

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TWIN STUDIES

Società Internazionale di Studi Gemellari | *Société Internationale d'Etudes Gémellaires* | *Internationale Gesellschaft für Zwillingsforschung*

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TWIN STUDIES

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the First International Congress on Twin Studies (Rome: 28 October - 2 November 1974) and Establishment of the International Society for Twin Studies

Friday 1 November 1974, 18:30-19:30

Congress members convened in the Main Hall of the Mendel Institute, in order to discuss the problems of organization and cooperation in twin studies. Halls II and III, connected to the Main Hall through closed-circuit television, were opened to observers.

The chair was taken by Dr. Gedda, with Dr. Keith as Secretary, both being members of the panel of the final session of the Congress ('Science for Twins / Twins for Science'), of which this Business Meeting was the natural conclusion.

The Meeting was opened by the Secretary General of the Organizing Committee, Dr. Parisi, who reported on the Congress works and achievements stressing its wide representativeness, both in geographic and scientific terms, the increasing impact of twin studies on most branches of medicine and biology, and the consequent need for an appropriate international organization and cooperation. He therefore moved that an international organization for twin studies be established. Dr. Parisi's motion, seconded by Dr. Allen, was voted and unanimously approved by the Assembly.

Dr. Gedda moved that a Working Group be appointed, in order to discuss the details and produce a draft of structure for such an organization to submit to the Assembly at the Closing

Session of the Congress. The members of the panels of the various Congress sessions were requested to sit into this Working Group, together with a representative of the Organizing Committee.

Dr. Gedda's motion was seconded, voted, and unanimously approved. The following Congress members were therefore called upon:

G. Allen	Z. Hrubec
F. Barron	L. Keith
Jan A. Böök	H. W. Kloepfer
N.O. Borhani	H. Lutz
M.G. Bulmer	S. O'Reilly
P.R.J. Burch	P. Propping
G.B. Callahan	A. Reinberg
R. Cederlöf	T. Sakai
A.W. Eriksson	H. Suzuki
L. Gedda	M. Thiery
W.W. Greulich	R.S. Wilson
J.M. Horn	R. Zazzo

Out of the above, the following were present and willing to sit in the Working Group, with Dr. Feinleib having been appointed as a substitute for Dr. Borhani, and Dr. Milani-Comparetti as a representative of the Organizing Committee:

G. Allen (Bethesda, MD, USA)
F. Barron (Santa Cruz, CA, USA)
J.A. Böök (Uppsala, Sweden)
A.W. Eriksson (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
M. Feinleib (Bethesda, MD, USA)
W.W. Greulich (Stanford, CA, USA)
J. Horn (Austin, TX, USA)
Z. Hrubec (Stockholm, Sweden)
L. Keith (Chicago, IL, USA)
M. Milani-Comparetti (Ancona, Italy)
A. Reinberg (Paris, France)
M. Thiery (Ghent, Belgium)
R. Zazzo (Paris, France)

The Working Group convened immediately in Hall II of the Mendel Institute, and the Business Meeting was adjourned at the Closing Session, Saturday 2 November at 10:30.

Saturday 2 November 1974, 10:30-12:00

The session was opened by Dr. Gedda, who turned the chair over to the representative of the Working Group, Dr. Keith. The latter asked Dr. Milani-Comparetti to read the following report.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROPOSED SOCIETY

Twin research has progressed and expanded over all traditional branches of study and has included new areas of application. Additional research and appropriate social action are needed to deal with the problems related to high-risk multiple pregnancy, postnatal twin development, twin psychology and education, and the various interactions between twins and their environment. It is therefore appropriate to support these activities by forming a multidisciplinary organization.

An international society for twin studies shall be established, and regular congresses convened every three 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, shall be published.

Newsletters shall be circulated to promote better information and cooperation, and stimulate standardization and research integration.

Special working groups shall be formed, to work on such problems as:

1. *Multiple Pregnancy as a High-Risk Pregnancy*
2. *Twin Neonatology and Pediatrics*
3. *Twin Psychology and Education*
4. *Standardization in Twin Research and Methodology*
5. *Twin Registers*
6. *Relations with Twins and Mothers of Twins*
7. *Information*
8. *Founding Programs*

The name of the society shall be "International Society for Twin Studies". A statement of

goals of the Society will be published. The Society shall have both individual and collective membership.

A board of officers of the Society shall be elected by the Business Meeting of the First Congress as follows: (1) a President; (2) five Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall represent the Associations of Twins and of Mothers of Twins; (3) a Secretary General; (4) a Chairman of the Constitutional Committee; (5) a Chairman of the Membership Committee; and (6) a Chairman of the Committee on Working Groups.

The officers shall carry out the goals of the Society, including the promotion of the founding of local, national, and or regional societies, and shall prepare the Statutes. They shall convene the Second International Congress of Twin Studies within three years.

The full members of the First International Congress of Twin Studies shall be the Founding Members of the Society. The Chairman of the Membership Committee is invited to submit provisions whereby Founding Membership may be extended to colleagues who were unable to attend the Congress.

The Journal, Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae, shall be the official Journal of the Society.

Dr. Kloepfer moved that the Assembly votes to approve the Report of the Working Group. Dr. Kloepfer's motion, seconded by Dr. Cetrulo, was voted and unanimously approved.

Dr. Milani-Comparetti was further requested by Dr. Keith to present to the Assembly the following Slate of Officers of the Society, as proposed by the Working Group:

NOMINATION FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

In view of the adoption of the resolutions proposed by the Working Group to the Business Meeting of the Congress, the Working Group adopted a slate of officers as nominees for the Business Meeting to vote upon. Other nominations would obviously be accepted.

The proposed Slate of Officers is as follows:

Dr. Luigi Gedda as President;

Drs. Gordon Allen, Jan A. Böök, Hisatoshi Mitsuda, René Zazzo, and Mrs. Joyce Maxey, as Vice-Presidents;

Dr. Paolo Parisi as Secretary General;

Dr. Manning Feinleib as Chairman of the Membership Committee;

Dr. Marco Milani-Comparetti as Chairman of the Constitutional Committee;

Dr. Louis Keith as Chairman of the Committee on Working Groups.

For each individual position, Dr. Keith asked whether there were any other nominees from the floor. No other nominees were presented. Dr. Abdulla moved that the Assembly adopt the Slate of Officers prepared by the Working Group. Dr. Abdulla's motion, seconded by Dr. Wilson, was voted and unanimously approved. At this point, Dr. Keith invited Dr. Gedda, as the newly elected President of the Society, to take the chair.

Dr. Gedda expressed his gratefulness to Dr. Keith, the Working Group, and the Assembly, and stressed the importance of a closer and closer cooperation for the benefit of the Society and of twin studies in general. He then invited Dr. Parisi to act as Secretary of the Session, and opened the general discussion.

Dr. Allen moved that the officers of the Society be empowered to take appropriate legal actions to incorporate the Society in a country and/or city which they find appropriate. Dr. Allen's motion, duly seconded, was voted and unanimously approved.

Dr. Reinberg moved that the title of the final session of the Congress, "Science for Twins/Twins for Science", be adopted as the official devise of the Society. Dr. Reinberg's motion, duly seconded, was voted and unanimously approved. Dr. Feinleib expressed the feelings of gratefulness of the Assembly to the organizers of the First Congress and suggested that the Second Congress be held in the United States.

Dr. Nance proposed Indianapolis, Indiana, as the site for the Second Congress.

Dr. Parisi expressed in turn his gratefulness to the Assembly, both for the contribution given to the Congress and for his appointment as Secretary General of the Society, noting that he will endeavour to do his best for the latter's promotion and development.

He then thanked Dr. Nance for his kind invitation to hold the Second Congress at Indianapolis, and noted that no decision on the site of the next Congress could be made at such an early stage in the life of the Society: other invitations should be allowed to come, in order to enable the officers of the Society to make their best choice.

Dr. Parisi further presented the draft of a document worked out by a group of obstetricians present at the Congress, stressing the risks of multiple pregnancies and the importance of early diagnosis, and calling for appropriate action. A general discussion followed concerning the position to be taken by the Society on the subject. It was eventually agreed that the Chairman of the Committee on Working Groups be urged to establish a Working Group on Multiple Pregnancy as a High-Risk Pregnancy. The present draft would be used as a basis for the final document to be issued.

Dr. Gedda assured the Assembly that all efforts will be done and any necessary steps be taken towards the establishment and development of the Society along the lines just defined, through a close cooperation among its officers, who will keep in close contact with all members. He renewed the expression of his gratefulness to the Assembly and of his confidence in future developments and cooperation. With a good-bye until the next Congress, Dr. Gedda then declared the First International Congress of Twin Studies officially closed.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TWIN STUDIES

Constitution

1. *Definition and Scope*

The International Society for Twin Studies is an international, multidisciplinary organization, established with the purpose of furthering research and social action in all fields related to twin studies, for the mutual benefit of twins and their families, and of scientific research.

2. *Membership*

The Society has three categories of members:

(1) *Fellows*: elected by the Board upon application and endorsement by two fellows of the Society, and requiring significant personal contributions in the field of twin research or related activities. The full members of the First International Congress of Twin Studies — founding members of the Society — shall be immediately eligible for Fellowship. Fellows may hold office in the Society.

(2) *Members*: individuals with an interest in the Society, such as twins, parents of twins, and professional and nonprofessional persons with interests in twin research: they are passed on by the Membership Committee upon application. Members are not eligible to hold office in the Society.

(3) *Collective Members*: groups such as Twins Clubs and Mothers-of-Twins Clubs, which are organized at a State or broader level. They are passed on by the Board upon application. They are entitled to send one or two delegates to business meetings of the Society and are entitled to one vote. The delegates may hold office.

3. *Governing Body*

The Society shall be governed between Congresses by a Board elected by the General Assembly as follows:

(1) a President;

(2) five Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall represent the Collective Members;

(3) a Secretary General;

(4) a Chairman of the Membership Committee;

(5) a Chairman of the Committee on Working Groups;

(6) a Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

The immediate past President is also a member of the Board.

The Board shall:

(a) carry out the goals of the Society and the decisions of the General Assembly;

(b) appoint the members of the Committees upon the recommendation of the respective Chairmen;

(c) approve the establishment or the termination of the Working Groups and receive their annual reports;

(d) convene the International Congress approximately every three years;

(e) convene extraordinary General Assemblies upon the written request of at least 20% of the voting members of the Society;

(f) sponsor and coordinate smaller regional or national meetings, symposia, and societies;

(g) elect Fellows and Collective Members of the Society, upon the recommendation of the Membership Committee;

(h) ratify expulsions from the Society;

(i) receive and prepare drafts for Constitutional Amendments.

Decisions of the Board shall be taken by simple majority vote of the attending members or, if voting by mail, by simple majority of the respondents, provided that the number attending or responding shall be at least 6.

The Board may appoint new members to fill vacancies.

The Board shall be convened by the President at least once a year, or in lieu of meeting, shall be appraised by mail of all relevant matters and asked to vote needed decisions.

4. *President*

The President of the Society shall:

(a) represent the Society;

(b) convene the meetings of the Board;

(c) preside over the meetings of the Board and

the General Assembly.

Should the President be unable to carry out his duties, these shall be transferred to the Vice-Presidents in order of decreasing age. The President may not succeed himself.

5. *Secretary General*

The Secretary General of the Society shall:

- (a) carry out the decisions of the Board;
- (b) conduct the correspondence of the Society;
- (c) administer the funds of the Society and submit an annual financial statement to the Board;
- (d) supervise the business offices of the Society.

6. *Membership Committee*

The Membership Committee shall:

- (a) promote membership in the Society;
- (b) review and propose new Fellows and Collective Members;
- (c) elect new Members;
- (d) propose expulsions from the Society (by unanimous vote, to be ratified by the Board).

7. *Committee on Working Groups*

The Committee on Working Groups shall:

- (a) submit to the Board the proposals for the establishment of Working Groups;
- (b) appoint the members of approved Working Groups;
- (c) coordinate and oversee the activities of the Working Groups;
- (d) receive the reports of the Working Groups and submit them to the annual meeting of the Board, together with recommendations.

8. *Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee shall request and receive nominations for election of new Officers.

9. *General Assembly*

The General Assembly of the Society shall be held approximately every third year, on the occasion of the International Congress of Twin Studies (not before its third day).

All members of the Society may attend the Assembly. Each Fellow or Collective Member has one vote. Absent voting members may designate other voting members as proxies. No voting member may hold more than two proxies.

The General Assembly shall elect the Board of the Society by secret ballot.

Nominations for each office of the Society may be suggested in writing by members to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee prior to the day designated for the General Assembly. Nominations for the office of Vice-President representing Collective members may be submitted only by Collective members.

Except for constitutional amendments, the General Assembly shall vote by simple majority of voting members present or represented, provided that a minimum of 20% of voting members be present or represented.

Constitutional amendments must be presented in writing to the Board, and be approved by a two-thirds majority in either a mail ballot or a General Assembly vote.

10. *Membership Fees*

Membership fees are determined by the General Assembly, upon recommendations made by the Secretary General and the Membership Committee.

11. *Temporary Clause*

For the first three-year period, a Constitutional Committee charged with the formulation of the Statutes and by-laws of the Society, will exist in place of the Nominating Committee, incorporating its functions.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TWIN STUDIES

Categories of Members

The Society has three categories of members:

(1) Fellows

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Interest in the activities of the Society.
2. Significant personal contribution in the field of twin research or related activities.

PROCEDURE:

1. Completion of application for fellowship.
2. Endorsement by two Fellows of the Society.
3. Review by the Membership Committee.
4. Approval by the Board.

PRIVILEGES:

1. Entitled to receive literature and information disseminated by the Society.
2. Invited to attend meetings and congresses of the Society.
3. Entitled to vote at Business Meetings of the Society.
4. Eligible to hold an office in the Society.

ANNUAL DUES (1976-1977):

Option 1: US \$ 15.00.

Option 2: US \$ 45.00 (including yearly subscription to the Society's journal, "Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae", at a discounted rate).

(2) Members

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Interest in the activities of the Society.

PROCEDURE:

1. Completion of application for membership.
2. Approval by the Membership Committee.

PRIVILEGES:

1. Entitled to receive literature and information disseminated by the Society.
2. Invited to attend meetings and congresses of the Society.

ANNUAL DUES (1976-1977):

Option 1: US \$ 5.00.

Option 2: US \$ 35.00 (including yearly subscription to the Society's journal, "Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae", at a discounted rate).

(3) Collective Members

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Open to state, provincial, national, and international twin groups and parents-of-twins groups.

PROCEDURE:

1. Completion of application for collective membership, providing information about the nature of the group, its size and relation to the twins, and the procedure that will be used to appoint delegates.
2. Review by the Membership Committee.
3. Approval by the Board.

PRIVILEGES:

1. Entitled to receive literature and information disseminated by the Society.
2. Invited to send one or two delegates to represent the group at the Business Meetings of the Society. Each collective member will be entitled to one vote.
3. Delegates designated by collective members will be eligible to hold office in the Society.

ANNUAL DUES (1976-1977):

US \$ 45.00 (including yearly subscription to the Society's journal, "Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae", at a discounted rate).



international society for twin studies

APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP OR
 MEMBERSHIP

Name: Birth date: Sex:

Nationality: Mailing address:

Student; Scientist; Twin; Parent of Twins; Other:

Education (list degrees, years, and granting institutions):

Professional experience:

Present position:

Research interests:

Most significant publications: (if necessary append list):

Sponsors (only for fellowship): (1) (signature)

(2) (name) (signature)

APPLICATION FOR COLLECTIVE MEMBERSHIP (A copy of the Statutes, By-laws, and other relevant documents of the applicant organization should be appended to this form)

Name of Organization:

Level: Membership:
(State, National, etc.) (number and kinds)

Mailing address:

Activities (in general and with special respect to publications, promotion, and research):

Present officers:

Officer(s) in charge of relations with the Society:

Procedure that will be used to appoint delegates:

Application submitted by: on:
(name and signature)