiple birth families. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1998; 37(2): 193–197.
- 32 Malmstrom PM, Wedge MW, Faherty TF, Wagner P. Respite care – a lifeline for low-income families. Paper presented to International Society for Twin Studies Congress, Amsterdam. 1986.
- 33 Sollid D, Evans B, McClowry S, Garrett A. Breastfeeding multiples. *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing* 1989; 47–85.

Section III: Bonding

- 34 Anderson A, Anderson B. Mother's beginning relationship with twins. *Birth* 1987; 14: 94–98.

- 35 Bryan E, Higgings R, Harvey D. Ethical dilemmas. In: Harvey D, Bryan E (eds). *The Stress of Multiple Birth*. Multiple Births Foundation: London, 1991, 35–42.
- 36 Bryan E. *Twins in the Family: A Parent's Guide*. Constable: London, 1984.
- 37 Lutes L. Bedding twins multiples together. *Neonatal Network* 1996, 15, 61–71.
- 38 Lutes L. Bedding twins together: fostering co-regulation. Paper presented to Developmental Interventions In Neonatal Care Conference, Chicago, 1995.
- 39 Malmstrom PM, Faherty TJ, Wagner P. Essential nonmedical perinatal services for multiple birth families. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1998; 37(2): 193–197.
- 40 Noble E. *Having Twins*. Houghton Mifflin Co: Boston, 1991.
- Section IV: Loss**
- 41 Biale R. Counseling families of disabled twins. *Social Work* 1989; 34(6): 531–536.
- 42 Bryan E. But there should have been two. In: Harvey D, Bryan E (eds). *The Stress of Multiple Births*. Multiple Births Foundation: London, 1991, 49–58.
- 43 Bryan E. Support for parents who lose a newborn twin. Paper presented to International Society for Twin Studies Congress, Amsterdam, 1986.
- 44 Sainsbury MK. Grief in multifetal death. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1998; 37(2): 181–186.
- 45 Stauffer A et al. Early developmental progress of preterm twins discordant for birthweight and risk. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1998; 37: 81–87.
- Section V: Psychosocial risk**
- 46 Groothuis JR et al. Increased child abuse in families with twins. *Pediatrics* 1982; 70: 769.
- 47 McInnes S. *The Impact of a Multiple Birth on the Family in Home Help and Social Services*. Parents of Multiple Birth Association: Alberta, Canada, 1979.
- 48 Nelson HB, Martin CA. Increased child abuse in twins. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 1985; 9: 501–505.
- 49 Nelson H, Martin C. *Increased Child Abuse in Twins*. Report from the Department of Psychiatry, University of Kentucky Medical Center: Lexington, KY, 1985.
- 50 O'Brien PJ, Hay DA. Is Rearing Twins Different? The Development and Needs of Multiple Birth Children and Their Families from Birth to School Age. LaTrobe Twin Study Pamphlet, University of LaTrobe: Melbourne, Australia, 1983.
- 51 Robin M, Josse D, Tourrette C. Forms of family reorganization following the birth of twins. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1991; 39: 53–61.
- 52 Robin M, Josse D, Tourrette C. Mother–twin interaction during early childhood. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1988; 37(2): 151–160.
- Section VI: Multiple birth development**
- 53 Ainslie R. *The Psychology of Twinship*. University of Nebraska Press: Lincoln, NE, USA, 1985.
- 54 Hay DA et al. Speech and language development in preschool twins. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1987; 36: 213–223.
- 55 Hay DA, O'Brien PJ. Early influence on the school adjustment of twins. Paper presented to International Society of Twin Studies Congress, Amsterdam, 1986.
- 56 Hay DA et al. The role of parental attitudes in the development of temperament in twins at home, school and in test situations. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1984; 33: 191–204.
- 57 Lytton H. *Parent Child-Interaction: The Socialization Process Observed in Twin and Singleton Families*. Plenum Press: New York, 1980.
- 58 Malmstrom PM, Biale R. An agenda for meeting the special needs of multiple birth families. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1990; 39: 507–514.
- 59 Malmstrom PM, Faherty TJ, Wagner P. Essential nonmedical perinatal services for multiple birth families. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1998; 37(2): 193–197.
- 60 Malmstrom PM, Silva MN. Twin talk: manifestations of twinship in the speech of toddlers. *Journal of Child Language* 1986; 13: 293–304.
- 61 Matheny AP. Development research of twins' temperament. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1987; 36: 135–143.
- 62 Matheny AP et al. Behavioral contrasts in twinship: stability and patterns of difference in childhood. *Child Development* 1981; 52: 579–588.
- 63 Novotny PP. *The Joy of Twins*. Crown Publishers, Inc: New York, 1988.
- 64 O'Brien PJ, Hay DA. Early influences on the school social adjustment of twins. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1987; 36: 239–248.
- 65 O'Brien PJ, Hay DA. Is Rearing Twins Different? The Development and Needs of Multiple Birth Children and Their Families from Birth to School Age. LaTrobe Twin Study, Pamphlet. University of LaTrobe: Melbourne, Australia, 1983.
- 66 Pearlman EM. Separation-individuation, self-concept, and object relations in fraternal twins, identical twins and singletons. *Journal of Psychology* 1990; 124(6): 619–628.
- 67 Rothbart B. *Multiple Blessings*. Hearst Books: New York, 1994.
- 68 Rowland C. Family relationships. In: Harvey D, Bryan E (eds). *The Stress of Multiple Births*. Multiple Births Foundation: London, 1991; pp 59–67.
- 69 Sandbank AC. The effect of twins on family relationships. *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* 1988; 37(2): 161–172.
- 70 Savic S. *How Twins Learn to Talk*. Academic Press: New York, 1980.
- 71 Scheinfeld A. *Twins and Supertwins*. JB Lippincott Co/Pelican Books: Baltimore, 1967.
- 72 Segal NL. Jealousy: does it put twins in double jeopardy? *Twins Magazine* 1987; 36: (May/June) 36–59.
- 73 Wallace M. *The Silent Twins*. Prentice Hall: New York, 1986.
- Section VII: Training**
- 74 Bryan E. *The Nature and Nurture of Twins*. Baillière Tindall: London, 1983.
- 75 Bryan E, Harvey D (eds). *The Stress of Multiple Birth*. Multiple Births Foundation: London, 1991.
- 76 Malmstrom PM. The influences of popular mythology upon multiple birth parenting practices. Paper presented to International Society for Twin Studies Congress, Richmond, Virginia, 1995.
- 77 Malmstrom PEM (ed). *Training in Twin-care – Promoting Preventive Care of Twins and Higher Order Multiples in County-based Health and Social Service Organizations*. Twin Services, Inc: Berkeley, 1996.
- 78 Malmstrom PEM, Biale R. *Twin-care – Protocols for Health and Parenting Education and Psychosocial Services for Families With Multiples*. Twin Services, Inc: Berkeley, 1996.

Translations in Dutch, French, German and Italian are available on request from the underneath address.

Submit text for the section NEWS, VIEWS AND COMMENTS directly to: Jacob F. Orlebeke, Vrije Universiteit, Dept. of Physiological Psychology, De Boelelaan 1111, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Email: J.F.Orlebeke@psy.vu.nl. The editor invites organizations of multiples and parents of multiples to submit a brief summary (max about 300 words, to be sent directly to Jacob F. Orlebeke) containing information about goals, activities, size, telephone, fax, e-mail, and if possible web location and address, as well as names of persons to whom correspondence should be addressed. A summary of these organizations will be published in forthcoming issues of the journal.

Book review

Guidelines for Professionals

E. Bryan, J. Denton, F. Hallet, 1 Facts about multiple births (22 pp); 2 Multiple pregnancy (58 pp); 3 Bereavement (42 pp): Multiple Births Foundation: London. ISBN Nos. 1. 1902068025 £7.99; 2. 1902068033 £2.99. 3; 1902068017 £5.99 to be published: Spring 1998.

In his foreword to the classic *The Placenta in Twin Pregnancy*, by SJ Strong & G Corney,¹ J Chassar Moir wrote 'It is a curious fact that a happening so remarkable as the occurrence of a twin pregnancy should, hitherto, have attracted but little serious attention from obstetricians'. Regrettably, this statement remains valid today and may be extended to other professionals as well. The three booklets, published by the MBF and supported by the European Commission, aim at filling the gap in the special care of multiples with quickly produced and easily accessible information.

Facts about Multiple Births provides basic knowledge about the types of twins, the cause of twinning, the placenta, the reasons for and methods of determining zygosity, the prevalence rates and some obstetrical and perinatal statistics. As in the other booklets, key references allow the reader to study the different topics in depth. The booklets end with a glossary of terms.

The cover of Multiple Pregnancy mentions 'Recommendations covering specific medical problems as well as the emotional, social and practical issues associated with a multiple pregnancy (including labour and delivery) and the postnatal care of the mother and babies. The guide does not include the clinical management of a multiple pregnancy as this information is more appropriately covered by other sources'. The different aspects of care—diagnosis, monitoring the pregnancy (ultrasound, prenatal screening, congenital anomalies, selective foetocide, foetofetal transfusion syndrome, single intrauterine death), antenatal care, preparation for parenting, feeding, labour and delivery, postnatal care—are summarised in an easily accessible way: issues on one page and response recommendations on the opposite page.

People's attitudes towards parents having lost a twin, triplet or more, are

often inappropriate if not, frankly, out of place. Insensitive remarks such as 'How would you have coped with two?' or 'You've still got one lovely baby' are extremely offensive and hurtful. The senior author of the booklet 'Bereavement' has many years of experience in the counselling of parents who are struggling to cope with the loss of one or more multiple. In Bereavement, issues and recommendations are handled on facing pages as in the booklet on multiple pregnancy. The recommendations testify to the experience and sensitivity of the paediatrician who has developed an intimate understanding of bereaved parents of multiples.

The three booklets are fine basic references for people interested in, or in charge of, multiple pregnancies. The booklets should be readily available in antenatal clinics, maternity hospitals, children's daycare centres, social institutions, and are highly recommended to every women carrying multiples. It is hoped that the booklets, currently published in English, will be rapidly translated into most world languages.

Robert Derom

¹ Strong CJ, Corney G. *The Placenta in Twin Pregnancy*. Pergamon Press: New York/London 1967.

Interesting new publications

Multiple Births Organisations Worldwide. Multiple Birth Foundation, 1997.

Wright L. *Twins: Genes, Environment and the Mystery of Identity*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1997.

Cooper C. *Twins and Multiple Births. The essential parenting guide, from pregnancy to adulthood*. London: Vermilion, 1997.

Forthcoming:

Landau E. *Multiple Births (First Book)*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1998 (a book for children aged 9–12 years).

Announcements

- First International Workshop on Genetic Epidemiology of Complex Traits using Twins and Sib-Pairs. Cambridge, 26–27 March 1998. Information available on Internet-location: <http://www.umds.ac.uk/twin-unit/workshop.htm>.
- Conference of the International Society for Twin Studies (ISTS).

Helsinki, 4–6 June 1998. Deadline for submitting abstracts (posters and oral presentations) is 31 March 1998. Details about abstract requirements and address for submission can be obtained from web-site <http://kate.pc.helsinki.fi/twin/ists.html>.

Main topics areas: Design and analysis of twin studies, management of twin pregnancies, foetal programming, cardiovascular disease and twins, biology and genetics of twinning, psychopathology, sleep disorders, neurological diseases, asthma and allergy, (abnormal) child development, substance abuse, health related behaviour (smoking, drinking etc), parents of twins, twin and higher multiple (parents) clubs.

NB! The ISTS conference takes place immediately preceding the BGA conference in Stockholm.

- 1998 Annual Meeting of the Behavior Genetics Association (BGA). Stockholm, 8–10 June 1998. Deadline for submitting abstracts and suggestions for symposia is 9 February 1998. Abstracts should be sent to Dr Norm Henderson, by e-mail to bgaabs98@bga.bga.org. NB! The BGA conference takes place immediately after the ISTS conference in Helsinki.
- Statistics and methods for twin and family studies: Tenth International Workshop on Methodology of Twin and Family Studies. Boulder, Colorado, first week of March 1998. Mx-site: <http://views.vcu.edu/mx>.

This course is intended to be introductory. Advanced courses are planned for 1999, 2001 and 2003 in Boulder and in September 1998 in Leuven, Belgium. For the latter workshop, information can be obtained from hmaes@ruby.vcu.edu or ruth.loos@med.kuleuven.ac.be. Application forms for the March 1998 course in Boulder can be printed from: <http://ibgwww.colorado.edu/twin98/registration.html>. A provisional schedule is available at <http://ibgwww.colorado.edu/twins98/schedule.html>.