

Guest Editorial

Welcome to this special feature of *Twin Research* published in recognition of the Melbourne Multiple Pregnancy Conference.

The idea for the conference originated during a conversation with Elizabeth Bryan and Ronald Higgins and I wish to thank them for their suggestion. In my initial planning for the conference I anticipated several dozen Australian researchers would meet informally between the London and Odense congresses. Interest in the idea flourished and more than 250 Australian and international delegates attended the 2-day conference in February 2003. Many disciplines were represented and attendees included childbirth educators, epidemiologists, geneticists, medical scientists, medical students, midwives, representatives of multiple birth associations, obstetricians, pediatricians, pediatric nurses, parents of multiples, pathologists, psychiatrists and psychologists.

The conference presentations covered all of these disciplines in a busy and exciting weekend that received extensive media coverage. The outstanding feature of the weekend was the level of interaction between representatives of these disciplines.

Nick Martin has kindly offered to publish a selection of papers from the proceedings. In choosing the articles to publish I consulted widely among those who attended the conference. The articles were chosen as a reflection of the diversity of the readership of this journal, because of the calibre of the authors and the quality of the presentations at the conference. The nature of this special feature necessitates the inclusion of review articles, new research and occasionally an anthology of material presented elsewhere.

The sponsorship of Mayne Health needs to be recognised without whose assistance neither the conference nor this issue would have eventuated. My gratitude is extended to Nick Martin for suggesting and supporting this special issue and to all of the contributors who made the conference a success. To Elizabeth Bryan, Ronald Higgins, Donald Keith, Louis Keith and Isaac Blickstein I extend special thanks for making the long journey to Australia.

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Guest Editor

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