



Foreword

In the same way that much understanding of disease conditions has been gained from comparative studies of twins, more understanding of the physiology and pathology of pregnancy is emerging from the study of twin pregnancies. The maternal response is relatively exaggerated when compared with singleton pregnancies, and the risk to both mother and babies is increased. As the complications of pregnancy are gradually being overcome and morbidity and mortality rates reduced, the importance of multiple pregnancies has gained greater prominence because there is still a high mortality and morbidity rate among twins. Further understanding of the biology of twins is obtained by studies of the types of women developing twins and the factors influencing the incidence of twin pregnancies. It is also further enhanced by the comparison of the pregnancies in monochorionic and dichorionic twin pregnancies as well as in monozygotic and dizygotic pregnancies. Interest in the maternal responses, the complications arising in the development of twins, and the management of twin deliveries has been increasing in recent years to such an extent that it was felt that a meeting of the Working Group on Multiple Pregnancy of the International Society for Twin Studies should be held annually. The first meeting of the Working Group was held in Aberdeen, Scotland, on 11–12 April, 1979. There were 26 participants from seven countries attending the symposium who are all experts in this relatively specialized field of study, and the meeting took the form of a workshop. The program was so arranged that only abstracts were presented, allowing considerable time for discussion, which was recorded and is reproduced along with the papers submitted by the participants.

Ian MacGillivray
*Chairman, Working Group on Multiple Pregnancy,
International Society for Twin Studies*