

ELIZABETH BRYAN MULTIPLE BIRTHS CENTRE NEWSLETTER



Issue 1 / February 2018

Promoting Excellence in Education, Practice and Research

OUR LAUNCH

On 21st September 2017 the Elizabeth Bryan Multiple Births Centre (EBMBC) was officially opened. Guests from a range of health and social care fields gathered with us to celebrate the collaboration between Birmingham City University (BCU) and the Multiple Birth Foundation (MBF).

Named in recognition of the pioneering work of Dr Elizabeth Bryan, founder of the MBF and former President of the International Society for Twins, the EBMBC aims to improve the support available to multiple birth families through development of research works streams, educational/professional development programmes and resources for health and allied professionals.

In addition, the EBMBC will be working with practice based partners in the West Midlands and more widely to develop services in order to meet the needs of multiple birth families. The EBMBC also aims to be a national and international source of information about multiple births for professionals, families and the wider public.



Jane Denton, Director at the Multiple Births Foundation and Co-Lead of the EBMBC, said:

"We are very excited about our collaboration with the University. The MBF has already built up a great deal of evidence and experience over almost 30 years of working directly with families with twins, triplets and more, while Birmingham City University has a national reputation in the education and training of healthcare and allied professionals. By combining our

expertise, the EBMBC will be able to equip professionals to provide the optimum care that families need. We can't wait to get started!"

Photo (left to right)

FRONT: Jane Denton and Professor Merryl Harvey, Co-leads, EBMBC

BACK: Faith Hallett, MBF Chair of Trustees; Professor Julian Beer, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Enterprise); Professor Louise Toner, Associate Dean (Academic Portfolio and Market Development)

GET INVOLVED

The EBMBC has established a **Special Interest Group** (SIG) for health and allied professionals. The SIG aims to:

- establish a network of professionals who work with multiple birth families
- be a forum for members to share information with each other.

Longer term plans include conferences, workshops and the facilitation of collaboration between SIG members.

If you are interested in being a member of the Special Interest Group please visit www.bcu.ac.uk/ebmbc and select 'Special Interest Group'.



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RESEARCH / CONFERENCES

Jane Denton, Meryll Harvey and Laura Maguire (Graduate Research Teaching Assistant) represented the Elizabeth Bryan Multiple Births Centre at 'TWINS – The Joint 4th World Congress on Twin Pregnancy a Global Perspective' and 'The 16th Congress of the International Society for Twins Studies' (ISTS) in Madrid from 16th-18th November 2017. Jane presented a paper introducing the Elizabeth Bryan Multiple Births Centre and Laura presented findings from her PhD study; "'What about us?'" negotiating the realities of parenting multiples during the first five years'. The EBMBC abstracts from this conference can be found in *Twin Research and Human Genetics*, Volume 20, Number 6.

ONLINE MODULE

The individualised care of multiple birth families from conception to 1 year.

If your role brings you into regular contact with multiple birth families, then this is the ideal module for you. You will explore the specialised and individualised care that multiple birth families need from conception to one year. This will enable you to reflect on your practice and share your experiences with other allied health and social care professionals. The module is delivered completely on-line over 10 weeks, starting in April 2018.

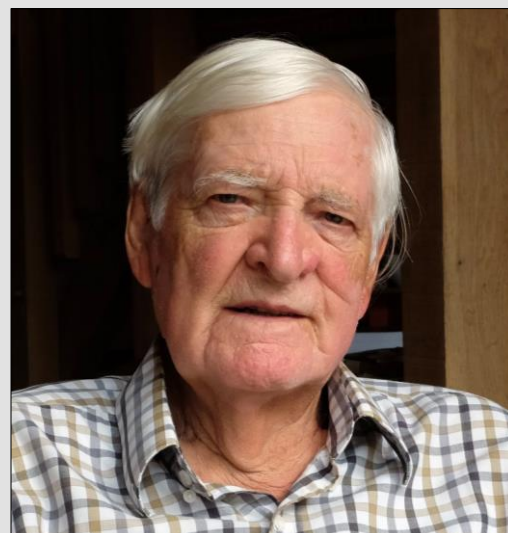
Key module content includes:

- Introduction to multiple births including incidence of multiple births, how multiples occur and the diagnosis of a multiple pregnancy (including zygoty & chorionicity)
- The experience of pregnancy, delivery and postnatal care, including the care of multiples in hospital
- Parenting and caring for multiple babies over the first year, including the practicalities of care and promoting healthy relationships.

This module draws on evidence, policies and research about supporting multiple birth families. The module is delivered as part of the Healthcare Professional Practice Programme offered by Birmingham City University at level 6 and 7. The cost of the module is £656.00.

For further information about the programme and how to apply, visit www.bcu.ac.uk/ebmbc and select 'Online Module'.

RONALD HIGGINS 1929-2017



Ronald Higgins was the husband of the founder of the Multiple Births Foundation (MBF), Dr Elizabeth Bryan. He was very closely involved with the MBF in the early years and continued to be a committed and generous supporter right up to his death on the 22 December 2017. Ronald's warmth and humour were abundant whenever he visited the office. On a more practical level, he was an invaluable source of help with the editing and presentation of the many MBF publications for parents and professionals, and in 1996 co-authored a report "Time to talk" about the MBF telephone service for families. A constant companion to Elizabeth on her international travels lecturing on multiple births, he was a well-known figure at the International Society of Twin Studies Congresses and workshops – often contributing stimulating and challenging questions to the debates especially on ethical questions.

The biggest sadness of Ronald and Elizabeth's life together was that they never had much longed for children and they both wrote movingly about their experience in the book "Infertility New Choices, New Dilemmas". Notwithstanding any personal regret, however, Ronald's loyal and enthusiastic support of Elizabeth and her work contributed significantly to the enormous number of multiple birth families who have benefitted from the work of the MBF. The Elizabeth Bryan Multiple Births Centre will continue to build on this legacy remembering the warmth and compassion of both Ronald and Elizabeth.

Photograph: Liz Hingley