



## Preface

Dr. Wendy Lee Golden's thesis titled "Reproductive Histories in a Norwegian Twin Population: Evaluation of the Maternal Effect in Early Spontaneous Abortion," was completed and successfully defended in December, 1980. It is a product of a collaborative program of twin research between the Department of Human Genetics of the Medical College of Virginia and the Institute of Medical Genetics at the University of Oslo, directed by Dr. Kåre Berg. Dr. Golden was born in Coronado, California and obtained her undergraduate degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1974. Her graduate work was supported by a Fullbright Travel Scholarship, an NIH Genetics Training Fellowship and an A. D. Williams Research Fellowship. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral fellow in Genetics at the Children's Hospital in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Golden's work represents the first systematic attempt to search for genetic and maternal effects on reproductive variables in a large population-based twin sample. Here the twin family method for detecting maternal effects is applied for the first time to qualitative traits such as spontaneous abortion and a new approach to the analysis of secular trends is used to elucidate the causes for temporal changes in the age of menarche in Norway. Finally the thesis contains several provocative examples of variables for which the multiple correlations between twins and their spouses adumbrate the hitherto unrecognized complexity of the process of mate selection in man and its potential effects on the distribution of phenotypes in human populations. This work is paper #139 from the Department of Human Genetics of the Medical College of Virginia.

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