

# C.O.M.B.O. NEWS

## Council of Multiple Birth Organizations

Volume 2, Issue 4

November, 2006



### ISTS Prepares For 12th Congress

**Welcome to another edition of COMBO News.**

As we begin counting down the days to the end of 2006, we are beginning to look forward to the opportunity to meet and learn together at 12th International Congress to be held next June in Ghent, Belgium. Planning for the Congress is already well underway.

**Preliminary plans for the program are built around the theme, "Twins and multiples — a life course perspective."** Each day of the Congress then focuses on a time period in life.

Day 1: From conception to adulthood

Day 2: Adolescence to middle-age

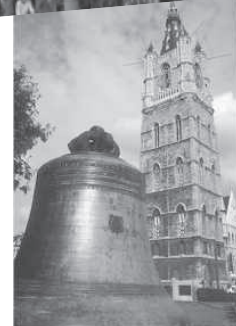
Day 3: Old age, longevity and longitudinal studies

**The preliminary plan allows for a COMBO breakout session each day!** These COMBO session will include:

- presentations of research studies developed by COMBO members,
- updates on new services, successes and challenges of COMBO organizations, and
- time for completing COMBO business and planning.

It would be great to see every organization represented on the agenda. So start planning what you can share now! And if you won't be able to have a representative at the Congress, think about how you can share about your organization via long distance, perhaps by sending a Powerpoint presentation or video file. If you have additional ideas for COMBO programming for the conference, please email me at: [mjadcock@cox.net](mailto:mjadcock@cox.net).

*Mary Adcock, COMBO Chair*



### Mark Your Calendar

### Join **ISTS**

### in Ghent, Belgium

June 7-10, 2007

### Twins and Multiples — *A Life Course Perspective*

**Day 1:** From conception to childhood

**Day 2:** Adolescence to middle-age

**Day 3:** Old age, longevity and  
longitudinal studies

For further information, check out the Congress website: <http://www.twins2007.be>

**Details on registration and accommodations to be posted soon!**

# Organizations Around The Globe....

## Reaching Out To Parents Of Multiples

### Multiple Births Canada (Canada)

#### Making A Difference Awards

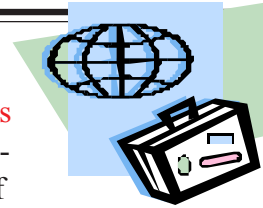
#### Volunteer Recognition

#### *within the community of multiple births*

In every age, communities and national organizations have celebrated the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of their members. MBC has established their volunteer recognition awards, "Making a Difference," to acknowledge outstanding contributions and achievements within the multiple birth community. These awards acknowledge the best...those people who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional dedication to service in ways that bring special credit within the community of multiple births.

MBC has five "Making A Difference Awards" (MADA) available for consideration:

- MADA Local
- MADA National
- MADA International
- Media Award
- Dionne Award



### TAMBA (UK)

#### Being a Father of Multiples

TAMBA has hosted two-hour sessions for fathers of multiples with the aim of looking at how being a father of multiple children differs from being a father of singleton children. Tips on parenting multiples with an emphasis on managing challenging behaviors were also shared as a part of these informal sessions.

### AMBA (Australia)

#### National Tour 2006

The AMBA Board of Directors hosted training days for state/territory committees from July through September. These training sessions covered areas such as:

- Governance
- Membership Development
- Hot Media Tips
- Fundraising and sponsorship
- AMBA Code of Ethics
- AMBA Strategic Planning

Participation in the training was free for all AMBA members.

### NOMOTC (USA)

#### Planning for an Endowment

A NOMOTC Special Committee has been researching the possibilities involved in establishing an endowment for the organization. An endowment builds a stable, long-term source of funding for an organization. The fund provides financial stability that reaches into tomorrow and it allows for monies that can help an organization better meet the call of its mission today. Information on building an endowment was presented to the NOMOTC membership at the organization's annual convention in 2006. A bylaw proposal calling for the establishment of a NOMOTC endowment fund is being finalized to present to the membership at the 2007 convention.



*We'd like to hear from you...*

**Has your organization developed any materials**

**or support services that reach out to parents about the potential risks of implanting multiple embryos when using IVF? If so, can you share your expertise and experience?**

Email your materials, research, and/or ideas to Mary Adcock, COMBO Chair, [mjadcock@cox.net](mailto:mjadcock@cox.net), and she will forward to all COMBO members.

# Research Roundup

## Organizations Focus On Research



### TAMBA (UK)

#### MOST Subsequent Pregnancy Survey

The MOST Subsequent Pregnancy survey, started in 2004, is an ongoing study specifically designed to gather information about pregnancies and births following the birth of higher-order multiples. The survey contains questions about socio-demographic status, medical, gynecologic, and obstetric history, as well as pregnancy, perinata and neonatal events for each mother's higher-order multiple pregnancy and birth and all subsequent pregnancies.

#### Relationship Survey

This survey examines the potential stresses that couples experience when multiples arrive in the family. Results will be used to help in building services appropriate and effective in supporting couple relationships.

### NOMOTC (USA)

#### Multiple Birth Relationships in Adulthood Survey

This survey will open in January 2007. Its purpose is to collect data to explore the relationship of co-multiples in adulthood. The 26-item survey is to be completed by multiple birth individuals 18 years or older.

#### Nocturnal Enuresis (Bedwetting) in Multiples Survey

This survey, started in July 2006, aims to explore the potential causes, frequency, and management of nocturnal enuresis (bedwetting) in multiple birth children.

Recent Research Summaries from NOMOTC Surveys include: Disabilities in Multiples and Awareness of NOMOTC Among Local Club Members.

## What's Your Position?

COMBO Organizations address a myriad of issues and challenges as they work to address the call of their missions.

*Organization*

**MOST**

**AMBA**

*Position Statement*

Families of Supertwins Bill of Rights

Privacy Policy

*Found Online At:*

[www.mostonline.org/billofrights.pdf](http://www.mostonline.org/billofrights.pdf)

[www.amba.org.au/content/](http://www.amba.org.au/content/)

## COMBO Work Groups

Group Focus	Group Leader
Bill of Rights	Mary Adcock, NOMOTC
Finances	Helen Forbes, TAMBA
Welfare	Helen Forbes, TAMBA
Bereavement	Joyce Keating, AMBA
Quality of Maternity Services	Judi Linney, TAMBA
Website	Mary Adcock, NOMOTC
Parenting	Helen Forbes, TAMBA
COMBO Directory	Margareta Olwe, Sweden

*Please contact the group leader if you are interested in assisting COMBO in a specific area.*



Spotlight On..

## Multiple Births Canada



### What is Multiple Births Canada (MBC) working on?

- The Board of Directors recently approved a new **strategic plan** Building the Future covering 2006-2009.
- In partnership with Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto Ontario, MBC is working to produce an **educational video/DVD** for parents expecting multiple-birth children.
- In **partnership** with the Ottawa Coalition for the Prevention of Low Birth Weight (LBW) created in depth resources on helping to prevent low birth weights and preterm births for multiples. See the LBW WS at [www.lbwinfo.ca](http://www.lbwinfo.ca)
- Developed two more **Fact Sheets**: Co-Bedding of Multiple-birth Babies and Breastfeeding Premature Multiples
- With the assistance of a professional translator and webmaster from the company Duchesnay Inc. (in lieu of financial funding), have begun the enormous task of translating the English portion of the MBC website to French.
- Created a **NEW bilingual** pamphlet with the financial assistance of Duchesnay Inc.
- Over the last year MBC has been advancing its goal to **expand membership**, entice existing non-member groups to become part of MBC and build strong Chapters across Canada. With the assistance of an MBC Outreach Committee (representatives of both affiliate and non-member groups) and national volunteers we are currently re-examining our membership structure, fees and benefits provided as part of the package. Thank

you to those of you in other national organizations that answered our plea for information about how your own organizations are structured.

- Participating in the development and implementation of the *Spring Forward! Early Years National Conference*. March 26-28, 2007, Toronto, Canada.
- 2007 National **Multiple Births Day** will be celebrated in communities across Canada May 28th, 2007 highlighting the following theme: "Raising awareness of the need to recognize and encourage the individuality of multiple-birth individuals, while respecting the uniqueness of their multiple-birth relationship."
- Preparing for the National **Conference** and AGM May 31-June 3, 2007 in Kitchener-Waterloo, hosted by K-W POMBA.
- Beginning with the Professional Workshops at the 2007 Conference we are committed to promoting and integrating into our work the *Best Practice Guidelines, Multiple Births* published in *Early Human Development*, 2006. *Guest Editor: Elizabeth Bryan*
- **ISTS Congress 2007** attendance and representation of MBC is in early stages of discussion.
- Preparations have begun to celebrate the **30th Anniversary** of MBC (previously POMBA Canada) in 2008.

Read more about Multiple Births Canada online at [www.multiplebirthscanada.org](http://www.multiplebirthscanada.org), or contact Kimberley Weatherall, Chair/Director of Volunteer Management at [chair@multiplebirthscanada.org](mailto:chair@multiplebirthscanada.org)