

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the first issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal* (formerly the *Otago Bioethics Report*). We are very excited to launch this new peer-reviewed Bioethics journal. We welcome the newly appointed International Advisory Board members, some of whom have had a long history with the both the Centre and this publication in one of its previous forms.

The *New Zealand Bioethics Journal* has a twelve-year history that started with the establishment of the Bioethics Research Centre at the University of Otago in 1988. The publication from the newly established Centre was initially called the *Bioethics Research Centre Newsletter* produced by interim Director Professor Gareth Jones (now on the Advisory Board for the new Journal). Later the *Newsletter* was edited by Barbara Nicholas (now working for the Health Funding Authority in Christchurch) under the directorship of Professor Alastair Campbell (now at Bristol University, and also on the Advisory Board). The *Newsletter* was renamed the *Otago Bioethics Report* in 1994 and continued to be edited by Barbara Nicholas and later by John McMillan (now at University College, Oxford), with Professor Donald Evans as the Centre's new director. My term as editor of the *Otago Bioethics Report* began in 1998 and I have found this to be a challenging and stimulating task. This year sees the most important development since the inception of the original newsletter with the publication of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*.

In this inaugural issue we are pleased to be able to publish papers presented by the some of the keynote speakers present at the Bioethics Centre's Summer Seminar held in Dunedin in February 2000. The Summer Seminar in February was the fourth organised by the Bioethics Centre and this continues to be an important event in New Zealand's Bioethics world. We will be publishing more papers presented at the Seminar in the coming issues.

We wish to remind readers that we welcome articles to be considered for publication on any topic related to Bioethics as well as Health Law. We would also be happy to accept letters and comments about articles that appear in the *Journal*.

**Lynley Anderson**  
Editor