



ICOMBO
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
Multiple Birth Organisations

Twins 2019

The 12th World Congress on
Twin Pregnancy
a Global Perspective & The 17th Congress of the
International Society
Twin Studies (ISTS)

Hong Kong SAR, China
28th - 30th, November 2019

twinscongress.org



News From Around The World

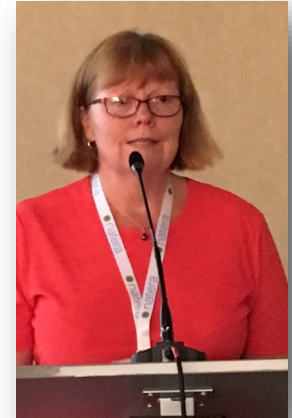
August 2019

Chairperson Report

Hello from Australia. As I am in the middle of winter many of you are experiencing some warm summer weather. I always find it interesting that our worlds are so different, in so many ways.

Life at ICOMBO continues – the Board had a meeting via Skype in April. Another interesting time as it was morning for some of us and evening for others. We worked on plans for the Workshop to be held on the first day of Congress. We aim to make this a worthwhile day for all who attend. Plans include learning more about our colleagues in other countries, how their organisations operate, and also discussing future activities for ICOMBO members.

The survey on School placement for multiples (to keep in same classroom or separate) has closed and Susan is working on analysing the responses. I thank Susan for all the work she is putting into this research, and also thank you to Marion and Lucila who assisted with translating the survey into French and Spanish.



Monica Rankin

Did you receive the link to the latest ISTS journal? It came out in early April. All Level One ICOMBO members should have received the email link. If you haven't received it, please let me know and I will follow up.

I recommend reading the article by Nancy Segal, she always writes about some interesting research and activities. This can be found on pages 70-74.



News, views and comments

[Performing Together: Monozygotic Twin Comedians/Twin research: Mirror-Image Cleft Lip and Palate; Dental Caries; Noninvasive Prenatal testing; Capgras Syndrome with Folie à Deux/In the News: Athletic Twins; Transgendered Twins; Crib-Sharing; Common Careers](#)

Nancy L. Segal

[Twin Research and Human Genetics, Volume 22 / Issue 1, February 2019, pp 70 - 74](#)
doi: 10.1017/thg.2018.74 Published Online on 11 February 2019

I hope to see many of you at Congress in late November. It's not too late to plan on joining us in Hong Kong for a chance to meet up with ICOMBO members from across the globe. If you are planning to join us in Hong Kong, please contact me at chair@icombo.org

Until next time,

Monica

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ICOMBO ON FACEBOOK

ICOMBO public Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalCouncilofMultipleBirthOrganisations?ref=hl>



We are gaining more interest from individuals around the world. Have you taken a look and “liked” the page? Do you have any information you would like to see posted on this page? If so, please contact Monica at chair@icombo.org

ICOMBO also has a members-only closed group on Facebook. The concept behind this group is so that members can discuss issues about their organisations with some privacy, rather than post comments and questions publicly. There are up to 4 or 5 individuals from each of our member groups who are members of this ICOMBO Facebook group.

For more information, please contact Monica at chair@icombo.org



We want to hear from you! Send us your organisation news, photos, and aims for 2019-20 so we can share your news with ICOMBO members around the globe.

Send information to: newsletter@icombo.org

Congress News from Monica:



I have booked flights to Hong Kong for myself and my husband John. We will be arriving on the evening of Tuesday 26 November and flying back home to Australia on the evening of Wednesday 4 December.

We are looking forward to reconnecting with “old friends” and meeting new ones. ICOMBO members have been given excellent rates and it is a great opportunity to meet with people from other multiple birth organisations, and to hear some excellent speakers talk about research, and health and medical issues relevant to multiples.

I believe this is the first time that ICOMBO speakers have been invited, and are listed on the website along with other scientific speakers. I am very excited about this, ICOMBO is now recognised as a worthwhile and relevant organisation. See below:

Canada	Hungary	USA	Italy
Maria Del Mar Gil Mra <i>Spain</i>	Susan Griffith <i>UK</i>	John Hopper <i>Australia</i>	Jon Hyett <i>Australia</i>
Kaushalya Jayaweera <i>Sri Lanka</i>	Mark Kilby <i>UK</i>	Eftichia Kontopoulos <i>USA</i>	Sailesh Kumar <i>Australia</i>
Caroline Lister <i>New Zealand</i>	Enrico Lopriore <i>The Netherlands</i>	Nick Martin <i>Australia</i>	Hamdi Mbarek <i>Qatar</i>
Sara Medland <i>Australia</i>	Anton Mikhailov <i>Russia</i>	Mike Neale <i>USA</i>	Anja Pinborg <i>Denmark</i>
Monica Rankin <i>Australia</i>	Bruno Reversade <i>Singapore</i>	Roberto Romero <i>USA</i>	Haruiko Sago <i>Japan</i>
Marc Seal <i>Australia</i>	Nancy Segal <i>USA</i>	Suresh Seshadri <i>India</i>	Claudio Stern <i>UK</i>

ICOMBO speakers

As I mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the ICOMBO Board is working on the program for the Workshop on Day One of the congress. Once it is finalised, we will circulate the information to all our members.

The 2019 Congress is being held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Registration for Congress is open:

https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=403365&_ga=2.14736438.10073853.1551075057-1281421285.1546664691

ACCOMMODATIONS:

The preferred congress hotel is: Courtyard by Marriott 1 On Ping Street Sha Tin New Territories

PLEASE NOTE: There are 2 hotels called Courtyard by Marriott in Hong Kong. You need to book at the one with this address. The congress is being held a little distance from the tourist centre of Hong Kong so it is best to stay at this hotel. I have been informed that there are special rates for congress attendees, and I have also been informed that the best rate is the senior rate, if you are over 62 years of age.

◆ Thursday 28th November

- **ICOMBO Workshop, 10:00 – 16:00**

- ◇ The ICOMBO Board is excited to announce that Kate Murphy from Twin Research Australia will be speaking at our workshop. Kate has been very involved with the production of the recently circulated discussion paper – Multiple Perspectives: What support do multiple birth families need to live happy and healthy lives? It is hoped that the paper will generate discussion within the research community and lead to further research into important areas for multiple birth families. Kate will be able to discuss some of the findings of the paper and we may be able to use the information to guide our future research activities. It is an exciting time to be working so closely with the research community.

- **Opening Ceremony & Welcome Reception, 18:00 – 21:00**

◆ Friday 29th November

- **ICOMBO Business Meeting, 13:30 – 15:30**

- ◇ During this meeting, we will review the activities of ICOMBO since the last meeting, and present our Strategic Plan for the next term. The Board of Directors for the next term will be elected at the meeting.

- **ISTS General Meeting, 18:30 – 19:30**

- ◇ The President of ISTS for the next term will be elected at this meeting. All ICOMBO members have a right to vote, and to have input into the meeting. As ICOMBO Level One members, we are members of ISTS.

- **A Night for all in Hong Kong, 20:30 – 23:00**

◆ Saturday 30th November,

- **Collaboration between twins and researchers, 13:30 – 15:30**

- ◇ This is the first time that there has been a combined session for ICOMBO and ISTS, so I am very excited to be one of the chairs of this session, along with Jeff Craig, the ISTS President and Nancy Segal. ICOMBO Board members will present papers - Carolyn Lister will present a paper on what families want from participation in research; and Susan Griffith will present a paper on the recent research we conducted into classroom sharing. There will also be a robust discussion on whether zygosity testing should be routinely offered to new multiple birth families.

- ◆ **ISTS Prizes and closing remarks, 15:30 – 15:45**



It's A Small World Afterall....

Attending Congress and Meeting ICOMBO Members “just like me”.

By: Terri Gillis

This year, I will have the privilege of attending my second Congress along with other ICOMBO members who will be gathering this November in Hong Kong. I'm very excited about the agenda, the experience of visiting Hong Kong, and the opportunity to spend time with current ICOMBO friends and new friends I'm sure to meet from other countries in attendance. In fact, meeting other members of ICOMBO, and discovering how much we have in common across the globe when it comes to raising multiples and running our multiples organizations is was one of the biggest take-aways I experienced when attending my first Congress in Florence, Italy in 2012.

So here is what I learned, or have learned, since becoming Social Media friends with members in attendance in Florence; or by sharing of information among members of ICOMBO during my work on the board:

- * As parents of multiples we all share similar experiences and values when looking at the best way to raise our multiple birth children. I see members in South Africa asking the same questions or sharing the same experiences as members of Multiples of America.
- * I see TAMBA sharing information that is just as valuable to parents of multiples in the USA as it is to those in the United Kingdom.
- * I see various organisations holding their annual meetings for members where they conduct the business of their organisations and yet always find a way to ensure their attendees have plenty of social time....and oh yes.....we all like to have fun!
- * I see ICOMBO publish research surveys where input is gathered from multiple organisations with one common goal.....to provide clarity on topics important to all parents of multiples, regardless of where we live across the world. For example, the topic of School Placement is something most of us have or are struggling with and want to understand. My answers from the USA, combined with answers from the United Kingdom, South Africa, France, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and all the remaining countries represented in ICOMBO will provide clarity to all....regardless of our nationality. Together we are strong!
- * And lastly, I have met other Moms of Multiples that I would have never connected with had I not chosen to go to my first Congress in Florence. Friends I will see again in a few months; and hopefully new friends I will meet while sharing experiences and knowledge in Hong Kong that when pieced together, from all those in attendance, will benefit all members of ICOMBO...across the globe.

So yes it is a small world! And as I prepare for Congress, I can't help but sing the Disney song...***It's a Small World Afterall...***as I think about our common aims, our common bonds, and how much we have in common in our organisations that all want to provide a helping hand to other parents of multiples...regardless of where they sit in this small, small world.

On a personal note.....I plan to visit Hong Kong Disney to test out my theory that ***It's a Small World*** makes you feel warm and fuzzy, regardless of where you ride that magical ride. And being a parent of multiples is certainly a magical ride of it's own.

Join me in Hong Kong.....and make a new friend.

