



ICOMBO
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
Multiple Birth Organisations



International Multiple Birth Awareness Week
November 7–13th, 2016

News From Around The World

October 2016

Chairperson Report



Monica Rankin

Since our last newsletter, I attended a meeting of the ISTS in Brisbane Australia. I spoke about the incidence of stillbirths in multiple birth pregnancies. The rate of stillbirths is much higher in twins and multiples than it is in singletons and we would like to see more research in this area. You can read a summary of my presentation later in the newsletter. I have also written a summary of the other interesting presentations for you to read.

I have been doing some research into stillbirths in multiple pregnancies and would like to thank those of you who have contributed some facts and figures from your country. I know I have not yet approached all ICOMBO members, so if you have anything that might be of value to me, please let me know. I would like to progress further on this topic, so that I can present more information at the ISTS congress next year.

With our International Multiple Birth Awareness Week coming up soon, I hope your organisation is ready to use this time to celebrate and educate others on this year's topic. Check out the additional information in this newsletter.

Information on Congress 2017 is beginning to be released. I am already looking at options for my European holiday!

Please take the time to read the articles in this newsletter, and we would love to hear from you if you have any feedback on the articles; or if you can assist in any way with our activities.

Regards

Monica

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INTERNATIONAL MULTIPLE BIRTH AWARENESS WEEK 2016

As announced in the summer newsletter, Multiple Birth Awareness Week is from Monday 7 November through Sunday 13 November. The theme this year is “Adolescence in Multiples – the transition from a child to an adult in a multiple birth relationship.” We will explore the complexities of transitioning to becoming an independent adult while maintaining the unique relationship that multiples have with their co-multiples.

Has your organisation planned any activities for the week? Please let me know so we can share your events and pictures with members of ICOMBO. Please contact Monica at chair@icombo.org

Check out some of the planned activities:

- ◆ Multiples NZ and Tamba are both conducting a writing competition.
- ◆ At ICOMBO we are also conducting a writing competition. Could you please promote the competition in your organisation – particularly through your social media? I have attached a flyer, and the link to our webpage for the competition is

<http://icombo.org/international-young-writers-competition/>

We would also appreciate your assistance in promoting the sale of the book *Multiple Birth Siblings as Adolescents*.



MEMBERSHIP 2017

The ICOMBO Board has decided that we need to increase our fees slightly for 2017. Our fees have remained unchanged since we became independent of ISTS in 2012. There is an increase of \$10 AUD for both Level One and Level Two. If you are planning to attend Congress in 2017, it is advised that you become a Level One member in order to receive the discounted registration rate for congress. Our fees for 2017 will be Level One member \$150 AUD and Level Two member \$70AUD. If you have any concerns please contact Monica on chair@icombo.org Membership forms for 2017 will be emailed out soon.

PURPLE BUTTERFLY CAMPAIGN



You may have recently read information on the Purple Butterfly Campaign, or the Skye High Foundation. Purple butterflies are placed on the cribs or cots of newborns if a co-multiple died during the pregnancy or soon after birth. It allows the parents and others to recognise that there was another child. The initiative began in United Kingdom. It is great to see that Australian Multiple Birth Association and Multiples New Zealand have both become involved, with purple butterflies to be supplied to hospitals for use when necessary.

Did you know?



CONGRESS 2017

Planning has begun for Congress 2017. The location for this Congress is Madrid Spain and the date will be in October 2017. Start planning now for a fantastic Congress and European Holiday!

Will we see you in Madrid?

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 publically. 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



ISTS AND ICOMBO Building A Stronger Future

Cooperation between ISTS and ICOMBO

In the end of May the Norwegian Twin Association (TFF) had an informal meeting with the president of ISTS, Jennifer Harris. Here they discussed how both organizations could take advantage of a closer cooperation.

Jennifer Harris, who was elected the new president of ISTS in Budapest in 2014, has been working for The Public Health Institute in Norway for many years. She has also been a part of TFFs expert group for a long time. When she was elected president of ISTS, TFF of course applauded the election.

In the end of May Jennifer Harris was invited to TFFs office for an informal meeting. Here she explained a bit about the work she is doing at the moment. She also discussed with the manager of TFF, Ingun Ulven Lie, how ISTS can work closer together with ICOMBO and the local twin associations.

Better coordinating

Jennifer Harris' big effort at the moment is to try to coordinate the development of research infrastructure, that would facilitate collaborations between twin studies and twin registers throughout the world. It is a lot of work, but necessary to do, to make it easier for the scientists to share data and build synergy in their research.

Cooperation between more countries is essential to address the complex questions of today's science and discover the causes of illness. For example, if you want to conduct a twin study of rare disease, or a study of twins who are discordant for a certain illness, one typically needs to collaborate with other twin studies in order to have enough cases.

However, sharing data across countries is not necessarily straightforward. One reason is that different countries have different ethico-legal frameworks that guide how data and biological samples can be shared and used. Thus, ethics is one important area where harmonization efforts have been underway.

This work of coordinating has been going on for a long time, but as Jennifer Harris explains, it is harder to get money to build a necessary infrastructure than it is to get money for an actual twin study.

ICOMBO

When it comes to the question of how ISTS and ICOMBO can work closer together, Jennifer Harris suggested organizing a symposium at the next ISTS-congress in Madrid in 2017. Here ICOMBO and ISTS can discuss what will be the best methods for building communication and synergy of their efforts. She promised to contact TFF when the board starts working on next years program. She also said:

For all scientists who conduct twin studies, it is necessary to engage and attract enough twins to participate in their studies. We hope the twin associations can help us reach out to their members with information of what we need, and to communicate why twin studies are so important.



Working together:

The manager of The Norwegian Twin Organization, Ingun Ulven Lie (to the left), had a good meeting with ISTS-president and PHD Jennifer Harris in Oslo.

ICOMBO SINGLE PARENT SURVEY

Our current survey, Single Parent of Multiples, closed on August 31, 2016. We hope your members who are single parents were able to participate in this survey.

We will be analyzing the data and reading through every comment. Our hope is to not only present the results at the 2017 ISTS Congress but to also have a Single Parent of Multiples pamphlet completed so that we can distribute the pamphlet to each member organization of ICOMBO.

Thanks to everyone at ICOMBO who helped with the formation of this survey, and thanks to all the single parents of multiples who completed the survey.

J. Susan Griffith MD
Research Chair, ICOMBO
Research Chairman, MOA

ZYGOSITY TESTING FOR MULTIPLES

Over recent months, I have been involved in discussions regarding routine zygosity testing for multiples. The discussions have involved researchers and medical professionals who work with multiples and multiple birth pregnancies. We all believe that routine testing should be offered to all families who experience a multiple birth. Of course, who pays for the testing is another matter and it is unlikely that it would ever be offered for free in most countries, unfortunately.

As a parent of twins, I believe it is important for multiples to know their zygosity, to help them understand their place in the world, their sense of being, of who they are. It also assists us to answer all the silly questions we are asked about our multiples as they are growing up.

We had a Letter to the Editor published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (BJOG) late last year. The link to the article is <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1471-0528.13639/abstract> Since then, there have been a couple of responses to this letter and a subsequent letter. I have emailed some ICOMBO members requesting support for this work. If you would like further information, please contact me.

Monica Rankin



Do you have organisation or event news to share?

We want to hear what is happening in your organisation!

Articles are welcome for the next edition of the ICOMBO newsletter.

Deadline: January 30, 2017

RESEARCH INTO STILLBIRTHS IN MULTIPLE BIRTH PREGNANCIES

Whilst the incidence of stillbirths in multiple birth pregnancies has decreased over the past decades, the rate is still much higher for twins and triplets than it is for single births. The statement below was written in 1998, but is still accurate in 2015.

“Stillbirths are more common in multiple births. About 0.5% of all singleton births are stillborn at 20 or more weeks' gestation. In contrast, 1.7% of all babies in twin births and 2.4% of those in triplets are stillborn.”

-Source: *Statistics Canada: Data Despatch: Stillbirths, 1998.*

It is difficult to get accurate data that could be verified, but this is the initial data that I was able to find. I am continuing to attempt to source more data. This is what I had discovered at the time of the meeting in June.

	UNITED KING- DOM (2010) ^(1,2)	NEW ZEALAND (2009 – 2011) ⁽³⁾	AUSTRALIA (2012) ⁽⁴⁾	GERMA- NY (2010) ⁽⁵⁾	CANADA (2009) ⁽⁶⁾
SINGLE- TONS	5	6	7	5	7
TWINS / MULTI- PLES	12	20	19	9	13
TRIPLETS	31				

What could explain the differences between countries, especially Germany. Is it that different countries use different definitions for a stillbirth?

- WHO
 - * A baby born with no signs of life at, or after, 28 weeks gestation (WHO 2016)
- Australia and New Zealand
 - * Death of a baby before or during birth, from 20th week of pregnancy or 400 gms weight
- UK
 - * A baby that is born dead after 24 weeks of completed pregnancy
- Germany
 - * A birth without vital signs after delivery and with a birth weight of at least 500 gms
- Canada
 - * Death of a baby of at least 20 weeks gestation, or 500 gms or more

I have since discovered that in Germany, the foetus must be at least 24 weeks to be considered a stillbirth, so this would partly explain why the rate there is much lower.

Some question to consider –

Why is the incidence of stillbirths so much higher in multiples than in singletons? There are some obvious reasons that the stillbirth rate is higher than in singletons –

1. It is known that there is an increased risk of congenital abnormalities, and that there are a number of issues with monochorionic pregnancies, such as TTTS and cord entanglements etc.
2. There are probably more complications that I am not aware of.

Stillbirths... continued

Are some complications manageable to some extent?

1. IUGR
2. Maternal health
3. Timing of delivery

Are some of the stillbirths due to these complications preventable? How can the deaths be prevented?

1. Frequent monitoring of the expectant mother, and intervention if required
2. Access to high level antenatal care, from medical professionals experienced with multiple pregnancies, such as a specialised multiple birth pregnancy clinic. If access is a problem, then I am sure that consultation using technology would be a solution

Is the timing of delivery important? These are the current recommendations

1. NICE Guidelines (UK) state that to continue a multiple pregnancy beyond 38 weeks will increase the risk of foetal death.
2. Research in other countries seems to be indicating that for uncomplicated twin pregnancies, 37 to 38 weeks is optimal and delivery should occur by this time.

From my limited research, it is clear that these recommendations are not being followed in all countries, or in all hospitals. A look at the Queensland (Australia) Perinatal Statistics Report for 2014 says that 31% of twins were born from 37 – 41 weeks. A quick survey of 14 Australian twin mothers showed they all delivered 37 – 40 weeks, and all in the past 5 years. One mother said “My twins were born recently. My doctor said it is completely up to how the pregnancy is traveling, not a given time frame. I delivered at 38 + 5 weeks, and was induced due to gestational diabetes.” This is clearly not the recommended care for an expectant mother of twins.

As representatives of our organisations, we should be showing the best practice for antenatal care of multiple birth pregnancies, and looking to achieve the best outcome for all – mother and babies. We need to continue to remind medical professionals of the recommendations for delivery of multiples – that for an uncomplicated twin pregnancy, the babies should be delivered by about 37 weeks. For any complications, the delivery needs to be sooner. There are many research papers that address this issue and we can direct people to these papers if necessary.

The other important point to consider when discussing stillbirths is the impact on the family. What happens to the family after a stillbirth? How is the family supported in their grief for one child while celebrating the birth of the co-twin (or triplet etc)? How do the family, and especially the surviving multiple, manage in the long-term? Is there a lasting impact on their lives? How do we the ICOMBO organisations, support our families at this time? We have a scarcity of information on how we, as volunteers could support the family, and also literature that we can supply to families at this time.

I am hoping to find someone who will engage in research in this important area – compare why the stillbirth rates differ from country to country; and also discover the reasons why multiple rates are so much higher than singleton rates. Is there a lesson for our medical professionals? Can we do something to improve outcomes for families?

Desirable outcomes for ICOMBO would include :

- Studies on why the stillbirth rate is significantly higher for multiples
- How to improve the outcome for multiple birth pregnancies
- The long term impact of the death of part of a multiple pregnancy – how does the family cope with the death of one twin while celebrating the birth of the co-twin and also the effect on the longer term family relationships
- Production of literature for families to assist them in coping with the stresses of stillbirth in a multiple pregnancy

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TWIN STUDIES - 2016

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

The International Network of Twin Registries (INTR): integrated collaborative efforts for twin research

– *Chika Honda & Lucas Ferreira*

- Chika hosted the 4th INTR meeting at Osaka University, Japan, in September 2015. 50 people attended, from countries.
- INTR is useful for international collaboration in studies.
- CODATwins (Collaborative project of Development and Addictive behaviour in Twins) used the network successfully; they collected data internationally on height, weight and smoking behaviour, among other things.
- Members share know-how and help each other; they also discuss difficulties of their studies.
- Will INTR lead to a global twin registry in the future?
- Lucas gave a history of INTR – in 2010, they developed a code of conduct regarding sharing of resources.
- The website – www.worldwidetwins.net was launched in 2013.
- There are several working groups in INTR:
 - ◊ Biospecimens – currently conducting an audit on the data and bio specimens that are stored globally.
 - ◊ Innovation and Communication – the aim of this group is to work on centralising external communication.
- The group have a newsletter that members receive.
- INTR acts as an international hub to connect researchers and resources for research.
- The website is being redesigned; it will:
 - ◊ Provide a searchable database of studies
 - ◊ Allow researchers to submit an expression of interest for a study
 - ◊ Provide a summary of statistics of global twin research
 - ◊ Have blog entries with research findings in plain English
 - ◊ Profile researchers, registries and studies



Current challenges of studies “of” twins, “by” twins and “for” twins in Japan

– *Juko Ando*

- One of the first twin studies in the western world was conducted in Japan in 1920.
- In 1948, the Twin High School was opened, it is attached to the University of Tokyo and provides the university with twins who are happy to participate in research.
- KoTReC, the Keio Twin Research Centre, was established in 1998.
- Research “of” twins – research looking at pregnancy, birth, twinship, growth and development of the twins; sometimes this type of research involves comparisons with singletons by “twins-behavioural genetics.
- Research “for” twins (and twin parents) – research looking at medical care and support.

Providing feedback on longitudinal participation and results to twin register participants.

– *Gonneke Willemsen*

- Participants have rights in any research project.
 - ◊ To consent
 - ◊ To withdraw
 - ◊ To receive feedback
 - ◊ To view their own data
- Often feedback is not provided as it is too much effort – cost in time and money.
- The Netherlands Twin Register – NTR, Nederlands Tweelingen Register, provides some feedback via newsletter and email.
- NTR has developed a portal – MyNTR portal.
 - ◊ www.mijntr.nl
 - ◊ Members can access feedback on their own results
 - ◊ It clarifies an individual’s contribution to the research
 - ◊ It is one central site for online survey collection – when they log on, members are invited to participate in other research projects; it seems that this has increased the participation rate

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TWIN STUDIES 2016

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Finding the Twinning Genes

– *Dale Nyholt*

- Dale has international collaboration on his research.
- It is known that there are increased risks to the mother and offspring in a multiple birth – stillbirth, prematurity or neonatal death.
- There are genetic and environmental factors involved with dizygotic twinning.
 - ◊ If a relative of the female has DZ twins, the risk is twice that of the population average
 - ◊ At age 37, the mother is 4 times as likely to have DZ twins that at age 15 - 37
- In 2012, Australia, Finland, Netherlands and Sweden were all looking for the twinning genes. This led to the GWAS consortium. Data was collected from Australia, USA, Netherlands, ART data was omitted and there were 1980 cases studied; A superovulator ovulates often and begins menstruation early in life; they have high levels of Follicle stimulating Hormone (FSH), low risk of polycystic ovaries and increased risk of endometriosis; they have more eggs maturing, and have multiple ovulations. It seems that their reproductive life may be shorter, so the body compensates by beginning reproductive life earlier, and producing multiple eggs.
- It is thought that these women have a 29% higher chance of having DZ twins than general population.
- There are 2 genetic variants that are being studied at present, researchers are attempting to understand their role in the reproductive cycle. Of particular interest is the potential to minimise risks to ART recipients, eg reduce hyperstimulation. It is hoped that by studying the various genetic variants, they may be able to tailor ART treatment for patients – giving best effect with minimised risk.
- MZ genes – there are no encouraging results yet that show heritability.
- In the non-Caucasian races, Asians have a much lower twinning rate and Africans have a much higher twinning rate what does this imply?

Twins switched at birth: A World Tour

– *Nancy Segal*

- There are been a number of instances of babies switched because of a hospital mistake. There are about 20,000 – 30,000 incorrect transfers of infants each year in USA. Most, or all, are discovered immediately. This is about 1 incorrect transfer per 1,000 births.
- Hospitals are addressing the issue and some hospitals have implemented the following procedures – electronically encoded wristbands, stricter rules regarding transport, parent education. Also DNA tests and other tests can be conducted routinely.
- Nancy has documented 7 cases involving 9 families (there were 2 double switches):
 - ◊ Twins born July 1941 in Fribourg, Switzerland. The story is written in the book “He is not my Son”. Both sets of twins were enrolled in a German speaking school at 7 yrs of age; the similarity between the 2 sets was remarkable so investigations proceeded – blood type, dental studies, bone structure and reciprocal skin grafts were used for the first time to look for zygosity. The legal decision was that the boys had to be switched within years.

...continued page 10

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TWIN STUDIES 2016

- ◇ Born 1971, Ottawa, Canada. The twins met each other at the University of Iowa.
- ◇ The twins met at Castle Square, Warsaw, Poland. They were born in 1983 at different hospitals. At 1 month of age they were all at the same hospital due to lung infections. One of the switched babies had a club foot, and when the mother noticed that there was no longer a problem with the foot she was told that it has repaired itself.

There are 4 issues to consider:

1. The emotional response

- ◇ For the twins, there is uncertainty of their identity, fear of rejection from the rearing family.
- ◇ For the parents, there is fear of rejection by the twins, mistrust of the medical profession, anger and frustration over not raising their own children.

2. The maternity uncertainty

- ◇ Research has led people to believe that mothers will always recognise their own baby – by olfactory, auditory, tactile and visual cues, but this only seems to be the case when they are comparing their baby to other babies, not when presented with only 1 baby.

3. Legal considerations

- ◇ How can the families, and the twins, be adequately compensated for the losses they have suffered?
- ◇ Who pays the compensation – the hospital?
- ◇ In cases where the twins are still minors, how do the courts assign custody?
- ◇ It seems that there are no winners in these families.

4. Legislative response

- ◇ There has been a bill in the US congress for a number of years but has still not been finalised – probably because it is “too hard”?
-

Can we do more to help parents of newborn twins understand about zygosity and chorionicity? – Jeff Craig (for Tessa Cutler)

- It is recommended that parents are provided with information on chorionicity and zygosity for newborn same-sex twins where possible.
 - It is believed that universal zygosity testing is a right that all same-sex twins should be afforded, ideally at a young age.
 - One reason for this is to provide information to counter false assumptions, including assumptions that both MZ and DZ twinning runs in families.
-

Bullying and victimization in twins: the effect of classroom sharing and other twin-specific factors

– *Meike Bartels*

- Do twins bully together??? Are they protected by being part of a pair?
- Barnes and Bouthell, 2013, showed that singletons are at an increased risk of being bullied.
- Weisselberg, Landau, 2007, showed that twins are at an increased risk.
- A third study showed no difference so it is not clear if being part of a multiple birth set has an effect on bullying.
- Lamarche et al, 2006, showed that class sharing decreased the risk of victimisation.
- Are twins at increased, decreased or similar risk as singletons for bullying or victimisation?
- Factors considered in this study –
 - ◇ Is there a difference between MZ and DZ twins?
 - ◇ Is there a difference between same-sex and opposite sex twins?
 - ◇ Same class vs different classes.
 - ◇ What effect does age and gender have?
 - ◇ Does the classroom effect differ with age?

...continued page 11

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TWIN STUDIES 2016

- ◇ 9,500 twins and 1500 siblings born 1997 – 2008 were studied. The data was collected from 2010 – 2015 from teachers and parents.

Findings:

- * No difference between twins and siblings for bullying or victimisation.
- * Gender issues –
 - ⇒ Boys are more often bullies and victims than girls; both activities most likely to occur from 7 – 9 years.
- * Class sharing –
 - ⇒ Boys showed no difference whether class sharing or not.
 - ⇒ In sets of girl twins, the risk of victimisation is lessened, is this a protective effect??? Do girls protect each other somehow?
- * The prevalence of bullying and victimisation was not affected by zygosity, or same or opposite sex.

Genetic and environmental influences on dietary intake and body weight from birth to early childhood: lessons learned from Canadian singleton and twin birth cohort data

– Lise Dubois

- The Quebec Newborn Twin Study has 675 pairs of twins, born 1996 – 98, 1/3 are MZ and 50% are boys. The objective of the study is to document healthy child development, following the twins every 1 or 2 years, there are still 500 families in the study. It is a long-term study and the plan is to continue collecting data, even from the children of the twins – from their pregnancy onwards.
- The researchers are currently comparing BMI and nutrition, investigating the relationship in children.
 - ◇ So far – the BMI is more likely to be discordant at age 9 – 14 if:
 - * Girls – the mother smoked; there was gestational high blood pressure.
 - * Boys – it was a term birth; the heavier twin (at current age) had a higher birth weight.
 - * If the twins showed rapid growth from birth to 5 months, they are more likely to have increased BMI at 9 yrs.

Twin research for population health and well-being

– John Hopper

- The Australian Twin Registry has set up the Australian Centre of Excellence in Twin Research. It is a multi-disciplinary collaboration across the research community to further empower twin research in Australia and globally.
- When addressing health and wellbeing for the whole population, why is twin research valuable?
 - ◇ Can establish important genetic and environmental factors on why people differ in health and disease
 - ◇ DZ pairs are just as important as MZ, even opposite sex pairs, as can be relatives of twins

Obesity does not increase the risk of chronic low back pain

– Amabile Darío

- Lower back pain is a public health problem, but what are the causes?
- This study used twin pairs where one twin had chronic lower back pain, they were adults 43 – 71 yrs old. From this study, obesity was not directly associated with chronic lower back pain, and weight loss failed to reduce the pain.

Parental reports of infant and child eating behaviours are not affected by their beliefs about twins' zygosity

– Moritz Herle

- The participants for this study were from the Gemini study, which collected data from 2402 pairs of twins who were born in England and Wales in 2007.
- This study was interested in comparing parents who had been misinformed about their twins' zygosity and comparing the results with those of correct, known zygosity.
- It found that parents reports of eating behaviour were not influenced by their belief of the twins' zygosity.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TWIN STUDIES

Studies of the role of epigenetics in the early life origins of disease using a twin cohort

– Jeff Craig

- Epigenetics is “the interaction of genes with their environment, which brings phenotypes into play.” *Waddington*
- If there is a sup-optimal uterine environment, there is an increased risk for chronic disease.
- Epigenetics at birth can predict certain future issues.
- PETS Study, done in Melbourne from 2007 – 2009, collected data during pregnancy and birth as well as tissues at birth where possible. There were 251 mothers involved in the study. The twins were followed up at 18 months and again at 6 years.
 - ◇ The study found that both MZ and DZ twins are often epigenetically different at birth.
 - * This can be because the common environment was very small, the non-shared environment could be as much as 90% of the twin’s environment.
 - * There is evidence for influence of the placenta and cord.
 - * The factors that influence the non-shared environment (and may be different for each twin) are the placenta structure and function, the umbilical cord structure and function, presentation of the twin, infection.
- Of particular interest at the moment is the Zika virus. There are 7 known sets of twins born where 1 twin is infected and the other twin isn’t. Why?

Special Thank you

Thank you to Monica Rankin, ICOMBO Chair, for attending and documenting each of the sessions at the 2016 meeting of ISTS in Brisbane, Australia



support
education
research

Crossroads & Connections

Atlanta, Georgia—2016



Friday Night Fun



Kevin Olusola



Past Presidents

The 56th annual convention of Multiples of America took place in Atlanta Georgia in July, where not only was the annual business meeting conducted, including election of officers; attendees also attended work shops, tours, a Friday night DJ event, and a wonderful closing banquet where the 2016-17 officers were installed. Melodie Wisniewski was re-elected as President for the upcoming term.

This year’s convention included a new shorter schedule to encourage attendance. Many returning members came in early to enjoy the city and to meet with friends prior to the official convention opening.

This year’s keynote speaker truly had a special message for parents about the importance of being your children’s biggest cheerleaders and life coaches. Curline-Paul-Olusola, mother of Pentatonix singer and beatboxer Kevin Olusola was a bit hit with attendees. And.....so was her son who showed up to surprise her during the luncheon. Needless to say, the news and pictures of Kevin during that hour were streaming across the internet.

Plans are already well under way for the 57th annual convention which will take place in Kansas City, Mo. So if you are thinking about a holiday in the states next summer.....join us for a **Speak Easy** good time !