

## PREFACE

The publication of this volume of proceedings as a special issue of « *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* » is the result of an agreement reached in 1973 by the Organizing Committee of the International Symposium on Multiple Pregnancy, held in Warsaw in the Fall of 1972, and the Mendel Institute of Rome.

The following, however, are not the full proceedings of this symposium: in fact, a group of papers — mainly related to growth problems and not necessarily to twin studies, but also including papers that, by any reason, could not be introduced in the present volume — have been the object of a separate agreement and are to be published by another journal.

As reflected by the title given to this volume, in arranging the various sections of the original program of the symposium and the order of the papers, emphasis was laid on the multiple pregnancy as a high-risk pregnancy and on the special care that may be needed by twins in their postnatal development. These are, in fact, very practical and fundamental aspects of the problem of twins per se, on which relatively little has been published so far, especially as compared to the extensive literature available on the different applications of twin studies in human genetics and the experimental science.

An effort was made to have these proceedings be entirely published in English, so as to grant them a wider audience.

The authors of the few articles originally submitted in German or French kindly agreed to have them translated in English.

The references in Polish, Czech, Hungarian, or other languages not easily accessible to the Western reader, were generally translated in English, with the original language being indicated in parentheses.

The authors' institutions, towns, and countries, have generally been indicated in English in the headings of the title pages (the full addresses being given at the end of each paper). For certain towns, the original name was kept, such as in the case of Wroclaw and Bytom, for instance, the Webster's International Dictionary listing no English equivalent, even if their German equivalents, Breslau and Beuthen, might appear more familiar to the Western reader. In the case of Gdansk, however, the English widely known equivalent, Danzig, as listed in the Webster's Dictionary, was adopted.

An effort was also made to achieve editorial consistency, clarity and conciseness of style, so as to avoid redundancy, simplify and emphasize the presentation of relevant information, and make it more immediately available even to the hasty reader.

Rather than following the common practice of providing an individual list for each paper, all references have been listed together, alphabetically, at the end of the volume. This was aimed to stress the unitary character of the various contributions and simplify reference work, while at the same time avoiding continuous repetitions (quite a few references being common to most papers) and simplifying the publishing process.

A most cordial acknowledgment is due to authors for their kind cooperation and infinite patience.

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