



TWINS

Newsletter of the

international society for twin studies

Winter 1991

**Seventh Meeting of the ISTS Working Party on Twin Pregnancy
Berlin, 30 May – 1 June 1991**

The seventh meeting of the working party will be held in Berlin from 30 May to 1 June 1991 at the

FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN
Universitätsklinikum Rudolf Virchow
Standort Charlottenburg
Frauenklinik und Poliklinik
Abteilung für Geburtsmedizin
Leiter: Prof. Dr. Med. Joachim W. Dudenhausen
Pulsstrasse 4-14, D - 1000 BERLIN 19
Tel. (030) 32 03 111

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

1. Methodology of Studies on Multiple Pregnancy

Charles Boklage (Greenville, NC, USA): Embryology of twinning
Robert Derom (Leuven): Zygosity diagnosis at birth
Robert Vlietinck (Leuven): Statistics applied to twin data
Barbara Luke (Baltimore, MD, USA): Design of clinical experimental studies
Selbmann (Tübingen): Collection and analysis of basic perinatal data
Jaakko Kaprio (Helsinki): Establishment of registries

2. Free Communications and Poster Session

Priority will be given to the following topics:

Higher order multiple births – Prevention of preterm births – Factors affecting fetal growth – Fetal behavior – Prevention of iatrogenic multiple births

For further information and applications to attend, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Med. J.W. Dudenhausen
Universitätsklinikum Rudolf Virchow
Pulsstrasse 4-14
D - 1000 BERLIN 19
Tel: (030) 32 03 111

Professor Louis Keith
Prentice Women's Hospital & Maternity Center
333 East Superior Street, Rm 464
Chicago, Illinois 60611, USA
Tel: (312) 908-7532 Fax: 312-908-1416

NATO Advanced Study Institute

METHODOLOGY FOR GENETIC STUDIES OF TWINS AND FAMILIES

Fourth International Course - ISTS Working Group on Methodology

Leuven - Belgium

September, 15-28, 1991

FACULTY

L. Eaves, J. Hewitt, J. Meyer
W. Nance, M. Neale (Richmond, VA, U.S.A.)
D. Fulker, L. Cardon (Boulder, CO, U.S.A.)
A. Heath (St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.)
N. Martin (Brisbane, Queensland, Australia)
D. Boomsma, P. Molenaar (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
K. Joreskog (Uppsala, Sweden)
R. Vlietinck, R. Derom, C. Derom, H. Maes
(Leuven, Belgium)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Introductory course:

September 15-21, 1991

Introduction to path analysis
Univariate genetic analysis
Heterogeneity/sex differences
Twin data summary
Multivariate genetic analysis
Sibling interaction
Direction of causation
Power analysis
Developmental genetic analysis

Advanced course:

September 22-28, 1991

Path analysis in greater depth
Assortative mating
Cultural inheritance
Non-additive effects
Interactions with sex
Analysis of unbalanced pedigrees
Analysis of samples ascertained
through an affected proband
Twin-parent design
Adoption design
Time series analysis

ORGANIZATION

The course is organized by
the Catholic University of Leuven
and is sponsored by NATO and the ISTS

PARTICIPATION

Participants should have a basic knowledge of
genetics and statistics or should be actively
involved in twin research. The scientific
qualifications should be certified by at least
one well-known scientist recognized by the
organizing committee. Participation in the
advanced course is limited to those who followed
one of the introductory courses or who have
acquired the same level of knowledge from
one of the faculty members.

REGISTRATION

The costs for lodging and meals amounts to US \$500
(15,000 BEF) per week. No registration fee is charged.
Potential applicants from NATO-countries who are
unable to cover their travel and/or living expenses
can be subsidized. A limited number of grants is
available. Application for these grants should be
sent as soon as possible and not later than May 1, 1991.

INFORMATION

Fourth Course on Twin Methodology
Centre of Human Genetics
University Hospital Gasthuisberg
Herestraat 49
B-3000 Leuven (BELGIUM)

Telephone: 32-16-21.58.65
Telefax: 32-16-21.59.92
Telex: 24484
Bitnet: HEKABO @ BLEKUL13

Seventh International Congress on Twin Studies

Tokyo, 22-25 June 1992

As previously announced, the Seventh International Congress on Twin Studies, sponsored by the International Society for Twin Studies and the Japan Society for Twin Studies, will be held in Tokyo, Japan, 22-25 June 1992. The preliminary program is scheduled for distribution in June 1991. Suggestions for topics, speakers and special events should be forwarded to the program committee. Individuals or groups who anticipate developing Congress events, as well as those who anticipate a need for working meetings during the term of Congress, are especially urged to write.

Contact: Professor Minoru Nakata
Program Committee's Chairman
Department of Pediatric Dentistry
Kyushu University Faculty of Dentistry
Higashi-ku, Fukuoka 812, Japan

Prize for Twin Studies

The Center for Study of Multiple Birth (Chicago) will sponsor the first TWINS DAYS RESEARCH GRANT Competition and award a \$ 1,000 prize to a researcher who proposes the most significant research study, according to the Center's Director of Communications. The competition is limited to citizens of the United States and its territories and is open only to qualified researchers who study twins. A requirement for the prize winner is that he or she agree to publish the research in a scientific journal. Interested applicants must submit a typed 250-word abstract of the proposed research to the judging committee at THE TWINS DAYS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, INC., P.O. BOX 29, TWINSBURG, OHIO 44087 not later than 1 July 1991. The award will be announced by The Festival Committee and the Center for Study of Multiple Birth on 3 August 1991 at the Twins Days Festival, Twinsburg, Ohio.

Contact: The Center for Study of Multiple Birth
Suite 463-5
333 East Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611, USA
Tel: (312) 266-9093 – Cable: TWINSTUDY, Chicago

The French Parents of Twins Association

The *Association Nationale d'Entr'aide des Parents de Naissances Multiples* is the only parents-of-twins association existing in France. It was founded in 1979 and it now regroups 2500 families of twins, triplets, quads or more organized in 20 clubs all over France. The association offers moral support and assistance to parents, advice and information to members of social professions through meetings, leaflets, books on multiple births. It also provides material help to families through clothing and equipment sales, baby-sitting and nursing (\$ 1.00 per hour). The association promotes and participates in research with psychologists, sociologists, educationalists, doctors. It now intends to attract the attention of the government on the special needs of the families with multiple births, on their increasing number due to infertility treatments, and on the social cost of twinning.

Contact: Michèle Solere and Chantal Lebatard
ANEPNM
8 Place Sisley, 95430 Auvers sur Oise, France

The Multiple Births Foundation

The Multiple Births Foundation was established in the UK in 1988. It aims to give professional support to families with twins and higher order births and to educate professionals about the needs of families with twins.

The Foundation is based at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London. It provides advice to individual families either by telephone or letter or by personal consultation.

Any family is welcome to attend one of the Twins Clinics. A general Twins Clinic is held monthly at Queen Charlotte's as well as three special clinics, each three monthly. These are for Supertwins (triplets or more); Bereaved families; and families where one or both twins have Special Needs. A similar Twins Clinic is held in Birmingham and in York. Volunteer parents of twins assist at all these clinics.

Prenatal meetings for parents, grandparents and those concerned with the family's care, are held in the three centres each month. An illustrated talk is given on the care and development of twins. There is also a Lone Twin Network for bereaved adult twins.

The Foundation provides information and advice to members of all the relevant caring professions (including teachers) and runs Study Days on all aspects of multiple births. For research workers or students wishing to study multiple births the Foundation provides a resource centre including a database of references.

Members of the Foundation receive a quarterly Newsletter and qualify for reduced fees for Study Days. Overseas members (subscription £15) are welcome.

Contact: **Dr Elizabeth Bryan**

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Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital
Goldhawk Road
London W6 OXG, U.K.
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TWINS Magazine

Six years ago when TWINS Magazine made its debut, I hoped that the research studies around the world involving twins could have a forum for exchanging information about their findings with families of twins. TWINS Magazine was designed to be that forum in which researchers, as well as parents could share feelings, expectations, myths and realities about being and living with multiples – from their births through adulthood. In addition, TWINS was designed to help twins and their families feel less isolated emotionally, mentally and physically about being multiples or parents of multiples in a world dominated by singletons. It enables readers to relate to the special perspective multiples and their parents have about themselves, their children, their entire family, their community and the world at large.

TWINS Magazine fits everyone's needs – researchers, parents, educators, health-care professionals – as the ideal vehicle to answer questions and clarify issues of importance to multiples and those who care for them.

You can become part of this communication network by helping your study participants get informed about TWINS Magazine or subscribing to TWINS. To order a 1-year-subscription, send \$ 19.98 (Outside the U.S.A. \$ 28.98, in U.S. Funds) to TWINS Magazine, P.O. Box 12045, Overland Park, KS 66212, U.S.A.

Contact: **Barbara C. Unell, Editor**

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