

NEWS RELEASE

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Organizations from Across the Globe Gather for Twins Congress

Franklin, TN - Multiples of America representatives recently joined with multiple birth organizations from around the world for the 2023 workshop and business meeting of the International Council of Multiple Birth Organizations (ICOMBO). The event was one part of the 18th Congress of the International Society of Twin Studies (ISTS) held in Budapest, Hungary. Representatives could attend in-person or online.

As an international, non-profit scientific organization, ISTS aims to advance research and knowledge in all fields of science related to twins or twin studies. ICOMBO regularly joins in the Congress, hosting events as a part of the program.

ICOMBO sponsored presentations covered a range of issues related to multiple birth parenting.

- Review of a case study about growing up as one of a set of quadruplets
- Summary of lessons learned from teaching two sets of Vietnamese twins
- A presentation about a website, twineducation.org, which provides information and resources specific to education of multiple birth children
- Announcement of a one-credit course through a US University for teachers wanting more knowledge and skills specific to teaching twins, triplets, and more.

Progress on research studies currently being conducted by multiple birth organizations worldwide under the direction of ICOMBO were also discussed.

- A study gathering information about laws and regulations for fertility treatment
- A study gathering information about worldwide views on parental rights specific to decisions about their multiples' classroom placement
- A study gathering information about practices currently in place in regards to parental leave and financial assistance specific to multiple birth, especially when one or more babies are born premature

The aim of all these ICOMBO studies is to develop best practice guidelines that may be useful for countries wanting to advocate for changes in support for multiple-birth families.

In addition to Multiples of America, ICOMBO members from the following countries were represented at the gatherings: Australia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Netherlands, Sierra Leone, and the United Kingdom.

Members of Multiples of America, Terri Gillis and Dr. J. Susan Griffith, were re-elected to be members of the ICOMBO general board of directors.

Multiples of America (also known as the National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.) is a 501 (c) 3, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families of multiple birth children (*twins, triplets and higher-order multiples*) through support, education, and research. *Founded in 1960, the organization serves nearly 7,000 members in more than 150 clubs across the country. For more information about the organization, its services, and benefits, contact our Executive Office, at info@multiplesofamerica.org*