

nationally complete. Unfortunately, not all multiple births are recorded in medical literature and some are never even registered as births due to condition of fetuses at birth. To establish a correct and definite ratio of the incidence of twins, triplets, quadruplets, and higher births to single births, all births would have to be recorded. Over a period of thirty-five years it is felt that the author's "Bits 'bout Multiples" are the most complete, comprehensive (to lay persons), and authentic files of their type. For quick reference, a card file indicates Family name, Number in birth, Date of birth, Parents' names, Physician's names and Place of birth (Country, City, Hospital). Statistical information as to a number of (for example) quadruplets born in a nominal year, a particular country, state or city, may rapidly be found. This may be divided into sex distribution of set, MZ or DZ, number surviving, etc. Files include data on twins, conjoined twins, triplets, quadruplets, quintuplets, sextuplets, septuplets, octuplets, nontuplets, decuplets, and a few higher recorded births. Printed articles, books, souvenirs, photos, and correspondence are included.

Research includes personal contact with many multiples, tape recordings of visits, as well as preparation of statistical information for persons throughout the world which gives great opportunity to delve and compile.

Ms. Helen Kirk Lauve, P.O. Box 254, Galveston, Texas 77550, USA

TWIN STUDIES, TWIN CARE, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

LUIGI GEDDA, PAOLO PARISI

*The Gregor Mendel Institute of Medical Genetics and Twin Research, Rome, Italy
The Foundation of the Luigi Gedda Institute, Jerusalem, Israel*

Although a number of difficulties at various levels have seriously interfered with its organization, the First International Congress of Twin Studies could assemble in Rome the representatives of 27 countries to work on a 6-day program with over 120 titles. This program appears to be of interest, not only to scientists specifically dealing with

twin studies, but to human and medical geneticists in general (and especially behavior geneticists), as well as to psychologists and psychiatrists, obstetricians and gynecologists, neonatologists and pediatricians, epidemiologists, and general biologists, demographers, statisticians, mathematicians, etc. Moreover, not only leading representatives of all these branches have convened in Rome from all over the world, but representatives of twin organizations have also come. It seems that, far from becoming obsolete, as its critics forecasted some twenty years ago, twin research has progressed and expanded all over traditional branches of study and new areas of application.

On the other hand, as two sessions of the Congress and the interest of Twin Clubs and Mothers of Twins Clubs clearly show, twin studies and consequent social action are needed to face the problems related to multiple pregnancy as a high-risk pregnancy, to the twin postnatal development, to the twin psychology.

Twin research has come of age and is eventually responsible for the health and welfare of a share of the general population that, when twins are considered with their families, accounts for 5-10%. It therefore seems to be high time that it be supported by an appropriate organization.

An international association or a similar body, should be established. Regular Congresses should be convened every three-four years. International Directories of twin research workers and of twin groups, associations, registers, and any other organization where twins may be available for research purposes, should be published. Newsletters should be edited and circulated to promote better information and cooperation, avoid overlapping research work, and stimulate research integration. Special Committees should be formed to work on such problems as multiple pregnancy as a high-risk pregnancy, twin neonatology and pediatrics, twin psychology and education, etc., and the deliberations should be circulated.

It is suggested that a Working Group be appointed by the assembly in order to study these and other problems and produce drafts of deliberations to be discussed at the Closing Session.

Prof. Luigi Gedda, Istituto Mendel, Piazza Galeno 5, 00161 Roma, Italy