

# The Center for Study of Multiple Birth

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Open Letter for ISTS Member and Friends:

Louis and I are on the way back for the University of Southern Denmark where the next Congress will take place in July of 2004. Our impression can be summarized as follows:

- A very enthusiastic and capable host committee
- Incredibly charming city
- Decidedly unhurried atmosphere
- Outstanding Conference venue

Odense, the host city is on the Island of Funen, in Southern Denmark. It is exceptionally easy to get to. You can arrive by plane,



train,



or auto or even take a ferry boat from other parts of Europe and connect to the Danish National bus or rail system. We arrived in Copenhagen, loaded our luggage on a free trolley, WALKED to an ELEVATOR INSIDE the airport, descended to train track IN the airport (10 minutes total time) and boarded a direct train for Odense. No stops, no transfers, no hassle

The cost of a direct train 2<sup>nd</sup> class is modest. First class is also available and might be worth the extra expense in the summer when a guaranteed seat is desired. The direct train is modern, bullet like and complete with laptop connections and refreshment trolleys. An hour and some minutes later we were in Odense.

We could spend two hours writing about Odense, but your participation in the Congress will allow you to form your own impressions about the modern, old European city with functional buildings dating back to the mid 1500s.



The most charming aspect about Odense is its unhurried atmosphere. This is a city that has the “white nights” of summer, with day light starting at 0430 July 1<sup>st</sup> and sunset occurring at 2230 hour. This means you can join the local inhabitants strolling the streets, sipping coffee in an outdoor café or catching up on your e-mail at one of the Internet cafes, located throughout the city. Some of the hotels (Radisson and others) have hookups in the hotel. Look on the Congress web site for details and up-to-date prices for all classes of accommodations that range from hostels to 4 star hotels. The information will be available from September.



We will be staying in a variety of hotels, as none is big enough to accommodate the number of delegates expected to attend. The leisurely environment means that ODENSE is a great place to bring your family for a holiday.

The Congress will take place in the University’s facilities. You travel out to the Site by city bus that stops 50 meters from hall’s front door. Check the web site. Taxies will allow you to attend select sessions and are reasonable. Taxies are by meter and a printed receipt is given. The athletically inclined can bike out from their hotel as shops rent bikes for tourists at very reasonable prices.



All sessions will take place in the SAME building, with lunch, coffee shops and even smoking areas under the same roof. Going between tracks and sessions is a snap. The committee plans lunch meals and breaks in the facility.



Reasonably priced snacks are in the student cafeteria also in the main conference building. The intrepid shoppers have only to walk a short distance until they fall into a mega-mall with all sorts, sizes and kinds of goodies to tempt them.

The sessions will take place in modern, well-appointed, “smart” classrooms with projection equipment and many creature comforts for the participants. The building has thick, poured concrete walls that act as insulators and provide an even temperature environment.



In sum, our trip was very worthwhile. We know that it is hard to form an impression of a distant city by looking at a map. In the past the ISTS has favored Capital cities for its triannual meeting with, perhaps an exception for Richmond, Virginia, even granting that Richmond once was the capital of the Confederacy. In this instance, however, you can just imagine that you are going to a conference in an important Danish city, in fact, the third largest metropolis in all of Denmark, where life is decidedly unhurried and the surroundings are incredibly charming.

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The Conference Chairperson, Dr Kirsten Ohm Kyvik, MD, PhD (Associate Professor of Institute of Public Health and the Danish twin Register) is most knowledgeable and hardworking, assisted by an eager local committee representing most of the major disciplines. Please do not hesitate to write her, me or my brother if you have any questions.

See you in Denmark in the White nights of 2004 at ISTS.

Sincerely,

Louis Keith, M.D., Ph.D.

Donald M. Keith, M.B.A.

LK/DMK:cb