

PREFACE

The First International Congress of Twin Studies was conceived as closing the year of the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the Mendel Institute of Rome - the year which opened with the Congress of Neurogenetics, 25-28 September 1973. In fact, the Mendel Institute was inaugurated on 6-7 September 1953, and with a Symposium on Twin Studies.

Meanwhile, *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae*, our international journal which preceded the Institute's foundation, has become twenty-two years old. It is the only journal officially devoted to the study of twins in the field of genetics, and it has served as a stimulus and point of reference to those who have carried forward the research which has eventually led to the present Congress.

The significance of this Congress depends not only on its novelty, but especially on the number and quality of scientific contributions, as shown by the reports listed on the program. The present special issue of our journal contains the abstracts of these contributions, coming from 27 countries and which together constitute a panorama of knowledge at once rich and stimulating.

In presenting it to the members of the Congress and the subscribers to *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae*, I express the hope that it will be a useful tool for the Congress to leave behind it, and in order to prepare for the future of twin studies. I particularly wish to thank Professor Paolo Parisi, the Secretary General of the Congress and the Acting Editor of the journal, who saw to its preparation and editing.

Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae, which is about to come out with two single numbers respectively dedicated to the Proceedings of a Warsaw Symposium on Multiple Pregnancy (1972) and the Rome Neurogenetics Congress (1973), joins the Organizing Committee in wishing the Congress a pleasant stay and fruitful results.

LUIGI GEDDA

Rome, October 1974

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF TWIN STUDIES

Rome: 28 October - 2 November 1974

Sponsored and Organized by:

THE GREGOR MENDEL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL GENETICS
AND TWIN RESEARCH

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Finland	Italy	USA
France	Japan	USSR

Seat of the Congress:

The National Research Council (CNR), Convention Hall
and The Mendel Institute

Opening Session at the Capitol, Hall of the Horatii and Curiatii

Contents

TWINS IN NATURE, SCIENCE, AND SOCIETY

- 11** Luigi Gedda (Rome, Italy):
Twins in Nature, Science, and Society

THE TWINNING PHENOMENON

1. *Twins and Culture*

- 12** B. de Rachewiltz, P. Parisi, V. Castellani (Basel, Switzerland, and Rome, Italy):
Twins in Our Cultural Heritage: Myth and Religion
- 12** F. Leroy (Brussels, Belgium):
Attitudes towards Twinning among Primitive Societies
- ### 2. *The Demography of the Twinning Phenomenon*
- 13** M. G. Bulmer (Oxford, England):
Is Weinberg's Method Valid?
- 13** A. W. Eriksson (Amsterdam, Netherlands):
Retrospective Studies of the Twinning Rate in Scandinavia
- 14** P. Propping, J. Krüger (Heidelberg, German Federal Republic):
Twinning Frequencies in Baden-Württemberg according to Parental Age and Birth Order.
Comparison between 1955-59 and 1968-72
- 14** M. T. Adamoli-Lun, L. Ciacci, E. Conti (Rome, Italy):
Variations of Twinning Frequencies in Italy in the Past Twenty Years

3. *The Biology and Pathology of the Twinning Phenomenon*

- 15** H. Lutz (Clermont, France):
Biology of the Twinning Phenomenon: Embryogenesis and Teratogenesis
- 15** A. Aurias, J. Lejeune (Paris, France):
Monozygotic Heterocaryotic Twinning
- 15** G. B. Callahan (Waukegan, Illinois, USA):
Conjoined (Siamese) Twins — Remediable Congenital Handicap
- 16** S. Ubolcholket (Songkla, Thailand):
Frequency of Thoraco-Omphalopagus Conjoined Twins
- 16** Bl. P. Konstantinova (Sofia, Bulgaria):
Morphologic and Cytogenetic Studies on Conjoined Twins
- 17** N. C. Myrianthopoulos, B. de la Burd  (Bethesda, Maryland,
and Richmond, Virginia, USA):
A Case of Conjoined Twins

- 17 R. Foglmann (Copenhagen, Denmark):
Monoamniotic Twins
- 17 S. A. Rhine, W. E. Nance, J. R. Melin, C. E. Skidmore (Indianapolis, Indiana, USA):
Familial Twinning: A Possible Example of Superfetation in Man
- 18 L. Gedda, O. Russo, M. Capone (Rome, Italy):
Heredity of Twinning in Families of MZ Twins
- 18 R. P. Martynova, E. T. Lillyn (Novosibirsk and Moscow, USSR):
The Study of Multiple Birth Factors in the Families of Twins
- 19 O. Bomsel-Helmreich (Jouy-en-Josas, France):
Delayed Ovulation and Monozygotic Twinning in the Rabbit
- 19 M. Pezzani (Ceprano, Frosinone, Italy):
Triplet Pregnancy after Treatment with Clomiphene Acetate in a Subfertile Woman

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY OF TWIN STUDIES

- 20 G. Allen (Bethesda, Maryland, USA):
Scope and Methodology of Twin Studies
- 20 G. Brenci (Rome, Italy):
Applications and Perspectives of Twin Studies in Population Genetics
- 20 L. L. Mai (Los Angeles, California, USA):
Down's Syndrome in Twins: Lack of Evidence for Independence of Nondisjunction and Dizygotic Twinning
- 21 A. R. Jensen (Berkeley, California, USA):
The Problem of Genotype x Environment Covariance in the Estimation of Heritability from MZ and DZ Twins
- 21 R. S. Wilson (Louisville, Kentucky, USA):
Analysis of Twin Data and Estimation of Heritability Effects
- 22 W. E. Nance (Indianapolis, Indiana, USA):
Genetic Studies of the Offspring of Identical Twins: *A Model for the Analysis of Quantitative Inheritance in Man*
- 23 U. de Faire, T. Lundman (Stockholm, Sweden):
Death Discordant Twins. *A New Method to Evaluate Genetic Factors in Chronic Diseases*
- 23 L. Gedda, M. Milani-Comparetti, E. D'Alessandro (Rome, Italy):
"Equivocalness" and Other Empirical Methods in Zygosity Assessment
- 23 I. Bhargava (Ahwaz, Iran):
Blood Vessels of the Twin Placenta in Relation to Zygosity
- 24 M. Feinleib, J. C. Christian, N. O. Borhani, R. Rosenman, R. J. Garrison, J. Wagner, W. B. Kannel, Z. Hrubec, J. T. Schwartz (Bethesda, Maryland; Indianapolis, Indiana; Davis and San Francisco, California, USA; and Stockholm, Sweden):
The National Heart and Lung Institute Twin Study of Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors: Organization and Methodology

THE COTWIN METHOD AND EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE

- 25 R. Cederlöf (Stockholm, Sweden):
The Cotwin Method and Experimental Science
- 25 M. Myrhed, B. Floderus (Stockholm, Sweden):
Alcohol Consumption in Relation to Variables Associated with Ischemic Heart Disease:
A Cotwin Control Study
- 26 J. T. Schwartz (Bethesda, Maryland, USA):
A Monozygotic Cotwin Control Study of a Treatment for Myopia
- 26 P. Camner (Stockholm, Sweden):
Tracheobronchial Clearance in MZ and DZ Twins Exposed to Environmental Agents

TWIN STUDIES IN HUMAN GENETICS

- 27 H. Suzuki (Tokyo, Japan):
Significance of Secular Bodily Changes of the Japanese from the Viewpoint of a Twin Study
- 27 R. S. Wilson (Louisville, Kentucky, USA):
Twins: Genetic Effects on Physical Growth from Birth to Four Years
- 28 N. O. Borhani, M. Feinleib, R. J. Garrison, J. C. Christian, R. Rosenman (Davis and San Francisco, California; Bethesda, Maryland; and Indianapolis, Indiana, USA):
Detection of Genetic Variance in Blood Pressure: The National Heart and Lung Institute Twin Study
- 28 J. C. Christian, M. Feinleib, S. B. Hulley, W. P. Castelli, R. R. Fabsitz, R. J. Garrison, N. O. Borhani, R. H. Rosenman, J. Wagner (Indianapolis, Indiana; Bethesda, Maryland; and Davis and San Francisco, California, USA):
Genetics of Plasma Cholesterol and Triglycerides: *A Study of Adult Male Twins*
- 29 D. Hewitt, J. Milner, C. Breckenridge, A. J. Little (Toronto, Canada):
A Twin Study on the Heritability of Lipoprotein Fractions
- 29 M. Milani-Comparetti, F. Saccucci (Ancona and Rome, Italy):
Plasma Protein Variability in MZ Twins
- 30 T. Ohtsuki, V. Klissouras (Tokyo, Japan, and Montreal, Canada):
Genetic Basis of Individual Differences in Tissue Composition
- 30 C. Baeriswyl, Y. Lüthi, H. Claassen, H. Moesch, V. Klissouras, H. Howald (Magglingen, Switzerland):
Ultrastructural and Enzymatic Differences in Skeletal Muscle of Twins
- 30 D. P. Pace, F. Saccucci, F. Britti, D. Casini (Ancona and Rome, Italy):
Distribution of Blood Groups, Salivary Blood-Group Substances, and Natural Antibodies in a Sample of MZ Twins
- 31 C. C. Plato, J. T. Schwartz, W. Wertelecki (Bethesda and Baltimore, Maryland; and Charleston, South Carolina, USA):
Dermatoglyphic Investigations in Twins and Siblings
- 31 C. C. Plato, W. Wertelecki, J. T. Schwartz (Bethesda and Baltimore, Maryland; and Charleston, South Carolina, USA):
Normal and Aberrant Palmar Creases in Twins and Siblings

- 32 H. W. Kloepfer, P. Parisi (New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, and Rome, Italy):
Penetrance of Gene for Absent c-Triradius from MZ Twins
- 32 J. T. Schwartz, F. H. Reuling, M. Feinleib (Bethesda, Maryland, USA):
Heritability Study on Size of the Physiologic Cup of the Optic Nerve Head

TWIN STUDIES IN BEHAVIOR GENETICS

- 33 L. Jarvik (Los Angeles, California, USA):
Twin Studies and Human Behavior
1. *Cognitive Processes*
- 33 J. A. Böök (Uppsala, Sweden):
Biology of Human Intelligence
- 34 J. M. Horn, J. C. Loehlin, L. Willerman (Austin, Texas, USA):
Nature-Nurture and Intelligence: The Twin and Adoption Studies Agree
- 35 R. S. Wilson (Louisville, Kentucky, USA):
Twins: Cognitive Patterning and Development as Measured on the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence
- 35 A. P. Matheny, Jr., A. B. Dolan, R. S. Wilson (Louisville, Kentucky, USA):
Twins: Concordance in Infant Development as Measured on Piaget-Type Scale
- 35 W. De Coster, J. Lerou, C. Dutoit, M. De Zutter, R. Derom, M. Thiery (Ghent, Belgium):
Psychological Follow-up Study in Twins from Birth to Five Years
2. *Personality Development*
- 36 F. X. Barron, P. Parisi (Santa Cruz, California, USA, and Rome, Italy):
A Twin Study of Creativity and Esthetic and Emotional Experiences
- 37 C. Candelori, A. Oliverio-Ferraris, P. Parisi (Rome, Italy):
The Role of Genetic Factors in the Child Drawing Behavior. *A Preliminary Twin Study*
- 37 A. P. Matheny, Jr., A. B. Dolan, R. S. Wilson (Louisville, Kentucky, USA):
Twins: Relationships between Characteristic Behaviors and Mental Status during Infancy
- 37 R. H. Rosenman, R. H. Rahe, N. O. Borhani, M. Feinleib (San Francisco, San Diego, and Davis, California; and Bethesda, Maryland, USA):
Heritability of Personality and Behavior Patterns and Their Correlations with Risk Factors for Coronary Heart Disease
3. *Mental Disorders*
- 38 I. I. Gottesman, J. Shields, L. L. Heston (Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, and London, England):
Characteristics of the Twins of Schizophrenics as Fallible Indicators of Schizoidia
- 38 L. Mosher (Rockville, Maryland, USA):
Etiological Implications of Studies of Identical Twins Discordant for Schizophrenia
- 39 H. Mitsuda, T. Sakai (Osaka-Takatsuki, Japan):
Nosological Classification of Endogenous Psychoses Viewed from Twin Survey
- 39 H. Schepank (Heidelberg, German Federal Republic):
Heredity and Environmental Factors in the Development of Psychogenic Diseases

- 40 L. Braconi (Rome, Italy):
Gene Interaction in the Phenotypic Expression of Mental Diseases. *A Twin and Family Study*
- 40 C. E. Boklage (Manhattan, Kansas, USA):
A Neglected Element in Twin-Study Genetics of Human Mental Development

TWIN STUDIES IN MEDICAL AND CLINICAL GENETICS

- 42 P. Propping, F. Vogel (Heidelberg, German Federal Republic):
Twin Studies in Medical Genetics
- 42 L. Gedda (Rome, Italy):
Twin Studies in Clinical Genetics (The Clinical Twin Method)
- 43 M. Lévy, B. Noël, D. Viola (Metz, France):
Wolf's Syndrome in Twins - Balanced Translocation in the Mother
- 43 W. W. Greulich (Stanford, California, USA):
A Case of Mongolism (Down's Syndrome) in Both Members of a Pair of DZ Female Twins Who Were Studied at Ten and at Forty-Three Years of Age
- 43 Z. Papp (Debrecen, Hungary):
Down's Syndrome in Twins
- 44 G. Del Porto, M. L. Tombolini (L'Aquila and Rome, Italy):
A Screening of Malformations in Twins
- 44 U. de Faire (Stockholm, Sweden):
Ischemic Heart Disease in Death Discordant Twins. *A Study on 205 Male and Female Pairs with Special Reference to Hereditary Factors*
- 44 I. Liljefors (Stockholm, Sweden):
Coronary Heart Disease in Male Twins. Seven-Year Follow-up of Discordant Pairs
- 45 T. Goecke, W. Grote (Düsseldorf, German Federal Republic):
Metabolic Research in MZ Twins with Diabetes Mellitus. *Progress Report*
- 45 M. Horiuchi (Tokyo, Japan):
A Genetic Study on Deaf Twins
- 45 J. L. Karlsson (Napa, California, USA):
Genetic Factors in Myopia
- 46 R. Barbati-Crouzet (Rome, Italy):
A Few Remarks on an Oculistic and Orthoptic Screening of Sixty MZ Twin Pairs

TWIN STUDIES AND CHRONOGENETICS

- 47 L. Gedda, G. Brenci (Rome, Italy):
Twins as a Natural Test of Chronogenetics
- 47 A. Reinberg (Paris, France):
Recent Advances in Chronobiology
- 48 P. R. J. Burch (Leeds, England):
Twin Studies in Relation to the Mechanisms of Age-Dependent Disease

- 48 C. Rossi (Rome, Italy):
Fiduciality, Redundance, and Selection
- 48 C. Rossi (Rome, Italy):
Variability of Information's Quantity as Starting Ergon Parameter
- 48 Z. Hrubec, J. V. Neel (Stockholm, Sweden):
Twin Concordances in the United States for Early Mortality and Their Variation with Zygosity
- 49 Z. Hrubec, U. Lorich, U. de Faire, T. Lundman (Stockholm, Sweden):
Twin Concordances in Sweden for Mortality and Their Variation with Zygosity
- 49 A. Bellacicco (Rome, Italy):
Techniques and Problems of Dynamic Features Identification in Human Population Parameters with a Special Reference to the Serial Analysis of Infant Mortality
- 50 G. Del Porto, E. D'Alessandro, G. Brenci (L'Aquila and Rome, Italy):
Chronogenetics of Muscular Dystrophy
- 50 R. Cavalieri, G. Orsi, S. Zecca, M. Romano (Rome, Italy):
A Chronogenetic Approach to Psoriasis
- 50 S. O'Reilly, A. S. Dekaban, R. Aamodt, W. F. Rumble, G. S. Johnston (Washington, D.C., and Bethesda, Maryland, USA):
Wilson's Disease and Menkes' Disease—A Contrast in Chronogenetics
- 51 L. Gedda, G. Del Porto, B. Di Tonto (Rome and L'Aquila, Italy):
Time-Dependent Electrolytic Rate in Twins
- 51 R. S. Wilson (Louisville, Kentucky, USA):
Twin Chronogenetics: Evidence for Trends in Early Mental Development and Physical Growth
- 51 A. B. Dolan, A. P. Matheny, Jr., R. S. Wilson (Louisville, Kentucky, USA):
Twins: Concordance for Changes in Hair Color and Eye Color during Early Childhood
- 52 L. Gedda, G. Brenci, R. Cazora (Rome, Italy):
Chronogenetic Meaning of Fetal Membranes in Twinning
- 52 L. Gedda, G. Brenci (Rome, Italy):
Fertility and Life Span in *Drosophila melanogaster* according to Maternal Age

SCIENCE FOR TWINS/TWINS FOR SCIENCE

1. *Multiple Pregnancy, Neonatal Development, and Twin Care*

- 53 F. Leroy (Brussels, Belgium):
Obstetrical Problems Pertaining to Multiple Pregnancy
- 53 I. Leetz (Berlin, German Democratic Republic):
Twin Pregnancy as a High-Risk Pregnancy: *New Medical Statistical Data from the German Democratic Republic*
- 54 M. Bolognesi (Rome, Italy):
Duration and Complications of Multiple Pregnancies
- 54 R. Derom, M. Thiery (Ghent, Belgium):
Intrauterine Hypoxia — A Phenomenon Proper to the Second Twin

- 55 U. Abdulla (Liverpool, England):
Early Diagnosis and Follow-up of Twin Pregnancy Using a Two-Dimensional Ultrasonic Scanner
- 55 G. L. Cetrulo, R. K. Freeman (Los Angeles, California, USA):
Ritodrine HCl for the Prevention of Premature Labor in Twin Pregnancies
- 55 M. Pezzani (Ceprano, Frosinone, Italy):
A Case of Simultaneous Interstitial Bilateral Pregnancy
- 56 E. Papiernik, L. Gerard, A. M. Hult, L. Schneider (Clamart, France):
Hypothesis of an Ovular Regulation of Pregnancy Weight-Gain
- 56 B. Le Marec, M. Cherel, J. Le Frêche, J. Sénécal (Rennes, France):
Physical and Intellectual Evolution of MZ Cotwins with Discordant Birth Weight
- 56 M. Nathan, E. Lwow, R. Guttman, A. Schnabl (Kiryat Tivon, Israel):
Type of Twinning in Its Relationship to Neurological Deficits, Cognitive Abilities, and Birth Weight
- 57 A. Alfieri, I. Gatti (Rome, Italy):
Weight Increase of Twins and Singletons in the First Year of Age
- 57 N. C. Myrianthopoulos (Bethesda, Maryland, USA):
Congenital Malformations in Twins
- 58 L. Keith, E. R. Brown, B. Ames, M. Stotsky, D. M. Keith (Chicago, Illinois, USA):
Ante- and Postnatal Factors Affecting Leukemia in Twins

2. *Twin Psychology*

- 58 R. Zazzo (Paris, France):
The Twin Condition and the Couple Effects on Personality Development
- 59 S. Cirillo (Milan, Italy):
The Process of Identity in Twins
- 59 M. Colnaghi (Milan, Italy):
Within-Pair Relations in MZ and DZ Female Twins
- 59 P. Mittler (Manchester, England):
The Language Development of Twins
- 60 G. Levi, P. Bernabei (Rome, Italy):
Specific Language Disorders in Twins during Childhood
- 60 N. C. Myrianthopoulos, P. L. Nichols, S. H. Broman (Bethesda, Maryland, USA):
Intellectual Development of Twins — Comparison with Singletons
- 60 R. S. Wilson (Louisville, Kentucky, USA):
Twins: Mental Development during Infancy and the Preschool Years
- 61 F. Cacciaguerra (Milan, Italy):
Relational Behaviors and Body Image in Twins
- 61 P. Bernabei, G. Levi (Rome, Italy):
Psychopathologic Problems in Twins during Childhood
- 62 P. Bonanni, R. Tatarelli (Rome, Italy):
Psychopedagogic Counseling for Twins and Twin Families

3. *Twin Centers, Organizations, and Records: Better Information, Standardization, and Cooperation*

- 62 P. Parisi (Rome, Italy):
Twin Institutes: From the Mendel Institute in Rome to the Gedda Institute in Jerusalem
- 63 M. Milani-Comparetti (Ancona, Italy):
Twin Registers
- 63 L. and L. Rowe (Chicago, Illinois, USA):
The International Twins Association (ITA)
- 63 J. E. Maxey (Marion, Iowa, USA):
The Threefold Cord of Mothers of Twins Clubs
- 64 J. Dojutrek (Chicago, Illinois, USA):
A Dream Come True: The Illinois Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs
- 64 H. Kirk Lauve (Galveston, Texas, USA):
Supertwin Record ("*Bits 'bout Multiples*")
- 65 L. Gedda, P. Parisi (Rome, Italy):
Twin Studies, Twin Care, and International Cooperation